

# News and Comment

## Upcoming Meetings and Workshops

### The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) Wildlife Species Assessment Meeting

The next Wildlife Species Assessment Meeting of COSEWIC to be held 27 November–2 December 2016 at the Lord Elgin Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario. See how COSEWIC assigns status to Canadian wildlife species, the first step in protection and recovery under the federal Species at Risk Act. Please contact [ec.cosepac-cosewic.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.cosepac-cosewic.ec@canada.ca) for the procedure to attend as an observer at least one week before the meeting begins. More information about COSEWIC is available at <http://cosewic.gc.ca>.

### The Society for Integrative & Comparative Biology Annual Meeting

The Society for Integrative & Comparative Biology Annual Meeting to be held 4–8 January 2017 at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside, New Orleans, Louisiana. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2017/index.php>.

## Obituary – John Crosby 1925–2016

John Crosby, zoological artist and illustrator perhaps best known for illustrating *The Birds of Canada* (1966, 1986), passed away peacefully in Ottawa on 3 October 2016 at the age of 91. John joined the staff of the National Museum of Canada in 1951 where he became familiar with Canadian birds from coast to coast, and from Point Pelee to the High Arctic. While working within and for the science of ornithology, John put his appreciation of birds before all else. A keen and active birder who loved a rare bird as much as anyone, he was interested first and foremost in the *feel* of the bird – only later to be called ‘gizz’ – and reflected that beautifully in his ecologically accurate and reflective portraits of these animals. The talented national museum crew (Earl Godfrey, John Crosby, Stewart MacDonald) who produced two editions of *The Birds of Canada* are all gone now.

RON PITTAWAY and DAN BRUNTON

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Please see our upcoming issues for Tributes honouring these men, and their many contributions to our understanding of Canadian birds and invertebrates.

### Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research

The Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research to be held 5–8 January 2017 at the Hyatt Regency Montréal, Montréal, Quebec. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://www1.uwindsor.ca/glier/ccffr/ccffrcrp-2017>.

### Science, Practice & Art of Restoring Native Ecosystems Conference

The Science, Practice & Art of Restoring Native Ecosystems Conference to be held 13–14 January 2017 at the Kellogg Center, East Lansing, Michigan. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <https://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/2017-stewardship-network-conference>.

### Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Technical Training & Trade Show

The 70<sup>th</sup> Society for Range Management Annual Meeting, Technical Training & Trade Show to be held 29 January–2 February 2017 at the Dixie Convention Center, St. George, Utah. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://rangelands.org/srm17/>.

## Obituary – Edward Bousfield 1926–2016

Curious about the world around him, detailed in his observations, and well-suited to a career as a biologist, particularly as a taxonomist, Ed earned degrees at the University of Toronto (B.A. and M.A.) and at Harvard (Ph.D.), and had a long career at the National Museum of Natural Sciences (Canadian Museum of Nature) in Ottawa. He conducted extensive research along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts – his young family nearly always in tow – and participated in the historic voyage of the *CSS Hudson* in 1969–70. An internationally respected specialist, he described and drew hundreds of new species of amphipod crustaceans in more than 150 books and papers, but in contrast to all those amphipod publications, also published the useful *Canadian Atlantic Seashells* (1960). In 1985 he received a Public Service Outstanding Achievement Award for his work. After retirement in 1986, he remained active in science, as an external advisor to M.Sc. and Ph.D. students around the globe and as a research associate at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, Royal BC Museum in Victoria, and Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa – his final work visit being in February 2016, 66 years after he first began there. From penning his own illustrated nature stories as a young teen to spending Saturdays leading Macoun Field Club outings as a museum researcher to his death on 7 September 2016, Ed retained his curiosity and his love of science.

MARJORIE BOUSFIELD

## Roy John steps down after a distinguished contribution as Book Review Editor

When long-serving Book Review Editor, Wilson Eedy (appointed in 1975), died suddenly in 2003 he left a vacancy that seemed impossible to fill (see *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 124: 181–182 for Roy John's tribute to Wilson), until Roy volunteered. Wilson had built the book review section to effectively cover an increasing number of publications, both popular and technical, that were of interest to a variety of naturalists and professional biologists, with volunteer reviews by both specialists and generalists. Wilson was proactive and obtained books from publishers that were requested by potential reviewers, as well as finding reviewers for suitable books submitted unsolicited from publishers. He prepared quarterly lists of new titles, including those assigned to reviewers, available, or merely of interest. Roy was well qualified to handle this intense workload.

