

explanatory, and until more information is available, all hypotheses—adaptive or non-adaptive, discriminatory or non-discriminatory—must remain reasoned, but untested, “inventions.”

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Questions concerning the biological basis of observations of animal behavior are frequently the primary focus in studies of avian behavioral ecology. In such studies, it is important to realize that hypotheses concerning the proximal stimuli that elicit a response are not necessarily in conflict with those that concern its ultimate evolutionary basis (Alcock, *Animal behavior: an evolutionary approach*. Sinauer Associates, Sunderland, MA, 1975).

We welcome B. G. Murray's suggestion that the stimulus for attack by a male Flying Steamer-Duck (*Tachyeres patachonicus*) may be simply any object that moves through its territory or approaches its nest or young, for this is a testable hypothesis concerning a question not addressed in our paper. Murray's hypothesis, however, has little bearing on the primary evolutionary question that we posed in our paper, namely: “Why has such strong interspecific aggression evolved in Flying Steamer-Ducks?” (i.e., as compared to other bird species; Nuechterlein and Storer, *Condor* 87:87–91, 1985).

Although notoriously difficult to test, hypotheses that concern such ultimate evolutionary questions are *not* untestable. Our sexual selection hypothesis, for example, states that male steamer-ducks may be victimizing birds of other species “to display their belligerency and fighting abilities to their females.” This hypothesis predicts that males will

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be interspecifically aggressive particularly during pair formation and then only when a female is present. In contrast, the food competition hypothesis predicts interspecific aggression throughout the breeding season by both male and female. Both of these predictions could be tested but we had to leave the area shortly after making our initial observations: neither of our hypotheses addresses what proximal stimuli elicit this response.

Finally, although the aggressive responses of male steamer-ducks during pair formation appear to be “almost indiscriminate,” this does not mean that males cannot or do not distinguish other species from conspecifics. In fact, by examining their behavior in other contexts, we conclude the opposite. During our observations of their behavior, we never saw unpaired male steamer-ducks attempting to court a member of another species. This suggests that they can and do distinguish conspecifics from birds of other species and that their aggressive responses are very intense to both classes of stimuli.

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NEWS AND NOTES

55TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE C.O.S.

The Cooper Ornithological Society held its 55th Annual Meeting jointly with the Wilson Ornithological Society on 5–9 June 1985 at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Cynthia Carey was the chairperson of the Local Committee on Arrangements, and Carl Bock was the chairperson of the Committee on the Scientific Program.

The following people were elected as officers: C. J. Ralph, President; Russell Balda, President-elect; Charles Collins, Treasurer; Michael Morrison, Secretary; and, James Northern, Assistant Treasurer. Four new members of the board were elected: Daniel Anderson, Charles van Riper, Robert Ohmart, and Richard Hutto (who was elected to fill out the term of C. J. Ralph). Martin Morton was chosen to be Editor of *The Condor* to replace Peter Stettenheim, who had asked to step down.

Ninety-two papers were on the three-day program. The Harry R. Painton Award was given to Stephen R. Sabo and Richard T. Holmes for their paper, “Foraging niches and the structure of forest bird communities in contrasting montane habitats” (*Condor* 85:121–138). The A. Brazier Howell Award was presented to Brian Obst, and the Francis F. Roberts Award was presented to David Westmoreland. The two Board of Directors' Awards were presented to Mary McDonald and to Jerry W. Hupp.

The Board of Directors conferred honorary membership

on Peter Stettenheim for his outstanding service to our Society as Editor of *The Condor*.

The Conservation Committee drafted, in letter form, several resolutions to be sent to the appropriate officials and legislators: one to the Fish and Wildlife Service recommending that federal employees be supported to attend professional meetings; one regarding the preservation of Spotted Owls; one regarding the preservation of the California Condor; one encouraging implementation of the National Forest Management Act of 1976; and, one supporting the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980. The membership passed a resolution of thanks to the Local Committee that hosted this year's C.O.S. meeting.

1986 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE C.O.S.

The 56th Annual Meeting will be held in Davis, California, in early September, 1986. Charles van Riper is in charge of local arrangements. Announcements of the schedule and a call for papers will be mailed to members at a later date.

NOMINEES FOR C.O.S. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 1986, the members of the Cooper Ornithological Society shall elect to the Board of Directors three people to replace retiring members William R. Dawson, Sandra L. L. Gaunt, and Richard L. Hutto.

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Jared Verner (chairperson), Frank B. Gill, and David Balph, therefore

nominates Lloyd F. Kiff, J. David Ligon, and Glen E. Woolfenden for three-year terms to the Board.

