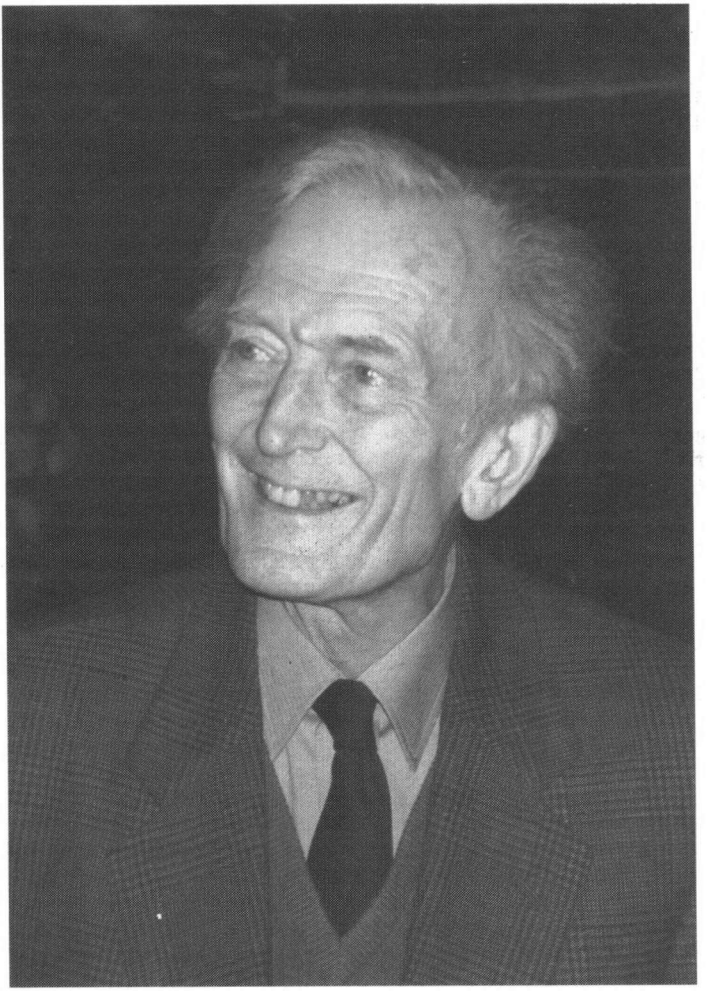
Odonatologica 32(1): 1-8 *February 24, 2003*

TO PROFESSOR Dr NORMAN WINFRID MOORE FOR HIS 80th BIRTHDAY



Norman Moore

at the edge of the pond
ducks flapping their wings
a wave of leaves

Marianne Kiauta
(Dedicated to Norman W. Moore,
from the cycle "*The first crocus*",
Mondena, Grosuplje & Ursus, Bilthoven, 2000)

Dear Norman,

No doubt, if they could, dragonflies would enthusiastically celebrate today's 80th birthday of the man who spent more than six decades of his life studying their habits and, above all, promoting the protection of their habitats, in a life devoted to conservation. They are perhaps not aware of the way many of their homes would look, and of the grave destiny many of their kin would have suffered – if it were not for your conservation initiatives throughout the world. Therefore, on behalf of dragonflies and on our own behalf, the world community of dragonfly students presents you with this issue of Odonatologica, *as a token of thanks for everything you have done, and are still doing, for the protection and conservation of their world.*

Your attention to morphological detail, as apparent from your early publications (1939, 1942), would seem to indicate a young potential taxonomist. But your life and interests took a different turn – and your research on odonate territoriality (1952a) was one of the highlights both of your studies and of the science of odonatology of that time. This is an absolutely classical publication, and a firm basis for most work in dragonfly ethology and population biology ever since. Various aspects of population biology have had your continuous attention. For the duration and precision of systematic recording, your studies in Woodwalton Fen (1991a, 2001a) will certainly remain unmatched in odonatological literature for a long time to come; the two publications represent an important reference for studies of community succession in the Northern Hemisphere.

