

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON GUIDELINES FOR THE BREWSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

This committee was appointed in 1970 to study the present guidelines used in making the Brewster Award and to recommend any necessary modifications. The terms of the original gift from the friends and co-workers of William Brewster (*Auk*, 37: 29–30, 1920) serve as the governing document for making the award. Additional guidelines proposed by an advisory committee in 1949–1950 were adopted by Council (*Auk*, 75: 246–248, 1951). The present committee suggested, and Council adopted, the following policies and procedures for future years:

THE WILLIAM BREWSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

The fundamental purposes of this Memorial are the perpetual honoring of the memory of William Brewster and the encouragement of the study of Western Hemisphere birds. These purposes were communicated to the stated annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union on November 10, 1919, by friends and co-workers of William Brewster who conveyed to the Union the sum of \$4,000 by deed of gift to establish the William Brewster Memorial, prescribing the terms of the award, and the method for altering such terms.

The income of the memorial fund shall be used to defray the cost of a medal, the Brewster Memorial Medal, to be awarded annually to the author of the most important work, relating in whole or in major part to the birds of the Western Hemisphere during the past ten years. The medal shall be gold, silver, bronze, or such other alloy as the recipient elects, and the remainder of the Fund's accrued income for one year, after defraying the cost of the medal, shall be given to the recipient (or joint recipients) of the medal as an honorarium. It is understood that the cost of the medal or medals cannot exceed the accrued annual interest of the Fund.

In case the award is made for the joint work of two or more persons, to each of whom credit is due in approximate or equal share, a bronze medal shall be given to each of them, and the honorarium shall be divided equally between them.

In case the award is made posthumously, the bronze medal shall be given and the remainder of the accrued income shall be added to the principal of the Fund.

The Memorial consists of a medal and honorarium which will be given annually to the author or coauthors of the most meritorious body of work on birds of the Western Hemisphere published during the ten calendar years preceding a given A.O.U. meeting and not previously so honored.

The Western Hemisphere, for the purposes of this award, is defined as the area covered by the Check-list of the American Ornithologists'

Union, as well as the West Indies, Bermuda, the Hawaiian Islands, and the area south and east of these islands to and including Easter Island and excluding the rest of Polynesia. It shall also include all of Central and South America, the islands of the Scotia Sea, the Falklands, the South Atlantic Islands west of Tristan da Cunha and Ascension Island. It shall further include that part of Antarctica from 20° to 150° West longitude.

Eligible work shall be a book, monograph, or series of papers on allied or related subjects.

The Award Committee shall consist of five members of the Union whose choice for the award shall be subject to approval of the Council.

Adequate continuity and turnover in the committee shall be the responsibility of the President. The committee shall consist of a nucleus of three with staggered 3-year terms, two more to be appointed annually by the President (due consideration being given to the appointment of active research workers representing the various branches of ornithology).

The emphasis of the judges should be on the text itself and such illustrations as are pertinent to it. Format, makeup, and the lavishness of the illustrations are criteria irrelevant for the award.

If the work of two authors is considered of approximately equal rank, the earlier published work should be given preference if there is danger that its eligibility may lapse.

If the work of a single author and the work of coauthors are considered of equal merit, the work of the single author should be given preference.

Preference consideration should be given to scientifically important papers that may not receive the public acclaim of popular books. Royalty-paying books are, however, eligible if they qualify otherwise. Recipients of the award shall be deemed reeligible upon publication of new work involving a different problem in ornithology. As required by the Deed of Gift, amendments of the basic terms of the Deed of Gift are to be made by methods in force for the amendment of the Bylaws of the Union, and in no other way.

The committee also recommended that an additional award be established. Council accepted the recommendation and established the Elliott Coues Award with the following guidelines:

THE ELLIOTT COUES AWARD

The Elliott Coues Award shall consist of a certificate or plaque, as the Council may designate, to be awarded when merited to a contribution that has had an important impact on the study of birds within the Western Hemisphere, but which has not received the Brewster Award. Meritorious contributions to ornithology not eligible for the Brewster Award by virtue of its geographic limitations may be eligible for the Coues Award, as may those works including important innovative ideas

that through brevity or publication outside the primarily ornithological literature may not have been selected for the Brewster Award. However, the Coues Award shall not necessarily be limited to such works.

Selection of recipients shall be the responsibility of the Brewster Award Committee, and its recommendations shall be submitted to the Council for its approval.

The award shall be announced by the President at the Annual Dinner of the American Ornithologists' Union.

Procedural and substantive changes regarding the award shall be made by the Council at its discretion.

Eugene Eisenmann
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 Thomas R. Howell
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