

# **ACTWS William Rowan Distinguished Service Award**

**Overview & Recipient Biographical Sketches**

**For ACTWS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
March 2015**

***by Margo Pybus and Bill Samuel***

## William Rowan (1891-1957)



- 1920: Came to Univ. of Alberta to build a Department of Zoology, which he chaired for 35 years
  - “One of the most colourful characters in the history of the U of A”
- Research highlights included:
- Ground-breaking research on role of photoperiod in triggering migration and reproductive behavior in birds
  - Enlisted the entire province in reporting locations of marked crows.

- During the Depression years, his studies provided coffee-time conversation across Alberta
- Province-wide weekly radio show on conservation issues

Dr Rowan was a hunter, humanitarian, artist, musician, teacher, prominent biologist, and independent thinker

For more on William Rowan and some other Rowan Award recipients, see the Fish and Wildlife Historical Society publication, *Fish, fur and feathers: Fish and wildlife conservation in Alberta 1905–2005*. Federation of Alberta Naturalists. Edmonton, Canada (2005)

And

*The History of the Canadian Wildlife Service*. J. Alexander Burnett. UBC Press, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada (2003)

***As exemplified by its namesake, the William Rowan Distinguished Service Award recognizes individuals who make outstanding contributions to management & conservation of wildlife and their habitats.***

## **Brief overview of Recipients: 1991 William A. (Bill) Fuller**

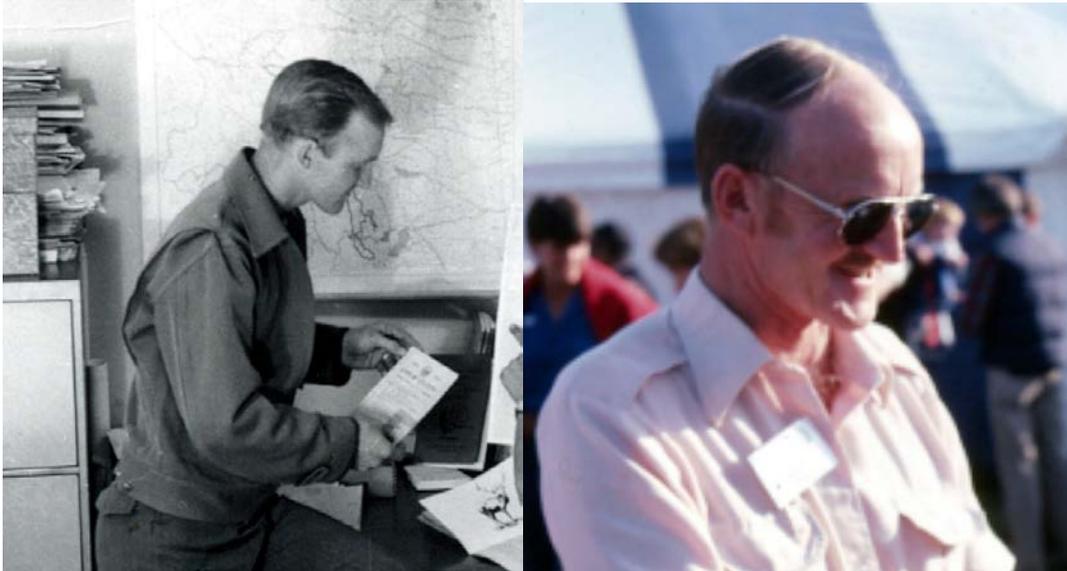


### **Canadian Wildlife Service & University of Alberta**

- Among first biologists hired by CWS
- 1956: confirmed nesting location of last few whooping cranes –21 birds– in Wood Buffalo National Park
- Studied bison, wolves, small mammals in the North. Established Heart Lake Research Centre.
- Educator, advocate, outspoken critic
- Chair, Department of Zoology, U of A

*Following Fuller's death, Ed Struzik wrote of Bill's life in the July 5, 2009 issue of the Edmonton Journal. A great read!*

