

2021 Jamie Smith Memorial Award Recipient – Kathy Martin

The Jamie Smith Memorial Award for Mentoring is one of the top honours of the Society and recognizes individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the fledging of new generations of Canadian ornithologists. Nominees are ranked based on their commitment to fostering achievement among their students and peers and demonstrating the importance of mentoring in their professional life. On behalf of the Jamie Smith Committee, who also consisted of Andrea MacLeod and Oliver Love, I am pleased to announce that this year's award is being presented to Kathy Martin. The following summary has been written by Kristina Cockle, a former student of Dr. Martin, and we are grateful for her summary of some of Dr. Martin's lengthy career.

-Kyle Elliott, Chair of Jamie Smith Committee

If you've ever been in the field with Kathy Martin, you'll know she's about the best mentor and field-collaborator you could ask for: up before dawn to boil the cowboy coffee, first into the swamp, curious, observant, insightful, generous, patient, attentive and intentional in her role as a mentor, and ready to chase the chickens out of the house when she gets back to camp. Among my students and park ranger friends in Argentina, she's famous for setting the pace through deep flooded grasslands, clinging one-handed to the roof of a moving pick-up while spotlighting nightjars along a bumpy track, and then driving that same stuck truck out of a treacherous, cactus-ringed mudhole during a 200-mm rainstorm. Across the global scientific community, she is highly respected for her



mentorship of multiple generations of scientists, including 35 graduate students and 20 post-doctoral fellows, resulting in over 125 co-authored publications, especially on community ecology of cavity-nesters and life-history of alpine birds. Importantly, Kathy's mentorship extends well beyond grad school, as she helped many of us to secure and excel in faculty and government positions in Canada, the USA, Europe and Latin America, and helped build and cement our current networks of collaboration across hemispheres.



As a Research Scientist at Environment and Climate Change Canada (1993–2020); professor at the Universities of Sherbrooke (1988–1989), Toronto (1989–1992) and British Columbia (1993–present); editor for several journals; and most recently president of the American Ornithological Society, Kathy has worked consistently to increase the representation and inclusion of women in ornithology. At the system scale, she does much of the behind-the-scenes legwork to ensure women are recognized at conferences and included in leadership roles. On a more personal scale, she facilitates collaborations (and friendships) among women ornithologists,

and helps all her mentees to maintain their research programs while juggling career and family responsibilities. Jamie Smith continues to impact colleagues through Kathy, as she imparts select “Jamie words of wisdom” when occasions arise. I know I can always count on Kathy for a candid appraisal of situations and sage advice on moving forward as I face major career decisions, navigate new institutions and professional relationships, and mentor my own students.

-Kristina L. Cockle, Research Scientist, Instituto de Biología Subtropical-CONICET-UNaM, Puerto Iguazú, Argentina