

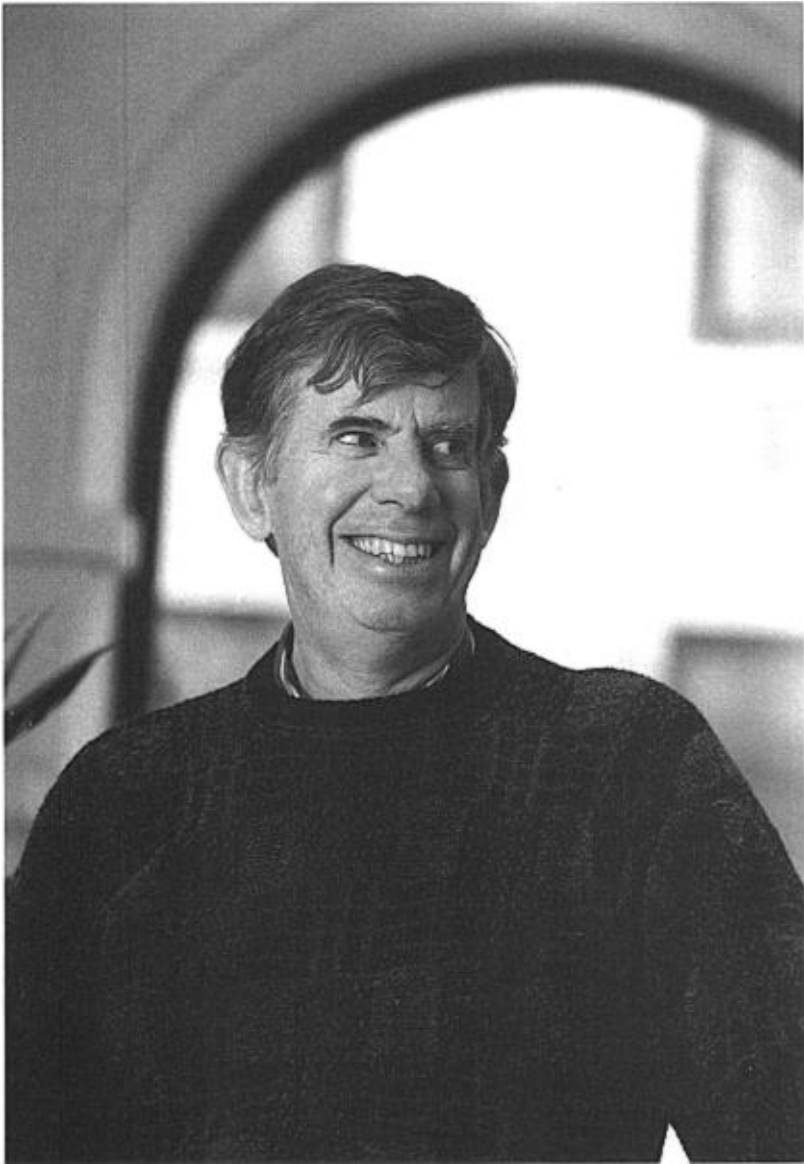
Awards



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WILLIAM BREWSTER MEMORIAL AWARD, 1998:

FRANK B. GILL



The Brewster Award for 1998 recognizes Frank B. Gill for his influential and inspiring research on foraging economics and speciation, for an outstanding textbook that has introduced countless others to the beauty and mystery of birds, and for his masterful guidance of the Birds of North America project.

Gill's contributions to research have been superb. His early research on foraging economics set new standards by which costs and benefits of territorial defense and other behavior would be measured. His work in systematics and speciation has been equally influential, from describing complex patterns of local geographic variation in an island white-eye population to more recent efforts to understand patterns of speciation in North American warblers, chickadees, and titmice.

In his textbook *Ornithology* (1990, 1995), Gill displays an unrivaled broad grasp and balanced judgment on key issues in ornithology. Beginning with a short history of ornithology and concluding with "personal conservation initiatives," this text exudes a passion for appreciating, understanding, and conserving birds. Gill's enthusiasm for birds is contagious, as students young and old are introduced to the scientific study of birds.

Gill has been instrumental in the success of the Birds of North America project. Convinced that the AOU (i.e. the scientific community) should undertake this project, Gill took the initiative to find the startup funds. As Executive Director since 1990, Gill has guided this project through the half-way point. A wealth of invaluable information, the species accounts enable informed conservation management of North American birds and help define directions for future research.

For his research and for his immense service to birds and to the ornithological community, the American Ornithologists' Union proudly presents the William Brewster Memorial Award for 1998 to Frank B. Gill.

Award criteria.—The William Brewster Memorial Award is given to the author or coauthors (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 award consists of a medal and honorarium provided through the endowed William Brewster Memorial Fund of the American Ornithologists' Union.