



HANS ALBERT HOCHBAUM, 1911-1988

## IN MEMORIAM: HANS ALBERT HOCHBAUM

C. STUART HOUSTON

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Albert Hochbaum, an A.O.U. Member since 1942, a Life Elective Member from 1946, and a Fellow since 1957, died of a heart attack at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, on 2 March 1988, five days after his first chest pain. Until this brief illness, he had been an active, vigorous man, who painted and wrote daily. He had just completed correction of proofs for Owen Andrews' book, "Magnificent Voyagers: Waterfowl of North America," for which he had written the introduction and contributed much of his expertise.

Al was born on 9 February 1911 at Greeley, Colorado. Much of his schooling was obtained in Boise, Idaho, and Washington, D.C. At Cornell University he studied fine arts and received the B.Sc. in zoology under Arthur A. Allen. For three years he was a wildlife technician with the United States National Park Service. In 1938 Al became the first director of the Delta Waterfowl Research Station at Delta Marsh on Lake

Manitoba. This station was established in 1931 by James F. Bell, a wealthy Minneapolis industrialist, who presented it to the American Wildlife Institute (later the North American Wildlife Foundation). Summer work at Delta Marsh and winter studies in Madison led Hochbaum to a M.Sc. degree in Wildlife Management under Aldo Leopold in 1941.

At Delta, Al directed a growing scientific establishment which involved 95 graduate students from 38 universities, all doing M.Sc. or Ph.D. research projects. He held an Honorary Professorship in the Graduate School of the University of Manitoba from 1958 to 1970. In 1962 he received an honorary LL.D. degree from the University. In 1970, he took early retirement to pursue a career in art (watercolor, egg tempera, and oil) and freelance writing.

His first book, "The Canvasback on a Prairie Marsh," illustrated with his superb black-and-white sketches, won the 1944 Literary Award

of the Wildlife Society and the Brewster Medal of the A.O.U. in 1945. "Travels and Traditions of Waterfowl" won a second Literary Award (1956). His third book, "To Ride the Wind," was published in 1973. Al also wrote scientific papers and popular articles on waterfowl, conservation topics, and his 27 field trips to the Canadian Arctic. He prepared scripts and helped produce television programs for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, and earned their Wilderness Medal in 1970. Invitations to speak at universities involved such diverse topics as waterfowl, wilderness conservation, art and writing.

Al's unique artistic talents enabled him to illustrate his own books and several others. He first exhibited paintings in 1933 and, beginning in 1964, held twelve one-man shows. His paintings hang in many private, corporate and museum collections, including the Smithsonian in Washington and the National Museum of Natural Sciences in Ottawa. One of his paintings was presented to Queen Elizabeth in 1970. His magnificent painting of ducks over Delta Marsh is the centerpiece of the Houston living room.

In 1939, Al married Eleanor Joan Ward, the daughter of Edward Ward, manager of Bell's Delta estate. They had four children: Albert Ward Hochbaum (a Manitoba Natural Resources Officer), Peter Weller Hochbaum (who wrote and illustrated a booklet about Delta Marsh), George Sutton Hochbaum (a wildlife research biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service), and Trudi Heal. There are eleven grandchildren.

Other special honors include a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship (1961); the Manitoba Golden Boy Award (1962) "for making Mani-

toba a better place to live"; the Manitoba Centennial Medal of Honour (1970); the Crandall Conservation Award (1975); a Canada Council Explorations Fellowship (1975); the Aldo Leopold Wildlife Conservation Award (1980); a Special Conservation Achievement Award of the National Wildlife Federation (1986); and the Distinguished Naturalist Award (Seton medal) from the Manitoba Naturalists Society (1986). The Government of Manitoba presented him with a Professional Wildlife Conservation Award in 1987, for his significant and everlasting contribution to the public understanding and appreciation of wildlife. He was made a Member of The Order of Canada in 1979.

Al had definite opinions on almost any topic; but beneath a gruff exterior beat a heart of gold. He was incredibly kind to me as a 16-year-old lad banding ducks for Ducks Unlimited in 1944. In succeeding years he wrote unsolicited letters of praise for some of my historical articles, usually with a suggestion as to what my next project might be. In 1979 we went together on a 10-day trip to retrace the 1821 paths of John Franklin and John Richardson around Bathurst Inlet in the Canadian Arctic. Al sketched some of the campsites for the subsequent publication of Richardson's diary, "Arctic Ordeal." He was a tough but constructive critic, as when he returned my manuscript with numerous changes and the notation, "please reorganize; this is a dog's breakfast."

Few men have possessed superlative skills in three disparate areas of human endeavor—science, art and writing. Al's books are classics that have stood the test of time. They should be required reading for biologists for generations to come.

## IN MEMORIAM: JOHN DAVIS, 1916–1986

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Dr. John Davis, a Member of the A.O.U. since 1939 and a Fellow since 1958, died 1 May 1986 in Carmel, California. He was born 1 December 1916 in Woodmere, New York. John received a

bachelor's degree in American history from Yale University in 1937 and entered the University of California for graduate studies in zoology in 1939.

