

M. El Halawani), and reproductive success (e.g. Lifetime reproductive success in the Spotted Sandpiper [*Actitis macularia*]: Sex differences and variance components. *Behav. Ecol. Sociobiol.* 28:425-432, 1991, with M. Colwell and J. M. Reed).

His outstanding work on mating systems theory is highlighted by his seminal paper with Stephen Emlen in 1977, which initiated the modern field of mating-systems research, and his 1982 review of avian mating systems in *Avian Biology*, Volume VI. His

accomplishments include heading the team that defined international standards on the use of wild birds in research. This work forms the foundation for ethics in wild-bird research.

Because of his record of excellence in field research and his influential publications, the American Ornithologists' Union takes great pleasure in presenting the William Brewster Memorial Award for 1991 to Lew Oring.

---

*The Auk* 109(1):206-207, 1992

### ELLIOTT COUES AWARD, 1991:

JOHN A. WIENS



Throughout his career, John Wiens has maintained an exemplary level of productivity and critical thinking. His research on avian ecology and community structure, especially in the grassland and shrubsteppe communities of western North America, has produced fundamental challenges to equilibrium-based views of communities and has led to an increased recognition of the importance of scale in avian ecology. His recent ecomorphological and life-history comparisons of the shrub-desert avifaunas of Australia

and North America provide a new dimension to these studies. This work culminated in a two-volume book, *The Ecology of Bird Communities*, published by Cambridge University Press in 1989. Collectively, his work has resulted in major changes in the way we perceive avian communities.

His research interests are quite varied. In addition to his work on bird communities in grassland and shrubsteppe, he has conducted studies on landscape-mosaic approaches to biological conservation, the dy-

namics of marine-bird communities and their sensitivity to oil spills, the effects of environmental patchiness on populations and ecosystems, plant-herbivore-predator linkages in deserts, the ontogeny and adaptiveness of habitat responses in vertebrates, and simulation modelling of consumer energetics and behavior. He was the Editor of the *Auk* from 1976 to 1984. He has published over 100 articles in peer-reviewed journals, and authored or coauthored four

books. Throughout this work, he has maintained a delicate balance between concepts and the careful empirical fieldwork on which such theorizing must be based.

To honor John Wiens' focussed research program on avian community structure and process during the last quarter of a century, the American Ornithologists' Union takes pride in presenting him the Elliott Coues Award for 1991.