Jim Rising received his PhD in Zoology from the University of Kansas and was a postdoctoral research associate in comparative animal physiology at Cornell University before his professorial appointment at the University of Toronto in 1969. In addition to teaching numerous undergraduate courses, Jim served as Associate Chair, Undergraduate Studies, for the Department of Zoology from 1992-2006. He was a Research Associate at the Royal Ontario Museum, a Fellow of the American Ornithologists’ Union and a President of the Wilson Ornithological Society. Jim supervised many graduate students and authored more than a hundred publications, including several books. Jim continued to remain active in his research and the department following his retirement in 2009.

Jim derived great pleasure in helping students and in conducting field courses in ornithology and evolutionary biology. He taught these in: Churchill, Manitoba; St. Andrews, New Brunswick; Sapelo Island, Georgia; Costa Rica; Nicaragua; Panama; and Ecuador.

Jim was devoted to Trudy, his sons and grandsons, taking both sons, when young, on field trips with him.

Jim will be missed greatly by family and friends – the 4th floor of the Ramsay Wright Building at the University will no longer be the same.

The James D. Rising Scholarship in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology is awarded to students who participate in a field biology course in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology on the basis of academic merit and financial need.