Elliott Coues Award, 2006:

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evolution, differential migration of age and sex classes, and the role of behavioral dominance continue to stimulate thought and research in the field. He is regarded throughout the world as one of the leading students of bird migration. His work has been funded continuously at a high level for more than three decades.

During the past decade, Dr. Gauthreaux has published more than 30 papers that have moved the field of migration study in new directions. It is a remarkable accomplishment when a scientist devotes most of a long career to the study of one subject area and continues to provide new insights. That Gauthreaux has done so in such a conspicuous way is testimony to the quality of his intellect, the depth of his love for the subject, and his dedication to academic science. For his outstanding leadership and innovative contributions to the study of bird migration, the American Ornithologists' Union is pleased to present Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Jr., the William Brewster Memorial Award for 2006.

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 co-auathors (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 Auk 124(1):350–352, 2007

Elliott Coues Award, 2006:

Sievert A. Rohwer

Sievert Rohwer is one of the most productive, insightful, and influential researchers in ornithology. His work has been a model blend of field, museum, and laboratory studies integrated in a theoretical context. Dr. Rohwer's research contributions fall into four major areas. Perhaps the most widely recognized of these, particularly beyond ornithology, is the role he has played in the analysis of variation in avian plumages, including status signaling, delayed plumage maturation, and color variation in raptors. His work on the behavioral correlates of variation in amount of black on the head and breast of Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) launched the research area usually referred to as "status signaling." His paper on the social significance of avian winter plumage variability (Rohwer 1975), and subsequent experimental studies, catalyzed an avalanche of critical research on the significance of individual variation in plumage as well as parallel work in other animals. Together with Eivin Røskaft, Rohwer undertook the logistically challenging task of dyeing male Yellow-headed Blackbirds (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) black. The surprising consequence, that blackened males often acquired better territories after their experimental treatment, spawned his "arbitrary identity badge" hypothesis, which provides a mechanism by which novel color patches may serve aggressive competition and account for the rapid color divergence in allopatry.

Dr. Rohwer's interest in bird plumage is also reflected in his longtime interest in molt and its integration into the annual cycle (starting with his M.S. thesis at the University of Kansas). He has maintained one of the few active, question-driven research programs on avian molt. He is the unquestioned leader in the field of ecology and evolution of molt cycles, and any paper in the field cites many of his papers, or those of his students. This interest in plumage cycles inspired his often-cited papers on delayed plumage maturation. Much of Rohwer's recent field work has targeted the documentation of what is likely a novel strategy in passerine birds, namely postbreeding migration to a resource-rich area for molting before continuing on to the wintering range.

In the late 1980s, the adoption of unrelated young by replacement mates in birds seemed especially puzzling in the face of major papers appearing on sexually selected infanticide in mammals. Rohwer solved this puzzle by showing that tolerance, and even care, of unrelated

Sievert A. Rohwer, scoring molt on albatross wings. (Photograph by Vanya Rohwer.)

young offered future mating opportunities when dispersal was constrained (e.g., Rohwer 1986, Rohwer et al. 1999). This interest led to an elegant field experiment showing that male Yellow-headed Blackbirds recognize young they did not sire but tolerate them for their courtship value, just as egg-guarding male fishes do. As an aside, probably few ornithologists are aware of his work on human behavioral ecology (e.g., Hayward and Rohwer 2004).

Dr. Rohwer has also made outstanding contributions to the study of speciation and hybridization, starting with his heavily cited dissertation studies of meadowlarks (*Sturnella* spp.) and more recently with Townsend's Warblers (*Dendroica townsendi*) and Hermit Warblers (*D. occidentalis*). In collaboration with R. M. Zink and others, he has extended this interest into several trans-Beringean and Old World groups (e.g., Zink et al. 1995), concentrating on phylogeographic patterns and species limits. This collaboration has provided the first glimpses of the evolutionary genetic history of the birds of this region. He deserves much praise for fostering multiple Russian–American collaborations and organizing a massive collecting program for birds of the former Soviet Union (Rohwer et al. 2001).

Dr. Rohwer has excelled at using museum specimens to ask innovative and novel questions. He has spearheaded a major effort at the Burke Museum, and it has blossomed into a powerhouse in the world of specimen-based research. The bird collection at the Burke is probably the most rapidly growing in the world, and the wealth of data-rich traditional specimens, combined with the world's largest spread-wing collection and one of the largest tissue (DNA) collections, makes it one of the planet's most valuable bird collections. This all has occurred because of his leadership and vision.

For his spectacular combination of intellectual energy and empirical field- and specimen-based inquiry, the American Ornithologists' Union is pleased to award Sievert A. Rohwer the Elliott Coues Award for 2006.

Award criteria.—The Elliott Coues Award recognizes extraordinary contributions to ornithological research. There should be no limitation with respect to geographic area, subdiscipline(s) of ornithology, nor the time course over which the work was done. 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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The Auk 124(1):352–353, 2007

Ned K. Johnson Young Investigator Award, 2006:

D. Ryan Norris

The Ned K. Johnson Young Investigator Award recognizes outstanding and promising ornithological research contributions made by persons early in their career with the hope and expectation that such individuals will provide future leadership in ornithology within and beyond North America. The AOU is proud and confident of its selection of Dr. D. Ryan Norris as the second recipient of the Ned K. Johnson Young Investigator Award.

Dr. Norris's research has focused on the population dynamics and behavioral ecology of migratory animals. His integration of diverse techniques and approaches (field observations, biogeochemistry, radiotracking, rigorous statistical testing, and modeling) to address multiscale problems while emphasizing the use of novel methods has provided important insights into complex problems in a variety of migratory animals, ranging from wolves to birds.

The research career of Dr. Norris, as well as his interest in migratory animals, began when he was an undergraduate at the University of Waterloo, where he studied the spatial dynamics of a migratory gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) population. This work culminated in two excellent publications. Norris completed an M.S. degree at York University with Professor Bridget Stutchbury. He used radiotracking to examine the effect of fragmentation on the movement patterns and extrapair mating behavior of Hooded Warblers (*Wilsonia citrina*), a small Neotropic–Nearctic songbird. His time in Stutchbury's laboratory culminated in six publications, and he continues his interest in the effects of habitat fragmentation on the behavior and mating systems of birds and other taxa.

D. Ryan Norris, September 2005. (Photograph by Amy Newman.)