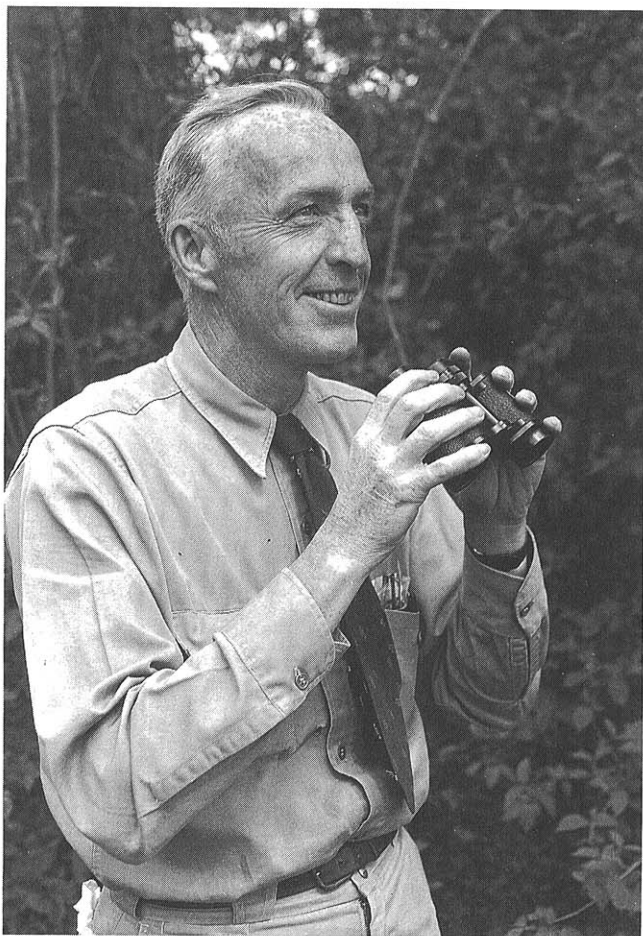


JOSEPH J. HICKEY
1907-1993



Wisconsin lost one of its most distinguished ornithologists with the passing of Joe Hickey on August 31. Past President of WSO and the winner of the prestigious Golden Passenger Pigeon Award for his outstanding contributions to ornithology, as well as dozens of other local, state, national and international honors, Joe was a bird watcher who rose to the top of the profession of ornithology.

Joe's ornithological career started inauspiciously in New York City. A boyhood interest in bird watching, kindled by a scout leader, lead to membership in the

Bronx County Bird Club, where he birded and formed a lifelong friendship with another youthful bird enthusiast, Roger Tory Peterson. Joe went to college at NYU and majored in history. During the 1930's, while working in New York City (as a track coach at NYU and as a businessman at Consolidated Edison), Joe continued his avocational interest in birds and became active in the Linnean Society, which held meetings at the American Museum of Natural History. There, he met Ernst Mayr, one of the intellectual giants of modern biology, who encouraged Joe to become more scholarly in his pursuit of birds. Following Mayr's suggestion, Joe returned to night school at NYU and completed a degree in biology.

Joe first came to Wisconsin—and brought along his distinctive lifelong Bronx accent—in 1941 when Aldo Leopold invited Joe to work on a Masters degree at the University of Wisconsin. In 1943, he graduated and published *A Guide to Bird Watching*, a book inspired by his wife, Peggy, and begun on their honeymoon. Joe was on a roll. He was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and earned his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. After completing his thesis work on the use of bird-banding data in avian population studies, Joe returned to the University of Wisconsin as an assistant professor and then chaired the Department of Wildlife Management after Leopold's death.

His 28-year career at the University of Wisconsin was characterized by excellence in teaching, research and outreach. Joe loved classroom teaching and interacting with students. When they walked into his classes in wildlife ecology, students were greeted by tape-recorded bird songs. His lectures were charming, and enrollment in classes grew impressively. In 1976, the year of his retirement, the University gave Joe its highest teaching award, which he always said was his most appreciated honor.

His research on Peregrine Falcons and DDT catapulted Joe into the limelight of the 1960's budding environmental movement. His 1965 Peregrine Falcon conference made a major contribution to our understanding of the biology of this impressive bird. Joe's reputation made him a central figure in providing the ecological justifications for banning DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbons in the U.S.

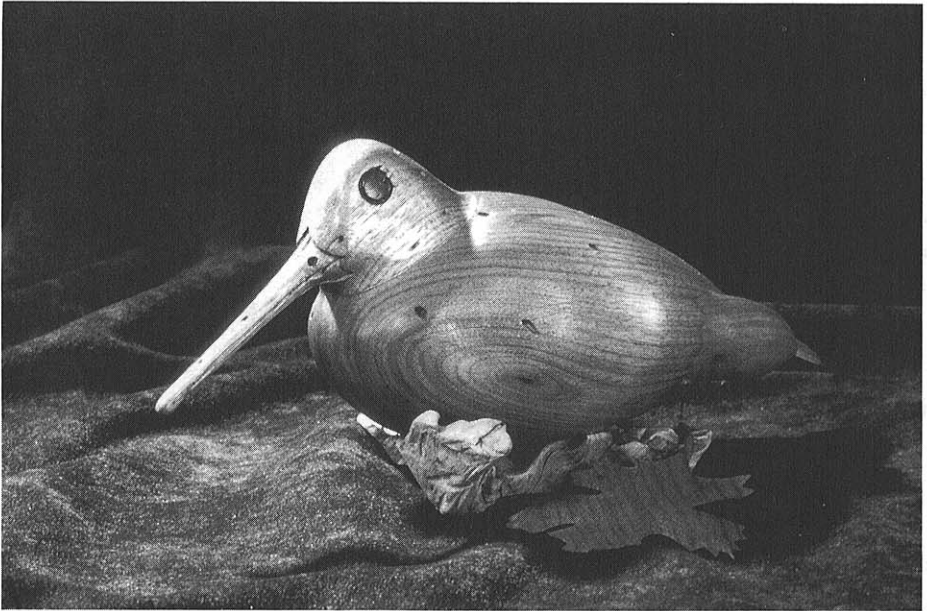
Joe was always active outside of the academic arena. He was president of the American Ornithologists' Union, a founder and secretary of The Nature Conservancy, and a member of boards of directors of National Audubon Society, the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and dozens of other ornithological and conservation organizations. Many of these organizations gave Joe their highest awards in recognition of his accomplishments in ornithology and conservation.

