

RECENT LITERATURE

Reviews by Margaret M. Nice

BANDING

1. Report of the Bird-Ringing Committee: Progress for 1940. A. L. Thomson. 1941. *Brit. Birds*, 35 : 9-14. The Fourth Annual Report of the Bird-Ringing Committee of the British Trust for Ornithology shows a total of 21,182 birds ringed in 1940, nearly 15,000 being trapped birds and 6,000 nestlings. Economy has to be observed in the use of rings. "Further supplies of aluminum cannot be expected during the war." "Valuable help in reporting recoveries has been given by local police, as a result of an official circular to Chief Constables." Birds with foreign rings "have been the subject of some suspicion."

2. Results of Ringing Duck. General Survey of Data from all Sources. A. L. Thomson. 1941. *International Wildfowl Inquiry*, 1 : 84-105. Univ. Press, Cambridge, Eng. A very interesting summary of Old World data with seven maps, a discussion of results of ringing in the breeding quarters, wintering quarters, and on migration, with notes on anomalous behavior of individuals, as when a Mallard raised in England breeds in Sweden, etc. Although duck populations in Great Britain are mainly stationary, on the whole most of the ducks seem highly migratory, while many of them exhibit a wide variety in routes.

No. 16 is based on the technique of color banding.

MIGRATION

3. Homing and Earth Magnetism.—(Heimfindeversuche und Erdmagnetismus.) A. Daanje. 1941. *Vogelzug*, 12 : 15-17. A discussion of Stresemann's theory which is based on that of Viguier, and of experiments in this field. Casamajor and Wodzicki placed magnets on birds' heads with negative results; such contrivances are very unpleasant to birds and disturb their behavior. Schein's starlings raised in captivity failed to return when released at a distance; Daanje believes this due to the wire cage in which they were kept, for this would confuse the magnetic field. He started experiments with the European Quail (*Coturnix coturnix*) in a cage of wood, copper and netting; however, his birds escaped and he himself was mobilized.

4. An Analysis of the Influence of Weather upon a Migratory Movement of Birds.—J. Ritchie. 1940. *Proc. Roy. Soc. Edinburgh*, 60 : 299ff. Data relative to the 1921 invasion of Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrulus*) into Denmark and Great Britain. The movement occurred during three weeks when the barometric pressure in Scandinavia was very high; it was preceded and followed by very low pressures. The migration proceeded from an area of high pressure towards one of low pressure during anticyclonic conditions. Temperature was "normal" for the season. Of thirteen "waves" of migration, twelve started under overcast skies; with twelve the wind was easterly or southeast. It is suggested the birds started south and were blown to Great Britain.

5. Spring Flight of Diving Ducks through Northwest Iowa. J. B. Low. 1941. *Condor*, 43 : 142-151. Migration occurred a week late in 1940 in correlation with abnormally cold weather from March 21 to April 1. Sex ratios are given for seven species in Iowa and Saskatchewan and for three in Louisiana; in all

cases males outnumber females; in six species of Nyrocinae from 1.13–1.80 males to one female, and in the Ruddy Duck (*Erismatura jamaicensis rubida*) 2.29 to one female.

LIFE HISTORY

6. The Diving Habits of Ducks and Grebes.—G. C. S. Ingram and H. M. Salmon. 1941. *Brit. Birds*, 35 : 22–28. Analysis of many records, correlating length of dives “with depth of water, nature and relative abundance of the food-organisms, and other local conditions.”

7. Studies on the Distribution and Habits of the Sharptail Grouse in Michigan.—F. M. Baumgartner. 1939. *Trans. 4th No. Am. Wildlife Conference 1939* : 485–489. *Pedioctes phasianellus campestris* has extended its range to the east, probably coming into the west end of the Upper Peninsula in the wake of extensive fires before 1920. It is now an important game bird in northern Michigan. On bright, warm winter days Sharptails leave their snow roosts shortly after sunrise, eat till the middle of the day, then bury themselves in snow or sit in the sun; then feed from mid-afternoon till dusk. On cold, stormy days they leave the roosts at 8 or 9, fill their crops with birch or aspen buds, and by “9.30 or 10.00 A.M. they are back into their snow forms for a 22-hour period of inactivity, not emerging until the following morning,” p. 487.