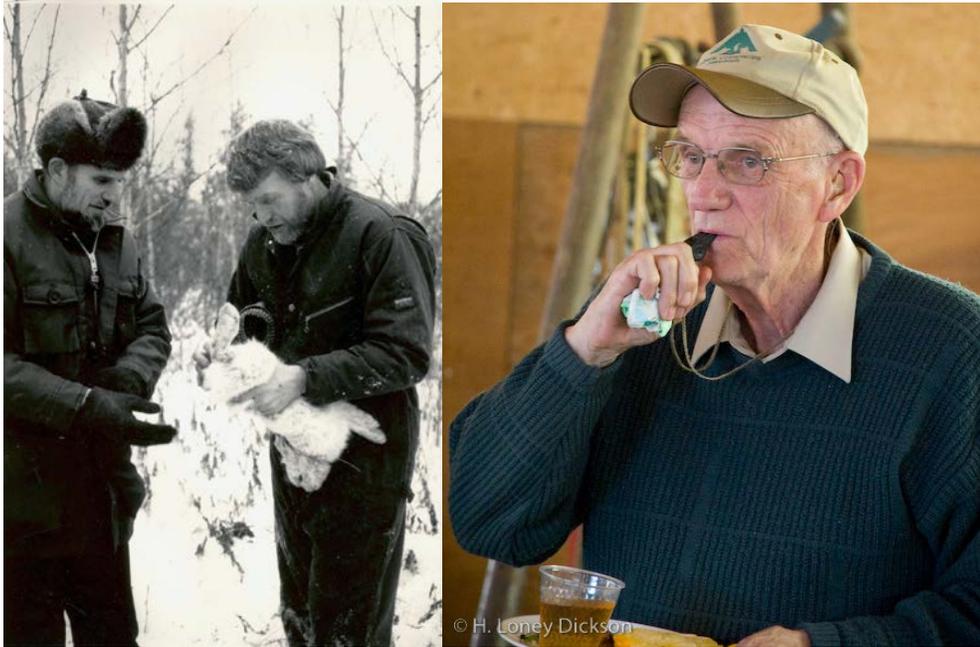
## **1992 John G. Stelfox**



### **Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, & Canadian International Developmental Agency (CIDA)**

- One of the amazing Stelfox biologists
- 1955-66: an early wildlife biologist hired by Alberta's provincial game agency, along with Rowan Award recipients, Wishart and Kerr
- 1966-86: Research Scientist with Canadian Wildlife Service
- Classic large mammal & range ecology studies, particularly bighorns

## 1993 William D. (Bill) Wishart



### **Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division, & Adjunct Faculty, University of Alberta**

- 1957-87: Research and management of most wild species in Alberta
- Preceded the Fish and Wildlife Division [est. 1959]
- Brought Canada geese back to AB
- Initiated many long-term management & research programs (e.g., Camp Wainwright deer hunts, bighorn studies at Ram Mtn & Sheep River)
- Undergrad student of Rowan
- Mentored (and still mentoring) many of us

