

2007 DORIS HUESTIS SPEIRS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANADIAN ORNITHOLOGY.

Dr. Anthony Gaston, Senior Research Scientist, Environment Canada

The Doris Huestis Speirs Award is the most prestigious award of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, recognizing outstanding contributions to Canadian ornithology.

In recognition of impressive contributions to avian ecology and conservation in Canada, the SCO is delighted to present the 2007 Speirs Award to Tony Gaston. The depth and quality of long-term demographic and behavioural studies of seabirds, including interactions with marine systems and climate, are hallmarks of Tony's distinguished career. Trained first in physical anthropology at Cambridge and then in zoology at Oxford, UK, Tony's Canadian career began as a contract biologist with Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) in 1975. Hired as a Research Scientist by CWS in 1979, Tony launched what has become a highly successful and influential research career marked by the production of four books or monographs on seabirds, scores of peer-reviewed papers in top-ranked international journals, and editorial duties for *The Ibis* and *Marine Ornithology*. His approach to monitoring and research programs has been collaborative, whether on remote islands in the Arctic or on the islands of Haida Gwaii, where several globally important seabird populations breed. Moreover, through adjunct affiliations with Universities (Ottawa and Memorial), Tony has trained dozens of young Canadian and international scientists who have embarked on productive careers. In 1995, he spearheaded a joint program to study the impact of Black-tailed Deer on forest ecosystems in the Queen Charlotte Islands, with experimental studies continuing today. These, and many other accomplishments, have led to widespread recognition of Tony's talents, and have invited lectures and consultancies around the globe. Craving more than mere research success, Tony currently serves as Scientific Director of the Laskeek Bay Conservation Society (since 1990) and has chaired the CWS seabird committee since 1986. He has also recently become a member of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada as a bird specialist. In the 1990s, Tony was selected by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations to deliver the inaugural lecture for the Himalayan Trust, promoting the conservation of natural resources in the Himalayas. He was also a consultant to the Wildlife Institute of India and World Bank to address resource management challenges in India. Tony's productivity, energy and vision are inspiring, and the SCO wishes him the very best in future endeavours.

The D.H. Speirs Award Selection Committee for 2007 consisted of David Bird (chair), Mark Brigham, Bob Clark and Marty Leonard.