Nests may be placed within two-thirds of a mile of the dancing grounds; clutches average 12+; they do not vary in size from year to year. The author discusses food habits throughout the year.

8. On the Breeding of the Black-headed Gull on the Bare Islands of the Schärenhof.—(Ueber das Brüten der Lachmöwe, *Larus r. ridibundus* L., auf Felseninseln im Schärenhof und die Ursachen dazu.) K. A. Frederikson. 1940. *Ornis Fennica*, 17 : 62–63. In the last 15–20 years the Black-headed Gull has been nesting in increasing numbers on bare islands. Sometimes the birds make a second attempt here after being flooded out in the marshes on the mainland; only one-fourth of the nests have three eggs; blue eggs are common. They nest without friction with the Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*); the young gulls swim a great deal and influence the young terns so that these swim much more than do terns that nest in colonies by themselves.

9. “White-faced Terns.”—Ralph S. Palmer. 1941. *Auk*, 58 : 164–178. With both Common and Arctic Terns (*Sterna hirundo* and *paradisaea*) there are a certain number of white-faced examples (eclipse plumage) on the breeding grounds; they may be young or old. Terns normally breed at two or three years of age, usually the latter.

10. Taxonomy and Habits of Pigeons.—E. W. Gifford. 1941. *Auk*, 58 : 239–245. Brief notes, largely on gait and courting behavior, of the suborder Columbæ.

11. Some Notes on the Long eared Owl.—E. J. Hosking. 1941. *Brit. Birds*, 35 : 2–8. Several whole nights were spent watching a nest of *Asio o. otus* at a distance of seven feet. The female incubated quietly. The “cock paid on an average five or six visits to the nest between dusk and dawn.” The author emphasizes the remarkable “ability of the owl to see well enough to hunt and to thread its way through the intricacies of a wood in what appears to be utter darkness to human eyes.” p. 8. The manner in which the hen fed small young under her is described and splendid flashlight pictures of the parents are given.

12. Winter Behavior of Ravens at Tomales Bay, California.—J. E. Cushing, Jr. 1941. *Condor*, 43 : 103–107. Observations on roosting of about

200 *Corvus corax* in a brushy canyon during fall and winter. Some of the birds apparently travel at least 40 miles a day.

13. Relative Growth in the House Wren.—Sara E. Huggins, 1940. *Growth*, 4 : 225–236. A statistical study of growth in 30 nestling *Troglodytes aedon* with graphs on weight and various measurements. A maximum in weight was reached at twelve days, a slight decrease occurring in the next two days.

14. Notes on Breeding of Black Redstarts in Kent. P. A. Rayfield, 1941. *Brit. Birds*, 34 : 186–188. *Phoenicurus ochrurus gibraltariensis* is a rare breeder in England. One pair had for its territory “a dumping ground for timber, iron, cable drums, etc., surrounded by buildings, some high, some low.” Incubation was by the hen and lasted 12–13 days; fledging took seventeen days and the young were fed by their parents at least eleven days longer. The male sang except when the young were in the nest. Another pair fed the young some three weeks after they left the nest.

15. The Black Honeyeater. J. D. Waterhouse, 1941. *Emu*, 40 : 385–387. In one nest the female *Myzomela nigra* disappeared and the male incubated for a week; the eggs proved infertile. At another nest the female was fearless after the young hatched, allowing herself to be touched on the nest; after they were five days old, she feigned injury each time the author approached the nest.

