



**IN MEMORIAM**  
**Edmund (Ed/Eamon) S. Telfer**

It is with a deep sense of sorrow and loss that we announce the passing of Edmund (Ed) Stewart Telfer on April 29, 2018 at the age of 87. Ed was born on December 13, 1930 and raised in rural Nova Scotia, where he developed a love for the natural world. He acquired a B.Sc. in Forestry from the University of New Brunswick in 1953. After working as a forester (timber cruiser) and land surveyor, Ed returned to school, where he obtained a B.Ed. specializing in teaching science from Acadia University in 1962 and a M.Sc. in Wildlife Biology, also from Acadia University, in 1965. Under the guidance of Don Dodds, Ed's thesis 'Studies of moose and white-tailed deer ecology in northern Nova Scotia' set the tone for much of his career.

Ed was then hired by the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, first in New Brunswick (4 years), then in Edmonton Alberta (27 years). Ed was a tireless worker, applying his curiosity about the natural world to his job, first as a wildlife biologist and later as a research scientist. He led research projects that studied ungulates - in particular moose and white-tailed deer - and the impact of forest management on their habitat. This research included work on understanding the impact of timber harvesting on watersheds along the eastern slopes of the Alberta Rockies. He became a distinguished moose and

habitat biologist and a loggerhead shrike expert. In the latter part of his career, he focused on the habitat requirements of forest birds. He advised on environmental impact statements for various development projects in the Alberta Rockies.

Ed was a long time member of The Wildlife Society and served on their Publication Awards Committee. In 1994, the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society awarded him the 'William Rowan Distinguished Service Award' for his outstanding contributions to the management and conservation of wildlife and their habitats. While a member of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, he served as an associate editor for the Forestry Chronicle scientific journal. When he was a member of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, he participated in many international conferences on fish and wildlife habitat and coordinated the group's work in Canada. He was a member of The North American Moose Conference and Workshop, virtually from its inception, and was an associate editor with the research journal, Alces. In 1984 Ed received their 'Distinguished Moose Biologist' award for "outstanding contribution to the field of moose management". Ed retired in 1996, and it is noteworthy that many of his accomplishments were after that. Ed served as a Scientist Emeritus with the CWS for several years, attending moose conferences,

most recently with his beloved wife Morag, such as in International Falls, Minnesota, Jackson, Wyoming and Brandon, Manitoba.

Ed loved to read and he had a tremendous memory for what he read. He also was a great storyteller and listener. He loved family and he loved visiting with people. Ed's character was exemplified by kindness, a compassionate heart, humble, meek, patient, self-controlled, thankful, and showing perfect courtesy towards all people. Because of these characteristics, Ed was well respected by his colleagues and associates within the scientific community, and, quite simply, by anyone who had the distinct pleasure of meeting and knowing him.

There were many accolades from his moose colleagues. Here are a few examples. Ed "was much respected in the Moose community for his knowledge and his willingness to share his thoughts with other colleagues over the years.... he made the effort to participate, as he had done since we first met in Thunder Bay at the 8<sup>th</sup> North American Conference in 1972. Over those 40<sup>+</sup> years Ed kept active and will be remembered by those who knew him. He left his mark" (Tim Timmermann). "Ed Telfer did some of the first

and best work on moose, deer, and snow relationships, plus some of the shrub production methodology that I picked up on in days gone by.....He initiated a lot of work that I extended over the years, as did many others. So I consider Ed to be among the first of the moose biologists who made initial contributions that have been built upon since. I'm very gratified to have known him, and his legacy in the moose world will quite obviously continue" (Jim Peek).

Ed was predeceased by his former wife, Leona (Gorman) Telfer, who was the mother of their six children; and infant children, Kenneth Clifton and Isabel Anne. He is survived by his second wife, Morag; his six children, Dan (Mary) Telfer (Okotoks, AB), Angus (Hazel Harper) Telfer (Vancouver, BC), Christine Telfer (Dennis Livingstone) (Riverview, NB), Ellen (Peter) Paczkowski (Kamloops, BC). Jean (Charles) Ottosen (Regina, SK), Kathleen (Dave) MacNearney (Montague, PEI); by Morag's three children, Scott (Theresa) Ozeroff, Kimberly (Mike) Ozeroff, and Christopher (Sharla) Ozeroff; and by his 15 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and 7 step-grandchildren. This gentle giant will be fondly missed.