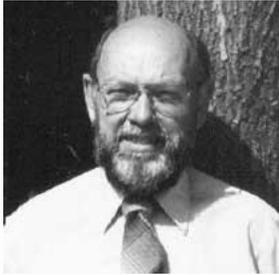


Miscellanea

Banisteria, Number 45, page 63
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Obituary

David W. Johnston (1926-2015)



David Ware Johnston of Fairfax, a longtime member of the Virginia Natural History Society (joined in 1994), died on 26 July 2015 at the age of 88 due to advanced prostate cancer. He was born on 23 November 1926 in Miami, the youngest of four boys, but grew up in Atlanta. As a teenager David developed skills in bird identification and taxidermy. After serving in the Navy, he graduated from the University of Georgia (B.S., 1949; M.S., 1950), where he studied the relationships between plant succession and bird populations under the renowned ecologist Eugene Odum, and then earned a Ph.D. (1954, under Alden Miller) at the University of California, Berkeley, studying the life cycle of the California Gull.

Over a 40-year period, David taught ornithology and conducted research on birds at Wake Forest University, University of Florida, and University of Virginia's Mountain Lake Biological Station (20 years). In 1979, he moved to the Washington, DC area to become the Ecology Program Director at the National Science Foundation. He later worked at the National Academy of Sciences and served as an editorial consultant to the World Bank, World Wildlife Fund, Wildlife Management Institute, and U.S. Forest Service. David was the editor of several journals, including *The Oriole*, *Bird-Banding*, and *Ornithological Monographs*. He published or edited six books, including "Ecology and Conservation of Neotropical Migrant Landbirds" (coeditor with John M. Hagan III, Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992), "A Guide to Bird Finding in Virginia" (compiler, American Birding Association, 1997), "Mountain Lake Region and its Bird Life: A Century of Bird Studies" (Virginia Museum of Natural History, 2000; reviewed in *Banisteria* 18), and "The History of Ornithology in Virginia" (University of Virginia Press, 2003; reviewed in *Banisteria* 27), and coedited the bird chapter (with

Mitchell A. Byrd) in "Virginia's Endangered Species" (McDonald and Woodward Publishing Company, 1991). In 2009, he self-published "Cedar Key: Birding in Paradise: Finding Birds Then and Now," a guide to the birds (past and present) near his winter residence in Florida. David published about 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals on ornithology, ecology, endangered species, and the history of natural history, including seven papers and two book reviews in *Banisteria*. He was elected to the Washington Biologists' Field Club in 1983. A more detailed summary of David's life and career can be found on the club's website at http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/resshow/perry/bios/johnston_david.htm. He is survived by Esta, his wife of 34 years, 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, his brother Stephen, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Selected publications of David W. Johnston (DWJ)

1970. High density of birds breeding in a modified deciduous forest. *Wilson Bulletin* 82: 79-82. [Mt. Lake]

DWJ & W. J. Ehmann. 1990. Birds of prey in Virginia: A history of specimen records from 1853 to 1988. *Virginia Avifauna* No. 4, *Virginia Society of Ornithology*. [addendum published with R. B. Clapp in 1993 as *Virginia Avifauna* No. 5.]

1994. The Golden Eagle in Virginia: Analysis of a century of records. *Raven* 65: 19-37.

1995. Birds and natural history observations in the life of William Byrd II of Westover. *Banisteria* 5: 3-11.

1996. Historical records of the Trumpeter Swan in Virginia. *Banisteria* 7: 8-10.

1997. Some important Virginia specimens in the National Institution for the Promotion of Science. *Banisteria* 10: 9-13.

1998. The two John Claytons of Virginia. *Banisteria* 12: 44-45.

2000. Foods of birds of prey in Virginia. Part I. Stomach analyses. *Banisteria* 15: 3-15.

2004. The Dyke Marsh Preserve ecosystem. *Virginia Journal of Science* 51: 223-272.

2004. The earliest illustrations and descriptions of the Cardinal. *Banisteria* 24: 3-7.

J. V. Calhoun & DWJ. 2010. John Abbot, the English naturalist-artist, in Virginia. *Banisteria* 35: 3-10.

Prepared by Steve Roble, Editor, *Banisteria*