## 1994 Edmund S. (Ed) Telfer



### **Canadian Wildlife Service**

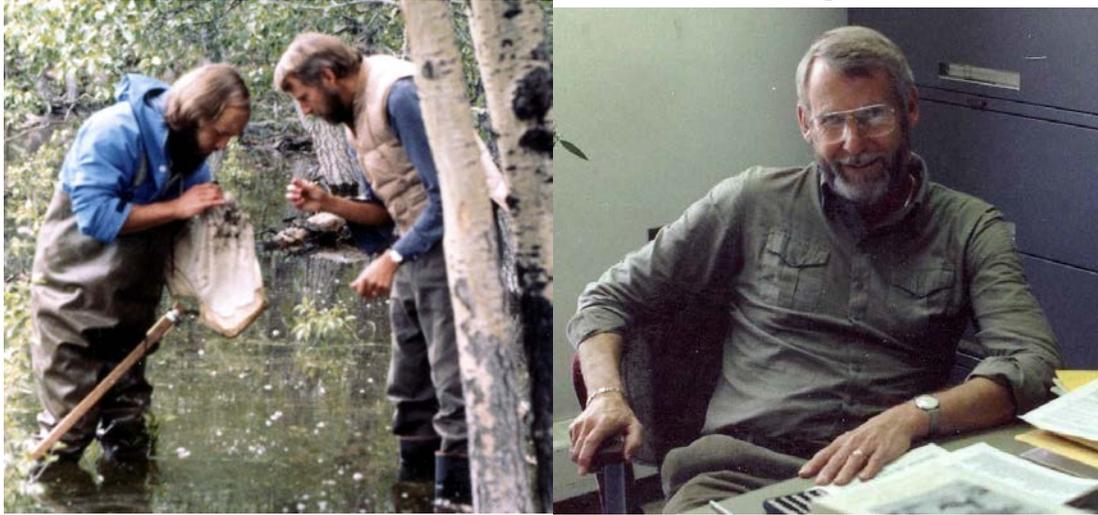
- Stellar 31-year career with CWS
- Forester, wildlife and habitat biologist
- Classic research at Elk Island National Park (e.g., adaptations of large mammals for survival in snow; productivity and carrying capacity)
- Distinguished moose biologist and shrike expert

## 1995 Morley W. Barrett



- Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division,  
Alberta Environmental Centre,  
North American Waterfowl  
Management Plan, & Ducks Unlimited**
- 1969: Came west to F&W Lethbridge
  - Initiated/led many research & management programs (e.g., pronghorn, grizzly, humane trapping)
  - Assistant Deputy Minister (F&W), First Executive Director (AEC, & later Alberta NAWMP), Directed DU operations in the Prairie Region
  - Great leader, publisher, and field biologist

## 1996 David A. Boag



### University of Alberta

- 1963-91: Professor of Zoology, UofA
- Prominent teacher and researcher, supervised 75 graduate students
- Broad research efforts in ecology of grouse, magpies, waterfowl, ground squirrels, gastropods, etc.
- Many graduate students went on to senior positions with universities, government, & conservation/management agencies (e.g., Gord Court, Ernie Ewaschuk, Bill Glasgow, Blair Rippin)

