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Hummingbird Monitoring Network Memorial to George C West and Barbara A Carlson

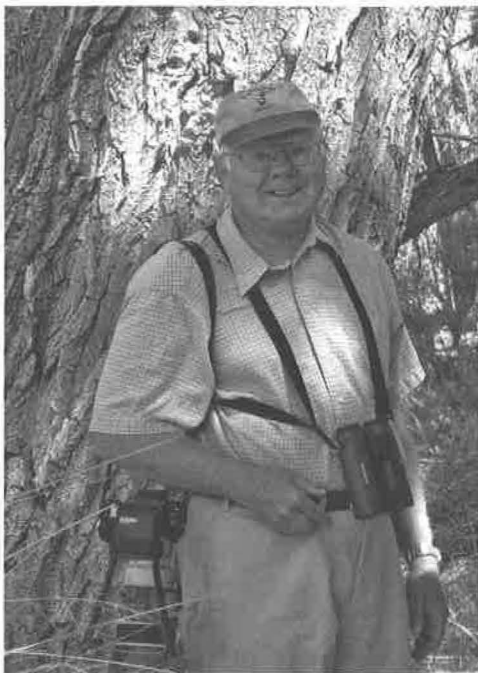
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Hummingbird Monitoring Network Memorial to George C. West and Barbara A. Carlson. By Susan Wethington

In the past 2 years, two of Hummingbird Monitoring Network's co-founders, George West (Aug 31, 2016) and Barbara Carlson (Feb 16, 2015) have passed away. In 2002, the three of us founded the Hummingbird Monitoring Network (HMN) because a lack of trend data for most North American hummingbird species prevented Partners In Flight from estimating their population trends. Now with a decade of monitoring on species whose longevity records range from 10 to 12 years and with females still nesting at nine years, we can begin detecting trends in hummingbird populations using data collected by the Hummingbird Monitoring Network (HMN).

Barbara and George brought a wealth of complementary skills and experiences to the beginning of HMN. Barbara's perennial sense of humor and her extensive experience with banding projects and running reserves were instrumental in defining standards by which HMN banders' band. She insisted on careful, accurate, and complete work with the welfare of the hummingbird a top priority. George, with his kind soul, amazing artistic talents, and habits of a successful scientist, ensured an unwavering commitment to science-based monitoring and left an array of graphics and art that are still being used to express HMN's mission. His books, "Do Hummingbirds Hum" and "North American Hummingbirds: An Identification Guide" still inform us.

We sorely miss George and Barbara and continue our monitoring in their honor. They would be thrilled to know that HMN's data is being used to estimate trends. Did you know that Broad-tailed Hummingbirds can change when they migrate, where they stopover, and when they molt in response to environmental conditions on their wintering grounds? HMN's monitoring data and NASA's environmental data were coupled with scientifically-designed models to provide a method to predict how this species responds to changes in wintering ground conditions. Check out our recent publication (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ecs2.1470/full>)!

Please remember them. Susan

An example of how George's graphics still help
express HMN's mission

