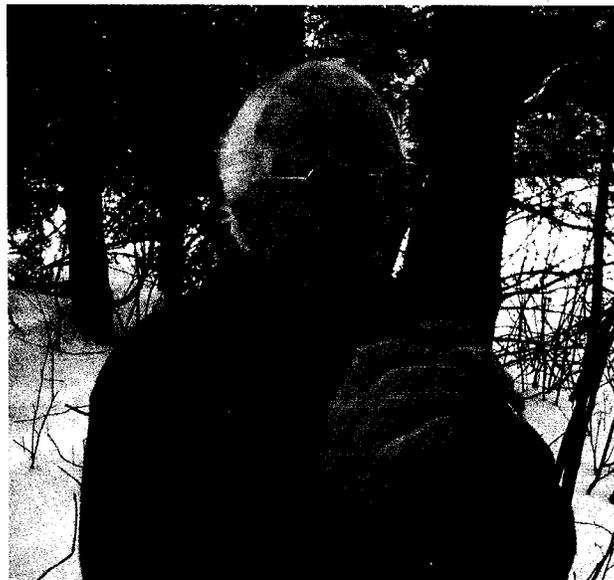


2003 DORIS HUESTIS SPEIRS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS IN
CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGY

Raleigh J. Robertson



The Doris Huestis Speirs Award is the most prestigious award of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists. For his outstanding lifetime contributions to ornithology in Canada, the SCO/SOC has chosen Dr. Raleigh J. Robertson as the recipient of the Doris Huestis Speirs Award for 2003. Dr. Robertson is a professor in the Department of Biology at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, where he holds the Baillie Family Chair in Conservation Biology. He is also the director of the Queen's University Biological Station at Lake Opinicon, Ontario. We honour Dr. Robertson for his contributions to ornithology in Canada over his 30+ year career. He has excelled as a researcher, teacher, and supervisor of graduate students. His research focuses on reproductive behaviour, population dynamics and conservation biology of birds. He has published over 150 scientific papers on subjects ranging from optimal niche space in blackbirds to allocation of parental care, from sexual selection to the evolution of clutch size, from male and female reproductive strategies to bird communities in shade coffee plantations. His early work, conducted mostly in southern Ontario, focused on reproductive behaviour and strategies in passerines and he was in the forefront of using paternity analysis to derive true fitness costs of various reproductive strategies. More recently he has expanded his scope to conservation, supervising projects on ecology and behaviour of the rare Cerulean Warbler and habitat relationships of passerines in agro-forestry areas in Mexico. In addition to his direct contributions to ornithology, Dr. Robertson has

established two important legacies which will contribute well into the future both to ornithology and to conservation more broadly. First, Dr. Robertson has supervised 43 graduate students who now contribute independently through their employment at universities, research institutes, national parks, Canadian Wildlife Service, Canadian Forest Service and NGO's such as Bird Studies Canada. Second, as Director of Queen's University Biological Station since 1972, Dr. Robertson has expanded the facilities of that institution to make it a world class centre for teaching and field studies. Central to that expansion has been the acquisition of extensive land holdings (in excess of 2000 ha) which protect important wildlife habitat while providing sites for ornithological and other field research. Through Dr. Robertson's efforts, research and teaching activities at Queen's University Biological Station have more than tripled since he became its Director. For these contributions, the SCO is pleased to present the 2003 Doris Huestis Speirs Award to Dr. Robertson.

The Speirs Award selection committee for 2003 consisted of Susan Hannon (chair), Marc-Andre Villard, Ricki Dunn and Gilles Seutin.