William Brewster Memorial Award, 2003: Douglas W. Mock

Source: The Auk, 121(1) : 264-265

Published By: American Ornithological Society

URL: https://doi.org/10.1642/0004-8038(2004)121[0264:ECADEK]2.0.CO;2

Awards

The Auk 121(1):263–264, 2004

Elliott Coues Award, 2003:

Donald E. Kroodsma

Donald E. Kroodsma is the current reigning authority on the biology of avian vocal behavior, with special reference to its functions, ontogeny, and diversity. He has made major contributions to studies on the neuroethological basis of birdsong and its value as a model for the investigation of vocal learning, and has been a powerful influence in critically evaluating methodologies used in this field.

Among Kroodsma's contributions, many involving students and senior collaborators, are data leading to the discovery of the remarkable correlation between song repertoire size and the parts of the brain known to be involved in song control in different populations of the same species. Other findings in which he has played a key role include the existence in certain warbler species of more than one song type, some of which display learned dialects, and others of which do not; correlations between avifaunal complexity and the size of individual song repertoires; the existence of innate songs in certain primitive passerines; and the puzzling demonstration that song learning appears to take place in castrated male wrens, thus overturning dogma concerning the dependence of vocal learning on testosterone. All these involve issues of broad theoretical importance to the field.

Kroodsma has pioneered studies on the sensitive periods for learning and the fact that they are not fixed but labile, depending on experience and environmental circumstances. With M. Konishi he demonstrated, for the first time, that auditory feedback is not required for normal song development in a suboscine. More recently, he has galvanized the field

with compelling claims that some suboscines may engage in vocal learning, presenting a new challenge to neurobiologists.

In addition to the originality of his research, Kroodsma has played an important role in the field as an integrator and in his readiness to work with colleagues to resolve conflicts of interpretation in the field as a whole. In particular, he has fought a long campaign to improve the design of playback studies with birdsong. He has also co-edited, with E. H. Miller, a set of books (*Acoustic Communication in Birds*, Academic Press, 1982; *Ecology and Evolution of Acoustic Communication in Birds*, Cornell University Press, 1996) that have provided an integrative forum shaping the development of the entire field.

For his excellence and innovation in the study of avian vocal communication, his scientific rigor and care in evaluating and improving the study of birdsong, and his service to the ornithological community in general, the American Ornithologists' Union proudly honors Donald E. Kroodsma with the Elliott Coues Award for 2003.

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 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 award consists of a medal and an honorarium provided though the endowed Ralph W. Schreiber Fund of the American Ornithologists' Union.

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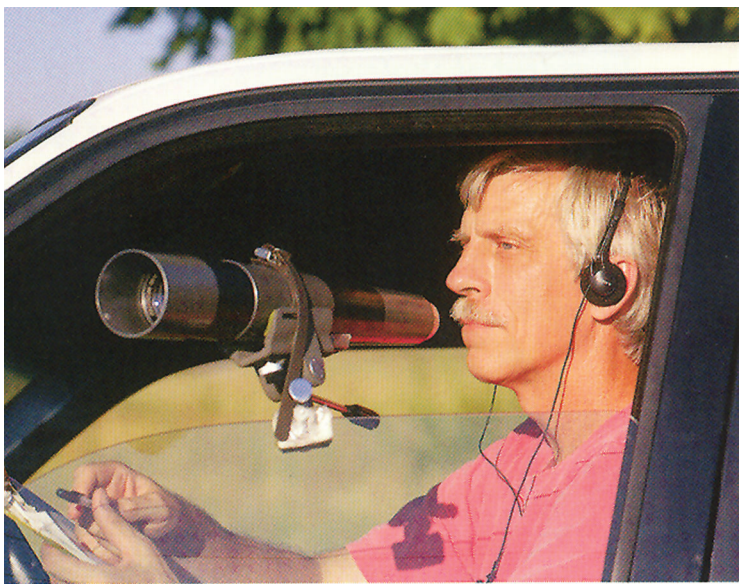
Douglas W. Mock



Douglas Mock has devoted his career to enriching our understanding of parental care and parental indifference through the study of aggressive interactions and parental intervention among young in brood-reducing species of birds. This interest started early in his career with comparative work on brood reduction and parent–offspring conflict in Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) and Great Egrets (*A. alba*). Besides being notable in many other respects, this early work dramatically illustrated considerable variability in both parent–offspring and sibling behavior, and laid to rest the question of whether birds were capable of siblicidal behavior.

