

IN MEMORIAM
Sally Hoyt Spofford, 1914 – 2003

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With the passing of Sally Hoyt Spofford on 26 October 2003 in Tucson, Arizona, a long and distinguished career drew to a close. Between 1948 and 1972, Sally worked with all the early directors of the Laboratory of Ornithology, Arthur A. Allen, Peter Paul Kellogg, and Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., providing dedicated professional service to the Laboratory, Cornell University, and the Ithaca community. Each of those early directors, in turn, predeceased Sally, who lived a full and eventful life of 88 years, including service as Corresponding Secretary for the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs from 1958 to 1961.

Sally was awarded her Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1948 upon completion of her thesis, *A Reference Book and Bibliography of Ornithological Techniques*. Unfortunately, her husband Southgate Hoyt, whom she had married in 1942, became ill with cancer and died in 1951, at age 39, an untimely death for a very promising ornithologist.

At the regular Monday Night Seminars at Sapsucker Woods, she met Walter R. Spofford, a neurosurgeon from Syracuse. In addition to his medical practice, "Spoff" also studied birds of prey and was a recognized expert on the Golden Eagle. Sally and Walt were married in 1964 and Walt's studies of birds of prey continued, with Sally by his side on most trips afield.

In 1972, the Spoffords retired to Portal, Arizona, at the mouth of Cave Creek Canyon on the eastern edge of the Chiricahua Mountains. Their Arizona home, Rancho Aguila, was an oasis for both birds and birders with a yard filled with bird baths and feeders, and was a popular destination listed in many bird-finding guides. After Walter Spofford died in 1995, Sally continued to welcome birds and birders to her home and remained active in local conservation activities, especially those related to conservation of the Cave Creek Canyon area and its birds. For 30 years in Portal, Arizona, she reaffirmed the natural value of Cave Creek Canyon and worked with her local community to conserve the area and its wealth of bird life.

Sally Spofford is laid to rest beside Walter Spofford in a small country cemetery, surrounded by junipers and nestled in a valley near the old mining town of Paradise, in the Chiricahua Mountains. The cemetery faces to the East, looking out upon cliffs where Golden Eagles still nest and hunt.