

Awards



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WILLIAM BREWSTER MEMORIAL AWARD, 2009

JOANNA BURGER



Joanna Burger at Salt Marsh Island, Barnegat Bay, New Jersey, in 2009. (Photograph by Michael Gochfeld.)

The 2009 William Brewster Memorial Award is presented to Joanna Burger, Distinguished Professor of Biology at Rutgers University (RU) with a dual appointment in the Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience and the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Natural Resources. She is also a professor in the New Jersey School of Public Health and a member of the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute (RU and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey–Robert Wood Johnson Medical School). She earned a B.S. in Biology at the University of New York at Albany, an M.S. in Zoology and Science Education at Cornell University, and a Ph.D. in Ecology and Animal Behavior at the University of Minnesota, followed by a postdoctoral position in Comparative Psychology at the Institute of Animal Behavior at

RU, where she remains today. Her research and many publications have changed how people see birds, the ocean, and our environment, and many of her almost 50 graduate students have, like her, contributed to our deeper appreciation of our environment.

Burger's primary research efforts have focused on the social behavior of seabirds, including their coloniality, foraging behavior, and contaminant loads. Along with her long-term research on colonial seabirds of eastern North America, she has worked in the Antarctic, South America, and Africa. She has conducted research on the behavioral ecology of gulls, terns, and skimmers and studied how behavioral adaptations allow them to maximize reproductive success. In this area, she has written hundreds of papers and several books dealing with seabirds, coloniality, social behavior, ecology,