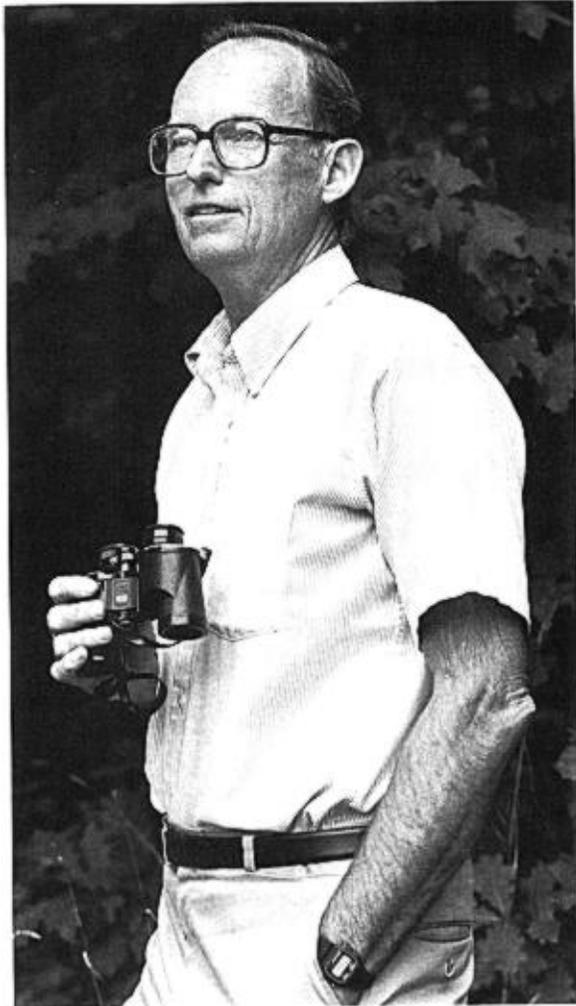




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WILLIAM BREWSTER MEMORIAL AWARD, 1993:

RICHARD T. HOLMES



The recipient of the William Brewster Memorial Award for 1993 is Richard T. Holmes. Dr. Holmes' large and important body of work over the last 10 years has greatly increased our understanding of forest bird communities. His research and that of his students have formed one of the most comprehensive

and productive studies of avian ecology in North America, indeed in the world, and have contributed much to our knowledge of animal ecology in general.

In his long-term research on the ecology of Neotropical migrants at Hubbard Brook, New Hampshire, Dr. Holmes' earlier focus was on the role of birds in

community energetics and nutrient cycling in northern hardwood forests. Within the 10-year period covered by the Brewster Award, he has concentrated on the roles of habitat, food availability, and interspecific interactions in structuring bird communities. He was among the first to demonstrate that species-specific aspects of vegetation morphology (e.g. leaf shape and petiole length) could markedly influence how birds forage in forests. Other studies have included the role of foraging opportunities, intersexual differences in foraging behavior, interspecific interactions, and the effects of age and dominance on habitat selection. A major contribution during this period summarized his long-term monitoring of the Hubbard Brook bird community. This work demonstrated that caterpillar abundance is a driving force in community dynamics of forest populations and that annual variation in these populations is marked. His observational work was much enhanced by experimental studies involving, for example, the effects of forest caterpillars on avian reproductive success.

Equally important is the work Dr. Holmes has done on the population dynamics of Neotropical migrants in both summer breeding areas and in the winter range, where he and his associates are studying wood-

warbler species in the Caribbean. This work is contributing to our understanding of the interactions and relative importance of population processes operating in both the breeding and the nonbreeding seasons. At a time of growing concern for the future of Neotropical migrants and of great interest in the factors affecting their abundance and distribution, Dr. Holmes' studies are establishing connections between basic research and environmental policy and thus are building a foundation for advancing conservation of these species.

For the thoroughness, comprehensiveness, and timeliness of his important work, the American Ornithologists' Union is pleased to present the William Brewster Memorial Award for 1993 to Richard T. Holmes.

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.