BIRD BEHAVIOR

16. Annual Cycle of the Black capped Chickadee. E. P. Odum, 1941. *Auk*, 58 : 314–333. A very interesting study, using colored bands, or territory and nesting in *Parus a. atricapillus* in Rensselaerville, N. Y., with a map showing the territories of fifteen pairs. No evidence was noted of attachment between a pair in the winter flocks. Where “the winter-dominance relations were known, the male was dominant over the female when the two were in the winter flock.” The criterion of dominance was that the “females withdrew or were driven away when they came in close contact (as at feeding station) with males.” After pairs were formed “the male was not seen to exert dominance over his mate,” p. 323. The most dominant males nested in the vicinity of the winter ranges. Feeding of the female by the male is regular during incubation; is sometimes seen during egg-laying and nest construction, but not earlier. The *phoebe* song apparently intimidates other males and attracts females; later it “functions in territory defense.” It is also given by the female but less often and less loudly. “Territory is established after, rather than before pairing,” and “the birds do not make themselves conspicuous on it,” p. 330.

The pair wander about during the pre-nesting period, keeping in touch with each other with soft *seeps* or loud *chickadees*, and “warn” with *see-see* and freeze at the appearance of a winged enemy. They are antagonistic to other Chickadees. Fighting at this time is “clearly a defense of mates and not of territory since the birds later established territory elsewhere,” 326. This might be considered “defense of a ‘sexual territory’ as contrasted with a later-established ‘nesting territory’” (Noble, 1939). It is quite “probable that the finding of a suitable nesting site is a determining factor in territory establishment.” The Chickadee “does not regularly proclaim or announce ownership of territory,” p. 327. Territory conflicts consist of three parts: a challenge—loud *chickadee* or *phoebe* calls—; a chase; a fight in mid-air. They do not defend their territory from other species. Territories varied in size from 8.4 acres (3.4 hectares) to 17.1 acres (7 hectares), averaging 13.2 acres (5.3 hectares). The size of the territory decreased as nesting progressed. One pair “covered only about half the area while feeding the young

that they did during incubation." "The function of the nesting territory in the chickadee must be simply to protect the pair from the disturbing influences of other chickadees during the period of nesting," p. 330.

17. Intelligence Tests with Tits. M. Brooks-King. 1941. *Brit. Birds*, 35 : 29-32. A pair of Blue Tits (*Parus caeruleus obscurus*) and Great Tits (*Parus major newtoni*) were tested with various problems in getting peanuts; they proved quick in discovery and in the matter of obtaining nuts by pulling a string. A more complicated apparatus depending on accidental knocking down of a box was solved only by the male Great Tit; after one experience he repeated his tactics without error.

18. The Sexual Displays of Swallows. P. H. T. Hartley. 1941. *Brit. Birds*, 34 : 256-258. Both male and female *Hirundo r. rustica* sang. The birds indulged in slow, wavering flight with tails fanned and also a "display of the red feathers of the face and throat." The pair sit side by side and warble; the hen assumes an "acquiescent display."

19. Voice in the Brown Towhee. C. W. Quaintance. 1941. *Condor*, 43 : 152-155. An analysis of the significance of the various notes of *Pipilo fuscus petularis* in California. A metallic *chip* has different functions—protest and contact; at *tsink*, fledglings froze; *tssp* was used for contact between mates; the hunger notes of nestlings and fledglings differed; a squawk when handled signified distress and perhaps intimidation; while the "scold" is really a greeting between mates.

20. Song of the Female Chaffinch. G. O. Warburg. 1941. *Brit. Birds*, 34 : 261. A female *Fringilla coelebs* gave a song that had the "first notes of a typical Chaffinch song, but the ending was missing and some harsh, guttural thrush-like notes were added."

21. Nest-Sanitation.—R. H. Blair and B. W. Tucker. 1941. *Brit. Birds*, 34 : 250-255. A continuation of the subject, mostly records of individual species. Two instances are given where no faeces were carried while the young were temporarily in an annex to the nest. In three cases after young left the nest and were still huddled together, parents carried excreta—Spotted Flycatcher and Willow Warbler.

