

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARD

ENRIQUE BUCHER



The award of Honorary Member of the Ecological Society of America has two important aspects. It is obviously, first, a recognition of an individual for his accomplishments. However, it also affords recognition of the nationality, and culture—the system that produced that individual. The 1993 recipient of this award, Enrique Bucher, is a child of the Argentine pampas. He was born in the province of Santa Fe, Argentina. He was educated at the University of Córdoba in Argentine, earning both his Licenciado and his Doctor in Biology at that institution. Enrique is *criollo*; that is, he was born in Argentina of European (Swiss/Italian) origin. Although his international activities and exposure to other educational and research influences came early in his career, he is also *criollo* in that his formal education through the doctoral degree are Argentine.

He is presently Director of the Center for Applied Zoology and Professor of Animal Ecology at the University of Córdoba in Argentina. He has also occupied a number of important scientific posts and consultancies, both in his own country and in international environmen-

tal organizations. He has been instrumental in attracting an array of international resources to Argentina to augment educational and research efforts for the regional problems of South America. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the prestigious PEW Scholarship on Conservation and the Environment in 1992.

In making this award, there are several aspects of his research worth mentioning. His investigations into some of the applied ecological problems in South American ornithology have been prolific. The research has included birds as pest species and the conservation of rare and endangered species, especially parrots. He has addressed critical ecological factors contributing to the spread of chagas disease.

Although he occupies an academic position in the national Argentine academic system, the thrusts of his research activities are strongly applied. He is living proof that basic ecological science and application are not inimical. It is his personal ethic that ecological science should be good for something—it should address some problem of human dimensions. This is best demonstrated in his current major research thrust on the implementation of ecologically sustainable practices in the Gran Chaco region of Argentina, Bolivia, and Paraguay. In this undertaking he has incorporated basic ecology, human health, sociology/anthropology, and resource economics as well as political science into a truly synthetic venture addressing problems of sustainability in an extensive geographical region.

Written by: Terence P. Boyle

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