

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-

mance, allowing for the first time for any bird the determination of lifetime reproductive success. Individuals varied enormously in productivity; a mere 5% of individuals of one generation produced one-half the young in the next generation.

The above research, considered in concert with numerous shorter papers on the biology of various other species of raptors, pollution ecology, and bird conservation, constitute an extraordinary record of accomplishment. The American Ornithologists' Union appropriately honors Ian Newton with the Elliott Coues Award.

Award criteria.—The Elliott Coues Award is given for meritorious contributions having an important

influence on the study of birds in the Western Hemisphere, but which have not been recognized through a Brewster Award. Contributions to ornithology not eligible for recognition with a Brewster Award by virtue of its geographic limitations may be honored through a Coues Award, as may works including important innovative ideas that through brevity of publication outside the primary ornithological literature may not have been selected based on Brewster Award criteria. However, the Coues Award is not necessarily limited to such works. The work consists of a certificate and an honorarium provided through the endowed Ralph W. Schreiber Fund of the American Ornithologists' Union.