

PEEL COUNTY BIOGRAPHY

# SOUTH PEEL'S PEOPLE

SPW  
Sept 18  
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Staff Reporter

**ERINDALE** — For a man in his 89th year, Roy Ivor has more energy and enthusiasm than many men half his age.

Just recently, this internationally known and respected ornithologist had a book published. It was the result of many years of work, study and dedication to bird life. Just a few weeks after this book, "I Live with Birds" hit the bookstands, sales reached the 1,500 figure . . . and indications are that this is just a start.

The book has now been put on the United States and English market where the market figures are expected to continue at a brisk pace.

## DIFFICULT TO COPE

A quiet, humble man, Ivor is naturally pleased with the book sale results, but he has one regret.

"Since the book came out," he said last week, "so many people have been bringing lost or injured birds to me. They are my life and my work, but it is getting to the point where I just can't keep up with them."

A native of Strathroy, Ontario, Roy Ivor has lived 40 years of his life on his Erindale bird sanctuary. His modest home, which he shares with countless types of birds, is situated in the clearing of

a heavily wooded area. Around the house are a number of large wire bird houses, some of them connected by a fly-way which opens in the centre so the birds can flight right into a large porch section of the house.

## VARIETY OF BIRDS

Among the many birds which call this sanctuary their home are sparrows, humming birds, bluejays (one of them called Stellar has been a particular pet of Roy Ivor's for nearly 10 years), hawks, and many, many others.

One of the hawks, a very large bird, will let Ivor into the large cage with him, sit on his hand and even take a piece of food from between his lips. No one else would dare set foot into this enclosure since the hawk makes it crystal clear that other visitors are not welcome.

In the more than 40 years which Roy Ivor has devoted to his work with birds, he has only once been away from the Erindale sanctuary for more than 2 days at a time. That was early last year when he had to spend a few weeks in South Peel Hospital as a result of a fall in his home.

## 20-HOUR DAY

Roy Ivor moved onto the property that soon became the Winding Lane Bird Sanctuary with his mother in 1928. She died 12 years ago, at the age

of 105, and he has carried on with his work alone ever since.

His regular work day often stretches over a 20-hour period but he somehow manages to keep up the pace and still retain his cheerful, bright disposition.

He estimates that it takes more than half a ton of food per year to feed all the birds. The feeding and caring for injured or sick birds is a never-ending job which very few people would even attempt to handle.

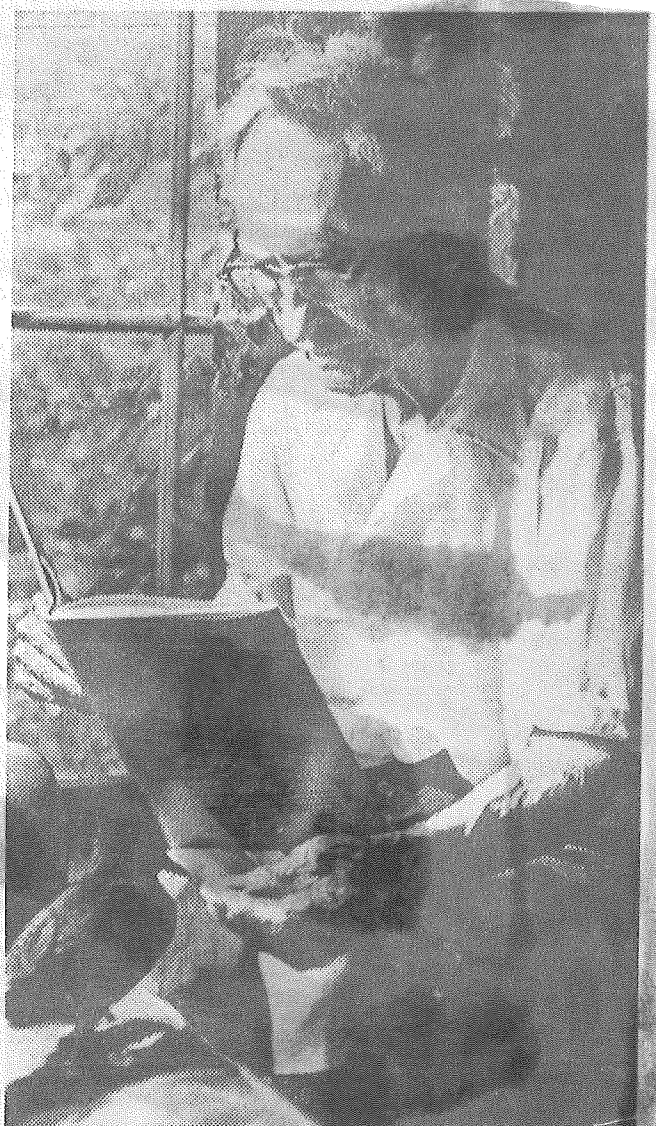
But, to Hance Roy Ivor, this is one hardship which is more then outweighed by the many rewards which he receives from his life's work.

## WIDESPREAD ACCLAIM

During the years which he has lived and worked in Erindale, Ivor has become known throughout the world for his knowledge in the field of ornithology. He has been mentioned in Russian and English publications and has also written articles for the National Geographic magazine.

Despite the widespread acclaim which he has received for his work and the obvious success of his recent book, "I Live With Birds", Roy Ivor hasn't changed a bit over the past 8 or 10 years.

He is still a very gentle, humble and sincere individual.



ROY IVOR

Staff Photo.

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