

ORNITHOLOGICAL NEWS

On 3 June 1962 Mrs. Margaret Morse Nice, past president of the WOS, received an honorary degree of Doctor of Science from Elmira College (New York). The following citation was read on that occasion by Richard R. Bond, Dean of the Elmira College Faculty.

"Mr. President, I have the honor and pleasure of presenting Margaret Morse Nice for the honorary degree of Doctor of Science.

"A graduate of Mt. Holyoke College and a recipient of the master's degree from Clark University, she is an embodiment of our concept of an educated woman. Daughter of a historian at Amherst, married to a distinguished physiologist, mother of a fine family of four daughters, one of whom holds the Ph.D., grandmother of seven boys, five of whom are currently in college or graduate school, she has successfully combined her family life with her strong scientific interests. While and after rearing her family she actively engaged in study and research on biological problems, using the outdoors near her home as her laboratory and common species of birds as her subjects. In so doing, she joined the ranks of the eminent naturalists of all time who saw so much in what appeared common to so many. As she specifically became interested in the problems of population dynamics and individual behavior of the species with which she worked, as she shared her work with the scientific world through numerous publications, and as she brought the work of ornithologists around the world into focus as review editor of a national journal, she rose to eminence as a biologist. Indeed, she has recently been called by one scientist the "grandmother of ethology"—the newly emerging field of the scientific study of animal behavior. Her most famous work, a two-volume monograph on the Song Sparrow, the result of years of careful observation and experimentation with generations of individual birds, gained for her in 1942 the coveted Brewster medal, an award for the most significant ornithological publication. This pioneer study was a model of careful and thorough analysis of the life history and behavior of a species and has been a pattern for numerous subsequent Ph.D. theses. Among her many dozens of publications are works on territoriality, incubation periods, and the development of behavior in birds. She has also published 13 papers on the speech development of children.

"Her international reputation is evidenced by her election as Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, as President of the Wilson Ornithological Society for a term, and to Honorary Membership in the Linnaean Society of New York, the British Ornithologists' Union, and the professional ornithological societies of Holland, Germany, and Hungary. She will be an active participant at the 13th International Ornithological Congress to be held at Cornell University later this month.

"Mr. President, because of her accomplishments as a woman and as a scientist, I am honored to present to you both on behalf of all professional ornithologists and on behalf of the faculty of Elmira College, which, with the Board of Trustees, has recommended her for the degree of Doctor of Science, Mrs. Margaret Morse Nice."

It is with sincere regret that we announce the death of Harold H. Bailey, of Rockbridge Alum Springs Biological Laboratory, Goshen, Virginia, on 23 July 1962. Mr. Bailey had been an active member of the Wilson Ornithological Society since 1908.