One of Joe's most important professional contributions was editing. He edited several books, conference proceedings and journals, including *Proceedings of the 13th International Ornithological Congress* and the *Journal of Wildlife Management*. Joe took great pride in his editorial work, an activity that he shared with Peggy Hickey, who was a professional editor.

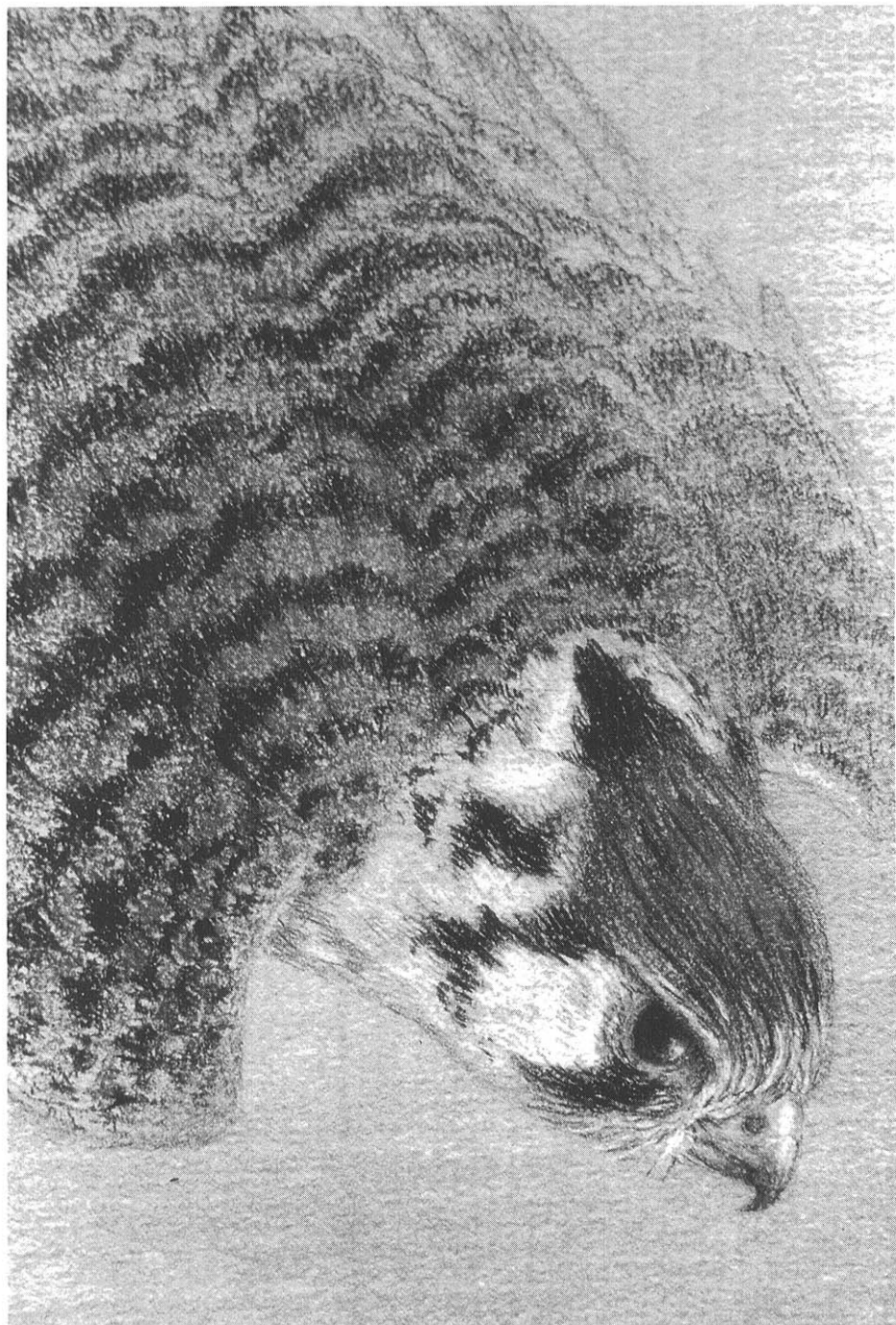
Joe began playing a role in my life and career in 1957 when a perceptive relative gave me a copy of *A Field Guide to Bird Watching*, in hopes that it might provide focus to my budding passion for birds. It did! Joe subsequently became

my hero in the 1960's because of his work with Peregrine Falcons, a bird that held a strong attraction for both of us. When he retired in 1976, Joe played a central role in selecting me to be his successor. I have greatly valued his friendship and advice over the past 17 years, and I still consider him to be my most important role model. As an Emeritus Professor, Joe regularly stopped by the Department of Wildlife Ecology to interact with colleagues and students. I miss his visits and our wide-ranging conversations very much.

A dedicated conservationist to the end, Joe requested that memorial gifts be sent to The Nature Conservancy, an organization he helped create.—*Stanley A. Temple, Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706.*



"Timberdoodle" (American Woodcock) by *Hollis Reich*



"The Bullet" (American Kestrel) by Cary Hunkel