

EMINENT ECOLOGIST AWARD



Gordon Orians

The Eminent Ecologist Award recognizes a senior ecologist for sustained and distinguished contributions to both science and society. The Eminent Ecologist for 1998 is

Gordon Orians of the University of Washington.

Dr. Orians has been responsible for major, and fundamental, contributions in scholarship in numerous areas of ecology, evolution, and biology including behavioral ecology, population dynamics, plant–herbivore interactions, community ecology, human ecology, co-evolution, plant ecology, and general biology. Moreover, his scholarship reaches out to “students” of every kind and level. For example, his two textbooks on general biology have influenced many tens of thousands of beginning biologists and educated citizens worldwide; his books on optimal foraging and on the adaptational biology of marsh-nesting blackbirds have been used in hundreds of graduate seminars devoted to exploring the evolution of ecological relationships within and among species. His book on global biogeochemical cycles signals Gordon’s commitment to

illustrating how ecological and evolutionary principles must be a part of dealing with the many environmental crises facing our world today. In 1989, Gordon was elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

Although this brief outline is far too short to list even briefly his numerous accomplishments, we would be remiss not to mention that he has trained an astonishing number of the most influential and important scientists in evolutionary ecology. To have produced such a distinguished group of intellectual offspring in itself would almost qualify him as eminent ecologist.

Eminent Ecologist Subcommittee

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