22. "Anting" by the Cardinal. L. L. Snyder. 1941. *Auk*, 58 : 414-415. Three *Richmondia cardinalis* "anted" for 2½ hours with "small, winged 'red' ants, hosts of which were emerging from the ground." "At the end of this time their body feathers appeared wet as if the birds had been bathing." Apparently the ants were eaten.

23. Observations on "Anting" by Birds.—H. R. Ivor. 1941. *Auk*, 58 : 415-416. The most extended observations on this behavior yet published. The author describes in some detail collective anting in his aviary of semi-captive native birds; he has seen it performed by 19 species of 7 passerine families, 3 families and 16 species being new records. The Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*) "anted" with choke-cherries.

INCUBATION

24. Incubation Studies of the Yellow-headed Blackbird.—R. W. Fautin. 1941. *Wilson Bulletin*, 53 : 107-122. Observations on *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* in Utah. The female alone incubates; the nests are too small for the male. Incubation period lasts 12 and 13 days; more eggs hatched in twelve days in April than in June. An interesting table is given of the percentage of daylight

hours spent on the nest during incubation by eight passerine species (five of them European); these range from 58.7 with the Song Thrush (*Turdus ericitorum*) to 84 with the Marsh Tit (*Parus palustris*); the Yellow-headed Blackbird spent 63.9 per cent of the day on the nest. Periods on the nest with this species ranged from 1-41 minutes, averaging 9.1 minutes; periods off ranged from 1-18, averaging 5.4. The longest periods on the nest came at midday, apparently as a protection to the eggs from the heat of the sun. Although defending nesting territories, the birds of a colony cooperate in chasing enemies. Yearling males did not breed. The hatching success of the 443 eggs was 314, 70.9 per cent.

25. Egg Temperatures of Wild Birds Under Natural Conditions.—R. A. Huggins. 1941. *Ecology*, 22 : 148-157. An important study. By inserting a thermocouple into an egg and returning it to the nest, and then recording the temperature variations while watching from a blind, the author found the average egg temperature of 37 species of birds from Ciconiiformes to Passeriformes to be 34° C. (93° F.) "The galvanometer records were all two hours or over in length. The average for attentive periods is 34.3 C°, for inattentive 33.4° C. (Baldwin and Kendeigh's ('32) study showed that eggs in the center of the nest fluctuated between 34° and 37° C.) No evidence was found of difference in day and night temperatures. Eggs in the center of the nest averaged considerably higher than those on the outside. Eggs warm faster on cold days than warm, probably the result of closer sitting. No difference was found in the rate of warming of passerine and non-passerine eggs of the same size; small eggs warm faster than large ones. There is a correlation between air temperatures and egg temperatures, and less cooling in well-built nests than loose ones. It is surprising how often the temperature of the inattentive period equals, or occasionally surpasses the attentive period.

There are no data on the stage of incubation; well developed embryos presumably would have higher temperatures than fresh eggs. One wishes for more details as to incubation rhythms, more detailed records on certain birds, more graphs of incubation. In fig. 5 the Bluebird three times during an hour brought the eggs up to 32°-34° C., then left; how usual is this procedure? (The first table on p. 155 shows an abnormal condition in that the Song Sparrow left her eggs 87 minutes instead of the typical 8.) The General Table of Egg Temperatures would have been more valuable if the length of time of each record had been given—whether six hours or three or four days—, as well as the number of periods on and off, their length, etc. The author must have a vast amount of valuable material not given in this paper.

26. Possible Factors Controlling Length of Incubation in Birds. R. A. and S. E. Huggins. 1941. *American Naturalist*, 75 : 282-285. A disappointing paper. Equal weight is given to the unreliable articles as to the real contributions. Although the authors refer to Heinroth's classic paper, they do not appear to have studied it. Nor do they seem to have been acquainted with the criticism in *Bird-Banding*, April, 1940 of Worth's article. They conclude that "there is a general positive correlation between egg weight or volume and length of incubation" and call for more data. We already have enough data to know that this is far from true.

