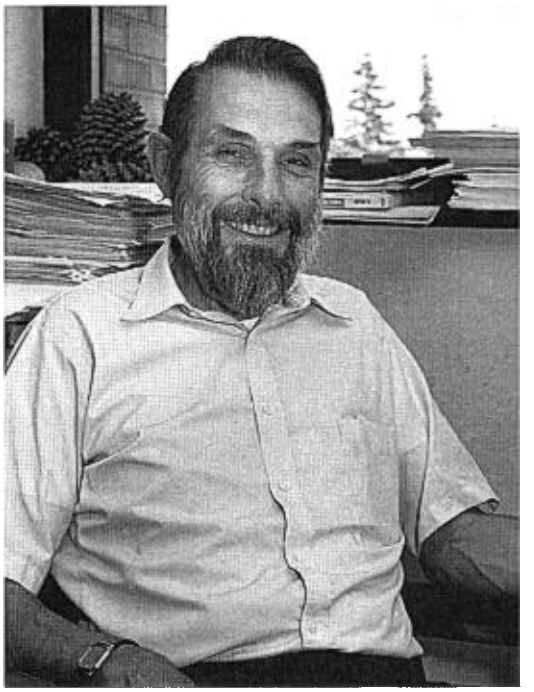
*The Condor* 101:934


# AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MILLER RESEARCH AWARD

The Cooper Ornithological Society takes great pleasure in naming Gordon H. Orians recipient of the Loye and Alden Miller Research Award for 1999. This award is presented for lifetime achievement in ornithological research. In 1960, Gordon completed his Ph.D. at the University of California-Berkeley, under the direction of Frank Pitelka. His doctoral dissertation on social systems of marsh-nesting blackbirds was instrumental in establishing the emerging discipline of behavioral ecology, for which Gordon was one of the strongest and most effective advocates and leading researchers. After joining the faculty of the Zoology Department at the University of Washington in 1960, Gordon continued his work in behavioral ecology and became an outstanding mentor of young scientists, producing some of America's most gifted and influential students. He also promoted tropical ecology through his involvement with the Organization for Tropical Studies, serving as president of OTS from 1988 to 1994. From the beginning of his career, Gordon has taken an active interest in environmental problems, which led to his directing the Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Washington from 1976 to 1986. As a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences since 1989, Gordon has served his profession as an expert panelist in a number of areas of interest vital to society, including the preservation of biodiversity. Many students will know Gordon as the co-author of a best-selling introductory biology text. His scientific books include monographs on blackbirds, published in 1980 and, with Les Beletsky, in 1996, and a recent edited volume on biodiversity in tropical forests.

For more than four decades, Gordon has been leaving his indelible mark on much of ornithology. All contemporary work on territoriality, habitat selection, mating systems, and population studies in behavioral ecology owes a debt to his pioneering research. But his influence extends far beyond the pages of printed journals. He has inspired and trained generations of undergraduate and graduate students, promoted his profession in many ways, emphasized our obligations to serve society through the application of scientific knowledge to the problems of humankind, and has been a role model for countless young academics. For those of us who have known Gordon personally, he has been a great friend and wonderful company. In view of his lifetime of achievements and contributions to our profession, the Cooper Ornithological Society is pleased to present the 1999 Miller Research Award to Gordon H. Orians.



Gordon H. Orians, the 1999 recipient of the Miller Research Award (photo courtesy of Mary Levin).

## THE PAINTON AWARD

The Harry R. Painton Award is conferred for the most significant and original ornithological research reported in *The Condor* during the preceding four years. The Painton Award for 1999 was presented to Douglas A. Bell for his paper entitled "Genetic Differentiation, Geographic Variation and Hybridization in Gulls of the *Larus glaucescens-occidentalis* Complex," published in *Condor* 98:527–546 (1996). This paper is an unusually complete survey of geographical variation within and between two *Larus* species, using a variety of techniques including morphometric, colorimetric, and allozymic variation. Particular care was given to the analysis and presentation of data. The use of *a posteriori* classification of each specimen to morphotype and the use of multiple data sets from 33 separate gull colonies is particularly elegant. The paper reaches some well-founded and insightful conclusions about the process of hybridization and introgression. Bell presents an evolutionary and zoogeographical hypothesis to explain how the hybrid zone acts as a partial barrier to gene flow between the parent species and why there is skewed introgression, with *L. glaucescens* exhibiting greater introgression than *L. occidentalis* and greater genetic diversity than either hybrids or *L. occidentalis*. As the author states, "The *L. glaucescens-occidentalis* complex may thus serve as a prime example of the role hybridization plays in enabling gene exchange to occur between species and thereby increase genetic variability."