

Bill started as an assistant with the Canada Department of Agriculture in Ottawa. Twenty-one years later in 1967 he was made a Research Scientist. This classification was generally reserved for people who had a Ph.D., but Bill's outstanding accomplishments at that time were judged by his colleagues and the science arm of the federal civil service to warrant treatment at the Ph.D. level. The awards that Bill has received since then are numerous, but one in particular draws attention his broad contribution. In November 2002 he received a Queen's Golden Jubilee Commemorative Medal. These medals were awarded to a limited number of people who have made a significant contribution to Canada, in this case "especially for his work on *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, Canada's foremost scientific journal for field biology." Bill has served as the business manager, article and book review contributor, and manuscript reviewer for this journal for 60 years, and his influence on its development, support, improvement and content is beyond question.

Bill also served as curator of the largest dried plant collection in Canada from 1959 to 1988 and was largely responsible for its development. This collection of now over 1 million specimens has become a major tool of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada for plant identification. This collection provides a wealth of informa-

tion that is needed to implement Agriculture and Agri-food Canada's Biodiversity Strategy and to respond to the International Convention on Biodiversity. It is particularly valued as a tool for improved plant classification studies used by researchers in other institutions both in Canada and worldwide. It is also important in protecting Canada's borders and enforcing federal regulations. Many thousands of specimens that Bill collected in the northern wilderness under extreme and dangerous conditions are part of this collection and serve as vouchers for his numerous publications and books.

Bill was born in Hamilton on 2 December 1922. His father was a doctor and his mother a nurse at Hamilton General. He grew up in Hamilton and received his B.A. from McMaster University in 1946.

The Yukon Biodiversity Awareness Award plaque that Bill received included a photo of one of Yukon's rarest plants, McBride's Phacelia (*Phacelia mollis*) which is a Beringian endemic (confined to the unglaciated area of Alaska and Yukon).

Text slightly modified from that provided courtesy of Paul Catling, Canada Agriculture and Agri-food, Ottawa. Photograph of the award plaque courtesy Stephen Daryshire, Canada Agriculture and Agri-food, Ottawa.

### Errata *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* 120(1)

**Book Review.** Lapland a Natural History, pages 123-124: replace "Redcliff" and Redcliffe" with Ratcliffe, throughout.

#### Articles.

Diversity and range of amphibians and reptiles of the Yukon Territory. Brian G. Slough and R. Lee Menell in Literature Cited page 91 "Matsurla" should read Matsuda.

Recent Declines of House Sparrows, *Passer domesticus*, in Canada's Maritime Provinces. Anthony J. Erskine. Page 48 insert following Dunn et al.

**Erskine, A. J.** 1980. A House Sparrow die-off. Nova Scotia Bird Society Newsletter 22: 183-184. For reference following Erskine 1992b insert **Erskine** before initials.