

## **H. Albert Hochbaum - Pioneer Award**

H. Albert Hochbaum was born in Greeley, Colorado in 1911. He received his post-secondary education at Cornell University (B.S) in 1933. After a brief stint as a wildlife technician with the National Park Service, he enrolled at the University of Wisconsin to study game management as Aldo Leopold's first graduate student. At the urging of Professor Leopold, Al traveled to Delta, Manitoba in 1938 to examine the potential of the vast Delta Marsh as the site for a new waterfowl research station. There he completed his M.S. degree in 1941 through the University of Wisconsin and continued as the Director of the Delta Waterfowl Research Station for the next 32 years. Al turned this station into one of the most respected and productive private waterfowl research facilities in North America. He also distinguished himself as a writer and wildlife artist. He produced three classic books, *The Canvasback on a Prairie Marsh*, *Travels and Traditions of Waterfowl* and *To Ride the Wind*. His paintings and sketches of waterfowl were accurate and detailed in characterizing the ecology of the birds in their habitat.

Hochbaum received numerous awards for his work in wildlife: Manitoba Order of the Buffalo Hunt (1957), John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship (1961), honorary doctorate from the University of Manitoba (1962), Manitoba Centennial Medal of Honour (1970), Order of Canada (1978) and the Aldo Leopold Medal of The Wildlife Society (1980) among many others. Albert Hochbaum passed away at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba on March 2, 1988.