

DAVID M. BIRD

Citizenship: Canadian. Born April 23, 1949, Toronto, Ontario

Languages

Spoken and Written: English with some ability in French

Higher Education

B.Sc. (Honours Zoology), University of Guelph, 1973

M.Sc. (Wildlife Biology), McGill University, 1976

Ph.D. (Wildlife Biology), McGill University, 1978

Summary of Experience and Skills:

An Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology at McGill University and Director of the Avian Science and Conservation Centre. Main research interests over 40 years focused on raptorial birds, e.g. falcons, hawks, eagles, owls, etc. Participated in recovery programs for endangered Peregrine Falcons and Loggerhead Shrikes. Most recent research interest includes application of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) to wildlife studies. Also have extensive consulting experience in human-bird interactions, e.g. control of nuisance wildlife, impact of ecotourism, wind farms, golf courses, urbanization, etc. on birds of prey and wildlife in general.

Administrative skills in community service include being Past-President of the Raptor Research Foundation Inc.; Past-President of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists, Past member of the board of directors of the American Birding Association; current ex-officio member of Unmanned Systems Canada. Elected as a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union in 1996 and as a Fellow of the International Ornithological Committee in 1998. Have world-wide contacts in ornithology. Organized two major conferences on birds and numerous symposia and workshops. Founded a new peer-reviewed scientific publication, the Journal of Unmanned Vehicle Systems, as part of the NRC Research Press series, for Unmanned Systems Canada.

Have much experience in area of public relations; produced a weekly nature report for CFCE-CTV, a major English television network in Quebec for 3 years; produced television reports for The Discovery Channel (Canada) in 1995; wrote a monthly column on birds in The Gazette, Quebec's only major English newspaper; write a column on bird behaviour for the bimonthly magazine, Bird-Watchers' Digest. Logged many hours on radio phone-in shows on wildlife for CJAD and CBC; produced a weekly nature column on CJAD radio for 45 weeks in 1995. Founded and organized the Montreal Bird Festival in May 2000.

In terms of teaching at McGill University, lectured on ornithology, wildlife behaviour, science communication methods, wildlife conservation, and fisheries and wildlife

management. Taught ornithology in Kenya for 5 stints. Have taught a 5-day ornithology course for interested bird-lovers. Hosted/led birding trips to several countries, including Belize, Costa Rica, Peru, India, Chile, Virgin Islands, Galapagos, and Kenya. 39 M.Sc. and 11 Ph.D. students supervised to completion.

Several awards over the last 5 years include the Award for Excellence in Alumni Education from McGill University, the Tom Cade Award from the Raptor Research Foundation for Significant Contributions to Captive Breeding and Conservation of Birds of Prey, the Quebec Education Award awarded by Bird Protection Quebec, and the Roland Michener Conservation Award from the Canadian Wildlife Federation.

Over 200 publications in refereed scientific journals/conference proceedings; edited three conference proceedings, edited four books in last 5 years including Raptor Research and Management Techniques (2007) and best-selling Birds of Canada (2010), Birds of Eastern Canada (2013), Birds of Western Canada (2013), and Pocket Birds of Canada (2016); author of City Critters: How to Live With Urban Wildlife (1986), Bird's Eye View (1999), and The Bird Almanac (2004).

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