

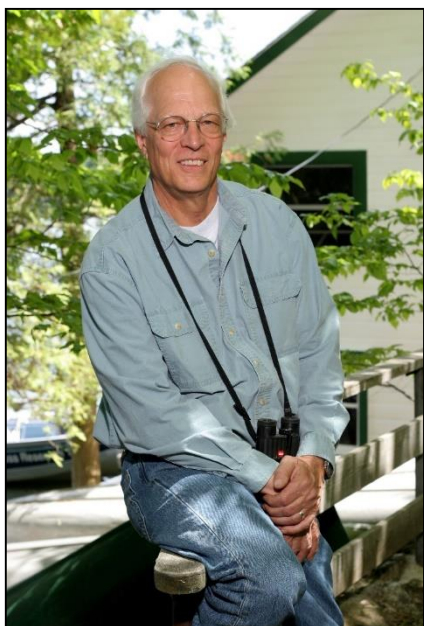
2016 Jamie Smith Memorial Award for Mentoring

Raleigh Robertson

The Jamie Smith Memorial Award for Mentoring is one of the top honours bestowed by SCO-SOC. It is awarded to individuals who are committed to the training and development of the next generation of Canadian ornithologists. I am pleased to announce that this year's award was presented to Raleigh Robertson.

Dr. Robertson is especially deserving of this award because he shares so many of the values and passions held by Jamie Smith: a sincere love for scientific discovery, the natural world, and birds. Like Jamie, Raleigh has had an immense scientific impact on avian ecology, both in Canada and worldwide, through his impressive publication record, his conservation achievements, and his record in training new generations of ornithologists.

Over his 39-year career at Queen's University, Raleigh mentored and inspired hundreds of trainees including undergraduate thesis students, M.Sc. students, Ph.D. students, and post-doctoral fellows. From the letters we received in support of Dr. Robertson's nomination it is clear that Raleigh has had a long-lasting effect on the individuals that he mentored. He is described as someone who genuinely cares about the well-being and success of his students, both in their academic pursuits, and in their lives. His interest is in his students' progression, not only as scientists, but as people.



In the true spirit of Jamie Smith, Dr. Robertson encouraged his own graduate students to become mentors themselves. A great mentor is a role model that students and colleagues can emulate, and so it is no surprise that one of his former students stated that "every day I try to apply the lessons I learned from Raleigh, to my mentoring of my own graduate students."

In addition to the significant scientific advances Dr. Robertson has made in ornithology through student mentoring and publications, Raleigh's legacy includes invaluable contributions through his 33-year role as Director of the Queen's University Biological Station. There, he developed an extremely high quality field station and fostered a creative academic atmosphere where students and scholars interact in field work and scientific discussions. The station has become a hotspot for training field biologists. Consequently,

Raleigh's contributions to the longevity and functioning of the Station have created a legacy of training and mentorship that will continue far beyond the people he mentored directly.

Dr. Robertson truly embodies the spirit of the Jamie Smith Mentoring Award in Ornithology, both as a mentor and in creating a lasting legacy of mentorship.

On behalf of the award committee, I would like to congratulate Raleigh on his achievements and encourage others to consider nominating their mentor for next year's award.

Andrea MacLeod, Chair of the Award Committee.