Lloyd F. Kiff is Director of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Los Angeles, California. He is a life member of the C.O.S., having first joined in 1965. His major research interests are: adaptation of the avian egg, avian host parasites, pollutant effects on birds, endangered raptor populations, and the ecology of neotropical birds.

J. David Ligon is Professor of Biology at the University of New Mexico. He has been a member of the Society since 1963. His major research interests are avian social behavior and behavioral ecology.

Glen E. Woolfenden is Professor of Biology at the University of South Florida, Tampa. He is a life member of the Society, having first joined in 1948. His major research interests are social behavior, breeding ecology, and osteology.

51ST WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE

The 51st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference is scheduled for 21–26 March 1986 at the MGM Grand Hotel in Reno, Nevada. The theme of this international meeting is "Resource Management: First Line of Defense."

Those who wish to participate in the conference are invited to request guidelines for abstracts from and propose papers to the chairpeople of the appropriate sessions: (1) Management Needs of Certain Individual Species—Paul Vohs, Jr., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25266, Denver, CO 80225-0266; (2) Management Challenges and Innovative Responses: Case Histories—Michael R. Vaughn, Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, VPI & State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061; (3) Waterfowl: Problems and Management Potentials—John T. Ratti, Dept. of Fishery and Wildlife Biology, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO 80523; (4) Contaminant Situations: Correction/Prevention, Needs/Actions—John B. Pearce, Northeast Fisheries Center, National Marine Fisheries Service, Woods Hole, MA 02543; (5) Wildlife Habitat by Design—Eric G. Bolen, The Graduate School, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409; and, (6) poster session—Peter C. Lent, Dept. of Range, Wildlife, and Forestry, University of Nevada, 1000 Valley Road, Reno, NV 89557.

SPANISH-SPEAKING ORNITHOLOGISTS

The Intercontinental Group for the Unification of Avian Nomenclature in Spanish (G.I.U.N.C.A.) is an international non-profit organization with wide membership among Spanish-speaking nations. It seeks to foster indigenous Hispanic study of birds, based on the cooperation

and participation of these countries' ornithologists. The group's main purpose is to promote complete protection of endangered neotropical habitats. For more information or a copy of the latest bulletin (send \$2.00), write to: M. Fernández-Cruz and Isidro F. Aguillo, G.I.U.N.C.A.-S.E.O., Cátedra de Vertebrados, Planta IX, Fac. Biología, Univ. Complutense, 28040 Madrid, España/Spain.

EDITORIAL FAREWELL

With this issue I close eleven years of editing *The Condor*. The job has taught me a lot about ornithology and its practitioners, about writing and editing, and about dealing with other people and myself. The lessons have at times been difficult or exasperating, yet more often they have been enriching and stimulating. I am grateful to the many people who, while helping to produce our journal, have unwittingly been my teachers as well. First among these are the researchers who have submitted manuscripts, the journal's reason for existence. Close behind are the reviewers, many of whom have given exceptionally thoughtful and constructive criticism. It is a pleasure to acknowledge the Associate Editors who, over the years, have helped to select manuscripts and instruct authors about revising them: Russell P. Balda, Charles R. Blem, Carl E. Bock, Millicent S. Ficken, Mercedes S. Foster, Michael D. Kern, Marcy F. Lawton, Gary D. Schnell, James N. M. Smith, and Susan M. Smith. I thank my Assistant Editors and Editorial Assistants, the diligent people who have kept the operation running, scrutinized manuscripts and galleys, and compiled the annual indices: Helen Curcio, Elizabeth Pryor MacEachran, Suzanne Nothnagle, and Nancy Withington. Other kinds of assistance have been given by Sandra L. L. Gaunt (OSNA), Michael Morrison, and James Tate. Special thanks are due the staff at Allen Press, who are outstanding for their friendly manner of doing business as well as their careful workmanship. Lastly, I have been strongly supported and aided by COS officers and Board members. All of these people have played important roles in shaping and producing *The Condor*.

Manuscripts, editorial correspondence, and review copies of books should henceforth be sent to the new editor: Dr. Martin L. Morton, Department of Biology, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA 90041. As before, inquiries about subscriptions and memberships should go to OSNA, while those concerning the purchase of back issues should go to Assistant Treasurer James R. Northern; for addresses, see the inside front cover.

In clearing my files I leave with you the following advice from Sir Francis Bacon: "The contemplation of things as they are, without substitution or imposture, without error and confusion, is in itself a nobler thing than a whole harvest of invention."

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THE BULLETIN BOARD

FOR SALE: Eaton's *Birds of New York*, 2 vols., 1910 and 1914, 62 plates by Fuertes. Spine on Vol. 1 has two small holes; otherwise in good condition. \$125 includes shipping. G. Monson, 8831 North Riviera Drive, Tucson, Arizona 85704.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

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