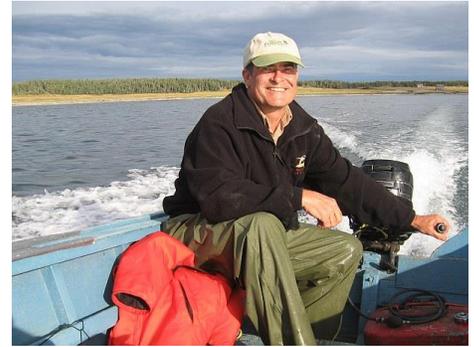


Doris Huestis Speirs Award

2014 – Dr. Rodger Titman

The Doris Huestis Speirs Award is the most prestigious award given by the SCO-SOC. The award is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding lifetime contributions in Canadian ornithology. The D.H. Speirs Award Selection Committee is pleased to announce that Rodger D. Titman, Associate Professor of Wildlife Biology, Department of Natural Resource Sciences, McGill University, has been chosen for the 2014 award.



Rodger is among Canada's pioneers in the field of waterfowl ecology, studying the behavior and ecology of ducks and wetland ecosystems from Saskatchewan to Nova Scotia over the last 48 years. Some of Rodger's most important contributions began as a graduate student at Delta Waterfowl Station in Manitoba from 1966 to 1971, while pursuing his M.Sc. at Bishop's University and his Ph.D. at the University of New Brunswick. Rodger provided some of the first detailed information on spacing systems, pursuit flights, and effects of crowding among breeding ducks. Following his appointment at McGill University in 1973, Rodger continued to advance our understanding of avian spacing systems through detailed behavioural work on territoriality and relationships between breeding waterfowl abundances and marsh characteristics. Since 1983 Rodger focused on the breeding ecology of the Red-breasted Merganser, among the least understood of all waterfowl species in North America. Almost all of what we know about nesting and brood-rearing in this species comes from his long-term work at Kouchibouguac National Park, New Brunswick. He is world expert on the Red-breasted Merganser, authoring the accounts for the Birds of North America and Bird Families of the World.

Rodger's research achievements are not limited to the field of waterfowl ecology. He and his students have made contributions in passerine nesting ecology, avian damage to agriculture, and raptor habitat selection. Overall, Rodger's research on birds and their habitats has led to over 90 peer-reviewed journal articles and conference proceedings, and three book chapters. Rodger's major scientific accolades include being listed in American Men and Women in Science and being elected as a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union.

Over the last 40 years, Rodger has been a key person in the identification, acquisition, and protection of important bird habitat throughout eastern Canada. These efforts have been channeled primarily through his involvement with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, in which he has been a member of national and regional trustee boards. Locally, Rodger has made substantial contributions to the efforts of Bird Protection Quebec, in which he has served on the Board of Directors, and held terms as Vice-President and President. Rodger is an important scientific advisor for the McGill Bird Observatory, and was a key member of the Quebec Loggerhead Shrike Recovery Action Group. Rodger continues to serve as a consultant for environmental impact assessments, such as the Great Whale River hydroelectric complex in Quebec and more recently for potential development projects in Labrador and British Columbia.

Rodger has dedicated much time, energy, and passion into teaching countless students and outdoor enthusiasts about the behaviours and life histories of birds. He supervised 9 Ph.D. and nearly 50 M.Sc. students during his 37 years at McGill, and he continues to co-supervise students in retirement. A patient and effective teacher, Rodger always places great emphasis on hands-on learning in the field. Rodger's efforts in educating others about ornithology were not limited to the university level - he has offered week-long introductory bird courses, led birding trips, wrote countless popular articles, and even co-owned a store that sold educational material to nature-lovers in the Montréal area.

Rodger has had a long and productive career making contributions to ornithology across Canada through research, education and conservation, and this award will serve to acknowledge the many outstanding contributions Rodger has made to ornithology in Canada.