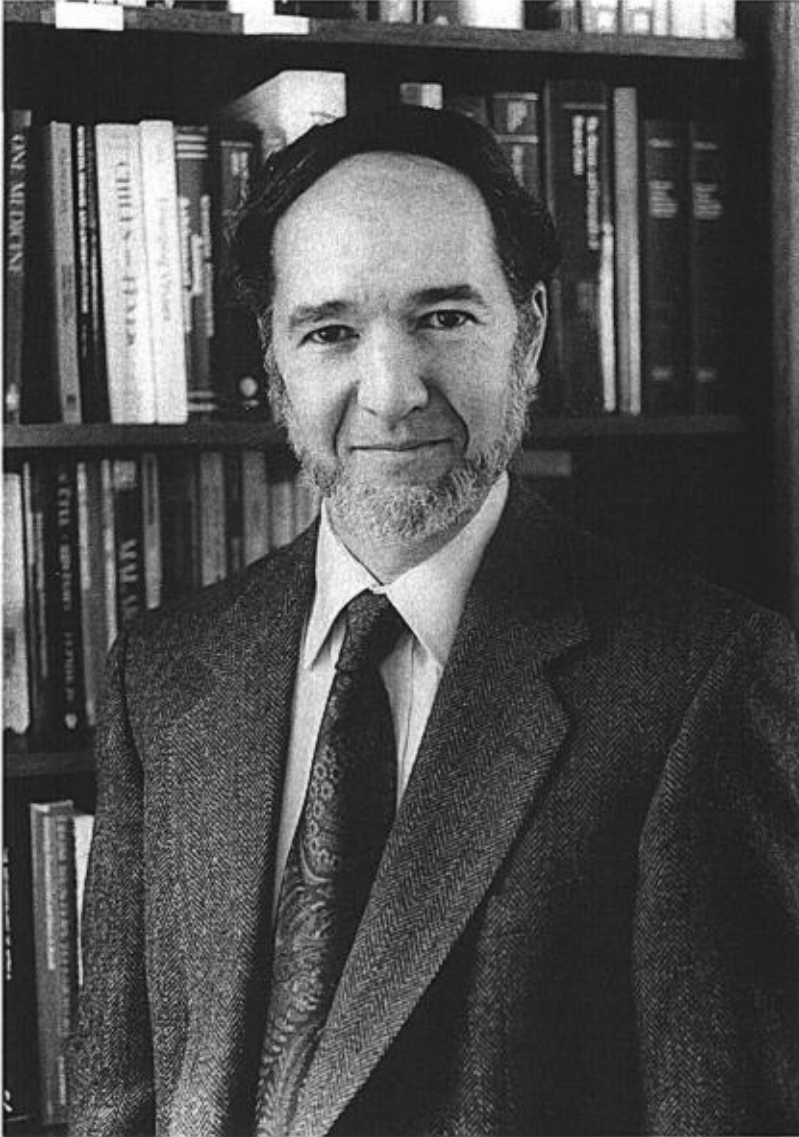


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ELLIOTT COUES AWARD, 1998:

JARED M. DIAMOND



The breadth of Jared Diamond's influence on 20th century ornithology has been immense and is highly deserving of the Elliott Coues Award. Diamond's research in physiology has been broadly comparative, often contributing significantly to our understand-

ing of avian life-history strategies. His work on intestinal transport of nutrients across membranes, a process that can limit aerobic performance capacity, has broad implications for understanding foraging patterns in hummingbirds and evolutionary patterns

of parental investment by birds and other vertebrates. Diamond is clearly among the 20th century's preeminent physiologists.

Diamond is more widely recognized for his influence on ecology and evolutionary biology, based on a series of expeditions to study the birds of New Guinea and other tropical Southwest Pacific Islands. His studies there have focused on the ecological assembly of species communities, factors controlling immigration and extinction and therefore species diversity, and mechanisms of allopatric speciation in seemingly uninterrupted expanses of tropical habitats. He has tested and refined theories of island biogeography, such as species relationships, turnover, and extinctions, and how to quantify those processes. A staunch believer in the importance of interspecific competition for organizing avian communities, Diamond has fueled research on processes that have led to patterns (or lack thereof) in ecological communities.

Equally important is the role that Diamond has played in applying these ecological theories to conservation and to reserve design. He has designed comprehensive plans for national parks for the governments of Indonesian New Guinea, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands, and has thus played a key role in both understanding and preserving these unique avifaunas.

Overlying these important contributions to science is Diamond's unmatched effort to help the general public understand important scientific issues. An ex-

cellent naturalist himself, Diamond has written bi-monthly articles for *Nature*, *Natural History*, and *Discover*; in so doing, he has made better naturalists of millions of others, shaping how they view and value their natural world. His three books for the general public—*The Third Chimpanzee*, *Why is Sex Fun?*, and *Guns, Germs, and Steel*—have reached audiences in many languages around the world.

For his contributions to avian physiology, ecology, and life histories; for his efforts at conserving the unique avifaunas of the Southwest Pacific; and for serving as an outstanding ambassador for birds in his popular science writing, the American Ornithologists' Union proudly awards the Elliott Coues Award to Jared M. Diamond.

Award criteria.—The Elliott Coues Award is given for meritorious contributions having an important influence on the study of birds in the Western Hemisphere, but which have not been recognized through a Brewster Award. Contributions to ornithology not eligible for recognition with a Brewster Award by virtue of its geographic limitations may be honored through a Coues Award, as may works including important innovative ideas that through brevity of publication outside the primary ornithological literature may not have been selected based on Brewster Award criteria. However, the Coues Award is not necessarily limited to such works. The award consists of a certificate and an honorarium provided through the endowed Ralph W. Schreiber Fund of the American Ornithologists' Union.