In Memoriam: Gary Earl Duke, 1938–2006

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facility, Art continued teaching by taking the other residents on
field trips and otherwise sharing his knowledge and joy for living.

Art’s participation in numerous projects and organizations
was extraordinary. In addition to membership in the AOU, he
also held memberships in the Wilson Ornithological Society and
Cooper Ornithological Society. Among his many achievements in
ornithology, he helped to develop and design a cannon-net trap-
ning system for waterfowl and a waterfowl banding-identification
system, and encouraged coordinated banding programs to address
regional questions. He helped establish the Fresno Junior Museum
(later “The Discovery Center”) and develop a bird sanctuary at
Fresno’s Woodward Park. Art’s passion for the natural world will
continue to be felt through the actions of the many educators and
agency biologists he touched.

IN MEMORIAM: GARY EARL DUKE, 1937–2006

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Gary E. Duke, an avian physiologist at the University of
Minnesota, died on 21 August 2006 at the age of 68. He had
battled with rapidly advancing Alzheimer's disease for several
years. Gary was born in Galesburg, Illinois, on 16 December 1937.
His avian research began at Michigan State University with an
M.S. thesis on censusing singing male American Woodcocks and
a Ph.D. (1967) dissertation on metabolizability and food-passage
rates in Ring-necked Pheasants. He then began a career as a
faculty member in the Department of Veterinary Biology, College
of Veterinary Medicine, at the University of Minnesota. His
research specialty was avian digestion, and he was known to many
as a leading expert in poultry gastrointestinal physiology.

Gary, however, was fascinated by owls, and immediately
began to study owl physiology. His pioneering work on owl feeding
behavior and digestive physiology remains a benchmark in the
field. His excellent work with owls, diurnal raptors, poultry, and
other species provides an important basis for much comparative
avian biology. He collaborated with many researchers from across
the United States and internationally. He organized and led several
ecotour trips to Tanzania and Costa Rica, and collaborated in
research on African wild dogs. He spoke annually at professional
meetings and published more than 100 scientific papers, chapters
in 9 books, and contributions to 25 symposium proceedings. More
than 40 of his publications addressed raptors, and most of those
were about owls.

Gary served the Raptor Research Foundation in various ways,
including as president and several terms as a board member,
from 1975 to 1993. He was president of the National Comparative
Gastroenterology Society and of the Minnesota Zoological Society.
He served as vice president and as director of the National Wildlife
Rehabilitation Society. An enthusiastic birdwatcher with a life list
of 1,601 species, he was also a member of several ornithological
organizations. He joined the AOU in 1967 and became an Elective
Member in 1993. He was director of the Avian Research Center
at the University of Minnesota for several years. His proudest
achievement was cofounding The Raptor Center, a world-class
conservation organization dedicated to study, conservation, medical
care, and public education. An avid jogger, he set his lifelong
goal as the earth's circumference, a goal he missed by only a few
miles.

Gary received awards from a variety of organizations,
including the Director's Award from the American Association
for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for Humane Excellence,
the American Motors Conservation Award, the Merck Award
for Achievement in Poultry Science, and the National Wildlife
Rehabilitator Award for Lifetime Achievement. A special issue of
the Journal of Experimental Zoology (vol. 283, no. 4/5, 1999) on
“Avian Gastrointestinal and Renal Physiology” was dedicated to
him.

Gary is survived by his wife of 45 years, Mary Ann, two
daughters, and two grandchildren. Owing to the generosity of
his lifelong friend Dr. William Holleman, an honorary annual
lectureship on topics in conservation and raptor natural history has
been created in Gary's name.