

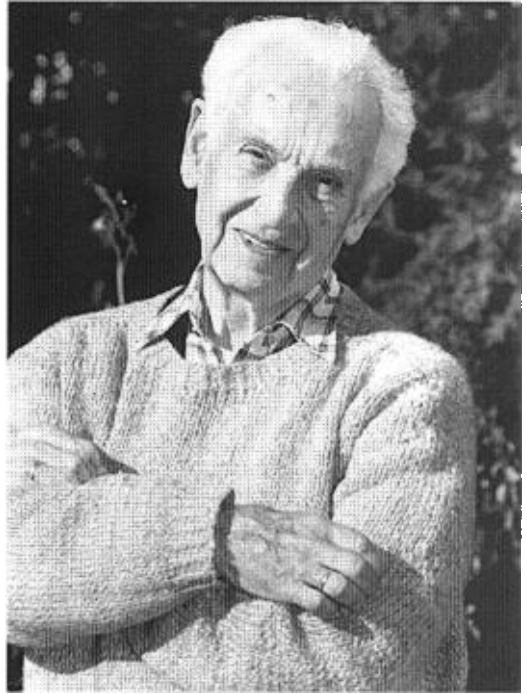
## AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MILLER RESEARCH AWARD

The Cooper Ornithological Society takes great pleasure in naming Ernst W. Mayr recipient of the Loye and Alden Miller Research Award for 2000. This award is presented for lifetime achievement in ornithological research. Soon after completing his Ph.D. degree from the University of Berlin in 1926, Ernst led three biological expeditions (the Whitney South Sea expeditions) to New Guinea and the Solomon Islands (1928–1930). During these trips he developed a deep appreciation for variation in populations among islands, which would serve as a foundation for his later seminal contributions to the New Evolutionary Synthesis and, particularly, to our modern understanding of the processes of species formation. More than 100 scientific papers resulting from the New Guinea/Solomon expeditions, mostly written while Ernst was Curator of Birds at the American Museum of Natural History (1932–1953), greatly expanded our knowledge of the birds of the Southwest Pacific region. During this period, he wrote “Speciation Phenomena in Birds” (*Am. Nat.* 74:249–278, 1940), in which he developed the biological species concept, elaborated in “Systematics and the Origin of Species” (Columbia University Press, New York, 1942)—one of the cornerstones of the New Synthesis.

In 1953, Ernst became Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology at Harvard University, and in 1961, Director of the Museum of Comparative Zoology. In 1963, Ernst published the monumental “Animal Species and Evolution” (Belknap Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts), which synthesized systematic, geographic, population, and genetic perspectives in the most influential treatise on speciation of the 20th century. At about this time, Ernst became deeply interested in the history and philosophy of biology, particularly the origin and development of strictly biological concepts, such as selection. Since “retiring” in 1970, Ernst has written several books on biological thought, at once insightful, provocative, and delightful, including “The Growth of Biological Thought” (Belknap Press, 1982), “Towards a New Philosophy of Biology” (Belknap Press, 1988), “One Long Argument: Charles Darwin and the Genesis of Modern Evolutionary Thought” (Harvard University Press, 1991), and “This is Biology” (Belknap Press, 1997).

Ernst’s contributions to evolutionary biology have received ample recognition, most recently by the Cra-



Ernst W. Mayr, the 2000 recipient of the Miller Research Award (photo © Gabon Demjen, Aperture Inc., courtesy of Harvard University Press).

ford Prize (1999). The Miller Research Award further acknowledges his wonderful contributions to our knowledge of birds and the importance of his ornithological observations to developing his ideas on evolution and speciation. Ernst is one of the most influential ornithologists of the 20th and, we can now say, 21st centuries. His clarity of thought has provided a basis for numerous productive research programs and launched the careers of many important ornithologists. For all of us, Ernst is a model of dedication to scholarship and life-long learning. To those of us who have known Ernst personally, he has been a wonderfully supportive, frank, and encouraging colleague and friend.