



## **Marion Jenkinson AOU Service Award, 2002: Peter E. Lowther**

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based, spatially explicit models were among the first applications of a cutting-edge population modeling approach to an endangered bird. That would not have been possible without 20 years of data and Walters' early recognition of the critical data to collect and the type of model to develop.

Walters' basic research has resulted in some very practical and important management recommendations that have been implemented throughout the species' range. Early on, he recognized that cavities are a critical resource for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. It requires several years for birds to excavate a cavity and suitable nest sites are often limiting. To address that important conservation issue, Walters and his colleagues devised artificial nest cavities that have been used widely to induce the formation of new groups. Those pioneering techniques have proven applicable to other cavity-nesting species. Walters has been critically involved in recovery efforts for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. He has been an instrumental member of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recovery team, sponsored his student, Sue Daniels, to serve as lead author of the latest recovery plan, and participated in the AOU Conservation Committee's and the National Audubon Society's work on the species. To no small extent, whatever success is achieved

in the conservation of this remarkable species will be due to Walters' insightful and wide-ranging work.

For his success in leading a unique, long-term investigation of the complexities of the demography and management of what is, due largely to his work, one of the best understood North American endangered species, the American Ornithologists' Union is pleased to recognize Dr. Jeffrey R. Walters with the Elliott Coues Award for 2002.

*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 that 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, because many 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 through the endowed Ralph W. Schreiber Fund of the American Ornithologists' Union.

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### MARION JENKINSON AOU SERVICE AWARD, 2002:

PETER E. LOWTHER



This year the American Ornithologists' Union takes pleasure in bestowing its service award to a talented and hard-working individual who has made crucial contributions in two distinct professional arenas over the past decade. While providing the database and programming expertise that allows the Field Museum of Natural History to be the largest bird collection that is fully digitized and online, Peter Lowther has served the AOU as its Assistant to the Secretary (Scientific Program Coordinator) for eight years and seven meetings. That is a monumental undertaking each year, including receipt and acknowledgment of abstracts, organizing them into meaningful paper sessions, and coordinating with the Local Committee to design and produce each meeting's scientific program. Peter has successfully piloted conversion of this process from the old "hard copy" days into the smoothly running electronic submission process by which virtually all of this year's 750 abstracts were received (>300 on the deadline day). Also, over the past 10 years, wearing his ornithologist hat, Peter Lowther has authored or coauthored no fewer than 31 accounts for the Birds of North America (BNA) project, far more than any

other contributor to this project. By the time the final volume of BNA is printed and mailed this winter, it will be no exaggeration to say that the timely completion of that historic project would have been impossible without the tireless effort and scholarship contributed to the project by Peter Lowther during every year since 1992. For his painstaking work that continues to advance the operation and scientific mission of the American Ornithologists' Union, the Executive Committee takes great pleasure in presenting the Marion Jenkinson AOU Service Award for 2002 to Peter E. Lowther.

*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.