

In Memoriam

Robert J. Hader (1919 - 2003)

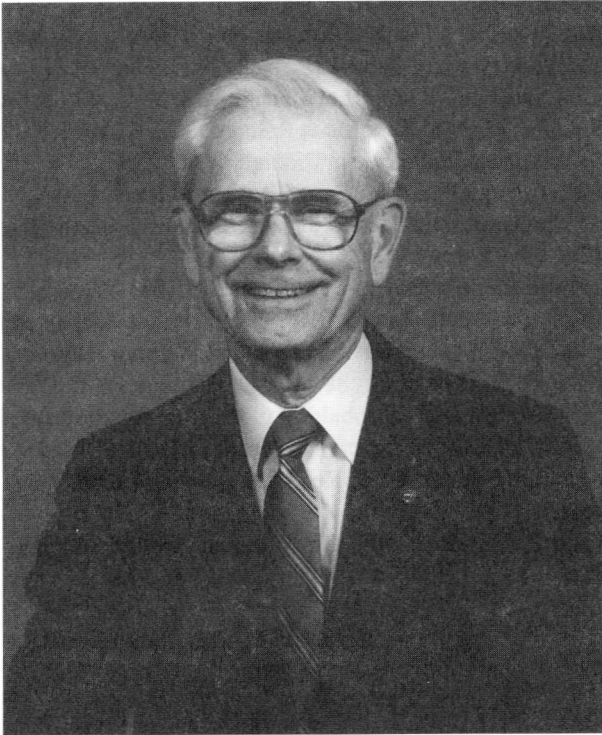
Bob Hader was a soft-spoken man with a delightful smile, a rigorously analytical mind, the soul of a gifted teacher, and a passion for bird study. During his professorship on the full-time faculty of North Carolina State University (1957-1983), serious engineering and computer science students advised one another, "Don't leave here without taking Dr. Hader's graduate course in statistics."

Bob and Dorothy Hader often attended Carolina Bird Club meetings, but their quiet, unassuming manner made it easy to overlook them in the crowd. Bob served on the executive committee of CBC and organized the memorable meeting on the North Carolina Outer Banks in the fall of 1971 (Chat 36:11-12, 1972). At the Fiftieth Anniversary meeting held at Raleigh 1-3 May 1987, a pocket-sized checklist of the birds of the Raleigh area was released by the N.C. Biological Survey in cooperation with Wake Audubon Society. The compilers were Robert J. Hader and Harry E. LeGrand Jr. (Chat 51:33, 1987). An active member of Wake Audubon, Bob headed the Raleigh area Christmas Bird Count for a number of years and participated in many other counts. "If every county had a record keeper like Bob Hader," commented David S. Lee, Curator of Birds at the N.C. State Museum of Natural Sciences, "updating the state list would be easy."

Dr. Hader was born 13 April 1919 in Hartford, Wisconsin. He attended the University of Wisconsin for three years before enlisting in the U.S. Air Force in 1942. As an Aviation Cadet he completed a program in meteorology at the University of Chicago and subsequently served 30 months as an Air Force Weather Officer in the China-Burma-India Theater, reaching the rank of Captain.

Following his discharge, Hader enrolled as a graduate student at NCSU and received a Ph.D. in statistics in 1949. For the next two years he served as a statistician at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in New Mexico. In 1951 he returned to NCSU as an Associate Professor and six years later was promoted to Professor. He received several Outstanding Teacher awards during his tenure. For a short time he traveled to UNC-Wilmington to teach his highly respected course in statistics there as well as in Raleigh. Those trips rewarded him with an opportunity to do a little extra birding on the Carolina coast.

Dr. Hader published a number of papers in statistical journals and was made a Fellow of the American Statistical Society in 1966. He retired from full-time teaching in 1983, but he continued to teach during the summer session for 5 years. The plans he and Dorothy had for their retirement years changed abruptly when his back was severely injured in a fall several years ago. CBC



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members who never knew him personally may recall seeing Bob in his wheelchair at some of the meetings. His enthusiasm for bird study never waned.

Hader contributed more than a dozen articles to *The Chat* between 1963 and 1987. His rarest find was a Lawrence's Warbler seen at Hemlock Bluffs, Wake County, N.C., on 29 April 1965 (Chat 29:88-89, 1965). A major paper was the "Species List of Birds of Wake County, North Carolina" (Chat 33:53-71, 1969). The list was accompanied by an article on finding birds in the Raleigh area co-authored with his fellow NCSU faculty member, Thomas L. Quay (Chat 33:72-75, 1969). In addition, Hader was always willing to help the Editor of *The Chat* by reviewing papers involving the use of statistics. As Ricky Davis well recalls, Dr. Hader also did a great deal to encourage young people's interest in bird study. His friendliness, generosity, intellectual integrity, and adherence to the highest ethical standards made him a worthy example for statisticians and bird students of all ages.

Following Bob's death on 15 January 2003, at age 83, a memorial service was held on 20 January at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Raleigh. Interment was in Hartford, Wis. Bob is survived by his wife, Dorothy; their daughter Ann Stockard, of Dallas, Texas; their son Robert J. Hader, Jr., of Cary, N.C.; six grandchildren; and a brother, James E. Hader, of Hartford, Wis.

Ornithological Publications of R. J. Hader

- Hader, R J. 1963. Caspian Terns at Raleigh, North Carolina. *Chat* 27:79-80.
- _____. 1965a. More Caspian Terns at Raleigh, N.C. *Chat* 29:87.
- _____. 1965b. Lawrence's Warbler at Raleigh, N.C. *Chat* 29:88-89.
- _____. 1967. Fall Shorebird Records at Raleigh, N.C. *Chat* 31:25-26
- _____. 1968a. Wilson's Phalarope at Raleigh, N.C. *Chat* 32:76.
- _____. 1968b. Wilson's Petrels at Cape Lookout. *Chat* 32:100.
- _____. 1969. Species List of Birds of Wake County, North Carolina. *Chat* 33:53-71.
- _____. 1971. Bald Eagle at Raleigh, N.C. *Chat* 35:108.
- _____. 1975. Goshawks in Avery County, N.C. *Chat* 39:18-19. [Report of correspondence between Dartha Frank and William Hamnett. (E.F.P.)]
- _____. 1987. Vermilion Flycatcher at Pea Island Refuge, N.C. *Chat* 51:77.
- _____. and Tom Howard. 1977. Probable Rufous Hummingbird at Raleigh, N.C. *Chat* 41:70-71 [Third accepted state record. (E.F.P.)]
- Marsh, Chris, and R J Hader. 1969. Red Phalarope in Wake County, N.C. *Chat* 38:71-72.
- Quay, T L, and R J Hader. 1968. Bird Finding Around Raleigh, N.C. *Chat* 33:72-75.

ELOISE F. POTTER, Editor Emeritus, *The Chat*