Mock went on to investigate the extraordinary behaviors he so vividly documented with considerable scientific rigor, carefully constructing hypotheses

and testing predictions for the interspecific variation in behavior he observed. Such hypothetical–deductive thinking has characterized his work throughout his career, which has ranged from siblicide, parent–offspring conflict, sexual conflict in relation to parental care, and the evolution of coloniality, and which has contributed to many aspects of avian life-history theory and ecology.

In recent work he has extended his interests into the field of behavioral endocrinology, investigating the relationship between laying order, aggression, and yolk steroids. Other current work, done in collaboration with P. L. Schwagmeyer, examines the evolutionary stability of social monogamy in House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*).

Mock's wide-ranging work on social behavior among nestlings has led to numerous influential publications and was recently summarized, in conjunction with G. Parker, in *The Evolution of Sibling Rivalry* (Oxford University Press, 1997). This volume is particularly notable in the way that it reviews theory and field experiments designed to understand nestling social behavior at all levels of analysis.

For his insights into avian life histories, his outstanding contributions to our understanding of what goes on within avian families, his record of excellence in the integrative study of nestling birds, and his studies of avian social behavior, the American Ornithologists' Union takes great pleasure in presenting Douglas Mock with the 2003 William Brewster Memorial Award.

Award criteria.—The William Brewster Memorial Award consists of a medal and an honorarium provided through the endowed William Brewster Memorial Fund of the American Ornithologists' Union. It is given annually 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.

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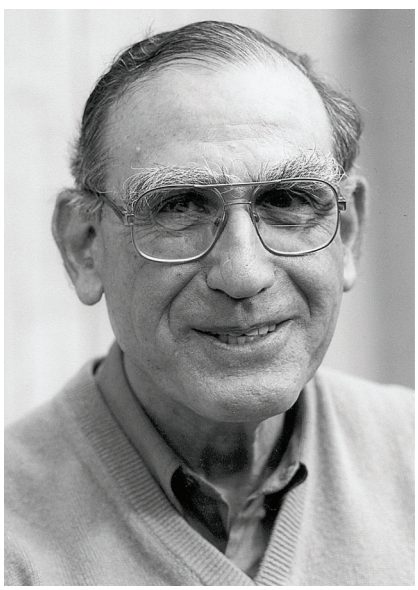
Marion Jenkinson AOU Service Award, 2003:

Peter Stettenheim



This year, with the completion of the *Birds of North America* project, it is particularly appropriate that the AOU recognize one of its most dedicated Fellows, Peter Stettenheim. In 1984, Peter was the founding editor of the series that became the *Birds of North America* (*BNA*), and in that capacity he outlined the entire project and designed the species accounts. When *BNA* moved to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, Peter continued as associate editor, putting his stamp of thoroughness and quality on every

account he handled. In many ways, his broad vision at the beginning of *BNA* was responsible for the quality and completeness of the project at the end, some 20 years later. Peter has also served the AOU and the ornithological community in many other ways. He has served on the AOU Council and on the Board of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, and as Book Review Editor of *The Wilson Bulletin*, Editor of *The Condor*, and Editor of *Recent Ornithological Literature*. Behind the scenes, Peter has also been a strong advocate for increasing communication and cooperation among professional ornithologists, amateurs, and scientists working in other fields. Finally, Peter has also been the unofficial photographer for the AOU and other ornithological societies. His photographs of ornithologists at work and play have provided the AOU archives with a vivid record of our recent history. For these and many unnamed and underappreciated contributions, the Executive Committee of the American Ornithologists' Union takes great pride in bestowing the Marion Jenkinson AOU Service Award for 2003 on Peter Stettenheim.

Award criteria.—The Marion Jenkinson AOU Service Award was created by the Council in 1996 in honor of Marion Jenkinson Mengel, who served the AOU as Treasurer and in other capacities for many years. It is awarded to an individual who has performed continued extensive service to the AOU, including holding elected offices but emphasizing volunteered contributions and committee participation. Recipients are selected by the AOU Executive Committee.