

C. H. D. Clarke – Pioneer Award

Charles Henry Douglas Clarke was born in Kerwood, Ontario, on June 14, 1909. His interest in ornithology at an early age would lead to a PhD on ruffed grouse populations from the University of Toronto. However, Clarke began his career in forestry in 1927 and received his undergraduate degree in this field. He was hired by the National Museum of Canada to conduct field surveys of the fauna of Lake Superior. Then in 1936, he was asked to conduct a much larger survey of the Thelon Game Sanctuary, the faunal survey that Clarke is most noted for. He was very perceptive and concerned about the ecology and management of wildlife and its social and economic impacts through North America. Later in his career, Clarke became the Scientific Consultant at the Rachel Carson Institute, President of the North American Forestry Association, President and Honorary Member of The Wildlife Society, and Governor of the Arctic Institute. He also took four trips to East Africa to study wildlife in Kenya and Tanzania. Clarke has been called the Canadian Aldo Leopold by many and he did receive the Aldo Leopold Medal in 1977. As a writer of 300 papers and articles, he was most famous for his classic work on the Arctic, *A Biological Investigation of the Thelon Game Sanctuary*. Clarke died in March 1981.