## 1997 Ernie Kuyt \*

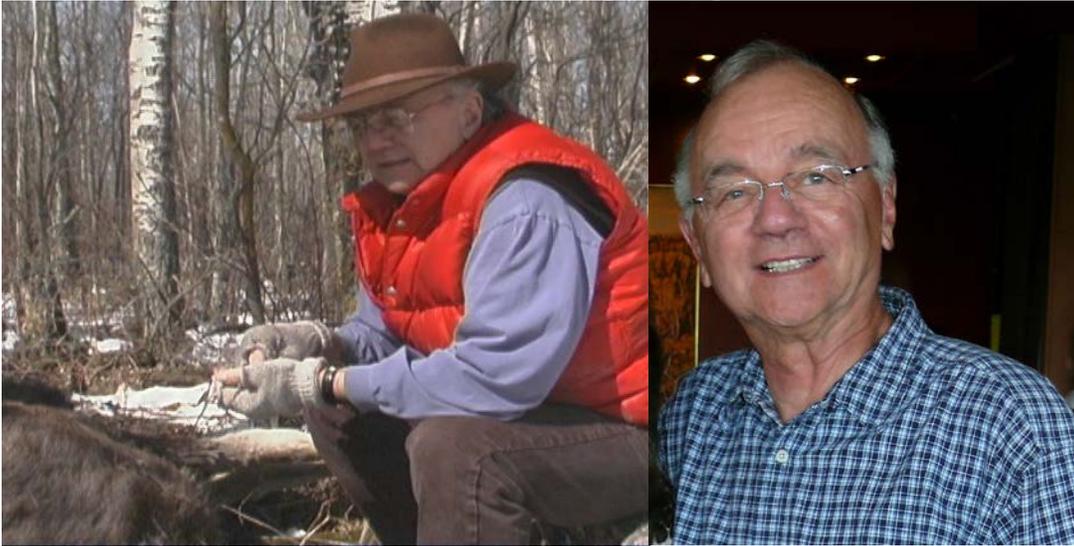


### **Canadian Wildlife Service**

- Known internationally as “Mr. Whooping Crane”
- 33 yrs with CWS, primarily conducting or directing whooper breeding-ground surveys
- Developed program of collecting eggs & rearing whoopers in captivity and other conservation purposes: an international success story
- Member of the Order of Canada

\* *Deceased*

## 1998 William M. (Bill) Samuel



### University of Alberta

- 1971-2004: Professor of Zoology, and later, Biological Sciences
- Research: parasites and diseases of large mammals (e.g., ticks killing moose; muscleworm & meningeal worm of cervids)
- Enthusiastic teacher and mentor to undergrads, grads, managers, & the public
- Author of *White as a Ghost: Winter Ticks & Moose*

## 1999 Ian Stirling



### **Canadian Wildlife Service, & Adjunct Faculty, University of Alberta**

- Internationally distinguished career with CWS
- Leading authority on polar bears; friend of northern peoples
- Tireless writer & speaker, particularly effects of climate change on polar bears
- Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada
- Officer of the Order of Canada

## 2000 Valerius Geist



### University of Calgary

- Internationally known & respected wildlife biologist
- Expert on Ice Age mammals and their evolution, & ungulate behaviour
- Author/editor of more than 15 books
- Educator, advocate, critic (e.g., commercialization of wild animals)
- Continues to extol virtues of wildlife as public resource

## 2001 Don Thomas



### **Canadian Wildlife Service**

- Well known authority on habitats and ungulates:
  - 1972-79 High Arctic,
  - 1980-87 Subarctic,
  - 1988-96 Jasper & Prince Albert National parks
- Extensive research on Peary and barren-ground caribou
- Centenary Medal for Northern Science

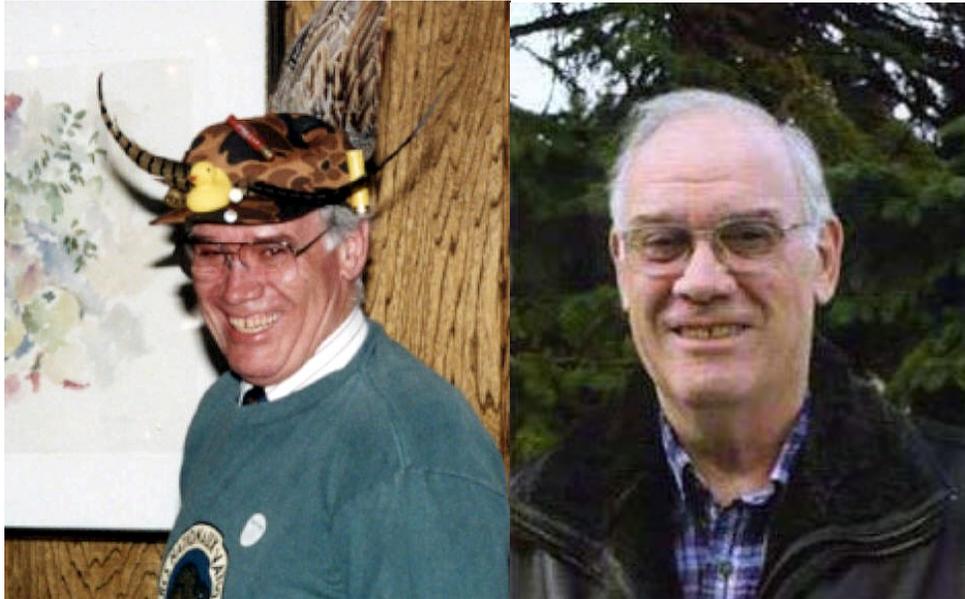
## 2002 Ludwig N. (Lu) Carbyn



### **Canadian Wildlife Service, & Adjunct Faculty, University of Alberta**

- Distinguished career with CWS; many contributions to conservation and management of wildlife
- Interests and initiatives include avian ecology, study of grasslands, bison-wolf interactions, swift fox recovery, wolf research
- Active in many local, national and international conservation initiatives