In 1938 you started recording British dragonflies. Your professional work with the Nature Conservancy Council took you to various parts of the country, where unprecedented changes in agricultural practices have caused the loss of aquatic habitats, while water supply schemes and increased gravel and clay extraction have produced many new water bodies. Some man-made ("dragonfly") ponds have also been constructed in some nature reserves. These developments have triggered appreciable changes in the odonate fauna and in the status of some species. In your 1976 publication you reviewed the position of British dragonfly conservation and provided suggestions for the necessary policies, management and research in this field. Your Swavesey Dragonfly Reserve served as a model for the planting programme at Ashton Water. The success of the Sanctuary, largely based on your advice, led to the foundation of the National Dragonfly Museum, as R. Mackenzie Dodds recalls elsewhere in this issue.

Your initiatives in dragonfly conservation have not been confined to the United Kingdom; they have encompassed the entire globe. In 1980, at Kyoto in Japan, you founded, within the framework of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, the Odonata Specialist Group (OSG). For two decades, under your inspirational chairmanship, the OSG performed unprecedented conservation work on a global scale. Some of its achievements and suggestions, as discussed at the biennial OSG meetings, are summarized in the eleven issues published to date of the Reports of the Odonata Specialist Group, Species Survival Commission, IUCN – *a periodical you founded in 1982, and*

have edited ever since. The highlight of the OSG achievements is your world action plan for Odonata conservation (1993a, 1997a), an outline of a realistic strategy, with the objective of integrating global dragonfly conservation with that of other organisms and habitats. The book is an indispensable reference work for dragonfly conservation in any part of the world.

In May 1987 you have visited the Japanese 'Dragonfly Kingdom' in Nakamura, established in 1985. The encouragement and technical suggestions you have rendered on that occasion were of decisive importance for the development of this world-famous dragonfly sanctuary.

As a result of your research, conservation initiatives, organisational achievements and publications, you have created a lasting monument. Even more precious are the living jewels that are to perpetuate your name, as from this very day: Drepanosticta moorei *van Tol & R.A. Müller,* Neoneura moorei *Machado and* Notogomphus moorei *Vick, are flying, respectively, in the Philippines, in Brazil and in Africa.*

On behalf of the world odonatological community and on behalf of the dragonflies, a big THANK YOU, and many happy returns !

Yours ever,

B. & M. KIAUTA
P.O. Box 256
NL-3720 AG Bilthoven
The Netherlands

K. INOUE
5-9, Fuminosato 4-chome
Abeno-ku, Osaka 545-0004
Japan

Portrait on p. 1 dated February 2001
(Photo Mrs Charles Moore)

A PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO Dr NORMAN MOORE

Norman Moore exerted an influence on me from the moment I became interested in dragonflies. In 1985, a total beginner, I visited the British Museum of Natural History in South Kensington, London, and came out carrying a newly-reprinted copy of 'Dragonflies' by Corbet, Longfield & Moore. It fired me with enthusiasm.

Our first meeting came in the summer of 1987. I was in the process of trying to set up a dragonfly sanctuary at Ashton Water, Northamptonshire. The aim was for the sanctuary to be open to the public, a place where people could discover the wonder, beauty and plight of dragonflies. It is difficult now to remember how little dragonflies impinged upon public awareness at that time. Ashton Water was owned by Dr Charles Lane, Dame Miriam Rothschild's son. It was Miriam, as part of her constant moral support for the project, who put me in touch with Norman.

Norman and Janet very kindly invited my wife and me to tea at their home in Swavesey, Cambridgeshire. We were made very welcome, and, after tea, Norman led me off to a small room where he invited me to outline my plans. As he listened, his hand was resting on a blank blue form. It was an application for membership to the British Dragonfly Society. It dawned that the signing of this form might produce a considerable amount of information!

The form duly signed, Norman led us out into his garden and down to the Swavesey Dragonfly Reserve. Late in 1983, Norman had dug a pond specifically for dragonflies. Here was a perfect, maturing model for the sort of thing I had in mind for Ashton. It was clear that, in order to create an attractive dragonfly home at Ashton, there was a need to concentrate on basic habitat management and to organise a planting programme. Norman's explanations and advice were invaluable. Looking back, this was the first – and by no means the last – time I experienced one of Norman's greatest strengths, his ability to treat even the most ignorant questions kindly.

