New Titles

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had rejected a paper Fisher had submitted to *Evolution*. Editors have a thankless task, but Mayr took on that job and many other administrative duties with good humor.

In an obituary for a second major figure of 20th-century evolutionary biology, W. D. Hamilton, Marlene Zuk wrote that it was not so much the number of correct ideas, but rather the sheer number of ideas, that made Hamilton exceptional. Reading Haffer's book, I was struck by how much this applies to Mayr, too. Mayr has often been wrong, which should encourage us all: He began his career as a Lamarckian, adhering to the discredited idea that traits acquired during one's lifetime can be passed on through the germline; and, although it is unclear that he rejected the theory of continental drift when it was first proposed, he does say in his 1982 book, *The Growth of Biological Thought,* that biogeographers were right to resist it, given the evidence of the time. He clearly—and notoriously—did not lack confidence. Even today, Mayr is credited with a model of founder-effect speciation described in a paper in 1954, one that he considered at the end of his career to be "one of the most important papers I have written." The model is accepted uncritically by some, but it has little theoretical justification and no empirical support.

In my view, Mayr's lasting major contribution was his precise formulation of the biological species concept, and I had always wondered why he did not spend more time investigating reproductive isolating mechanisms (the factors that prevent an individual of one species from mating with an individual from another, or if they do mate, those factors that cause the hybrids to be unviable or sterile). We learn here that he did try, first with caged birds, and again in a series of papers written with Dobzhansky on *Drosophila*. But he never connected his documentation of the often large geographical variation in plumage with the development of reproductive isolation. Why, when he was staring at those skins of similar swiftlets, did he not ask how it can be that "acquisition of reproductive isolation and morphological divergence are not closely correlated" (quoted from Mayr and Gilliard, "Altitudinal Hybridization in New Guinea Honeyeaters," *The Condor* 54: 325–337)? It seems to me this is one of many unanswered questions that emerge from Mayr's work that has great ramifications for our still rudimentary understanding of the process of speciation. *Ornithology, Evolution, and Philosophy* makes it clear that much remains to be learned about Mayr's thinking, which, once understood, may enlighten many problems in evolutionary biology. Mayr's legacy will continue to shape the field for the foreseeable future.

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NEW TITLES

The American West at Risk: Science, Myths, and Politics of Land Abuse and Recovery. Howard G. Wilshire, Jane E. Nielson, and Richard W. Hazlett. Oxford University Press, New York, 2008. 640 pp., illus. $35.00 (ISBN 9780195142051 cloth).

Conservation for a New Generation: Redefining Natural Resources Management. Richard L. Knight and Courtney White, eds. Island Press, Washington, DC, 2008. 336 pp., illus. $30.00 (ISBN 9781597264389 paper).

Ecological Developmental Biology: Integrating Epigenetics, Medicine, and Evolution. Scott F. Gilbert and David Epel. Sinauer, Sunderland, MA, 2008. 459 pp., illus. $49.95 (ISBN 9780878932993 paper).

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Enclosing the Fisheries: People, Places, and Power. Marie E. Lowe and Courtney Carothers, eds. American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, MD, 2008. 214 pp., illus. $35.00 (ISBN 9781934874059 paper).

The Encyclopedia of Fruit and Nuts. Jules Janick and Robert E. Paull, eds. CABI, Cambridge, MA, 2008. 990 pp., illus. $390.00 (ISBN 9780851996387 cloth).

Nature of the Rainforest: Costa Rica and Beyond. Adrian Forsyth. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY, 2008. 200 pp., illus. $29.95 (ISBN 9780801474750 paper).

Origins of Life in the Universe. Robert Jastrow and Michael Rampino. Cambridge University Press, New York, 2008. 416 pp., illus. $50.00 (ISBN 9780521532839 paper).

Physical Biology of the Cell. Rob Phillips, Jane Kondev, and Julie Theriot. Taylor and Francis, New York, 2008. 786 pp., illus. $125.00 (ISBN 9780815341635 paper).

Scientific Collaboration on the Internet. Gary M. Olson, Ann Zimmerman, and Nathan Bos, eds. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 2008. 422 pp., illus. $45.00 (ISBN 9780262151207 cloth).

The Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State. Kevin J. McGowan and Kimberley Corwin, eds. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY, 2008. 696 pp., illus. $59.95 (ISBN 9780801447167 cloth).

Watersheds, Bays, and Bounded Seas: The Science and Management of Semi-Enclosed Marine Systems. Edward R. Urban Jr, Bjørn Sundby, Paola Malanotte-Rizzoli, and Jerry M. Melillo, eds. Island Press, Washington, DC, 2008. 286 pp., illus. $45.00 (ISBN 9781597265034 paper).