

IN MEMORIAM OF PROFESSOR E.V. ZAVIALOV (1968–2009)

Professor E.V. Zavialov, a talented researcher and brilliant organizer, died on September 11, 2009, after a serious illness, in the prime of his life, full of creative intentions. He was Doctor of Biological Sciences, Professor of the chair of animal morphology and ecology, deputy dean of Biological Faculty of Saratov State University named after N.G. Chernyshevsky, a remarkable person violently enamored in what he did all his conscious life.

Eugene Vladimirovich Zavialov was born in Surovikino City (Volgograd region, USSR) on October 5, 1968. Since his school years he was characterized by an extraordinary inquisitive mind and passionate love to nature. In 1985, having left school No 2 at Chernyshevsky settlement (Volgograd region), he entered Saratov State University (biological faculty) and graduated from it in 1992.

Then he started working as a laboratory assistant at the chair of animal morphology and ecology (biological faculty). In 1993 he became an assistant professor of this chair. In 1995 he defended his candidate dissertation «Ecological and toxicological influence of skin-resorptive poisonous gases on fauna» at Volgograd Medical State Academy. The scientific results underlying this dissertation formed the basis of a subsequently designed system of biological monitoring at a chemical

weapon neutralization object near Gornyi settlement (Saratov region).

In 1997 E. Zavialov became a senior lecturer. Then he was engaged in reconstruction of the Zoological Museum of Saratov State University.



He organized numerous scientific expeditions about the whole Russia and abroad (Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Ukraine) in order to enrich the museum exposition, educational and scientific funds with new exhibits. A number of studies on the specific variety,

morphophysiological and ecological adaptation of living organisms to their environmental conditions, the influence of anthropogenous factors on biological systems of various levels of organization were made on stationary platforms in many parts of Saratov region and adjoining territories. But the Lower-Volga regional ornithofauna became a special object of his research.

In 2005 E. Zavialov defended his doctorate dissertation «Genesis and basic trends of bird fauna transformations in the dynamics of natural and anthropogenous factors in the northern Lower-Volga region». Studying local birds, he showed the reasons and chronology of their distribution, abundance, behavior strategy, and biotopical preferences. A prognostic model of trends in the long-term dynamics of the distribution and numbers of local birds was verified.

In 2006 he became a professor. Since 1998, E. Zavialov has been a deputy dean of



the biological faculty. In his last years, Prof. Zavalov actively participated in research projects of Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Natural resources, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Industry, Science and Technologies of Russian Federation as well as in commercial contracts.

E. Zavalov devoted half of his short life to the university, always working wholeheartedly, honestly, with competence. The university was the universe for him: home, office, place for realization of his unique talent of a researcher and a teacher. The students worshiped him; he was always friendly with them, though remaining a demanding and strict teacher. His human modesty and wide extraordinary way of thinking over surrounding phenomena and processes attracted friends, colleagues, and pupils. The students and teachers will lack his permanent searches and researches, organizing ability and educational work, his strictness and innovative spirit.

He was a highly skilled expert in the field of the functional role of structural micro-evolutionary processes in the fauna genesis of terrestrial vertebrates in the Lower-Volga region. A particular field of his interests was connected with the studies of the birds of this region and adjoining territories.

Working at Saratov State University, E. Zavalov published about 700 scientific works, including 15 collective monographs and books, 8 textbooks and manuals, 16 methodical manuals and a plenty of methodical papers, above 200 scientific papers. He took part in more than 100 conferences, symposia, congresses, including international ones. He was among the founders of 11 topical and periodic editions, including «Povolzhskiy Journal of Ecology», «Bustards in Russia and adjacent countries» year-book, multivolume proceedings «Fauna of the Saratov region», «Problems of general biology and applied ecology» etc., remaining a permanent editor or editorial board member of these editions.

Prof. E. Zavalov was a chairman of the Lower-Volga branch of RAS Menzbir Ornithological Society, vice-president of the Lower-Volga branch and presidium member of RAS Herpetological Society named after A.M.

Nikolsky, deputy editor-in-chief of «Povolzhskiy Journal of Ecology» and «Current Studies in Herpetology», editorial board member of the «Saratov University News (Chemistry, Biology, Ecology)», the second edition of the «Red Book of the Saratov region», federal and regional periodicals, member of several academic boards.

He delivered general and special lecture courses, namely, general and populational ecology, ornithology, physiological ecology of animals, field research techniques of vertebrate animal ecology, etc., supervised students' degree works. Five candidate dissertations were defended under his supervision.

For his achievements in pedagogics and science, E. Zavalov became Soros Docent (four times), received a state scientific grant for young researchers of RAS Presidium (twice), a 2002 grant of Potanin's Charitable Foundation for young teachers, a 2005 Presidential grant for young doctors of sciences, an award of the Ecological Union of Russia in the nomination «The best work for high school education». He had numerous regional diplomas.

He will forever remain in his colleagues' and pupils' memory that kind of person as he was during his lifetime: full of irrepressible energy and «joie de vivre», tremendous efficiency and contagious ardor, enormous assertiveness and absolute fidelity to his occupation. In the places where this talented researcher liked to be and where he left particles of his soul the spirit of his presence will be soaring for a long time. Sunrise will be expressed by pulses of his emotions, and sunset will be filled with the feeling of irreplaceable loss. This entire unimaginably beautiful world will speak to us his language, the world which Eugene was able to plunge into, just to dissolve in it, and which absorbed his dispersed ashes after his death as the last expression of his will and craving to be incarnated in every thing. Even in this last manifestation of will our colleague has remained a unique and desperately courageous person. Even in this there is a repercussion of his mind's profundity and his spirit's revolt. May his memory live for ever!

Friends and colleagues