



## **Ralph W. Schreiber Conservation Award, 2012**

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the fitness of nest mates is irrelevant to cowbird nestlings. He had to overcome several technical challenges to collect data on this topic but developed and used nest cameras with great success. His theoretical and methodological approaches are highly original, and the resulting publications have been important contributions to ornithology and behavioral ecology.

Jim's publications in behavioral ecology have covered other important conceptual issues, such as parental alarm calls, sperm storage, and competition. In addition to his theoretically oriented work in behavioral ecology, Jim has also published extensively on a number of management and applied topics involving quantitative population analyses, habitat preferences, and landscape-level processes. In his 2010 paper in *The Auk*, Jim compiled historical and modern data sets on nest parasitism to show long-term declines in rates of cowbird parasitism on grassland birds, which appear to be linked to rangeland management practices in eastern Kansas. Jim has also published on the population dynamics of a declining grassland bird species, the Dickcissel, to assess which factor(s) limit local populations and to determine the viability of alternative methods for assessing reproductive success.

To date, Jim has published 25 peer-reviewed papers, most of which have appeared in top-tier internationally significant journals such as *Animal Behaviour*, *The Auk*, *Behavioral Ecology*, *Evolution*, and *Journal of Avian Biology*. In recognition of his contributions to ornithology, Jim was named an Elective Member of the AOU in 2007 while still a graduate student, a rare honor.

Jim has been an organizer of four workshops and symposia, two at AOU meetings and two at other meetings. In his short career, Jim has served on six different AOU committees: local planning

committee for the 123rd annual meeting of the AOU (2003–2005); Professional Awards Task Force (2003–2004); Publications Committee (2004–present); Publications Task Force (2008–2009); Early Professionals Committee (2008–2009); Student Affairs Committee (2004–2007; chair, 2005–2007). Jim also served in 2005–2006 as co-chair of the Student Affairs Committee for the Fourth North American Ornithological Conference.

During his field work at the Konza Prairie Biological Station, Jim was a key mentor for several undergraduate students in the summer National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Site Program. He assisted students with field instruction on how to find and monitor nests and provided oversight and encouragement for student projects. During his time at UC Santa Barbara, he also worked with young precollege students from underrepresented groups in three different outreach programs.

*Award criteria.*—The Ned K. Johnson Young Investigator Award recognizes outstanding and promising work by a researcher early in his or her career in any field of ornithology. Candidates should excel in research and show distinct promise for leadership in ornithology within and beyond North America. Each candidate is required to have received a doctorate degree within 5 years of being nominated and must be a member of the AOU at the time of nomination. Candidates cannot have received the award previously. The award consists of a framed certificate and an honorarium provided through a gift to the endowment of the AOU honoring Ned K. Johnson, a lifelong supporter and former president (1996–1998) of the AOU. This award, presented for the first time in 2005, is funded by the Ned K. Johnson Fund of the AOU.

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## RALPH W. SCHREIBER CONSERVATION AWARD, 2012

PAUL A. JOHNSGARD

The 2012 Ralph W. Schreiber Conservation Award is presented to Paul A. Johnsgard for his outstanding contributions to the conservation of the Great Plains of North America. Few living ornithologists have written as widely about birds, have been more instrumental in promoting awareness of birds generally and the Great Plains avifauna specifically, or have influenced the public more than Paul A. Johnsgard.

The Great Plains of North America is one of the most imperiled landscapes in the world. The birds that depend on these fragile habitats are being lost. Without the support of the public, policy-makers, local governments, and others, no conservation program can hope to be successful. This support can be garnered only through education, because people will conserve only what they understand and appreciate. Through his lifetime of writing, photography, drawing, lecturing, teaching, research, and television productions, Paul A. Johnsgard has

tirelessly presented a message of how important it is to understand, appreciate, and conserve the birds of the Great Plains and their habitats. Hardly any ornithologist alive today has reached as many readers with the important message that nature is exciting and that our rich natural heritage must be preserved for future generations.

Following an M.S. at Washington State University, Paul completed Ph.D. training at Cornell University with Charles Sibley (having a major role in the development of Sibley's pioneering work on the use of egg-white proteins for avian taxonomy), and later did a postdoctoral fellowship at the Wildfowl Trust in the United Kingdom. Paul's initial scientific interests were in the evolutionary relationships among waterfowl species, with a later focus on the ethology of pair formation behavior, especially in Mallards and Black Ducks. He also did work on eiders and various little-known Australian and South American ducks.



Paul A. Johnsgard, in Denali National Park, Alaska, 2010.  
(Photograph by Scott K. Johnsgard.)

Paul has been an eloquent spokesman for appreciation and preservation of the Great Plains throughout his career. Following his appointment as a faculty member at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, the magnificent prairies and wetlands of the Great Plains kindled Paul's interest in prairie grouse, Sandhill Cranes, and Snow Geese. Paul authored three books, *Song of the North Wind* (1974), *Those of the Gray Wind* (1981), and *Crane Music* (1991), detailing the fascinating natural history of these species and conveying to non-scientists the majestic spectacle of their migration across the Great Plains. These books served to market the great spring migration along the Platte River and Rainwater Basins, promoting the conservation of these critically important staging areas.