LIGHT VERSUS ACTIVITY

27. Light Versus Activity in the Regulation of the Sexual Cycles of Birds: The Role of the Hypothalamus.—Albert Wolfson. 1941. *Condor*, 43 : 125-136. A scholarly discussion of the problem; the author reviews the experiments of Rowan, Bissonnette, Benoit and Riley, and cites the recent work of physiologists that show the important part played by the hypothalamus in

regulation of sleep. The suggestion is made that Rowan's Juncos kept awake without light showed gonadal increase because trained to use of the bar in the daytime; Riley's English Sparrows were not so trained. The author suggests an explanation that will reconcile the two opposing camps—those who believe that it is light *qua* light that stimulates increase of gonads and those who consider it is due to longer periods of activity. "As the days increase in length, birds are awake for longer periods of time because the state of wakefulness, at least in some birds, is a conditioned response to light; the concomitant activity of the hypothalamus causes an increased production or release, or both, of the gonadotropic hormones from the anterior lobe of the pituitary; these in turn, stimulate gonadal recrudescence," p. 132. The hypothalamus "plays a part in fat metabolism;" in some cases "prior to migration a heavy subcutaneous and abdominal deposition of fat occurs," p. 133. "Light is an important factor in the regulation of the sexual cycle, but only in so far as it provides a stimulus for wakefulness. Since the wakefulness is under the control of the hypothalamus, the hypothalamus becomes the important center for the sexual cycle," p. 135.

ECOLOGY

28. Birds of a Prairie Community.—S. C. Kendeigh. 1941. *Condor*, 43 : 165–174. On 50 acres of prairie in northwestern Iowa 50 pairs of four species nested. The Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) and Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) "had well-defined territories, averaging in size about 22 and 3.4 acres respectively," while the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx orizivorous*) and Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) "appeared not to possess territories after mating had been completed, and there is evidence that both species were polygamous." A special study was made of the Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*) nesting on the forest-edge; it was found that "territorial requirements included suitable nest-sites, concealing cover, tall singing posts, feeding areas in trees, and space"—about two-fifths of an acre—but where singing posts or breeding areas were lacking, confusion ensued with much chasing, perhaps due to "the inability of the birds clearly to define the limits of their territories by singing." Maps are given showing the location of nests and territories of these five species. Curiously enough, healthy young of the Bobolink and Meadowlark were "not attacked by the abundant biting ant (*Formica cinerea neocinerea*)," but nestling Yellow Warblers, placed in a trap on the ground for 15–30 minutes were quickly attacked. A valuable study of a partially undisturbed area.

29. An Eight-Winter Study of Central Iowa Bob-Whites.—P. L. Errington. 1941. *Wilson Bulletin*, 53 : 85–102. An excellent population study on *Colinus virginianus* on different areas, one a stable environment, others unstable. "Numerical values for carrying capacity usually differed with the locality but typically remained about the same from one winter to the next on specific areas unless significant changes in environmental equations took place—sometimes despite profound modifications in food and cover relationships," p. 89. "Autumnal fighting between coveys has been noted alike for the Valley Quail (*Lophortyx californica vallicola*) in California (Emlen, 1939 : 129) and for the Bob-White, and both species may violently exclude strangers from covey groups," p. 91. In late winter birds "may accustom themselves to living with less brushy cover than they require in late fall and early winter." Population levels were low in 1934–35 and 1935–36 due to too dry and too wet summers and severe cold, but later populations in the various areas reached much the same level as before. Bobwhite will not tolerate undue populations of their own species, nor of the Ring-necked Pheasant.

