

MORAY JAMES LEWIS, 1956-1987

On 14 May 1987 Moray Lewis and four members of the Sarawak National Parks Service were about to depart by boat to the island of Pulau Tukong Ara (a wildlife sanctuary) to survey a Bridled Tern colony. With their boat anchored near the mouth of the Sibu River, 25 km northwest of Kuching, the five were eating lunch in the cabin when lightning struck the mast. The lightning passed amongst the five, killing Moray instantly. The others were unharmed.

At the time of his death, Moray was serving as a Wildlife Research Officer with Canadian University Services Overseas (CUSO). He was posted to Malaysia (Sarawak) in February 1986 by CUSO to

provide technical assistance in the operation of the Semengoh Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre near Kuching. This centre houses a variety of protected animals (orangutans, gibbons, etc.) confiscated from people who had illegally taken them as young from the wild. When Moray first arrived, a new rehabilitation centre was under construction and, unable to participate in his assignment, he became involved in other environmental concerns. He discovered that certain tern colonies were threatened because villagers were robbing most of the eggs. Information materials, displays and pamphlets were assembled and tours to kampongs (settlements) were arranged where discussions with villagers were held on the



"Terns of Tukung Ara." The emphasis was on the need to preserve a number of nests in order that the tern colonies survive. Apparently his efforts were well received.

Moray was born in Moose Jaw on 4 November 1956. After attending King George Public School and Central Collegiate in Moose Jaw, he enrolled in a science program at the University of Saskatchewan from which he graduated with distinction. While in Saskatoon, Moray worked for the Department of Biology as a laboratory assistant, and as a research assistant for the Canada Department of Agriculture and the Canadian Wildlife Service. His spare time was spent birdwatching, biking, swimming and photographing (especially wild flowers). One of the more interesting bird records from the Saskatoon area belongs to Moray. This was the observation of all three rails (Yellow, Virginia and Sora) on a cattail-ringed pond near St. Denis. Moray completed a Master's Degree at the University of Calgary on the feeding ecology of shorebirds migrating through south-central Saskatchewan.

Moray was an active member of the Moose Jaw Natural History Society, participating in spring and fall bird counts. In fact, he was a valued addition to any birding party, according to long-time family friend, Leith Knight, who suggested that whatever party Moray accompanied was assured the best count of the day. Moray learned about birds and their habits and gained an appreciation of small mammals, insects and plants along Spring Creek near the family home, along the Moose Jaw River and around the family cottage at Buffalo Pound Lake. A brief note in the *Blue Jay* (June 1971:102) describes his enthusiasm and joy for nature. Prior to joining CUSO Moray spent almost half a year at home during which he and Leith Knight assembled a checklist of birds for Wakamow Valley Authority. He also conducted a small mammal survey in the

Valley, using ingeniously designed homemade live traps for the capture and release of voles and mice.

Other interests of Moray's included classical music, the plight of the underprivileged, and travel. Like some classical music *aficionados*, Moray felt that baroque composers such as Corelli, Bach, and Scarlatti, were the only ones who produced enjoyable music. With my interest in the romantic period, we had many discussions on the best of classical music. He had a playful scorn for me - and since then I have listened to a lot of baroque music. My dominating memory of Moray was of his immense interest in and concern for the poor and under-privileged of the Third World. I was fascinated by discussions in the summer of 1978 with this young man who could eloquently deal with the problem of apartheid. He was cognizant of the issues enunciated by the African National Congress and the narrow outlook of the South African government. His concern for black South Africans and others was heightened by a trip into Mexico, where the appalling conditions of the majority could not escape notice even in the major centres. In contrast with the dominating "me-ism" of our modern youth, he had a very strong desire to help and this led him to apply both to CUSO and World University Service Overseas.

People who came in contact with this quiet, somewhat shy, youth seldom got to know him well. Most of his friends and acquaintances in Canada appear not to have gone beyond discussing birds with him. I miss his friendship and company and our lengthy discussions, the joy of comparing photographs of plants and of travel, and the infrequent, yet enjoyable and educational, trips to study shorebirds. — *E.A. Driver*, Canadian Wildlife Service, 115 Perimeter Road, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. S7N 0X4.