



Books For Banders

"SOMETHING OLD AND SOMETHING NEW"

Edited By Mabel Gillespie



In the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene for November 1969 there appears an article entitled Tests on Ticks from Wild Birds Collected in the Eastern United States for Rickettsiae and Viruses. The authors are Carleton N. Clifford, Daniel E. Sonenshine, Earl L. Atwood, Chandler S. Robbins, and Lundahl E. Hughes. This may interest banders who have been co-operatively collecting avian parasites or taking blood samples.

"From September 1965 through December 1967, birds were examined for ticks at 22 banding stations, 17 of which were along or near the eastern coast. Examinations at 11 stations included from two to four migration periods and at others less than one full migration period Sixteen locations were in tick habitat. . . . Most of the life areas of the region east of 95° longitude in the United States were included in the 22 locations.

"Most birds examined were taken in Japanese mist-nets at 'Operation Recovery' banding stations located, for the most part, in coastal areas where migration songbirds concentrate in large numbers during the fall migration season." The samples collected were sent to the Rocky Mountain Laboratory where they were tested for rickettsiae and viruses. There is a description of laboratory procedure. "Over 4,266 ticks taken from more than 10,000 individual birds, comprising 150 species, in the eastern United States were tested." There was indicated the presence of *R. rickettsii*, but not of viruses.

After considering The Naked Ape in the last issue of EBBA News, it is consistent to follow with a survey of So Human an Animal by Rene Dubos. This was published by Charles Scribner's Sons in 1963, and the following year was a Pulitzer winner. It is now available in Scribner's paperback edition for \$1.45. Mr. Dubos came to this country from his native France at the age of 24. He is presently a microbiologist at the Rockefeller University. Judging from the impressive list of publications that have provided his text with reference notes, he has expert knowledge in a multitude of scientific fields.

His opening paragraph reads: "This book should have been written in anger. I should be expressing in the strongest possible terms my anguish

at seeing so many human and natural values spoiled or destroyed in affluent societies, as well as my indignation at the failure of the scientific community to organize a systematic effort against the desecration of life and nature." He continues through the six chapters of his book to explain how the human animal has gotten that way.

In the first chapter called The Unbelievable Future he claims that "the most hopeful sign for the future is the attempt by the rebellious young to reject our social values." Some sixty pages later after a survey of Man's Nature and Human History he writes: "This probably explains why most rebellions fail, since rebels find it so easy to return to the fold."

In the third chapter - Biological Remembrance of Things Past - the author is concerned more with the very early influences, even uterine impressions, on the human infant than with genetic mutations. "Genes do not inexorably determine traits; they constitute potentialities that become reality only under the shaping influence of stimuli from the environment....The memory of early experiences can be masked, but cannot be erased." There is discussion of the effects of isolation or crowding on the growing child. "The most frightening aspect of human life is that man can become adapted to almost anything, even to conditions that will inevitably destroy the very values that have given mankind its uniqueness."

The sole reference to birds comes in this chapter, in connection with the influence of song patterns on fledgling birds. A study by Marler and Tamura in an issue of the Condor was called Song "Dialects" in Three Populations of White-Crowned Sparrows. On the Pacific Coast there are three races of this species. The experiments consisted of raising fledglings in isolation and then subjecting them to recordings of these different song patterns.

In Chapter 4 - The Living Experience - the author speaks of "the complex interrelationships between living things and their total environments....Individuality emerges progressively from the manner in which each person turns all experiences of the body and the mind into a knowledge so structured that it can be used for further growth and for actionRejection of discipline is unbiological because it is incompatible with physical, mental, and social health, indeed with the survival of the human species. Design, rather than anarchy, characterizes life."

Chapter 5 - The Pursuit of Significance - deals with pollution and crowding and the need to outgrow the "growth myth....We shall not improve the quality of life and of the environment merely by developing greater technological skills....It is because we need a common faith that the search for significance is the most important task of our times."

The final chapter concerns - The Science of Humanity. "Nature can be tamed without being destroyed....We must make a strenuous effort to preserve what we can of primeval Nature, lest we lose the opportunity to re-establish contact now and then with our biological origins. A sense of continuity with the past and with the rest of creation is a form of religious experience essential to sanity."

"Many American cities....are the largest centers of nonrestraint in the world, and most of their problems derive precisely from a misapplied interpretation of freedom....Civilizations emerge from man's creative efforts to take advantage of the limitations imposed on his freedom by his own nature and by the limitations of the land.

"The know-how is less important than the know-why; unfortunately technological considerations are practically always given precedence over human factors. Modern man finds it easy to function as Homo faber,....but he has not yet learned to function as Homo sapiens when it comes to using wisely the objects that he makes in such nauseating profusion."

The preceding quotes have been presented as a lure to your discovery of many more. Surely none of us, who has the close contact with nature that is a by-product of our banding, needs to be roused to the ecological problems of our times. But it is enlightening and encouraging to find the problems stated logically and developed scientifically.



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON
SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS AND SANDERLINGS

During the autumn migration of 1970 we hope to band and colour-mark several hundred Semipalmated Sandpipers and Sanderlings at Long Point Observatory (Ontario). Information on the movement of these sandpipers is essential to research presently under way on the energy requirements of their migration. We would greatly appreciate it if anyone sighting these birds would report their observations to Dr. A. Salvadori, Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

The following information would be appreciated: Species, Location (including nearest city or town), Dates, Leg that has been banded (this will tell if the bird is an adult or an immature), and colour, as follows:

Birds will be coloured on the breast or abdomen with a single colour, either pink, orange, blue, green; yellow or purple.

Any information on what other birds are with the marked individuals would be very useful also.