## 2003 Gordon Kerr



### **Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, & North American Waterfowl Management Plan**

- 18 yrs F&W, finished as ADM; initiated many programs (e.g., Bucks-for-Wildlife, compulsory hunter training)
- 13 yrs CWS: Director Prairie-Northern Region, Act. Director General
- Exec. Director, Alberta NAWMP
- Active leadership in many initiatives in retirement

## 2004 Detlef Onderka



### Alberta Agriculture

- Poultry veterinarian & Alberta's *de facto* provincial wildlife vet for 22 yrs (never in his job description)
- Exemplary dedication, innovation & passion for wildlife & wilderness
- Meticulous pathologist & researcher, particularly lungworms in bighorns, trap damage, forensic diagnoses
- Played leading role on AVMA wildlife committee & animal care activities
- Known internationally for humane trapping expertise

## 2005 Steve Herrero



### University of Calgary

- Distinguished career at U of C
- Expertise in wildlife ecology & management, conservation biology, & environmental reserve planning
- Emphasis on bears (see widely acclaimed book: *Bear attacks....*)
- Applies research to solve complex real-world problems

## 2006 Eldon Bruns



### **Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division**

- 34 yrs in wildlife management, mostly large mammals but wide range of interests
- Val Geist's first graduate student
- Started as summer student, finished as Area Biologist in Rocky Mtn House
- Quiet leader & mentor to many
- Leadership in wildlife management issues throughout the East Slopes

## 2007 Margo Pybus



### **Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division, & Adjunct Faculty, University of Alberta**

- Distinguished career with F&W; wildlife disease specialist
- Leads provincial high profile disease programs (E.g., West Nile Virus, Avian Influenza, CWD)
- Combines passion for science, natural history & communication to interpret wildlife & wildlife diseases, (& bats) to many different audiences.

## 2008 Mark S. Boyce



### **University of Wyoming, University of Wisconsin, & University of Alberta**

- 1999: Came to UofA as first Alberta Conservation Association Chair in Fisheries and Wildlife
- Established large research program, primary focus on wildlife conservation issues throughout Alberta
- Prolific publisher (e.g., 6 books, over 200 sci. publications)
- International Conservationist of the Year (2007): Safari Club International
- Avid hunter and fisherman

## 2009 Robert J. (Bob) Hudson \*



### **University of British Columbia, & University of Alberta**

- Distinguished career at UofA since 1974, combining teaching, research and administration
- Main fields of interest: International wildlife conservation, wildlife productivity & management
- Consummate rational thinker, modeler, & planner
- Supervised graduate student research in Western Canada, Arctic, and Africa
- Numerous publications and books

\* *Deceased*

## 2009 Steve Brechtel



### **Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division**

- Provincial & national leader in species at risk policy, direction & programs
- Developed Alberta's structure for species status assessment- game & non-game
- Specific talent for building effective systems and procedures
- Long-term commitment to wildlife & habitat management

## 2010 Stan Boutin



### **University of Guelph, Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries, & Univ. of Alberta**

- Leader in basic and applied research
- Focuses on role of extreme natural variation driving evolutionary and population changes
- Intra-specific and inter-generational responses to climate change
- Research informs integrated industrial, academic, and government landscape decisions
- Took on conservation challenges in Alberta's oil sands areas
- Fellow of Royal Society of Canada

## 2011 J. Brad Stelfox



### **Alberta Environmental Centre & ALCES Landscape and Land Use Ltd**

- World leader in land-use cumulative effects simulation modelling, strategic land-use planning, and practical strategies to assist governments, businesses, and society make balanced, informed decisions that achieve environments in which we and our grandchildren thrive today and in the future
- Supremely effective communicator

