

Photographs NOT FOR CALCULATION of wildlife to MISSISSAUGA LIBRARY SYSTEM be at gallery

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Barry Ranford has taken thousands of photographs of birds and animals in his career and his personal involvement is evident in each one.

As you look at a picture of a mother Arctic Loon on a nest guarding the egg at her feet, vulnerable, fragile and arrestingly handsome, it is hard to remain neutral. He meets his subject on its own turf, often at great physical inconvenience, adhering to his code of excellence in photography with respect and sensitivity in portraying the birds and animals. "The Wild and Free", an exhibition of his photographs, limited editions all, is at the Gallery at Fairways from January 26 to February 23.

With a list of impressive credits, Barry Ranford has built his career on photographing wild life all over the world. His specialty is birds and at the last count he had about 300 species on film from locations such as the Arctic, where he has made 12 trips, to the Baja Peninsula, the Florida Keys, Peru, Ecuador, Panama, Columbia, Costa Rica, the Caribbean, the United States and Canada. Since 1972 he has had photographs published regularly in many nature magazines and books in North America and, as well, in South America, Africa and Europe. His association with the *Ontario Naturalist Magazine*, as art director began in 1971, continuing until 1979. Barry has organized and led many photographic expeditions for the Ontario Naturalist Society in the past decade.

With a partner, he has maintained a Toronto studio since 1971, offering graphic design, studio and field photography, editorial layouts, typography, audio-visual presentations, development of corporate logos and the creation of print advertising. Their clients represented a diversified group. As well, assignments in the field were completed for *Canadian Magazine*, *Chatelaine*, *Quest*, *Time*, *Parks Canada*, the

National Film Board, *Air Canada*, *City Magazine* and the *Imperial Oil Review*.

Born in Mississauga, Barry went to high school at Cordon Graydon Secondary School in Port Credit and on to Central Technical School for creative art and the Ontario College of Art in 1966 for work in advertising design. He has been teaching photography since 1976, first at Sheridan College and the University of Toronto's continuing education night school in the environmental studies department and since 1981 at Humber

College where he teaches the day students commercial photography and basic and intermediate photography at night. Barry is currently enrolled in the Faculty of Education of the University of Toronto.

As a guest lecturer, he has appeared at the Science Teacher's Seminar, the Toronto Ornithological Club, the Toronto Camera Club, the Federation of Ontario Naturalist convention, the Outdoor Education Teachers' Seminar and at career days at Gordon Graydon Secondary School. From 1977 to 1979, Barry was president of the South Peel Naturalist Club.

In 1983, two books of note were published with his photographs: *Canadian Wildlife*, by Loral Dean, Royce Publications features 30 of them, and *The Wonder of Birds*, National Geographic Publications includes a unique photograph taken out on the prairies of a Pied-Billed Grebe at nesting time. After waiting for a period of three weeks, Barry had put a time limit on how long he would remain when the mother came back and laid an egg, a fantastic way to end his trip. This photograph illustrates his patience and his superb skills as a photographer. Another book is in progress for 1984.

"The Wild and Free" is an expression also of concern Barry Ranford feels for the disappearing species of wild life. He fears for the endangered species and ones soon to become endangered

since he knows habitats are being destroyed. His love and respect for the birds and animals whose images he has recorded on film is very evident in the quality of these images in this exhibition. Some moods and impressions may be poetic and painterly. The faithful records are infused with the feeling of intimacy of the nesting birds, and of awe in the birds in flight. Solitary or in flocks, there is an admiration for their beauty and individuality that transmits to the viewer an experience one cannot remain outside for very long. Man is the only creature capable of recording and recalling experiences, and in the case of the vanishing wild life it is ironic that man in his domination of the earth destroys animals, yet is capable of recording their existence here on earth as well. Barry Ranford is doing that recording exceedingly well.

Exhibitions of Barry's photographs have been held at the Royal Ontario Museum, the Toronto-Dominion Bank, the Sportsman Show, and in 1983 the Ontario Science Centre and the CN Tower.