Paul's books, *The Platte: Channels in Time* (1984), *Prairie Children, Mountain Dreams* (1985), *This Fragile Land: A Natural History of the Nebraska Sandhills* (1995), *Earth, Water, and Sky: A Naturalist's Stories and Sketches* (1999), *The Nature of Nebraska* (2001), *Great Wildlife of the Great Plains* (2003), *Lewis and Clark on the Great Plains* (2003), *Faces of the*

*Great Plains* (2003), *Prairie Dog Empire: A Saga of the Short-grass Prairie* (2004), *The Niobrara: A River Running through Time* (2007), and *Wind through the Buffalo Grass* (2008), have served to enlighten the public about the grandeur of the prairie landscape and the intimate relationship of people with the prairie. *Birds of the Great Plains* (1979), *Prairie Birds: Fragile Splendor in the Great Plains* (2001), and *Grassland Grouse and Their Conservation* (2002) have raised awareness of these imperiled birds and the often forgotten landscape in which they live.

In addition to books written for the general public, Paul has written many frequently cited monographs, including *Handbook of Waterfowl Behavior* (1965), *Animal Behavior* (1967), *Waterfowl: Their Biology and Natural History* (1968), *Waterfowl of North America* (1975), *The Bird Decoy* (1976), *Ducks, Geese, and Swans of the World* (1978), *A Guide to North American Waterfowl* (1979), *Waterfowl of North America* (1987), *Ducks in the Wild* (1993), *Ruddy Ducks and Other Stiff-tails* (1996), *Grouse and Quails of North America* (1973), *The*

*Plovers, Sandpipers, and Snipes of the World* (1981), *The Grouse of the World* (1983), *The Cranes of the World* (1983), *The Quails, Partridges, and Francolins of the World* (1988), *The Hummingbirds of North America* (1983, 1997), *The Pheasants of the World* (1986, 1999), *Diving Birds of North America* (1987), *North American Owls* (1988, 2002), *Hawks, Eagles, and Falcons of North America* (1990), *Bustards, Hemipodes, and Sandgrouse: Birds of Dry Places* (1991), *Cormorants, Darters, and Pelicans of the World* (1993), *Arena Birds* (1994), *The Avian Brood Parasites* (1997), and *Trogons and Quetzals of the World* (2002). Anyone undertaking studies of birds in the second half of the 20th century prior to the appearance of the *Birds of North America* series would have consulted Paul's books as the definitive starting point.

Paul A. Johnsgard embodies the concept of a distinguished senior scientist who has made important ornithological contributions to his discipline and reached out to wide audiences with the opportunity to learn about the natural world and to argue for its

importance and preservation. Few ornithologists have influenced their colleagues and the general public to the extent that Paul A. Johnsgard has. The AOU is honored to award Paul A. Johnsgard the Ralph W. Schreiber Conservation Award for 2012.

*Award criteria.*—The Ralph W. Schreiber Conservation Award recognizes extraordinary scientific contributions to the conservation, restoration, or preservation of birds and/or their habitats by an individual or small team (usually fewer than 10 people). Contributions from throughout the world and over any time course are eligible. Appropriate activities include (a) applied research, restoration, and educational actions that conserve birds or preserve significant bird habitats; (b) scientific examination of the principles of avian conservation and application of new insights into species restoration; and (c) scientific evaluation, guidance, creation, and oversight of avian recovery programs or habitat reserve–restoration programs. The award consists of a framed certificate and an honorarium.

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## MARION A. JENKINSON AOU SERVICE AWARD, 2012

ALAN H. BRUSH

The Marion Jenkinson Service Award for 2012 has been presented to Alan H. Brush. He has been a member for more than 50 years and has been involved with the AOU since the first Marcia Brady Tucker Travel Award that facilitated his attendance at the annual meeting in Gainesville, Florida. Alan believes that the returns on his investment in the AOU have greatly exceeded any costs in time and energy. He reminds us that we were all beginners once and that ornithology must be approached with a beginner's mind. That was certainly the case for Alan. Beginners ask beginners' questions. Questions are directed toward the experts in the professional society, and they, in turn, provide direction, encouragement, and advice. What better way, then, to give back to that community than to participate?

Early on, in addition to papers, posters, and conferences, Alan served on the AOU Awards Committee (the only two then were Brewster and Coues) and the Publications Committee. He was elected to the Council in the late 1970s and was selected as editor, along with George Clark, Jr., to develop and publish *Perspectives in Ornithology: Essays Presented for the Centennial of the American Ornithologists' Union*. Copies were presented to all in attendance.

In the early 1980s, Alan was appointed editor of *The Auk* and was responsible for the publication of volumes 102–108. In

those days, the editor also served as an unelected member of the Council. One reason for this arrangement was that the budget for the publication was the AOU's single largest expense. Alan managed to increase the total page count and the number of manuscripts accepted while minimizing office expenses. All this in the time before e-mail, pdf's, digital anything, with no Board of Associate Editors, with a single assistant and Allan Press, which provided everything from keyboarding, printing (from real type), mailing, distribution, and storage. As a Council member, he suggested that the AOU create a Meritorious Service Award to accompany the research awards and name it in honor of Marion Jenkinson, a long-term AOU treasurer and activist.

In 2004, Alan was elected vice president. Subsequently, when convinced he should assume the chair of the Memorials Committee, he simultaneously became associate editor for Memorials. This was an unprecedented combination and quite productive. He stepped down from these posts in 2012. In addition, Alan served for 40 years as an active member of the Chapman Committee of the American Museum of Natural History. Professional associations, in his view, are key in the dynamics and progress of science. Besides the contacts for myriad research possibilities, the AOU provides social connections, mentoring, and opens doors into the larger professional community. Giving back has certainly been its own reward.