

## **GUIDELINES FOR AWARD COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

### **THE DORIS SPEIRS AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGY**

Guidelines for the Speirs Award Committee

Revised September 2008

#### Background and purpose of award

The Doris Speirs Award for Contributions to Canadian Ornithology was endowed with \$3,000 in 1985, to honour any significant contribution to Canadian Ornithology. The definition of a "significant contribution" is broad, and the recipient can be any person, regardless of nationality. Although scientific contributions are the most likely to be recognized by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, the awards committee can nominate persons contributing to ornithology in other ways, such as through art, conservation, popularization of ornithology, etc.

#### Eligibility

Any person, regardless of nationality, is eligible, although there should be a strong preference toward those living and working in Canada. Awardee should be alive, but exceptions should be allowed for people very recently dead.

#### Frequency of Award

Annual. If experience so dictates, the Council may determine that the frequency of the award should be biannual or even less frequent. Regardless of the regular interval between awards, the Committee may recommend to the Council that the award not be made in any particular year.

#### Type of Award

The most important aspect of the award should be publicity, giving both the awardee and the award stature. An announcement of the award should be sent to *Picoides* and the OSNA newsletter and to any other publications appropriate to the particular awardee. A brief citation should be written to be presented to the awardee and reprinted in the SCO newsletter. The awardee will also be presented with a framed plaque citing the award with the SCO logo on it.

#### Date of Award

To be announced at Annual Meeting of Members, following approval by the Council.

#### Amount of Award

Initial capital is \$3000. This should provide interest of approximately \$250/year, to cover the cost of the award. Any interest monies not used go to supplement the Taverner award, but if money still remains, it is reinvested as capital.

#### **Specific duties of the Speirs Award Committee:**

- Once the President has appointed a chairperson, that person should find 2 others to serve on the committee. Traditionally, the chair retires and the next most senior committee member steps up to chair for a year, and a new third person is added to the committee. Thus, each person serves 3 years, being chair in the third; but this practice may be altered at any time.

- Call for nominations in fall newsletter. The Speirs committee chairperson will draft the notice before September 1.
- Research suggestions and select candidate by at least 3, and preferably 6, months prior to Annual Meeting of Members.
- Submit name to President, for ratification by Council. Once the choice is approved by Council, the President or Committee Chair will notify the awardee and ask him/her or a representative to attend the presentation ceremony.
- Prepare an appropriate citation (1-3 pages), outlining the awardee's contribution(s) to Canadian ornithology (see website for examples of past citations). Email to President for reading at Annual Meeting of Members and for presentation to recipient and email a copy, with a photo of the recipient to the newsletter editor.
- Frame a citation with the following (or similar) wording and that has the SCO/SOC logo on it

Doris Huestis Speirs Award for  
Contributions to Canadian Ornithology  
Presented by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists to  
[person's name]  
[year of award]

- Give plaque to President with citation for presentation to awardee, unless logistics dictate turning it over by some other means.
- Send an announcement of the award, and a sentence or two giving the reasons for it, to *Picoides* and the Editor of the OSNA Newsletter. Send the announcement also to other publications appropriate to the awardee (e.g. *Nature Canada*, public media, *Bulletin of the Canadian Society of Zoologists*, or naturalists' publications in the recipient's province).

**THE JAMIE SMITH MEMORIAL MENTORING AWARD IN ORNITHOLOGY**  
**Guidelines for the Smith Award Committee**  
**Revised September 2008**

Background and purpose of the award:

This award was established in 2006 through donations by SCO members in memory of James N.M. Smith, former professor at University of British Columbia, to recognize individuals who have contributed to the training and fostering of Canadian ornithologists. Throughout the time that Jamie Smith was a faculty member at the University of British Columbia's Zoology Dept, he mentored countless budding ornithologists at postdoctoral, graduate and undergraduate levels. Well known for his ability to ask the hardest and most penetrating questions, Jamie pushed all those who encountered him to take their science farther. Nothing appeared to please him more than to see students rise to, and meet, his challenges. Jamie took his role as a mentor to generations of new scientists very seriously, and his influence on Canadian Ornithology is evident in the many former students now working in academia, industry and government.

Eligibility

This award will honour established ornithologists (professional or amateur) from academia, industry, non-government or government agencies who have been nominated by students, colleagues and/or peers in recognition of displayed excellence in mentoring a new generation of professional or amateur biologists. The candidate must be a consistent motivator, as well as being diligent in pushing students/colleagues to excel and should demonstrate a passion for her/his discipline that is transferred to those that he/she has trained. The candidate should also instil a sense of integrity in those that she/he mentors.

#### Frequency of Award

The award would typically be presented biennially, with the possibility of being awarded annually if there are sufficient worthy nominees. The society reserves the right to not present the award if suitable nominees are not forthcoming.

#### Type of Award

The most important aspect of the award should be publicity, giving both the awardee and the award stature. An announcement of the award should be sent to Picoides, the OSNA newsletter and to any other publications appropriate to the particular awardee. The award consists of a plaque bearing the logo of the Society, as well as the name of the award, the recipient, year and purpose of the award. The award will be presented at the Society's annual meeting. The Plaque is 8x10 inches (20x25cm) and made of solid cherry wood backing with black matte metal plating. The Society's logo is in the upper left corner, and the title of the Award is etched beside this. On the lower half of the plate is the name of the current recipient, year and brief description of what the recipient is being honoured for. As the society operates in two official languages, French and English, the award recipient would be given the option of having the text of the award in either language. A brief citation should be written to be presented to the awardee and reprinted in the SCO newsletter.

#### Date of Award

To be announced at Annual Meeting of Members, following approval by the Council.

#### Amount of Award

The Smith awardees receive a plaque (cost ~\$130.00 in 2007)

#### **Specific duties of the Smith Award Committee:**

- Once the President has appointed a chairperson, that person should find two others to serve on the committee. Traditionally, the chair retires and the next most senior committee member steps up to chair for a year, and a new third person is added to the committee. Thus, each person serves 3 years, being chair in the third; but this practice may be altered at any time.
- Call for nominations in fall newsletter. The Smith committee chairperson will draft the notice before September 1.
- Research suggestions and select candidate by at least 3, and preferably 6, months prior to Annual Meeting of Members.
- Submit name to President, for ratification by Council. Once the choice is approved by Council, the

President or Chair of the Committee will notify the awardee and ask him/her or a representative to attend the presentation ceremony.

- Prepare an appropriate citation (1-3 pages), outlining the awardee's contribution(s) to Canadian ornithology. Email to President for reading at Annual Meeting of Members and for presentation to recipient and email a copy, with a photo of the recipient to the newsletter editor.
- Prepare the plaque (see above for instructions).
- Give plaque to President with citation for presentation to awardee, unless logistics dictate turning it over by some other means.
- Send an announcement of the award, and a sentence or two giving the reasons for it, to the Editor of the OSNA Newsletter. Send the announcement also to other publications appropriate to the awardee (e.g. Nature Canada, public media, Bulletin of the Canadian Society of Zoologists, or naturalists' publications in the recipient's province).