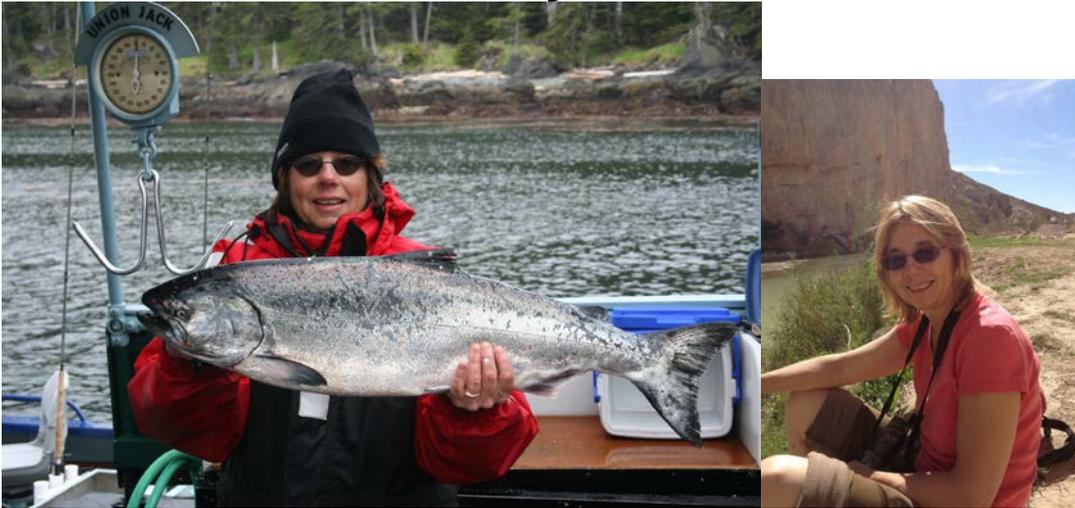
## 2012 Lorne Fitch



### **Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division**

- Provincial & national leader in fish habitat protection programs
- Instrumental in development and delivery of Alberta's Cows and Fish Program – landscape stewardship at its best
- Superb communicator, photographer, and diplomatic problem solver

## 2013 Evelyn Merrill



### **University of Wyoming, University of Wisconsin, & University of Alberta**

- International leader in ungulate research
- Primary research evolved around influence of landscape patterns on predator-prey relationships and disease spread
- Long-term active involvement in TWS at all levels from local to international
- Inspiration for countless students
- Prolific scientific communicator and award-winning teacher & mentor

## 2014 David Schindler



### **Canadian Fisheries and Oceans & University of Alberta**

- Delivered innovative research programs affecting major environmental policies in Canada, USA, and Europe
- Founded and directed Experimental Lakes program of interdisciplinary research, including acid rain, lake eutrophication, and climate change
- “Canada’s most influential aquatic environmental scientist”

# Photo credits:

Rowan: modified from New Trail Magazine, UofA

Fuller: WM Samuel

Stelfox: l/r - F&W Historical Society / WM Samuel

Wishart: l/r - F&W Historical Society / MJ Pybus

Telfer: from E Telfer

Barrett: l/r: L Roy / R Stevenson

Boag: l/r - F Boag/ from T Boag

Kuyt: E Struzik

Samuel: l/r – N Cool / E Addison

Stirling: A Derocher

Geist: l/r –V Geist / R Stevenson

Thomas: J Ficht

Carbyn: E Struzik

Kerr: l/r – R Stevenson / R Stevenson

Onderka: F & W files

Bruns: N Webb

Pybus: B Rippin

Boyce: l/r - E Merrill / UofA

Hudson: Y Hudson

Brechtel: l/r – F&W / R Stevenson

Boutin: l/r – E Dzus/U of Alberta

Stelfox: M Sullivan

Fitch: F&W files

Merrill: E Merrill

Schindler: U of Alberta