Nolan, Val Jr.

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Nolan, Val Jr.

April 1, 2008

Val Nolan Jr. Val Nolan Jr., eminent ornithologist and Indiana University Professor Emeritus of Law and Biology died March 27, 2008 in Bloomington, IN at age 87. His father Val Nolan was a U.S. Attorney and his mother Jeannette (Covert) Nolan an acclaimed author. After graduation from IU (1941, BA, highest honors), Nolan was first a Deputy U.S. Marshal, then a member of the Secret Service protecting President Franklin D. Roosevelt. During World War II, he joined the US Navy's Japanese Language School (1944, valedictorian) and later served in Intelligence. Following law school (JD, IU School of Law, 1949, highest distinction), he joined the IU law faculty where he was an outstanding teacher of property law during five decades (1949 to 1985) and served twice as Acting Dean. Nolan also pursued his deep interest in the ecology, evolution, and behavior of birds, joining the Department of Zoology (later Biology) in 1965 where he established a lasting tradition of excellence in bird biology. His 20-year study of individually marked warblers in the wild (Ecology and Behavior of the Prairie Warbler) is recognized as a spectacular achievement and led to numerous scholarly honors, including Guggenheim Fellow and two lifetime achievement awards from ornithological societies. Nolan raised three children with his first wife Susanne Nolan: elder son Val Nolan III and wife Lynn of Bloomington, daughter Ann Nolan of Bloomington, and younger son William A Nolan and wife Alicia Nolan of Powell, OH. He was the loving grandfather of four: Val Nolan IV of Los Angeles, CA, Jenny Nolan of Bloomington, Thomas and Christopher Nolan of Powell. He also leaves his brother Alan T. Nolan (wife Jane Nolan) and his sister Kay Nolan Lobley (husband Alan Lobley) of Indianapolis. He was married for 28 years to his second wife Ellen D. Ketterson with whom he shared his research and life. Val Nolan Jr. was a man of the highest integrity with an extraordinary mind. He was also a good Democrat, and a man who loved the natural world. A memorial service will be held at a later time. Contributions in his name may be made to the Sycamore Land Trust or the IU School of Law. Day Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.