

**2010 Doris Huestis Speirs Award for Outstanding Contributions to Canadian Ornithology  
Dr. Susan Hannon**

The Doris Huestis Speirs Award is the most prestigious award of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists and is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding lifetime contributions to Canadian ornithology. It is with great pleasure that the SCO-SOC presents the 2010 Doris Huestis Speirs Award to Dr. Susan Hannon.

Susan is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Alberta. She retired in 2008 after a 30-year career devoted to Canada's birds. Over this time, Susan produced a large and influential body of research, which can be divided into two major themes in avian population ecology. The first theme centers on the population dynamics, behaviour, mating systems and life history of grouse. Notably, Susan focused much of her effort on the role of the female in population regulation and mating system maintenance, this at a time when most research was on the more conspicuous male. Over the last decade, Susan's research focus turned to the ecology and conservation of boreal birds. In particular, she concentrated on how resident and migratory bird species respond to habitat loss and fragmentation. The results of this research have helped to change the face of industrial practices in Canada's boreal forest to the benefit of its birds.

Susan's contributions to Canadian ornithology extend well beyond her research. Over her career, Susan trained 30 graduate students and post-doctoral fellows and countless undergraduate students. These trainees, in turn, have gone on to influential positions at universities, government and NGOs. Most remain close friends and collaborators, testimony to Susan's personal as well as professional influence. Susan has also generously served the ornithological community both in Canada and abroad. She has held executive positions in the SCO-SOC, serving as President, Vice-President, and Councillor, as well as participating on numerous committees over the years. She also served as the Chair and a member of the Scientific Program Committee for the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> International Ornithological Congresses. She is a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union and has served the AOU in several capacities. Susan's contributions have continued into her retirement, where she now volunteers her time with the Garry Oak Restoration Project, Islands Trust and the Salt Spring Island Conservancy. In closing, it is an honour to present Dr. Susan Hannon with the 2010 Doris Huestis Speirs Award. Susan is an outstanding ornithologist and a generous and visionary colleague who has had an enduring influence on ornithologists across our country and abroad.

The D.H. Speirs Award Selection Committee for 2010 included Mark Brigham, Bob Clark, Greg Robertson and Marty Leonard (chair).