



The Auk 110(1):161-162, 1993

WILLIAM BREWSTER MEMORIAL AWARD, 1992:

NED K. JOHNSON



Ned Johnson's contributions to the ornithology of western North America are unmatched by any living ornithologist. His publications, starting at age 17 and now spanning five separate decades, are an impressive collection of papers that focus largely on the zoogeography, geographic variation, and systematics of birds of the western United States. Collectively, these papers form the backbone of modern ornithogeography of the region.

Dr. Johnson's major contributions over the last decade or so are as follows. His monograph on geographic variation in the *Empidonax difficilis* complex (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., Vol. 112, 1980) is perhaps the most detailed and comprehensive analysis of geographic variation in any group of birds, particularly in its integration of vocalizations with plumage, size, and shape; this monograph also contains Johnson's model for the evolution of sibling species, a model that can be applied to all organisms. Johnson then published follow-up papers that incorporated genetic data into his model for evolution of sibling species in *Empidonax* flycatchers (e.g. Syst. Zool. 33:205-216,

1984, with R. M. Zink; *Auk* 105:177-191, 1988, with J. A. Marten). Johnson's two papers on sapsuckers (*Auk* 100:871-884, 1983, with R. M. Zink; *Auk* 102:1-15, 1985, with C. B. Johnson) represent an exemplary integration of field data, plumage variation, and molecular genetics to provide a well-documented analysis of the mechanics of speciation. Portions of a similar data set on Sage Sparrows have just been published (*Condor* 94:1-19, 1992, with J. A. Marten). Three papers on biogeography of western montane areas reflect his continuing contributions to this area. Additionally, Johnson published papers on the biochemical systematics of vireos, cardueline finches, South American *Otus* (reflecting his long interest in owls), and Hawaiian honeycreepers. An additional paper (Wilson Bull. 96:543-560, 1984, with R. M. Zink, G. F. Barrowclough, and J. A. Marten) established standards and techniques for preparation of modern museum specimens of birds. Finally, two review papers on genetic variation in birds (*Curr. Ornithol.* 2:135-154, 1985, with G. F. Barrowclough and R. M. Zink; *Acta XIX Congr. Int. Ornithol.* 2:1630-1638,

1669–1673, with G. F. Barrowclough) represent incisive thinking and important perspectives molded by a decade of empirical studies in this field.

Although he received his Ph.D. more than 30 years ago, Dr. Johnson continues to add the latest in analytical techniques to his repertoire. At the time he finished his dissertation, statistical techniques were no more sophisticated than computation of *t*-tests and regression coefficients, sonographic analysis of vocalizations was in its infancy, spectrophotometry had not been applied to birds, and biochemical systematics was just a rumor. Dr. Johnson, however, added techniques to his repertoire as they became available and relevant to his research questions.

Because of his record of excellence in field research and his influential publications, the American Ornithologists' Union takes great pleasure in presenting the William Brewster Memorial Award for 1992 to Ned K. Johnson.

Award criteria.—The William Brewster Memorial Award is given to the author or coauthors (not previously so honored) of the most meritorious body of work on birds of the Western Hemisphere published during the 10 calendar years preceding a given AOU meeting. The award consists of a medal and honorarium provided through the endowed William Brewster Memorial Fund of the American Ornithologists' Union.

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ELLIOTT COUES AWARD, 1992:

FRANCES C. JAMES



The American Ornithologists' Union is pleased to present the 1992 Elliott Coues Award to Frances C. James. According to its guidelines, the award is given to one whose "contribution . . . has had an important impact on the study of birds within the Western Hemisphere." Fran James' contributions to our understanding of avian intraspecific morphological variation and of avian habitat relationships more than

meet this high standard. In fact, her work has influenced ornithology in both hemispheres and the impact of her ideas has not been confined to the study of birds.

In 1970 (*Ecology* 51:365–390) she described complex but congruent patterns of intraspecific variation in the sizes of birds, some of which were not closely related phylogenetically nor similar in trophic ecol-