point of water-movement they are outlets of fresh water into the sea. Finally, I must question the wisdom of Truitt's apparent endorsement of a road between the north and south bridges. Access by bridge, yes; circuit roads spewing their noise and chemical pollution along the pristine ocean beach, no. No!

It is, alas, almost accident that Assateague Island is not a duplicate of Coney Island, or Atlantic City or even Ocean City. Repeated attempts to parcel and develop were timely met by frustrations of economic climates, wars and other difficult-to-predict events. But in the 1950's the well-organized Ocean Beach Corporation manuevered into control of most of the island—nearly all of it above the Maryland-Virginia border. Some 5,850 lots were actually sold, and by early 1962 nearly 50 houses had been built. Then came the Great March Storm of 1962, devasting the east coast from Virginia to New York, destroying completely as it went 30 of those 48 houses and seriously damaging the rest. Three years later Assateague belonged to us all.—Jack P. Hailman.

88. ***The Natural Regulation of Animal Numbers.*** David Lack. 1970. Oxford Univ. Press, London. viii + 343 pp. Paperback, $3.95.—Here is an inexpensive reprint of Lack's 1954 classic on population dynamics. If you missed it the first time around, read it now. Lack's basic thesis is that mortality increases with higher population densities primarily because food resources become scarce, and thus populations stabilize at some average density. Also included is his theory of the ultimate control of clutch size: birds lay as many eggs as possible, up to the point that food is spread too thinly among the young so that actual reproductive output begins to decline again. This book is not without active critics. Andrewartha and Birch challenged it on the grounds that environmental catastrophes "regulate" at least some animal populations, reducing densities to very low levels, which populations, then continue to rebuild until the next great event. Wynne-Edwards believes animals regulate their populations behaviorally by actually sensing the density of individuals and then adjusting reproduction accordingly. Lack's thesis seems, surprizingly after a decade and a half, still to occupy the middle ground of opinion in views on the very complex subject of population dynamics.—Jack P. Hailman.

NOTES AND NEWS

In a preface to the first Gooders guide to bird-watching areas (see review No. 82 in this issue), Roger Tory Peterson expressed the hope that the increased number of birdwatchers who might be led to visit the choicer habitats for birds might provide broader support for preservation of such spots. In part this may take the form of helping to move public opinion to make wise ecological decisions at the political level. In part it should take the form of direct personal commitment, including contributing money as far as possible. The wild places of the earth will not take care of themselves, and no country is isolated to the extent that the fate of wildlife in other countries is immaterial to it. For U. S. travelers in particular, enjoying so high a standard of material comfort relative to most of the rest of the world, it is certainly parasitic to enjoy the choice habitats—guided by Gooders or otherwise—but to do nothing to help ensure the survival of such habitats.

Fortunately, the cost of preserving such areas is often modest by U. S. cost levels, and small gifts have a real value. It is often difficult for the traveler to know where to send contributions for this purpose. Many areas either have no strong conservation groups at all, or the groups are highly specialized, or the campaign to save a particular area is brief and poorly publicized in the U. S. One of the best ways of overcoming these handicaps is by a contribution, of any size, to the World Wildlife Fund (U. S. address, 910 17th St., N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006).

The Fund has supported nearly 300 different projects since its founding in 1961, 42 in 1970 alone, not of course for birds alone. Many readers will recall its active part in the preservation of much of the Coto Doñana, at the mouth of the Guadalquiver in southwest Spain. It is currently working to help finance the

purchase of the Marchauen area of wetlands in Austria near Vienna. Nearer home it is supporting a project in New Jersey.

The North American Nest-Record Card program (Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, N. Y. 14850) welcomes nesting data on all species of birds, historical and current. It is currently engaged in a study of the geographical variation of the clutch-size of the Robin, Barn Swallow and Eastern Phoebe, and is particularly anxious to receive nesting information on these three species as soon as available.

The Manomet Bird Observatory is stressing the value of accumulating data on normal populations of birds as a base for comparison for changes, particularly changes that are warnings of environmental change. The Observatory's activities help to accumulate such data, directly by year-round banding and other research problems, indirectly by training others. It seeks new members at dues starting at $7 a year single (Miss Barbara Treat, Membership Secretary, Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, Mass. 02345).

Leaflets and reprints free to members of NEBBA (donation requested for postage) are available from Mrs. Frank A. Howard, Secretary, NEBBA, c/o Mass. Audubon Society, South Great Road, Lincoln, Mass. 01773. A list appeared in *Bird-Banding*, **41:** 263, July 1970, and a few titles from more recent issues have been added.

NEBBA now has in stock 16 types of mist nets. Of the 18 listed in *Bird-Banding*, **40:** 352-354, October 1969, types D, H and HT have been discontinued because of relatively limited interest among net users. We still have the full range of variety of mesh size and net length represented by the 18 types. In addition, we have very limited supplies of an experimental net, type KTX, recommended for experienced users only, limit 3 to a customer for now, prices 50c higher than ATX at all combinations of discounts. Type KTX is made of tetoron, a polyester, while all of our other nets are made of nylon. Otherwise it resembles type ATX, except for slightly heavier thread (75 denier, compared to 70 for ATX). The October 1969 price level still applies (subject to change without notice) despite higher costs meanwhile in parcel post rates and other items.