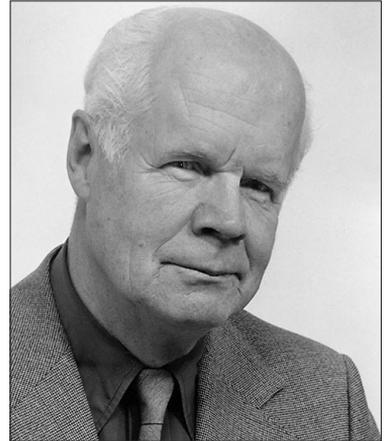


## Rauno Tenovuo (1917–2008)

A widely-acknowledged Finnish pioneer of conservation education and archipelago ornithologist, professor Rauno Tenovuo died in Turku on 18 October 2008. He was born in Oulujoki on 3 June 1917, and spent his early years in Oulu, a coastal city by the Gulf of Bothnia. His family moved to Turku just before the onset of the Second World War. With the exception of the war years, he lived in Turku for the rest of his life. Tenovuo graduated from the University of Turku in 1953, and defended his doctoral thesis in 1963 on the breeding biology and ecology of Hooded Crows. He acted as an associate professor of Zoology during 1965–1980 and was promoted professor h.c. in 1982. After retiring he continued writing and lecturing on conservation and environmental education, topics close to his heart. He was an expert correspondent on environmental issues in the local newspaper almost to the age of 90.

Apart from being a university professor, Rauno Tenovuo had many other significant careers. First of all, he was an experienced and many-sided educator. Having been told that “there are enough biologists in Finland for the next 30 years”, he first graduated as a school teacher. After the war he started studying biology but simultaneously continued as a part-time secondary-school teacher. He thus gained teaching experience at all education levels, from elementary schools to university. Not surprisingly, then, he is remembered as a charismatic teacher, especially in environmental science.

Tenovuo’s second career was that of a professional ornithologist and a pioneer of archipelago bird research. Birds were his hobby since the age of 13, and as a young man he made bicycle trips of several hundred kilometers to different parts of the country, including Lapland. He published many papers on the ecology, distribution and spring migration of archipelagic birds, including the Mute Swan and Barred Warbler. He was among the first to document the ornithological value of the Liminganlahti Bay. Tenovuo was a co-editor of *Pohjolan linnut värikuvin* (1963–1972), a 1,092-page scientific handbook on Finnish birds. In 1967



he published a review on the urbanization of Finnish birds in *Annales Zoologici Fennici*. This was his only paper in the field of urban ecology but has become a cornerstone in the study of avian urbanization in northern Europe.

His third career was that of an active conservationist. In 1966 professor Reino Kalliola, the Finnish Nature Protection Inspector, invited Tenovuo to teach conservation at the Lappeenranta Summer School. Tenovuo later considered it a life-changing event. He became deeply interested in conservation issues and spent much of his remaining professional life teaching and writing on environmental protection. Unlike many of his colleagues, he considered active participation in conservation issues to be a crucial duty of an environmental educator. This was part of his educational approach: a teacher who does not show the belief in his/her message fails to properly connect with the audience. Tenovuo organized the teaching of environmental science at the University of Turku, and was a frequent guest lecturer in other parts of country. He wrote dozens of popular papers on environmental issues, and co-authored the books *Luonto ja luonnonsuojelu* (“Nature and Nature Protection”; 1971), *Ympäristön haitat terveydelle* (“Environmental Hazards on Human Health”; 1985) and *Terveys ja ympäristö* (“Health and Environment”; 1988).

Rauno Tenovuo was an honorary member of several Finnish societies, and received several awards, including the Gold Medal of BirdLife Finland in 1998.

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