

The Doris Huestis Speirs Award for Outstanding Contributions to Canadian Ornithology

It is with great pleasure that the Society of Canadian Ornithologists presents the 2008 Doris Huestis Speirs Award to:

Dr. Kathy Martin
Professor
University of British Columbia
Canadian Wildlife Service



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 outstanding lifetime contributions to Canadian ornithology. It is with great pleasure that the Society of Canadian Ornithologist's presents the 2008 Doris Huestis Speirs Award to Dr. Kathy Martin.

Kathy holds a joint position as a research scientist with Environment Canada and as a Professor in the Centre for Applied Conservation Research at the University of British Columbia. She is a highly productive scientist, having produced over 120 research papers on birds ranging from grouse to woodpeckers. Although the full breadth and depth of Kathy's work is too extensive to briefly summarize, it can be broadly divided into two major research areas. The first includes studies on the ecology, life history, behaviour and conservation of birds in arctic and high elevation habitats. These studies have resulted in many influential papers, including a large body of literature on life-history tradeoffs in White-tailed and Willow Ptarmigan. Kathy's second main research area focuses on the community dynamics of cavity nesting birds and how they are affected by forestry and natural disturbances. Her work in this area has been critical in helping us to understand habitat selection, impacts of harvesting and the links between primary cavity producers and secondary cavity nesters in these poorly understood communities.

Kathy's contributions to ornithology extend well beyond her research endeavours. To date, she has trained 30 graduate students and post-docs, many of whom have gone on to their own careers

in ornithology. Kathy has also worked tirelessly on behalf of the ornithological community, both in Canada and abroad. She has served in several capacities on the SCO council, including a term as President of the Society. She has also been an AOU council member and will organize the 5th North American Ornithological Conference in 2012. Kathy has served on the Board of Directors and National Science Advisory Committee for Bird Studies Canada, as the Canadian representative to the IUCN/ICBP Specialist Group for the Conservation of Galliformes, and on the International Ornithological Committee. She has also been Associate Editor for a variety of journals, including Avian Conservation and Ecology and the Auk.

Kathy's commitment, dedication and hard work are truly inspiring.

The D.H. Speirs Award Selection Committee for 2008 consisted of Mark Brigham, Bob Clark, Greg Robertson and Marty Leonard (chair).