

that the taxonomic naming of these subspecies is different in each paper; Bauer's reference appears to be correct.

Papers in the breeding biology session are not all directly related to this topic. L. J. Blus et al. describe the effects of pesticide-treated grain on Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) inhabiting northern Washington. High pesticide (*heptachlor epoxide*) levels were found in the eggs of birds nesting in the study area. The application of potentially toxic insecticides apparently has a very adverse effect on breeding Canada Geese from this area. T. McCabe reports in a paper on Canada Geese breeding near Umatilla, Oregon, that hydroelectric development is restricting the breeding success of the population in this area.

Six papers describing the results of goose band recoveries along the west coast constitute the section on molting and migration. A paper by J. T. Ratti and D. E. Timm stresses the fact that bias can occur when goose band data are not adjusted for different hunting pressures on the collection sites. The authors provide convincing evidence from a hypothetical study that could overestimate the population level of geese using data not corrected for variable harvesting procedures.

In the short session on wintering biology some interesting information is presented on the life histories of geese from southern areas of the USA. G. W. Kramer et al. offer an interesting discussion on the biology of Black Brant (*Branta nigricans*) during its stay in Baja, Mexico. This paper presents much data on population dynamics, behavior, diet, as well as human interaction and disturbance of Brant from coastal Mexico. This work is an impressive collection of results on Brant from an area not previously studied in detail.

The final session of the symposium on status and management provides information on current management-oriented studies being carried out on the Pacific flyway. D. E. Timm et al., in a paper on the evolution of management practices for dusky Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis occidentalis*) on the west coast of Alaska, outline the changes in management techniques for this species over the last 30 years. The advancement of management procedures in this area is quite impressive and the future appears promising for the dusky Canada Geese.

A critical aspect of west-coast goose management is the preservation and restoration of habitats. It is obvious from this symposium that habitat depletion continues to be a problem to the maintenance of substantial goose populations, especially in wintering areas in the United States.

The text suffers from several drawbacks which I believe could have been avoided. The main problem is the lack of a standard format for all papers. A further deficiency is the great amount of unrelated data that is presented. Lesser but irksome imperfections are the presence of typographical errors, illegible maps and graphs, improper literature citations, and confusion of some scientific names. For these reasons, I do not recommend this work to biologists not working specifically with geese; however, I would recommend this work to biologists or individuals directly involved in goose biology and management because the tremendous amount of information presented could be useful if closely scrutinized.

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## Research is a Passion with Me

By Margaret Morse Nice. Edited by Doris Huestis Speirs. 1979. Consolidated Amethyst Communications, 12 Crescent Town Road, Unit 310, Toronto. 336 pp., illus. Cloth \$12.95; paper \$9.95.

The title of this excellent book is right on — Margaret Morse Nice had a passion for research. One grieves only that so little was done to facilitate her work. During her lifetime she published scores of scientific papers and books, and reviewed 3280 works for *Bird-banding*, but she was never awarded any grants; without the extensive financial support from her husband she would have been unable to attend the 22 national and international ornithological meetings where she usually presented a paper and was emotionally encouraged to carry on her work. Unlike her physiologist husband, she was unable, because she

was a woman, to join the Columbus, Ohio, Wheaton naturalists' club where she would dearly have loved to discuss her Song Sparrow research. On top of that, she did not have an adequate study until she was 53 years old.

Margaret Morse was born in 1883, one of seven children, to a professor of history at the University of Massachusetts. The family lived on a two-acre lot in Amherst where Margaret developed a deep interest in nature. She attended Mount Holyoke College, studying natural sciences and various languages which would later help her search the scientific literature in seven languages. She did Master's work from 1907 at Clark University on the food of the Bobwhite, but although she wanted also to earn her Ph.D. she was instead urged to return home, as a dutiful daughter



should. She did so, and soon after married.

Margaret Morse Nice was too busy to carry on her research on birds during the next few years as she was occupied in Norman, Oklahoma, producing and raising a family of four daughters. Instead, she turned her attentions to the development of speech in her children, collecting and classifying the words of their vocabulary at various ages and analyzing them by parts of speech and by interest. She published 15 papers on child psychology and was awarded a belated Master's degree for this work in 1926.

Margaret Nice's life changed in 1919 when, at the age of 36, she again turned her full energies to research on birds. The catalyst was a newspaper item stating that the Oklahoma open season for the Mourning Dove would perhaps begin on "August 15 when all the young doves are off the nest and strong fliers." She wrote, protesting this inaccuracy, to the local newspapers and then proceeded to find, in September, 28 new Mourning Dove nests in three of which the young were not fledged until October. Earlier she had helped keep the Bobwhite in Ohio off hunting limits when she had estimated that one Bobwhite hen ate in one season 75 000 insects and five million weed seeds. During the next seven years, Margaret Nice studied the birds throughout Oklahoma, her research culminating in *The Birds of Oklahoma* published with her husband in 1924 and revised in 1931.

In 1927 the Nices moved to Columbus, Ohio, where Margaret began her famous ten-year study of the behavior of the Song Sparrow. It is perhaps fitting that this common bird, which other zoologists had overlooked, would open important vistas to behavior-

ists and make her one of the most eminent ornithologists of all time. She banded individuals and watched them continually on a wild area called Interpont which, to her distress, was gradually degraded over the years as underbrush was cut down and weeds were destroyed. Yet in one year, in spite of local boys who shot at her charges, she followed the fortunes of 69 males on 40 acres. One of the males she had studied for eight years thrilled her by singing 2305 songs in one day. Later she studied the behavior of captive birds which she collected from nests when they were a week old, patterning this work on that of Konrad Lorenz whom she visited in 1938 in Austria.

Nice's research work was eventually rewarded with the friendship of world-famous birders, the presidency of the Wilson Club, a fellowship in the American Ornithologists' Union, the Brewster Medal of the AOU for her two books on the Song Sparrow, and an honorary degree from Mount Holyoke College. In 1952 a Toronto-based women's Ornithological Club was named after her, organized by Doris Huestis Speirs because women were not then allowed to join the Toronto Ornithological Club. Doris Speirs has edited this present work, written by her friend Margaret Nice shortly before her death at age 90 in 1974, adding the scientific names of birds and a comprehensive index. There are also a few photographs and some sketches by Margaret Nice. The text is easy to read and should delight all those who admire this indomitable woman and who love birds.

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### **Animal Behavior: an evolutionary approach**

By John Alcock. 1979. Sinauer, Sunderland, Massachusetts. 2nd edition. x + 432 pp., illus. U.S. \$16.

This book should be used by those interested in acquiring a basic understanding of the interrelationships between natural selection and animal behavior. The text should continue to be utilized internationally by second- and third-year college introductory animal behavior courses. This edition is much improved over the first. It is rearranged, more readable, and better oriented to behavioral ecology. Many of the peripheral subjects appearing in the first edition are now deleted. Each chapter has a helpful introduction, summary, and suggested reading and related film list.

Although this book has its shortcomings, it has many good arguments supporting or rejecting hypotheses that all animal behaviorists think about. After

the index is consulted, the term is easily found on the text-page since most indexed terms are in uppercase print. The author, subject and film (with addresses for ordering) indices make the text a useful reference. There are good discussions of proximate versus ultimate causes of animal behaviors, instinctive versus learned behaviors, the physiology of behavior and the evolutionary ecology of behavior.

It is important that a student be able to associate a concept with a particular researcher and publication date. This book fails in this regard by using numbers for original references instead of authors and publication dates. I found myself turning to the bibliography at the end of the book two or three times per text-page to ascertain who was being cited and when the work was published.





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