



BREWSTER AWARD, 1980

FRANK A. PITELKA

American ornithologists have made significant contributions in the field of ecology and evolution. The total variation, depth, and excitement of these areas are reflected in only a few, very special individuals. We have among us a student of birds whose interests range from the tropics to the Arctic and include work on territoriality, demography, social organization, and community patterns. This work reflects the broadest spectrum of our science. We honor this man with the 1980 Brewster Award: Dr. Frank A. Pitelka.

Pitelka's contributions have not been limited to a single problem or species group. He has worked on processes as distinct as speciation and predation, on organisms as diverse as lemmings and isopods. But it is in one field where we have benefited most from his persistence and dedication—in the ecology of the arctic biome.

Beginning with analyses of the lemming cycle and its importance to avian predators, then expanding to the ecology and behavior of shorebirds and other tundra birds, Pitelka and his students have accumulated a unique body of information about this remote biota. His paper on territoriality in Pectoral Sandpipers in northern Alaska stands today as a seminal analysis of social systems, one that still remains current in its content and timely in its theory. The synthetic analysis of sandpiper social organization published in 1974 is a model for comparative studies. Pitelka's work on shorebirds have carried him beyond the arctic to include the recently edited volume on Shorebirds in Marine Environments.

Pitelka has provided a model to several generations of students and therefore has had a wide influence on American ornithology. Names such as Orians, Thompson, Holmes, Maher, Root, MacLean, and Verbeek all come to mind. He is characteristically forthright and clear in his writing. He speaks boldly

for science and champions the consequences of science. He is widely recognized as a leader. Pitelka grasps instinctively the important aspects of a problem and acts strongly on his convictions. He has spoken for and represented ornithology in many important professional and governmental organizations. In addition, he has a long and distinguished record as an editor and reviewer.

It is with deep pride that the A.O.U. honors Frank A. Pitelka with the 1980 Brewster Award.



COUES AWARD, 1980

NICHOLAS E. COLLIAS AND ELSIE C. COLLIAS

The interpretation and understanding of bird behavior requires the integration of many different disciplines, including classical natural history, ecology, and experimental ethology. The distinguished long-term research of Nicholas and Elsie Collias provides an outstanding example of this integrative approach, which has brought new insights and opened new avenues of investigation to everyone with an interest in animal behavior. Their contributions to ethology include early and pioneering research on the effects of hormones on behavior, quantitative analysis of dominance hierarchies, and the first use of sound spectrograms in the study of avian vocalizations. They have continued these studies in depth and with increasingly sophisticated techniques and have made major contributions to the understanding of the behavior of a variety of species, including especially the wild jungle fowl of Asia and the weaverbirds of Africa. For many years they and their students have carried out field and aviary studies of the social behavior of weaverbirds, particularly the unique and complex nest-building of this remarkable group. They have produced an abundance of publications covering a wide spectrum, from detailed experimental data analysis to broad and comprehensive reviews of various aspects of animal behavior. Their research on birds throughout the world represents an outstanding contribution to the entire field of ethology, and the A.O.U. takes pleasure in presenting the Elliott Coues Award for 1980 to Nicholas and Elsie Collias.