IN MEMORIAM
CHARLES M. WEISE, 1926-1997

Department of Biological Sciences and Field Station, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201 USA

Charles M. Weise, Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences, was a member of the UWM Faculty from 1956 until his retirement in 1995. He died in Milwaukee April 9, 1997 following a long battle with cancer. He was born in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania July 8, 1926. Following military service he attended Ohio University, where he received a B.S. degree in 1950. He obtained a M.S. from the University of Illinois in 1951, and a Ph.D. from that university in 1956.

His interest in the natural world was apparent in early childhood, when it is said he developed an intense interest in birds shortly before his twelfth birthday. His research dealt with population ecology and migration physiology of birds. His work on population ecology lead to the development of a 26-year study of a color-banded population of Black-capped Chickadees at the UWM Field Station. This work resulted in a number of jointly authored papers on social behavior, dispersal, and vocalizations. He was fervidly preparing additional manuscripts for publication on the chickadee studies at the time of his death.

Chuck taught at Fisk University for three years before joining the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee faculty in 1956, where he taught general ecology and ornithology until he retired in 1995. He participated in the founding of the UWM Center for Great Lakes Studies and the UWM Field Station, where he conducted most of his research. He served as Chair of the former Department of Zoology and was instrumental in the formation of the joint Botany/Zoology Ph.D. program in Biological Sciences. Later, he actively supported the merger of the former Departments of Botany and Zoology into the present-day Department of Biological Sciences, which he also chaired for several years.

His most notable contributions were in the teaching of ecology and ornithology to both undergraduate and graduate students. As a dedicated and highly accomplished field biologist, he inspired many students to pursue careers in biology, while working directly with them in the field. Chuck was a quiet, serious man of few words, whose enthusiasm for biology was most apparent while working in the field with the birds he loved and with students and colleagues. He will be greatly missed by all of us who had the good fortune to be associated with him.

His wife, Joan, died in 1995. Five children and numerous grandchildren survive him.