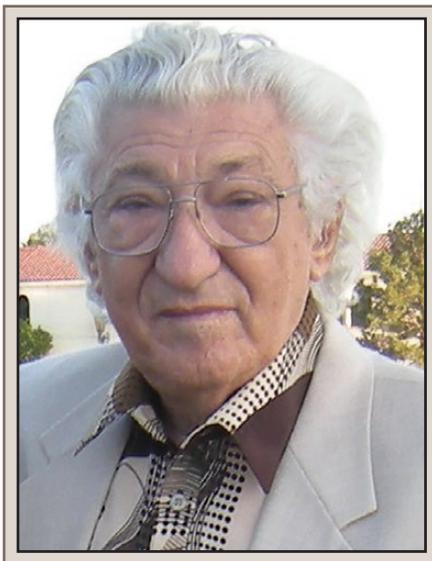


## Itzchak Gilboa (1929–2016): Herpetologist and Information Specialist

Itzchak Gilboa, an Hungarian immigrant to Palestine who later played an important role in the early development of *Herpetological Review*, died on 27 May 2016, in Phoenix, Arizona. He was 86. Gilboa had been among a group of distinguished senior herpetologists who were honored at last summer's SSAR meeting at the University of Kansas.

"Gil," as he was known to his many friends, was born Endre Grünwald in Szerencs, Hungary, about 200 km northeast of Budapest, on 25 July 1929. He settled in Palestine in 1947 where he fought in Israel's War of Independence. With a hobby interest in reptiles, he became curator of herpetology at the Beit Sturman Museum in Ein Harod, a kibbutz situated near Mount Gilboa in northern Israel, and later became a co-founder of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. In 1960, he immigrated to the USA and a job at the New York Zoological Park in the Bronx where he worked with reptiles and amphibians and established the zoo's record system. At the zoo he was an associate of Herndon Dowling, the zoo's curator of reptiles, and then moved with him to the Department of Herpetology at the American Museum of Natural History in 1967 where Dowling established Herpetological Information Search Systems ("HISS" for short) with support from a multi-year grant from the US National Science Foundation. The object of HISS was to organize herpetological information internationally, in particular the published literature. One of HISS's major projects was to produce regular listings of current herpetological research papers. With the establishment



of *Herpetological Review* in 1967, Dowling and Gilboa offered their computer generated listings for inclusion in *HR* starting in 1968. In January 1970 Dowling became editor of *HR* and Gilboa was his chief editorial associate in charge of the regional societies department among others. During this period, HISS produced a number of important works in herpetology, including "Yearbook of Herpetology" and "Systematic Herpetology," which were highly useful sourcebooks for practicing herpetologists.

Dowling and Gilboa advocated strongly for consolidation of herpetological information systems and as part of this initiative proposed the merger of SSAR and The Herpetologists' League. As part of this effort, HL became co-publisher of *HR* beginning in 1971. During 1973, *HR* was

suspended and two new HISS-produced journals—*HISS News-Journal* and *HISS Titles and Reviews*—took its place. With the end of merger discussions and the termination of their NSF grant a year later, Dowling and Gilboa moved on to other positions. *HR* resumed in 1974 under SSAR's sole sponsorship once again. Gilboa became Manager of Documentation at the University Computing Center of City University of New York, but continued to provide important indexing and literature services to the herpetological community, and in particular to SSAR's *Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles*.

In 2004, Gilboa retired from his post at City University and together with his wife, Carolyn, moved to Arizona. Gil remained an active member of SSAR and he and Carolyn supported several society programs to assist worthy students. Itzchak Gilboa's outstanding service to SSAR and the herpetological community over many years is hereby noted and the society's indebtedness to him is duly acknowledged.

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