

The managing editor of *Fauna norvegica* - Edvard K. Barth - retires

True idealists are becoming a “rare species” and therefore they deserve our special attention. During the last 15 years, i.e. since 1979 and *Fauna norvegica* vol. 1, Edvard K. Barth has had his idealism put to the test in his job as managing editor of *Fauna norvegica*. He has been the ever-present person, and the “load-carrying unit” in the editorial staff, as well as the security regarding continuity and supervision for the numerous links that necessarily have to be present within the “machinery” of a scientific journal. Not least he has had to resist in the frontline in the struggle for funds to keep the journal alive.

Moreover, Barth’s efforts have gone far beyond the duties normally taken care of by a managing editor. Not only has he followed the manuscripts from their first arrival from the editors-in-chief to their final form in the journal. Together with his wife, Sonja, he has also been responsible for keeping the subscriber lists for the three series (*Fauna norvegica*, Series A, B and C) up-to-date, i.e. changes of address, dispatching invoices, etc, up to the point where the final product was labelled with a correct name and address and sent to biologists all around the world. There is reason to stress that his editorship of *Fauna norvegica*, with an yearly 700-800 hours of work, has been supported with only a symbolic financial compensation.

Many scientific authors in Norway have taken their first unsteady steps towards scientific authorship and made their first appearance under the guidance of Edvard K. Barth. I am sure that nobody has lost his or her self-confidence because of him, and probably we are a massive troop that will miss his pleasant letters and friendly telephone conversations.

Few Norwegian zoologists have contributed more to the spread of ideas on conservation and knowledge within a broad range of zoological topics, particularly within ornithology, than Edvard K. Barth. His research on the history of our ancestors’ struggle to survive without using guns and harpoons, i.e. how they constructed and used huge catching systems for reindeer, is another area where he has made significant contributions.

Although Barth’s endowment to the publication of *Fauna norvegica* can never be appreciated and rewarded through a gift, the present editorial board has decided to give him the original drawing of the dipper decorating the front cover of *Fauna norvegica* Ser. C, Cinclus. This drawing is by Viggo Ree, a Norwegian artist also known for his drawings of several Norwegian stamps carrying bird motives. Hopefully this symbolic token will act as a reminder of the widespread appreciation for his excellent job as managing editor of *Fauna norvegica*.

Last year Edvard K. Barth was able to celebrate his 80th birthday (*Fauna norvegica*, Ser. C., Cinclus 16: 43). Those of us who have the privilege to know him personally know that he will not remain unproductive due to age or his retirement from the editorship, and we wish him all the best in the years to come.

Kjetil Bevanger