

2006 DORIS HUESTIS SPEIRS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGY

Dr. Allan Baker

The Doris Huestis Speirs Award is the most prestigious award of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists and is presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding lifetime contribution to Canadian ornithology. On behalf of the SCO/SOC, it is my great pleasure to present the 2006 Doris Huestis Speirs Award to Dr. Allan Baker.

Allan is Senior Curator of Ornithology and Head of the Department of Natural History at the Royal Ontario Museum and a professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolution at the University of Toronto. We honour Allan with this award for his contributions to research and training in ornithology and for his service to the field, both in Canada and abroad.

Allan began his scientific career at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand, where he studied the evolutionary history and historical biogeography of the world's oystercatchers. Shortly after completing his PhD, Allan moved to Canada where he has spent the last 30 years working on the population genetics, molecular systematics and biogeography of birds, but also mammals and fish. During his career, Allan has produced an edited book on Molecular Methods in Ecology and over 130 papers on topics including: patterns and processes of differentiation in introduced bird populations, cultural evolution of bird song, molecular genetics and phylogeography of shorebirds, and population structure and phylogeny of birds ranging from parrots to seabirds.

Allan's contributions to ornithology also extend beyond his many research publications. Over his career, he has trained 39 graduate students and post-docs, with many holding academic positions in universities throughout the world. He has served as Associate Editor for the Auk and Systematic Biology, and is a member of the Editorial Board of BMC Evolutionary Biology. He is the co-chair of the All Birds Bar-coding Initiative, which aims to identify all the world's bird species with unique DNA sequences and he is a co-founder of the Global Flyway Network, which provides an early warning system for identifying migratory shorebirds at risk. Amazingly, he has also convened a symposium at every IOC held in the last 20 years.

For these contributions, the SCO/SOC is pleased to present the 2006 Doris Huestis Speirs Award to Dr. Allan Baker.

The D.H. Speirs Award Selection Committee for 2006 consisted of David Bird (chair), Mark Brigham, Bob Clark and Marty Leonard.