

HELMUT K. BUECHNER  
1918-1975

Helmut K. Buechner died October 7, 1975, after a serious illness of some seven months. At the time of his death, he was Emeritus Senior Scientist at the National Zoological Park. He was born August 5, 1918, at Scotia, New York. He graduated Magna cum Laude in 1941 with a Bachelor of Science degree from New York State University. He was awarded a Master's degree from Texas A & M University in 1943 and achieved his Doctorate from Oklahoma State University in 1949. Helmut Buechner served in the U.S. Air Force from October 1942 to July of 1945. He was awarded the Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He was active in research and teaching, specializing in the ecology and the behavior of large mammals. His early research concerned the management of the pronghorn antelope in Texas for which he won the George Mercer Award from the Ecological Society of America in 1950. The Wildlife Society honored his research on the bighorn sheep with an award for 1960. During the last fifteen years, Buechner was active in research on African game and in particular the Uganda kob. The discovery of territorial behavior in the male of this species by Helmut and his wife, Jimmie, opened a new research dimension in game biology since it focused attention on behavior as a vital component for game management.

Helmut Buechner taught and conducted research at Washington State University from 1948 to 1965. He left Washington State as Professor of Zoology to head the Office of Ecology at the Smithsonian Institution. Under his guidance the Smithsonian sponsored wildlife research in Ceylon, India, Israel, and Korea. From 1972 on, he was Senior Scientist at the National Zoological Park-Smithsonian Institution, where he greatly influenced the development of captive propagation programs for the ungulates.

Helmut Buechner was a member of numerous learned societies and was especially active in the Ecological Society of America and the Wildlife Society. His guidance and wisdom will be sorely missed by his colleagues. Helmut Buechner is survived by his wife, Jimmie, of Arlington, Virginia, and two daughters, Hannele of the home address, and Mrs. Hancy Crane of Seattle, Washington.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be sent to the Smithsonian institution for the Helmut K. Buechner Memorial Fund.

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