

OSOBNÍ ZPRÁVA

PERSONAL NOTE

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Mammalogist Hans Martin Steiner passed away

Odešel mammaliolog Hans Martin Steiner

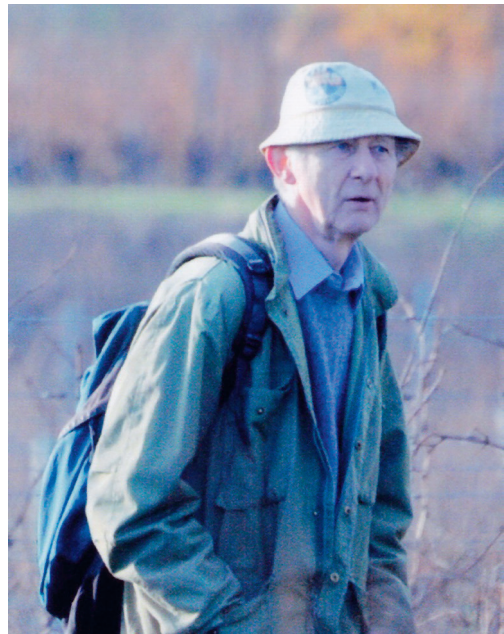
Jan ZEJDA

Prof. Dr. Hans M. STEINER was a head of the Institute of Zoology, Agricultural University of Vienna, Austria, in 1987–2004. He was one of the most significant European vertebratologists who started their scientific activity in the early second half of the 20th century.

His activity in mammalogy concentrated mostly on taxonomy and ecology of small mammals. I met him in the 1960s for the first time. He and his colleague came to the Institute of Vertebrate Biology in Brno to make contact with the scientists, to share experience, and to discuss methods of ecological studies on small mammals living in lowland forests. It was a lucky moment for three mammalogists of the Institute (Jaroslav PELIKÁN, Věra HOLÍŠOVÁ and Jan ZEJDA) as they just started a similar project on small mammals living in lowland forests in the basin of the Morava River, lying no more than 100 kilometres from the Austrian experimental plots in the basin of the Danube River. This was the beginning of a lifetime friendship but not only a scientific one. With enormous interest, we followed the results of his work and progress (Friederike SPITZENBERGER was his co-worker at that time). This team later continued to study the small mammal community of mountain forests in eastern Turkey.

STEINER's papers on taxonomy and ecology of the *Apodemus* species in lowland forests (1966) and on microtines of the eastern Pontus, Talysh and Elbrus mountains (1972) were extremely useful for my own research. Hans Martin STEINER came (with his very old car) to our Institute many times, because his interests expanded to other co-workers, e.g. to the head of our Institute, Josef KRATOCHVÍL, or to Ivo GRULICH. Also his cooperation with Czech specialists on bats Jiří GAISLER and on birds Karel HUDEC and Zdeněk KUX was very fruitful. Last but not least, the scientific collections housed in the Brno Institute and its library helped him to elucidate some scientific problems. The list of published papers indicates that STEINER divided his scientific activity in equal between mammalogy and ornithology.

During the political isolation of the East European countries, Professor Hans Martin STEINER



and his colleagues from the Agricultural University of Vienna and Natural History Museum Vienna were very helpful to us each time we visited Vienna or other parts of Austria.

Finally, let me look back to a conference meeting in Vienna (1964) with an unplanned trip to the Pasterze Glacier in the Alps. I was eager to go there but I had no equipment, so Martin offered me his older boots. On the way back, the heel of the left boot ended in a cranny of the glacier. Somewhere there lays the proof of our friendship perhaps until today.