*This meeting was a turning point. I left armed with a list of practical details, convinced that what had seemed heretofore merely possible at Ashton was in fact definitely feasible. Norman later took the trouble to come over to Ashton Water and offer further on-the-spot advice. A typical example of Norman's method of gentle guidance occurred during that first visit to see how our work was progressing. In my desire to attract as many dragonfly species as possible, I had been rash enough to introduce Reed Mace (*Typha latifolia*) into the lake. Looking very hard at my biblical stand of Reed Mace, Norman said: "Hmmm.* Typha. *That's interesting. I'm not sure I would have done that." It was only a year or two later, whilst struggling to remove the highly invasive* Typha, *that one realised what lay behind that quiet understatement.*

At that time, Ashton Water had very little marginal and water plant growth, due to severe predation by Pere David deer. Five species of dragonfly were recorded in 1989. By 1994, the number had increased to sixteen. This was achieved thanks to the planting programme based on Norman's advice, and to the installation of a deer-fence funded by WWF.

The success of the Sanctuary led to the foundation of the National Dragonfly Museum at Ashton Mill. Here again, Norman's encouragement was a major factor in our decision to go ahead. He very much approved of our determination to communicate the importance of dragonfly conservation to the general public. It is nice that the Museum has subsequently become the regular meeting place for the Dragonfly Conservation Group, a body operating under the auspices of the British Dragonfly Society and originally set up by Norman.

At the Museum, we have tried to follow a precept Norman laid down for us very early on. He advised us never to close off contact with organisations which might be perceived as being environmentally or conservationally 'unsound'. As a result, we have been able to have useful and constructive dialogues with people perhaps beyond the reach of professional conservationists.

Norman taught me another lesson. The second time I met him was at the Annual

Indoor Meeting of the British Dragonfly Society in Leeds on the 31st of October, 1987. This was my first contact with the B.D.S. Coming down a university corridor towards the meeting, I wondered what on earth I was doing on a wet Saturday morning heading for a convention of serious dragonfly types. Rounding the corner, I was astonished at the cheerful noise emanating from the meeting room. It sounded like a full-blown party. It was a wonderful, informative meeting and, at lunchtime, I found myself sitting in a battered armchair beside Norman. Was this a dream, or was I really sharing sandwiches with the father of modern dragonfly conservation? A couple of weeks later, spurred on by this new found camaraderie, I took the liberty of sending Norman two photographs of a damselfly. Was this Coenagrion hastulatum*? I still have those photographs and, looking at them now with more experienced eyes, see they are useless for identification purposes. But Norman's reply was prompt, patient and encouraging. Since then, more Museum visitors than I care to recall have approached me bearing blurred photographs for identification. Norman's reply always comes to mind.*

Norman has visited the Museum regularly and is extremely popular with members of the Museum team. Despite his extraordinary knowledge and achievements, we always feel a friend has arrived. There is certain to be a significant amount of laughter emerging from whichever group he is with. In September 1999, he gave the third lecture of our annual Corbet Lecture series. His talk was entitled 'Dragonfly Conservation, at home and abroad'. We sat spellbound.

During our current search for new premises, Norman has once again come to our aid. His sound advice, his unfailing optimism, his conviction that we are doing the right thing and that we will find a solution has really been a source of strength. As a group, we feel we owe him a great debt. On behalf of all the team from the Museum, I would like to thank Norman very sincerely for everything he has done for us. It is an honour to have him as a friend and mentor.

R. MACKENZIE DODDS

East Ardtrasgairt
Fortingall by Aberfeldy
Perthshire, PH15 2LN
United Kingdom

A DEEP LOVE OF NATURE: TRIBUTE TO NORMAN MOORE ON HIS 80th BIRTHDAY

It was a bitterly cold day, as only winter Cambridgeshire days can be. The sun was trying its hardest to breathe a little light and warmth into the deep, fertile soils. Many sunrises ago, those soils were marshland. I was daydreaming about what it must have been like all those hundreds of years ago before the extensive drainage of the fens took place. The sight triggered a thought of a George Shipway novel I had read some years earlier describing the fens as being so extensive and impenetrable that the Romans

could not track down the Britons that live there. These early inhabitants knew the great marshland so well they could simply disappear into them when pursued. Today that has all changed. Conservation of the fenland and other natural remnants in the context of agricultural development has been one of Norman Moore's achievements.