"The likeliest mechanism behind these toleration phenomena seems to be

dominance by veteran individuals that have their own ideas as to what constitutes desirable or safe numbers of birds in specific habitats. As long as the habitats are fairly well filled each winter, there should be a greater chance of 'traditions' being retained, either through continued presence of dominant old birds or through successors having had previous local experience," p. 99.

30. The Comparative Economy of Closely Related Birds on an Island and a Continent.—A. J. Marshall and T. H. Harrisson. 1941. *Emu*, 40 : 310–318. Based on studies on Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides and Australia. On islands there is little tendency to flock, "decrease in voice, stronger nests, smaller clutches and food specialization," p. 318.

31. Bluebird Mortality in 1940.—T. E. Musselman. 1941. *Auk*, 58 : 409–410. During late February and March 1940 large numbers of *Sialia sialis* were destroyed by ice and snow; the author believes that 50 per cent of his nesting birds in central Illinois were lost. In Lockport, Ill., 50 per cent of 35 boxes were occupied from 1935 to 1939, in 1940 there was only one pair.

32. Great Mortality among young Black Terns from Severe Weather. (Groote sterfte onder jonge zwarte sterns, *Chlidonias n. niger*, door slechte weer-omstandigheden.)—H. Ruiter. 1940. *Limosa*, 13 : 150–151. 123 sets were found in 1940, 20 per cent more than in 1939; cold rainy nights in July brought most of the chicks to their ends.

BIRDS AND THEIR FOOD

33. A Group of Bat-Eating Duck Hawks.—K. E. Stager. 1941. *Condor*, 43 : 137–139. Six *Falco peregrinus* preyed upon a great colony of Mexican free-tailed bats (*Tadarida mexicana*) in south-central Texas.

34. Feeding Habits of the Black Oyster-catcher.—D. J. Webster. 1941. *Condor*, 43 : 175–180. Observations on specialized techniques of *Haematopus bachmani* of dealing with mussels, limpets and chitons, comparison being made with Dewar's (1913) studies on the European Oyster-catcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*). A list is given of species of shellfish, etc., found eaten by the Black Oyster-catcher in the Sitka Islands.

35. Hawfinches and Cherries.—C. Ingram. 1941. *Brit. Birds*, 34 : 220. *Coccothraustes c. coccothraustes* never nested in the author's garden until his collection of Japanese and other cherries came into bearing; first one pair nested, then two and now three nest. The Hawfinches eat all the cherries.

BIRD NUMBERS

36. Size of Bird Flocks in Winter.—Leonard Wing. 1941. *Auk*, 58 : 188–194. From data in *Bird-Lore's* Christmas censuses.

37. Comparison of 1935 and 1940 Populations of Nesting Bald Eagles in East-central Florida.—J. C. Howell. 1941. *Auk*, 58 : 402–403. In 1935 there were 24 pairs of *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* in an area where only eighteen were present five years later. Ten of these were using the same nests as in 1935. The decrease is probably due to the increase of human inhabitants and "the felling of the pines used as nesting sites."

38. Spring and Winter Hawk Censuses from Illinois to Oklahoma.—

M. M. Nice. 1941. *Auk*, 58 : 403-405. On 1,424 miles of driving in March one hawk was seen each 18.5 miles; on 1,075 miles in December one each sixteen miles. In "Illinois hawks were twice as numerous in March as in December, while in Oklahoma, on the contrary, they were four times as numerous in winter as in spring." Tables are given showing numbers and species seen in each of three states in the two seasons.

