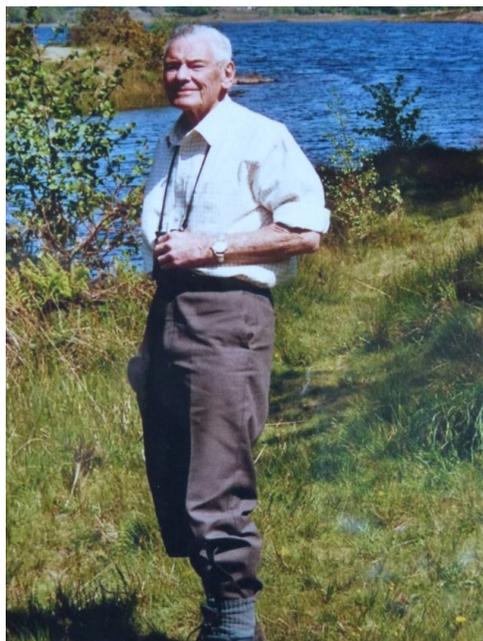


## Obituary Note

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**Dr. Thomas Jones Roberts, SI  
(1924-2013)**

Dr. Thomas Jones Roberts, age 88, passed away on Friday, July 5, 2013. Dr. Roberts, son of Sir William Roberts, was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1924 at Bangor, North Wales, U.K and has been laid to rest at his ancestral hometown Bangor.

Dr. T.J. Roberts was an internationally recognized, distinguished and unmatched authority on the wildlife of Pakistan. His life long passion has been to study the natural history of mammals, birds, reptiles, including his love for butterflies and flowers. He produced knowledge-based works in the highest scientific tradition of an amateur naturalist.

He came to Pakistan in 1946 along with elder Roberts. He received his Ph.D. from Cambridge University, U.K. Earlier to it he got M.S.A. from British Columbia University Canada.

He produced comprehensive accounts of the mammals and birds of Pakistan in the shape of two books – *The mammals of Pakistan* (1977, 1997) and *Birds of Pakistan* (two volumes, 1991). These are the only definitive reference books – a great value to the mammalogists, ornithologist, conservationists, researchers and university students. Authored by Thomas Roberts, Oxford University Press published two Field Guides on Large and Small Mammals of

Pakistan in 2005. In addition to this, Thomas Roberts authored or co-authored three 'Field Guides on Birds' of Indo-Pakistan, together with those of Bangladesh, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Sri-Lanka. Thomas Roberts acted as editor of the Mammal Section of Encyclopedia of Indian Natural History (1986). He also edited FAO/UNDP "Handbook of Vertebrate Pest Control in Pakistan" in 1981. His love for flowers and butterflies came out in the shape of two books-Wild Flowers of Pakistan (editor) and Butterflies of Pakistan in 2001.

In appreciation of his work in the natural history of Pakistan, he was decorated by the President of Pakistan with Sitare-e-Imtiaz on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1994. He was a founder Governor of World Wide Fund-Pakistan and received World Wildlife Fund (International) Award for conservation. In 2002, he received Stanford Raffles Award, thrice. Thomas Roberts was honorary fellow of the Zoological Society of Pakistan.

Besides, animals Roberts was fond of trekking and wandering. "I think I can boast that I have seen the whole of Pakistan". Thomas said with a chuckle. His observation about the people may sound simplistic but certainly carried the air of experience. "The poorer the people, the more generous they are – willing to share their last thing with you".

The Zoological Society of Pakistan bestowed 'Lifetime Achievement Award, 2012' to Dr. T. J. Roberts in appreciation of his legendary works and icon expertise in the natural history of Pakistan. This award was presented to him on the inaugural session of 32<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of Zoology held at The Government College University, Lahore. On receiving this award T. J. Roberts said, "It is a great honor for me".

Dr. Roberts will be remembered as an icon authority by his fellow scientists, friends, students, bird watchers and family. Executive council of the Zoological Society of Pakistan and all its fellows share the grief of the family. May God bless his soul in peace!

**Abdul Aziz Khan**  
Secretary General  
Zoological Society of Pakistan