



Dr. Mac Arthur receiving award from Dr. Harnwell, President, University of Pennsylvania.

THE GEORGE MERCER AWARD FOR 1959

The George Mercer Award for 1959 has been presented to Dr. Robert H. Mac Arthur, Department of Zoology, University of Pennsylvania. His paper on "Population ecology of some warblers of North-eastern Conifer Forests" (*ECOLOGY* 39:599-619) was selected by the Mercer Award Scrutineers as the outstanding paper in the previous two years.

Dr. Mac Arthur received his Bachelor's degree in mathematics from Marlboro College in Vermont in 1951, and his Master's degree, also in mathematics, from Brown University in 1953. Switching to zoology, he received his Doctor of Philosophy degree from Yale University in 1957. The following year was spent at the Edward Gray Institute of Field Ornithology in Oxford, England. At present he is Assistant Professor in The Zoological Laboratory at the University of Pennsylvania.

He states that his interest in ecology began as a child in Toronto, Canada, where bird-watching was socially acceptable. Encouraged by his parents, he continued with this interest until college when he decided mathematics was more suitable for a vocation. Later, convinced that an intellectual approach to ecology could be more rewarding than pure mathematics, he went to Yale where, in

common with many other ecologists, he came under the contagious enthusiasm of G. E. Hutchinson.

The intellectual attitude thus derived, coupled with natural history knowledge acquired as a child, have provided him with the incentive for several different approaches to community ecology.