



In issue No.2 of the 33rd volume of EBBA NEWS it was stated in this department that a survey of Morris's The Naked Ape had been requested. Since this book has no immediate concern with bird banding, yet has tremendous significance regarding the present ecological crisis, readers were asked to submit opinions as to whether or not such subject matter belongs in our book corner. So far no one has expressed any opinion at all.

At this point, it is necessary to discuss Mabel's column for a moment. At the 1970 annual meeting of the Eastern Bird Banding Association at Albany, N.Y., several officers noted that we have a widening communications gap. There is no doubt that it is difficult to close this gap; EBBA is widespread and covers states from one border to another.

Unfortunately, Mabel's fine column, "Books for Banders" has also felt the pressures of this communications gap. Mabel reports to me that in over two years she has not received a single book review from EBBA's members! Surely, all members have read at least one book which has not as yet been reviewed in EBBA News?

I suspect that the problem is that members who would like to write a review, hesitate to do so because they think of book reviews as scholarly dissertations in the form of a critique. This may be the case in the New York Times, in the Auk, or in Wilson's Bulletin and scores of other fine publications, but NOT in EBBA News. We are looking for your reactions to the book. Why would you, for instance, be prompted to say to your neighbor: "You ought to read this book, it is great!" ? EBBA NEWS is an informal magazine, therefore, what you submit to Mabel Gillespie need not be formal, in fact, it need not even be an article. Just write Mrs. Gillespie what you think about the most recent book you've read.

You might ask: "What books shall I write about?" We do not want to receive reviews on highly technical papers. The ornithological journals take care of those. We are looking for reviews on books in the popular field of ornithology or any form of nature study. The following is a list of examples: Allen, A.A. The book of bird life (Van Nostrand, 1930) Lorenz, K.Z. King Solomon's Ring (Thos. Y. Crowell Co, 1952) Teale, E.W. North with the Spring (Dodd Mead 1951).

We implore each EBBA member to contribute to Mabel's column. We do not

wish to have to stop this department due to lack of material. Let us bridge the communications gap, -and WRITE!!! (Editor)

In the previous issue of the News we reviewed So Human an Animal by Rene Dubos. Dr. Dubos is professor of Environmental Biomedicine at the Rockefeller University, and is amazingly well informed about many scientific disciplines. He writes fluently and authoritatively about the social and ecological problems of our times. Since we are already off on this tangent, the discussion to follow will be concerned with Dubos' most recent book: Reason Awake, subtitled Science for Man. This is available in paperback, and is hot off the Columbia University Press.

The author's Foreword is full of meat. The first chapter is entitled The Despairing Optimist. He despairs "at seeing experimental science, one of the sanest and most powerful instruments ever devised by the human mind, used for purposes which are the epitomy of human folly....on the other hand, I am an optimist because the word catasrophe has not always implied tragic upheavals and utter failure. The original Greek word catasrophe meant a sudden change of course, an overturn not necessarily associated with disaster. There is still time for Western civilization to change its course."

Reasons for disenchantment are, first, "the realization that prosperity and comfort do not assure health and happiness; second, the fact that scientific knowledge has weakened or destroyed the traditional values by which man functioned in the past, but it has not provided him with a new ethical system to serve as a substitute." The author then considers how "scientific research could be redirected to problems far more important for human welfare than those which are receiving much attention at present."

Chapter 2 entitled Philosophers, Inventors, Scientists, is concerned with the old distinctions between empiricism and pure theory, or between inventors and scientists. "It is often claimed that the basic differences between science and technology is one of intention: science tries to explain, technology to construct." And finally, "The physicist, the humanist, and the layman can all find a common ground for discourse if they talk about matter, life, or man as perceived by the senses or as apprehended in the form of images, analogies and responses. But discussions of matter in terms of mathematical symbolism or a view of life and man in terms of disintegrated components cannot be related to any form of direct human experience. Specialists must return to the original human basis of their work if they want to converse with their fellow men."

Chapter 3 - Visions and Disenchantment - contains three subheadings. There are the Scientific Dreams of Mankind, The Nightmares of Reason, and Science at the World's Fair. There is a considerable list of the "nightmares" two of which one would particularly wish to avoid. These are "programmed dreams" and "increase of human mental capacity by connecting the

brain directly to a computer." Finally, "the theme of a future world's fair might be not the display of scientific and technological stunts but the use of science and technology for the creation of surroundings and ways of life that are both possible and desirable."

Chapter 4 called Scientists and Society has three sub-titles: Scientific Method and Social Choices, On Tap, but Not on Top, and Future-oriented Institutions. The first part of the chapter develops the theme that the great majority of scientists become consciously or unconsciously involved in public affairs and are motivated by preoccupations other than the search for truth. There is included a quote from the late J. F. Kennedy "Scientists can only establish the objectives of their research, but society in extending support to science must take account of its own needs."

In developing the second division of this chapter, the author writes: "Most scientists continue to select problems on the basis of intellectual interest and especially of prevailing fashion, rather than of importance for human welfare....One reason is that many scientists are interested primarily in theoretical and abstract issues....Another reason is that it is much easier to deal effectively with theoretical scientific problems than to formulate desirable and attainable social goals. As Einstein is reported to have said, sociology is more difficult than physics."

