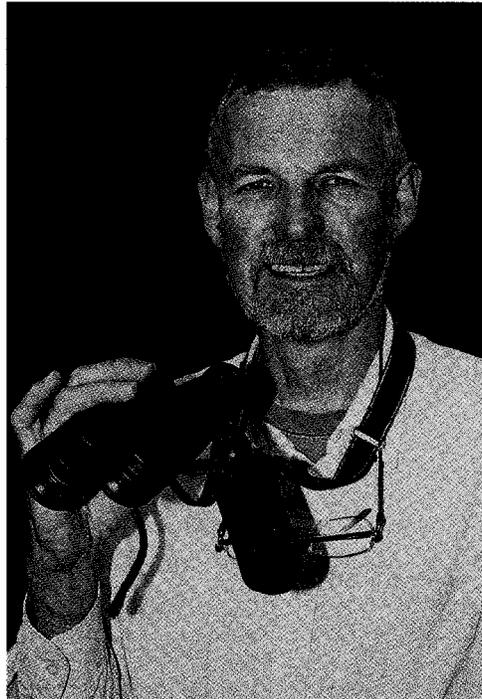


2000 DORIS HUESTIS SPEIRS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS IN CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGY

James N.M. Smith



The Doris Huestis Speirs Award for outstanding contributions in Canadian Ornithology, the most prestigious award of the Society of Canadian Ornithologist, was presented in 2000 to Dr. James Neil Munro Smith (better known as ‘Jamie’), Professor of Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver. This award was established in 1986, and is made annually to honour lifetime achievements in Canadian ornithology.

Dr. Smith is honoured in recognition of over 25 years of research, teaching, and public education on the ecology, behaviour, and conservation of birds in Canada. His long-term studies, with small army of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows, of population dynamics, life history, and ecology of Song Sparrows on Mandarte Island (B.C.), have permanently linked this species and site in scientific memory. Cowbird parasitism of Song Sparrows there provided a lead to wider research on interactions of this brood parasite and its hosts, in British Columbia and beyond (major compendium in press). His long list of scientific publications, on these and other subjects, bears witness to his research activity.

Dr. Smith’s influence on Canadian ornithology extends well beyond his field studies. He views his teaching of equal importance to his research work, new courses he developed (& taught) including perhaps the first university course offered in conservation biology in Canada. Many of his former students (“his fledglings”), some attending this conference, hold university faculty and government positions across North America. His role as constructive critic is valued by students and colleagues – “if you can fly your idea past Jamie, it will probably remain airborne”. He has been a vigorous spokesperson on avian conservation issues, willingly helping in government and NGO initiatives. His services as lecturer, author, referee, editor, selector, have been available and used by local, national, and international groups.

He was already honoured by selection as the first speaker at the opening plenary session in the 21st International Congress at Vienna in 1994. S.C.O. takes great pleasure in now presenting Dr. Jamie Smith with the Doris Huestis Speirs Award for the year 2000. [A prophet need not be without honour in his own country!] Bravo, Jamie!

The Speirs award selection committee for 2000 included A.W. Diamond, K.A. Hobson, D.N. Nettleship (chair), and S.G. Sealy.

This citation was adapted (by Editor) from presentation remarks by Kathy Martin.

Jamie Smith died in 2005 - obituary