

Personality Profile Of The Week

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Roy Ivor

Roy Ivor is internationally known as an expert on birds. Roy, who is in his 87th year, has conducted exhaustive studies over the past 35 years on native birds. His works have been published in such highly regarded periodicals as the National Geographic and Nature Magazine.

Mr. Ivor over the years has cared for a vast number of native birds ranging from humming birds to golden eagles. Word of his successes in the treatment of birds has spread rapidly and he has been besieged with from 200 to 300 requests a year to handle injured birds and nestlings.

Roy Ivor was born in Strathroy, Ontario, moving to Moosejaw, Saskatchewan, at the age of two. He completed his public and high school education in Moosejaw and set out for Toronto in 1897. A few years later he ventured into the stone and marble business, working as a supplier for a number of years.

Mr. Ivor has been interested in nature since the early days of his youth, but the first experience which paved the way for his intimate study of birds occurred 35 years ago.

A nestling blue jay had fallen from its nest. The nest was too high to allow Mr. Ivor to put it back, so he placed it in a cage in the open window of his bedroom. The parents found it there and fed it through the wires of the cage, but when they realized that Mr. Ivor was also feeding their fledgling, they ceased to do so.

It dawned on Mr. Ivor that perhaps more could be learn-

ed about birds by hand rearing them, than could be learned from studying them in the

the Rose-breasted Grosbeak to the fourth generation.

In 1956 Mr. Ivor wrote an



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wild.

With this in mind he built a 25 foot in diameter octagon songbird observatory in which were eight large breeding compartments. He was rewarded for his painstaking efforts by successfully breeding

article for the National Geographic describing the weird gyrations of certain birds caused by the stroking of their wings with live ants. This is only one of the many articles which he has written over the years. At the present time he is on assignment for the National Geographic to study the rare phenomenon of birds playing with fire.

As well as his other activities Mr. Ivor is kept busy with the task of feeding the birds. Bird temperatures range to about 110 degrees, and the heart beat of most of the smaller birds is relatively high. This burning off of energy necessitates food being available from dawn to dusk. In the course of a year, Mr. Ivor estimates that he requires over half a ton of food a year, from several of Canada's largest firms, to keep the birds in good health.

At this late date in life Mr. Ivor still has a wry sense of humour. He explained with a chuckle that his budgie derives so much enjoyment from hearing the sound of its own voice that it perches by the

telephone most of the day. One of Mr. Ivor's robins is one of his biggest fans; he had nursed it to health as a baby and the bird showed its thanks in the only way it knew how by presenting Mr. Ivor with a worm.

Speaking on the serious side Mr. Ivor decried the excessive use of insecticides by industry. The indiscriminate use of insecticides is a great factor in the lowering of the average life span of a wild songbird to only two years whereas its potential is ten.

With the ever increasing trend towards urbanization, it is reassuring to know that there are people of Mr. Ivor's stature who will make a conscientious effort to preserve our wildlife.