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Prof. Shelby D. Gerking (left), of the Indiana University Zoology Department, receives the 1955 George Mercer Award of the Ecological Society of America from President Herman B. Wells, of Indiana University.

THE GEORGE MERCER AWARD — 1955

Dr. Shelby Delos Gerking, Jr. was the winner of the George Mercer Award for 1955. This award is in recognition of his paper—"The food turnover of a bluegill population," published in **ECOLOGY** 35:490-498. The Mercer Award is made each year to a young man who, during the previous two years, has published an outstanding paper in the field of ecology.

Dr. Gerking is a graduate of DePauw University, class of 1940, where he majored in zoology. His Ph.D. degree is from Indiana University (1944) where he specialized in zoology and limnology. He held numerous assistantships and fellowships at both DePauw and Indiana U.

Since receiving his Ph.D. degree, Dr. Gerking has advanced from the status of a research associate in the Indiana University Medical School through the grades of instructor and assistant professor in the Department of Zoology to his present title, Associate Professor of Zoology, Indiana University.

He is a member of numerous professional societies, and is especially active at the present time in helping to organize a North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society. His interest in fish and their utilization of food has resulted not only in the contribution upon which the Mercer Award is based, but also in his receiving a sizeable research grant from the National Science Foundation in 1954 for further study of the same general problem.