I jolted back to the present day as the lovely, mellow old farmhouse, harmonising with the landscape, came into view. My immediate thought was that this was the retreat of someone who loved nature deeply. Not that it was a new thought. As a boy I had enjoyed the Collins New Naturalist book 'Dragonflies', which Norman co-authored with two other outstanding figures of British Odonatology, Philip Corbet and Cynthia Longfield. Later, when I was a postgraduate, I had been rivetted by another Collins New Naturalist series book, 'Hedges', *which Norman co-authored with Ernie Pollard and Max Hooper in 1974. This book is a classic and was ahead of its time, appearing before the discipline of landscape ecology had emerged or was even recognised as a subject by the British Ecological Society.*

In 1987, just at the time I was moving from integrated pest management to insect conservation, I read Norman's outstanding 'Bird of time: the scince and politics of nature conservation'. *This outstandingly perceptive, open and sensitive book was again an instant classic. For the first time, here was an honest appraisal of the realities and difficulties, yet challenges, facing British nature conservation. It is not difficult to dream of conservation, but to put it into practice as a hard-nosed activity that genuinely saves habitats and species is quite another matter. It was after reading* 'Bird of time' *that I resolved to meet this dedicated conservationist.*

As the door to the farmhouse opened I was greeted warmly by this man of extra-ordinary charm, grace and strength of character. It was a day I shall always remember. We sat in comfortable old armchairs and chatted over many aspects of the interface between agriculture and conservation. Norman's amazingly deep understanding of what matters in conservation was a tutorial delight that his inspired me ever since.

Later that day we weaved through a tangle of trees to see Norman's pond, the digging of which was a retirement present from colleagues. This pond has been more than just curiosity. It has led to a long-term study described in Norman's recent book, 'Oaks, dragonflies and people' *(2002). The value of Norman's insight lies in illustrating that conservation must take into account changes in systems to be meaningful.*

The next time I met Norman was at the SIO symposium in Tennessee when he was chairing the IUCN/SSC Odonata Specialist Group meeting. And what a wonderful meeting it was! Ideas were flying, and Norman harnessed these in his gentle but firm manner to propose that an Action Plan should be developed. It appeared in 1993 with a comprehensive update in 1997. These are outstanding documents in terms of their coverage and realistic goals.

'Norman's pond', and his bringing to the Western World's notice the importance of the Japanese dragonfly reserves in raising public awareness, has stimulated us in the southern hemisphere to also develop such ponds. In keeping with Norman's brilliant perception of nature conservation, he emphasised many times the importance of raising

public awareness as a first step to meaningful conservation action. Norman has also been acutely aware of the flagship value of dragonflies for invertebrate conservation in general. Children relate strongly to seeing dragonflies which are easily accessible to them. These children then become the conservationists of the future. Here in South Africa in response to Norman's inspiration and insight we have developed a dragonfly awareness trail in the national Botanical Gardens, Pietermaritzburg and which has become enormously popular, particulary with children (SUH, A. & M.J. SAMWAYS, 2001. Biological Conservation *100: 345-353).*

Another major publication was the appearance in 1996 of the 'Atlas of the dragonflies of Britain and Ireland' *which Norman co-authored with Bob Merritt and Brian Eversham. This comprehensive document is a major advance, with historical and present records that are of immense value both in terms of biogeography and conservation planning.*

Environmental philosophers have debated at length the facets of conserving wild nature through utilitarian value and intrinsic value to the significance of literally feeling the pulse of nature. Norman Moore has straddled all these facets. It has come deep from within his being, and is a rare glimpse of humanity at its best.

Happy Birthday, Norman! You have been of inestimable inspiration in paving the way for realistic conservation based on a deep love of nature.

M.J. SAMWAYS

Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology
University of Stellenbosch, Private Bag X1
Matieland, 7602, South Africa