

## **Hugh Boyd- Pioneer Award**

Hugh Boyd was born in Bristol, England May 12, 1925. He became the first resident wildlife biologist at the Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust in Britain in 1949 (now Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust). In 1967, Boyd came to Canada as a research scientist with the Canadian Wildlife Service in Ottawa primarily to work on Arctic breeding geese. Shortly thereafter he was appointed Chief of Migratory Birds. While in that position he encouraged and supported research on passerines, seabirds and wading birds as well as waterfowl. In Canada he introduced many key monitoring schemes, spearheaded many international agreements and encouraged collaboration with many other countries. As a senior CWS staff member he wielded huge influence in promoting international cooperation on the conservation of waterbird habitats, and was instrumental in persuading the Canadian government to play a crucial role in the development of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Canada not only became one of the first members in the Americas, but hosted a series of international meetings which led to first the US, then most of the Central and South American countries, joining the convention. The Canadian government recognized his work by appointing him a member of the Order of Canada. His publication record covered more than 60 years. Respected and honoured internationally, he was known for his research management ability, his pursuit of scientific excellence and, especially, his encouragement and support for younger scientists. Hugh Boyd passed away in July 2016 at the age of 91.