BOOKS

39. A Field Guide to Western Birds.—Roger Tory Peterson. 1941. Boston. Houghton. 240 pp. \$2.75. It is hard to imagine a more helpful guide to the puzzling birds of the west than this little book, full of illustrations and descriptions that emphasize distinguishing characters. A map of the United States shows the part of the country—from the western portion of the Great Plains to the Pacific Coast—covered by the book. There are six plates in color, each showing many birds. "The plates and cuts scattered throughout the text are intended as diagrams, arranged so that quick, easy comparison can be made of the species that most resemble one another." The guide is intended not only for the beginner, but to assist the "advanced student" in "recognizing those accidentals or rarities that sometimes appear in the territory he knows so thoroughly." A list is given of handbooks of the western states. The question of subspecies in the West is a difficult one, especially since the common names of many give no inkling as to which species the bird belongs. Mr. Peterson has solved this problem in a masterly way; each species is described as a unit and under it the subspecies listed, while at the end of the book the range of each subspecies is given. All in all, a fascinating book, and one that should prove as indispensable in the West as the "Field Guide to the Birds" is in the East.

40. Love-Life and Nesting of Birds. (Liebes- und Brutleben der Vögel).—Heinrich Frieling. 1940. Kosmos, Gesellschaft der Naturfreunde. 80 pp. An excellent little book giving in popular narrative the results of the findings of Heinroth and Lorenz and also of other ornithologists, chiefly German and Dutch. The chapters treat of Betrothal, Marriage and All Sorts of Love-Making; Nest and Eggs; When the Young Hatch; How the Young are Cared for; the Strange History of the Cuckoo. There are two paragraphs on Sources, mentioning fourteen authors and five books and a one page index. Various writers and their discoveries are mentioned in the text, but no references given. Although not a book for the serious student already familiar with the literature, yet it is an admirable guide to the layman and bird lover, for it gives a simple, straightforward account of bird behavior, and is refreshingly free from anthropomorphising.

41. Animal Behaviour. Impulse, Intelligence, Instinct.—J. A. Loeser. 1941. N. Y. Macmillan. 178 pp. \$2.00. Dr. Loeser, a political refugee from Berlin, died in 1939, at which time his manuscript "was finished in a rough way, but not revised." It seems to have been prepared for the press by an Englishman, L. F. J. Brimble. There is a brief index, but no references. Dr. Loeser finds animal behavior exceedingly simple; there are no instincts, but instead chiefly responses to "sensations"—a seeking of "pleasure" and avoidance of pain. In discussing on the behavior of bees, the author states that the "assumption" of instinct here "is absurd." "The truth is that we have here another example of that marvellous harmony of pre-formed factors and psychological reactions to sensations which we have so often seen before," p. 141.

As an example of his logic let us turn to an ornithological illustration. On page 39 we learn that "Nothing remains of a 'nest-building instinct', that classical example of the instinct theory." For the "reason . . . to seek or build a nesting-place . . . is the appearance in hatching-time of the so-called 'hatching-spots'

on the bird's front. These spots cause the bird to seek a support or resting-place which will offer it a certain soothing pressure and probably cooling surface. This does not occur until the exciting preparations for pairing are over, after which the irritation caused by the hatching-spots leads the bird to build a nest."

(Unfortunately for this extraordinary explanation, incubation patches appear *after* the nest has been built.)

This is a fair sample of the book—the vague, meaningless statements, the jumble of half-truths, the absurd pseudo-zoology. Why should such a book ever have been published?

NOTES AND NEWS

A recent issue of *Bird-Banding Notes* (Vol. 3, No. 3) issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service states the present situation in regard to the present and future supply of bird bands. The announcement reads in part, "It is hoped that it will not be necessary to curtail the banding work. Nevertheless, it is possible that the regulations regarding the use of aluminum for non-defense purposes may affect the supply of bands, especially of the larger sizes. Enough bands are on hand for present needs, but any co-operator who finds himself overstocked with large bands (sizes 6, 7, and 8) will do the Service a favor by returning those he is not likely to use."

The first of a series of informal regional meetings of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association was held at the Wharton Bird Banding Station, Groton, Massachusetts, on August 23 with twenty-three persons in attendance. Those present had an opportunity of examining an exhibition of shrubs attractive to birds and made the rounds of the station where a number of different types of traps were seen in operation. An out-of-doors roundtable discussion followed.