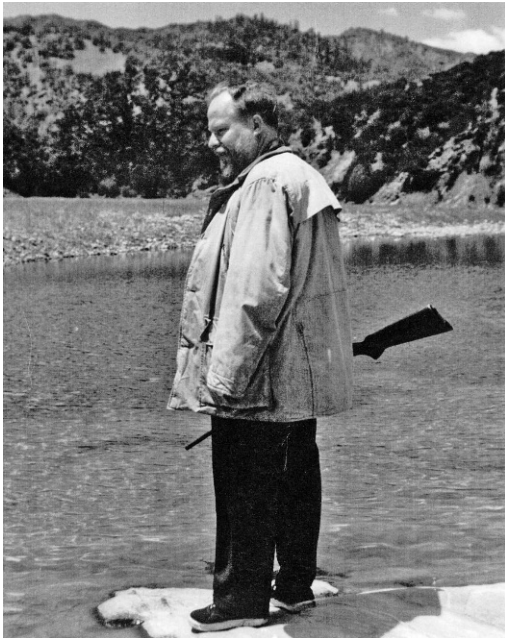


The 2009 William and Nancy Klamm Service Award



In 1978, Maurice Brooks, a former Secretary and Past-President of the Wilson Society wrote a 50-year history of the Society. In that history (page 467), he wrote:

“As I bring together the memories of 50 years in the Wilson Society, my conviction grows that I would have been infinitely poorer without the contacts that it has afforded. Society-inspired friendships have been warm and lasting. I have not ceased to marvel at the succession of dedicated persons who seem providentially waiting in the wings to take up the responsibilities which the organization must entail. We have seen, and benefited from, a succession of tremendously capable and devoted Editors of *The Wilson Bulletin*. Our Secretaries and Treasurers have labored to keep our rolls current and our finances sound. So have our other officers, our Council members, our Trustees, and our committee chairpersons. We have been well served by a lot of good people.”

The William and Nancy Klamm Service Award was established in 2006 to honor Bill Klamm’s

legacy of service as the Treasurer of the Wilson Ornithological Society. This 2009 recipient inspired us with his service to the Society. In March 2007, the Klamm Service Award Committee decided that the next award should be given to Kenneth C. Parkes. Unfortunately, Ken passed away in July 2007. Because the decision had been made prior to his death, the Committee decided that Ken should be awarded the Klamm Award posthumously; however, the committee felt that the award should be made in 2009 during the WOS meeting in Pittsburgh, which was Ken’s home and which would allow his wife, Ellen, to receive the award.

For those of you who did not know Ken, he spent his academic career at the Carnegie Museum as the Curator of Birds. He traveled extensively on research and collecting trips; wrote prolifically, especially on systematics, distribution, and feathers, molts, and plumages; and contributed time generously to ornithological organizations. It is for his contributions to the Wilson Ornithological Society that we honor him with this award.

In 1946, Kenneth C. Parkes joined the Wilson Ornithological Club and remained active in the Society for more than 60 years, often attending meetings with his wife, Ellen. He attended his first Wilson meeting at Ohio State University in 1947 as a young graduate student from Cornell. In 1952, he presented his first paper, “The Sharp-tailed Sparrow in New York: A Reevaluation of the Races,” in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The Proceedings from that year indicate that his talk included slides; only about half of the papers were accompanied by slides or motion pictures. Ken’s first major service activity involved chairing the Research Grant Committee for four years, beginning in 1955. During the following decades, he also chaired the Nominating and Resolutions committees, served on the editorial board, served on the Edwards’ Prize Committee, and served on the local committee. In 1966 and 1969, Ken served as the Master of Ceremonies at the annual dinner, demonstrating his encouragement for the social side of Wilson. In 1962, Ken was elected to a 3-year term on Council and in 1966 he was elected to serve a second 3-year term. In 1969, he was elected Second Vice-President and he as-

cended through the vice-presidency to become President in 1973. During his tenure as President, he regularly published a "President's Page" in *The Wilson Bulletin* to discuss activities within the Society. He also oversaw revisions to the Constitution and By Laws. After he completed his term as President, Ken continued to regularly attend Council meetings, be active on committees, chair scientific sessions, present papers, and make donations to the society, both to the Van Tyne library and to the Centennial Fund.

What cannot be felt in this history of Ken's involvement with the Wilson Ornithological Society are the intangibles. In his history of the Wilson Society, Jerry Jackson (1988) described Ken's role in the Wilson Society as constantly striving "to maintain the amateur/professional balance in the Society and to bring recognition to the amateurs who have contributed significantly to ornithology." He often worked behind the scenes, anonymously, to benefit the society, including repeatedly donating funds for the Margaret Morse Nice Award. Many of the Past-

Presidents of the Wilson Ornithological Society credit Ken with encouraging their development as ornithologists and their involvement with the Society. Those of us who have served with Ken, remember his support and encouragement despite an expectation of excellence, his smile when he saw old or new friends, the sparkle in his eye when he was planning trouble, and his "penchant for telling it like it is." It is with great admiration, respect, and appreciation that we award the 2009 Klamm Service Award to Kenneth C. Parkes. The Wilson Society is not the same without our friend.—Sara R. Morris, W. E. Davis Jr., Jerome A. Jackson, John Kricher, and Doris Watt (Klamm Award Service Committee).

LITERATURE CITED

- BROOKS, M. 1978. Fifty years of the Wilson Ornithological Society. *Wilson Bulletin* 90: 464–467.
- JACKSON, J. A. 1988. The Wilson Ornithological Society in the last third of its first century: 1956–1988. *Wilson Bulletin* 100: 632–649.