Born in 1942 in Wattstown, Wales, Roy's early years were spent in London, where he survived the air raids, even one which brought down the ceiling of his room. As is common with many naturalists, his early influences were extremely important. He would join his grandmother when she worked on a farm in Kent every summer, and there he would explore fields, orchards, ponds, and forests. On after-supper walks with his grandfather he asked innumerable questions about the plants and animals he saw. Later, his family lived in Borehamwood, the "British Hollywood" where over 250 films were produced. In 1961, Roy went to Loughborough University to take Industrial Chemistry (a blend of 70% Chemistry and 30% Chemical Engineering). Loughborough is in Leicestershire, in the East Midlands of England, and its university traces its roots to 1909 when it was founded as the Loughborough Technical Institute, which eventually morphed into Loughborough College of Technology and then a university.

His initial employment was in the laboratory at the Esso Refinery near Fawley. This is on the west shore of Southampton Water, on the edge of the Solent, and at 5 mi<sup>2</sup> it is the largest refinery in the UK. The waste water treatment included a couple of retention ponds and a large fresh water lagoon surrounded by woods. This was a great attraction to many water birds, and he spent many lunch times watching Pochards, Tufted Ducks, and the like. Sometimes he drove to Ashlett Creek, to the south of Fawley, where the road past the 16th-century mill petered out in some bushes that overlooked a mudflat where there was always something to see. Here he learned the value of learning one bird's song very well to identify warblers. A little further south, the Calshot shingle spit was good for observing sea ducks. Fawley was a great place as a base, because it was on the edge of the New Forest, a complex of woods and heathland. He also often went to Keyhaven, a small village edged by salt marsh which was a fine place to see seabirds flying by or milling around the west end of the Isle of Wight (i.e. at The Needles). A

friend at work drove him to interesting birding locations in Wales, Portland Bill, and Dungeness. At university he met "Ned" (now Dr. David Larkin, professor emeritus at Towson University, Baltimore, Maryland) and together they took a week holiday in Scotland to visit Aviemor, Loch Morlich, Cairngorm, Rothiemurchus, and Inshriach Forests, and to go birding together.

A visit to Loughborough by a recruiter from Montreal looking for electrical engineers led him to request an interview, in which he asked many questions about Canada. To his surprise he got a job offer from Northern Electric in Laschene. So he came to Canada in 1965 (for a two-year period that morphed into 50). In Canada he continued his formal education, taking courses in Business Administration at the University of Western Ontario. He was employed primarily as an environmental manager for multidisciplinary projects, dealing with environmental, social, economic, developmental, and human impacts, and with assessment of hazardous material impacts on human health and safety. He has experience with mining, metal refining, oil refining, airports, road corridors, pulp and paper, fisheries, dairy and food processing plants, shipbuilding and fishing fleets, real estate, chemical production facilities, and the nuclear fuel cycle. He taught university courses in auditing and hazardous materials management, and has completed over 150 audits (including 35 ships). As well as holding various positions in the private sector, Roy served the Federal Government from 1983 to 1987 as manager of the National Uranium Tailings Program at CANMET, and between 1987 and 1991 as Head of Agreements and Data Interpretation at the Environment Canada Water Quality Branch. Subsequently he managed a program to certify that organizations were in compliance with the international environmental management system standard ISO 14001, the occupational health and safety specification OHS 18001, and he ran food safety management system certifications for Ontario, Alberta, and Manitoba, on behalf of the federal government (the Canadian General Standards Board).

Roy has been an active member of natural history clubs while living in Ottawa, Saskatoon, and Halifax, and served them in a multitude of key positions including President of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club, Chairman of its Excursions and Lectures Committee, Editor of *The Blue Jay* published by the Saskatchewan Natural History Society, and editor of OFO News.

He has traveled extensively over the world, missing only a few countries (among them Afghanistan), and over the past 35 years has led short- to long-term trips (four days or more) to observe birds, mammals, reptiles, and wildflowers in several parts of Canada and the U.S. (including pelagic trips), as well as many day trips in several Canadian provinces. He went on nature trips as an observer, including trips to the Antarctic (twice), the Arctic (four trips: three in Canada, one in Svalbard), Argentina, Brazil, Canada (all provinces and territo-

ries), China, Costa Rica, Ecuador (Galapagos), Egypt, Europe (Austria, Britain, France, and Spain), India, Yugoslavia, Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, North Africa, Peru, South Africa, Polynesia, Ukraine, Russia, and U.S.A. (44 states).

Roy has written over 250 book reviews, not all of them on bird guides (though his wide travel experience prepares him particularly well for judging these), 145 articles, 11 peer reviewed papers, two book chapters,

120 popular publications in environmental science, and numerous consultant reports. He has also written one book (*A Naturalist at the Poles –Antarctica*).

For his exceptional service as Book Review Editor, in addition to his other contributions to the OFNC, Roy was awarded the George McGee Service Award for 2015.

FRANCIS R. COOK condensed in large part on extensive information from Roy John