



*The Auk* 113(1):266-267, 1996

## WILLIAM BREWSTER MEMORIAL AWARD, 1995:

EUGENE S. MORTON



Through a sustained program of research on the Nearctic-Neotropical migratory bird system, Eugene Morton has profoundly influenced the growth of avian biology in the Western Hemisphere. Among the first to recognize the significance of low-latitude environments to migrants from the north, he underscored the crucial relevance of tropical habitats to the global conservation of birds. This and related themes have been articulated in several co-edited books and a steady stream of research papers. The latter publications (e.g. *Science* 171:920-921, 1971; *Am. Nat.* 107: 8-22, 1973; *Auk* 94:97-106, 1977; Pp. 233-259 in *Vertebrate ecology in the northern Neotropics* [J. Eisenberg, Ed.], 1979; Pp. 437-453 in *Migrant birds in the Neotropics: Ecology, behavior, distribution, and conservation* [A. Keast and E. S. Morton, Eds.], 1980; *Auk* 104:133-135, 1987, with J. Lynch, K. Young, and P. Mehlhop; *Am. Nat.* 135:319-333, 1990) have illuminated the complex interplay of diet, seasonal movements, sociality, territoriality, and habitat selection in dictating the numbers and distribution of migrant species in the tropics.

Dr. Morton has also offered a series of pathbreaking

papers in the field of avian communication. These include novel interpretations of the role of the acoustic environment in long-range signalling and the role of motivation of the signaler in short-range communication (e.g. *Am. Nat.* 108:17-34, 1975; *Am. Nat.* 111:855-869, 1977; Pp. 183-212 in *Acoustic communication in birds* (D. Kroodsma and E. H. Miller, Eds.), 1982; *Behaviour* 99:65-86, 1986; *Ethology* 72:177-184, 1986, with E. Shy). Morton's innovative "ranging hypothesis" has awakened new interest in selective forces controlling the complex evolution of bird song.

Finally, in research on the behavioral ecology of the Purple Martin, Dr. Morton and colleagues have illuminated the evolution of coloniality and mating systems (*J. Field Ornithol.* 54:36-41, 1983, with R. Patterson; *Behaviour* 101:211-224, 1987; *Auk* 107:275-283, 1990, with L. Forman and M. Braun).

Few other modern avian biologists have matched his uninterrupted production of influential, multifaceted research. In recognition of this stellar record of achievement, the American Ornithologists' Union takes pleasure in presenting Eugene S. Morton with the William Brewster Memorial Award for 1995.

*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, 1995:

IAN NEWTON



Ian Newton's exceptional record of research, summarized in over 150 papers and several books, places him in the front rank of the world's avian population ecologists. His major treatise, *Population Ecology of Raptors* (1979), is regarded as the most authoritative work on the subject. His book *The Sparrowhawk* (1986) has been praised as the most thorough and insightful long-term study ever conducted on any species of raptor. Adding to his list of major works is a widely influential edited volume, *Lifetime Reproduction in Birds*

(1989), and two co-edited ones—*Conservation Studies on Raptors* (1985) and *Birds of Prey* (1990).

The studies of Sparrowhawks resulted in far-reaching conclusions of relevance to demography and fitness. Regional differences in hawk density were explicable largely in terms of food supply. In turn, the abundance of small-bird prey was related to features such as soil fertility, which determine general biological productivity. Extensive marking of individuals enabled multiyear assessment of breeding perfor-