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In Memoriam: Hermann Rahn, 1912-1990

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Tanner taught at East Tennessee State University from 1940, before serving in the Navy during World War II, reaching the rank of Lieutenant-Commander. From 1947 until retirement in 1979, he was at the University of Tennessee. He founded the ecology program there and directed more than 50 theses and dissertations in cooperation with seven university departments and the ecology section of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

From 1940, Jim was a valued member of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, serving as editor of the *Migrant* (1947–1955), as state president (1971–1973), and as Curator (from 1974). He was one of the first recipients of the Society's

Distinguished Service Award. He did extensive field work involving cooperative projects within the Knoxville Chapter, the state Atlas, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Tanner also was in charge of grants to graduate students in the Great Smoky Mountain Conservation Association. He published over 50 articles in refereed journals and *Audubon Magazine*. His *Guide to the Study of Animal Populations* was published by the University of Tennessee Press.

James Tanner is survived by a son, two daughters, and his wife of almost 50 years, Nancy Burnham Sheedy Tanner. They were a truly blessed and well-loved couple.

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IN MEMORIAM: HERMANN RAHN, 1912–1990

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Hermann Rahn, Distinguished Professor of Physiology at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo and an Elective Member of the AOU since 1982, died on 23 June 1990. With his death, the scientific community lost one of the most eminent comparative physiologists of this century, and the ornithological community lost the recognized leader in the field of respiratory physiology of avian eggs.

Hermann was born at East Lansing, Michigan on 5 July 1912. He received an A.B. degree from Cornell in 1933, where he was influenced by A. A. Allen, P. P. Kellogg, O. S. Pettingill, Jr., G. M. Sutton and J. T. Emlen. He received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Rochester in 1938. After a fellowship at Harvard and a short academic tenure at the University of Wyoming, he returned to the University of Rochester and rose to the rank of Associate Professor and Vice-Chairman. In 1956 he was appointed Chairman of the Department of Physiology at SUNY Buffalo. Hermann officially retired from SUNY Buffalo in 1985, but continued to work in his laboratory full time and was revising manuscripts less than two days before his death.

During his career Hermann authored over 225 publications, received five honorary degrees, and was elected to the National Academy of Sciences. He was best known for his work in respiratory physiology. He received the American Lung Association's prestigious Trudeau Medal, the U.S. Air Force's Meritorious Civilian Service Award (the highest award given to a civilian), and the Undersea Medical Society's top honor, the Benke Award. He is best known to ornithologists for his work on avian eggs, particularly in the formulation of a series of allometric equations to describe the interrelationships of bird size, egg size, incubation period, shell structure, and energy and water use. In 1977 he was a co-recipient with A. Ar of the Cooper Ornithological Society's Harry R. Painton Award. In 1981, along with C. V. Paganelli and A. Ar, he received the AOU's Elliott Coues Award.

Since the beginning of his fascination with avian egg physiology in the early 1970s, Hermann influenced or trained essentially every person in the field. He had all the reprints from his laboratory bound into two volumes, copies

of which he gave to his colleagues, providing an invaluable reference. My copies have been so heavily used that they are now falling apart. I think that Hermann was a field ornithologist at heart, although he spent the greater part of his career in the laboratory. Even though he was 67 years old when I spent time with him in the field studying shorebird eggs, he was always the first to want to climb the tree, to look for a nest, or to jump into the water to push the boat out of the sludge. He had unlimited and infectious enthusiasm for his work, maintained his interest in natural phenomena, and never grew bored.

Hermann loved to seek out and compile or reinterpret overlooked data already in print, like Schönwetter's egg data. In doing so, he made

sure that the historical significance of the persons involved was never overlooked. He particularly loved to find old photographs of people and use them in his seminars. He was especially proud to have found one of Margaret Nice that he used in the last presentation I heard him give in 1989. Hermann had enormous loyalty for his colleagues and friends. After his secretary of many years retired along with him, Hermann arranged for all his colleagues who had known her over the years to sign a letter to her—to cheer her up in her retirement. He looked for the best in people and, over the years, touched in a very personal way the lives of many scientists, myself included. A more complete memorial appeared in the *Physiologist* (33: 181, 1991).