

Retrospect

In memoriam

Tej Kumar Shrestha

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Douglas Arthur James was a Professor of Biological Sciences at University of Arkansas, Fayetteville from 1953-2016. He joined Tribhuvan University as a Fulbright Professor of Ecology from 1978 to 1982. He taught ornithology and ecology in Tribhuvan University. He took student and faculty member of T.U. to admire and study birds in different places in Nepal. He enjoyed much travelling much Himalayan foothills of Nepal with young teachers of zoology Ram Bahadur Khadka, Umakant Roy Yadav and Tej Kumar Shrestha. He also enjoyed traveling Himalayan National Parks and Wildlife Reserves of Nepal with his wife Elizabeth Adam. During his tenure as Fulbright Professor he enthused the author (TKS) to study birds and write books Birds of Nepal Vol. I and II (2001).

Later Dr. Shrestha reverently dedicated his book on Spiny Babbler – the glorified endemic bird of Nepal to to Professor James for his helps and support. Dr James acted as host of Dr. Shrestha while he was in Arkansas as Visiting Scientist and enjoyed his association and personnel library. Dr James published over 114 scientific papers in international journals and periodicals. He produced 30 Ph.Ds. Prof James was well known in the firmament of ornithology. He chaired many important international events of ornithology and chaired academic sessions. He visited University of Cambridge as visiting Scholar. Dr. James helped greatly in establishing Bird Watching Club in Nepal with founding members Hari Sharan Nepali, Karna Shakya and Tej Kumar Shrestha. This club is now known as Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN). He studied migratory birds and tendencies of bird migration across Himalayas.

He frequently visited every fortnight Taudah lake of Kathmandu valley and Phulchoki hillswith students of Tribhuvan University. He also visited Lumbini to study Sarus crane in famous Jagdishpur Lake of Lumbini area of Nepal

Dr. James loved his subject ornithology reveled in the beauty and diversity of birds that he saw and studied and talked about. That sort of enthusiasm is infectious. Many Nepalese students and colleague are benefitted by meeting him and corresponding him during his long and active life. His friends and colleagues in Nepal have abundant memories of his vigour dealing with unusual and often amusing happenings.

Douglas A. James was born on July 26, 1925, in Detroit, Michigan. He was the first of three children of Sigrid and Author James. He spent his formative years in Michigan and engaged in natural history activities. He attended University of Michigan, receiving a B.S. in 1946, and M.S. 1947. Later he went joined University Illinois, and worked for Ph.D. under eminent

ecologist S.C. Kendeigh on ecology of roosting birds and completed Doctoral Degree in 1957. Dr. James joined university of Arkansas as first ornithologist in 1953. Since then he continued ecological study of shrubland birds with his first wife Frances James. Professor James died peacefully on December 17, 2018. He published his monumental works *Birds of Arkansas* in the year 2015 co-authored with Dr. Kiberley G. Smith. He had three children, among them his daughter Dr. Helen Frances James is working in the prestigious Smithsonian Institute as an ornithologist. The scientific community will long cherish Professor James meticulous, beautiful publications and his ceaseless encouragement and support to new generation of scientists.