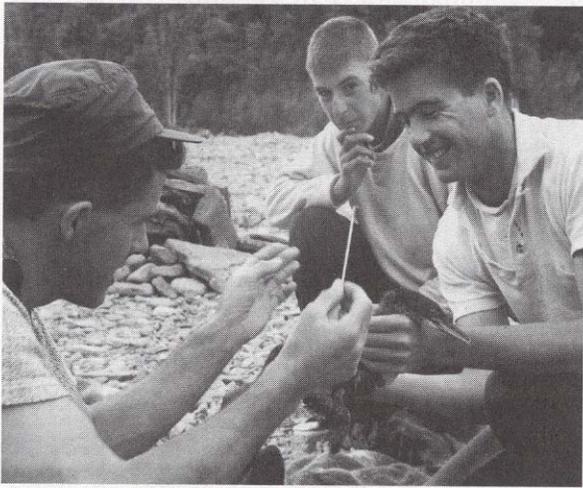


1994 DORIS HUESTIS SPEIRS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS IN CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGY

Tony Erskine



A.H. Macpherson photo. Erskine (left) measuring banded merganser, 1966.

The Society of Canadian Ornithologists presents the Doris Huestis Speirs Award for 1994 to Tony Erskine in recognition of his many contributions to Canadian ornithology.

Dr. Anthony John Erskine has had a long and productive career with the Canadian Wildlife Service, which he joined in 1960. Since his retirement in 1991, he has continued his association with C.W.S. as Research Scientist Emeritus. It took Tony a few years before he saw the light, but after obtaining a Ph.D. in chemistry from Queen's University in 1957 he quickly switched to studying biology, and in 1960 he earned his M.A. in zoology at U.B.C.

In his long career with C.W.S., he worked as a biologist based in Sackville, N.B., during 1960-68; as a research scientist in Ottawa/Hull in 1968-77; as Chief, Migratory Birds Management, Atlantic Region, in 1977- 88 back in Sackville; and in a Senior Assignment Position in Sackville until his retirement. Like many CWS biologists, Erskine worked for many years on waterfowl, but his interests always extended more widely. He is best known for his work in encouraging volunteer data-gathering for bird monitoring, through the Maritimes Nest Records Scheme, the Breeding Bird Survey, census plot studies and, most recently, the *Atlas of Breeding Birds of the Maritime Provinces*, published in 1992.

Erskine's many writings included over 80 scientific or technical papers, ranging from his award-winning monograph *Buffleheads* to major C.W.S. publications on mergansers, boreal birds, and Great Cormorants, to annual reports on the Breeding Bird Survey, and contributions on the ecology and behaviour of a wide range of bird species. In addition, Erskine published more than 70 data reports, chiefly census accounts covering a wide variety of habitats. He also wrote a number of popular articles and book reviews.

Erskine contributed to Canadian ornithology also through work as editor, of the *Blue Bill* (1955-56), of the national newsletter of the Canadian Society of Wildlife & Fishery Biologists (1969-74), and of *Picoides* (1993-present), and as Associate Editor (Ornithology) of *Canadian Field Naturalist* (1975-present).

Erskine has been actively involved in ornithological and conservation organizations including the Kingston Field Naturalists, the Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists, the Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club, the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, the Wilson Ornithological Society, the Canadian section of the International Council for Bird Preservation, and the International Ornithological Congress.

The Society of Canadian Ornithologists congratulates Dr. Erskine on his receiving the 1994 Doris Huestis Speirs Award, and thanks him for his excellent work across the country which has contributed so much to ornithology in Canada.