The author speaks of "blue ribbon committees" or "task forces", such as the one appointed by President Kennedy after the publication of Silent Spring. "Their report confirmed facts that had long been known.... and it also emphasized the need for further study. Despite the sentiments expressed in their report, however, there is no indication that any member of the committee did anything to encourage his staff or graduate students to work on pesticide toxicity. Nor is there any evidence that the committee has fostered such research in other institutions during the several years that have elapsed since the preparation of the report."

The final paragraph of the third section states: "Universities have been established to transmit classical knowledge and to acquire new but timeless and universal knowledge. Research institutes as presently constituted deal with the problems of the present and of the predictable future. Now that the technological environment is changing at an increasing rapid rate, we must develop scientific institutions to study how man can best make use of the possibilities among which he can choose. Only then can he determine his long range future, not as a passive witness but as a willful creator."

The fifth chapter called Scientific Civilization should be required reading for every human being on the face of the earth. Those who cannot grasp the written word should have it explained to them. But don't read it at bedtime unless you want scientific nightmares. Smogs and invisible fumes are "hovering over the countryside and beginning to spread over the

ocean masses. Air pollutants formed in Texas have been detected more than 1,000 miles away in Ohio; pollutants originating in Germany and Great Britain reach Scandinavia under certain meteorological conditions. In Sweden, air pollution has caused an increase in acidity of inland waters and thus injured fresh water fisheries. The urban atmospheres will not benefit much longer from the cleansing effect of the wind because the wind itself is now contaminated....Recent observations in Sweden and Japan have revealed that mercury from various technological processes is accumulating in fish, often killing them or rendering them unfit for human consumption. Perhaps of most long-range importance is the fact that contaminants are beginning to concentrate in plankton and may thereby upset the whole economy of the oceans and even the world supply of atmospheric oxygen.... Radioactive products from the fallout of nuclear explosions in isolated islands of the South Pacific are carried by winds to the arctic, where they are absorbed by lichens; from the lichens they reach reindeer that feed on these plants and eventually the Lapps and Eskimos who eat reindeer meat."

The foregoing is just a sampling of the first part of this chapter under the subtitle of The Technological Environment. Dr. Dubos is still an optimist, however despairing at times."The social ferment which is beginning to agitate the community of scientists gives hope that man still has a chance to control his destiny by imposing a direction on the scientific endeavor and, in particular, by consciously planning the scientific technology which will shape the modern world."

Mrs. John A. Gillespie, P.O. Box 575, Oak Bluffs, Mass. 12557

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#### Request for data on Bewick's Wren

Mr Donald E. Kroodsma, OSU, Zoology Dept., Corvallis, Ore. 97331, writes: "I am a graduate student at Oregon State University, conducting a geographical survey of the Bewick's Wren in the United States. For my work I would like to correspond with banders who have recently banded this species..."

Anyone who has recently worked on this species, please contact Mr. Kroodsma at the above mentioned address. Thank You.

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Correction: In EBBA NEWS, 32: 226, Catbird #512-35205 should be deleted. The Banding Laboratory has advised the author that the band number of this bird was erroneously reported because the band was incorrectly read. We thank the author, Mr. Raymond J. Middleton for bringing this to our attention. Editor.

Between January 15 and February 16, 1969, I banded 1348 Myrtle Warblers plus some 90 more, the sheet for which is momentarily misplaced. I worked only part time, not every day, and after a few experiences of finding 30 birds simultaneously in a net, usually only with one net at noon or in the late afternoon. The birds were attracted by the berries of a weed tree known locally as Brazilian Pepper or Florida Holly, Schinus terebinthifolius, and by a shallow pond. My net was set along the edge of this. I often had another net up in the woods where I was running a catbird experiment, but this took very few myrtles. Actually, when I set my pond net up, I was trying for some of the hundreds of thousands of robins that descend upon my stations, when the green tomatoes have been harvested and the ripe ones are abandoned in the fields. Nevertheless, for every robin, I have five myrtles.

My myrtle catch for the same period, working 25 days last year, was six. Aside from the unusual numbers present this winter, three observations seem of possible interest.

A. Frequently, a myrtle would have a schinus seed sticking to its feathers under the bend of the wing, in the yellow area, always on the right side. The seed is small, round, big in proportion to its soft red outside coating, which is what the birds feed on. Either the bird tosses the seed aside, to the right, or drops it, and occasionally it sticks to the feathers. Sometimes, I found two, and once, three. Often they were practically buried in the feathers, so that at first they were mistaken for a parasite. Unlike many of the birds which frequent my nets and the abundant wild food, I never handled myrtles with food still in its mouth.

B. Although the upper tail coverts were worn and sometimes even missing, it was still possible to sex the bulk of the birds as we do in the fall, by the tips of the upper tail coverts. (There seems to be a controversy; see Merrill Wood's guide vs. Chandler Robbins's Fall Warbler ageing/sexing paper. Ed.) There also often was a pronounced difference in color between the birds of the year and the ASY (after second year) individuals, so that many of them could be aged. My hope, since I am far enough away from any flyway over water, that one or two may show up in some northern net, has not been realized.

C. Only seven birds repeated (usually in the woods). One of these lacked its tail, three of them repeated several times. I suspect that all of them were weakened birds that had been in my "recovery room" gathering their strength to rejoin the swirling flocks of their kin.