

## Scientific Bird Watchers Find Friends Aid, Comfort Viruses

By DELOS SMITH  
UPI Science Editor  
New York—(UPI)—Scientific bird watchers have caught some of our little feathered friends—the robin, the blue bird, the flicker, etc.—giving aid and comfort to the viruses which cause an extremely uncomfortable and often fatal disease of people and horses.

The case against the birds is air-tight. The viruses have been found in their blood. But they are not the main accomplices of the criminals. The main accomplices seem to be two kinds of mosquitoes. One kind carries the viruses from bird to bird, and the other kind carries them from birds to people and horses—or at least the evidence so indicates.

**Prime Mystery**  
The viruses are those which cause equine encephalitis and the scientific detective work was done by Massachusetts state public health scientists under the direction of Dr. Roy F. Feemster of the Harvard School of Public Health. It is one of the clearest demonstrations that science is going to be strained to deal effectively against the ways some disease-causing viruses have of getting to people, and in this case, to horses.

A person with equine encephalitis doesn't give it to another person nor to a horse; nor does a horse give it to another horse nor to a person. Then how do the viruses get around among people and horses? That has been a prime mystery for years. Now the scientists-detectives have come up with what looks like the full and correct answer.

Not all the evidence is conclusive but it explains most of the known peculiarities of equine encephalitis. The outbreaks are sporadic, occur in summer, and sometimes there are many years between them. Massachusetts has had several over the past two decades, all of them in the vicinity of swampy areas.

In a detailed report of their years-long detective work, Feemster and his associates pointed out that in summer drought years there have been no outbreaks of equine encephalitis. The outbreaks have come in years when spring and early summer rains were abundant.

Therefore, it was reasoned that rains filled up the swamps which then became fine breeding grounds and upped the mosquito population. This population reached high numbers at the time newly hatched birds were in their nests, defenseless against mosquitoes. So the viruses were spread widely among birds, and then by other mosquitoes—who sucked the virus crop from their blood—to people and horses.

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### Director To Sue Samuel Goldwyn

Hollywood—(UPI)—Director Robert Mamoulian today planned to bring suit against Samuel Goldwyn for replacing him in the company of the film, "Porgy and Bess" with Otto Preminger.

"I have the greatest respect for Mamoulian," Goldwyn

said, "but he and I could not see eye to eye on various matters. Rather than go on with basic differences of opinion between us, I have relieved him and engaged Mr. Preminger when production is resumed."

Shooting of the picture was delayed when fire swept through a sound stage housing the "Porgy and Bess" set last July 2.

Mamoulian indicated differences of opinion with Goldwyn concerned with other matters at the studio and not the picture itself.

### President's Auto Has Flat Tire

Washington—(UPI)—President Eisenhower, like a lot of Americans, had a flat tire Sunday. But he didn't have to wait for his car to pull sideways or go bumping along on a wheel rim to find out about it.

Secret Service agents riding behind him saw the tire going down as the President's limousine moved through a clover-leaf turn on the highway from his Gettysburg, Pa., farm en route back to the capital.

The agents quickly radioed ahead to the presidential car whose driver promptly pulled over to the side. The Chief Executive and First Lady transferred to another air-conditioned limousine, leaving Secret Service agents to fix the flat.

**Early Classes Not Course for Students**  
What Ridge, Colo.—(UPI)—The traditional campus course, the 8 a.m. class won't seem so bad to 23 high school mathematics whizzes when they enter college this fall.

For the past school year, these Jefferson County seniors appeared at Wheat Ridge High daily at 7 a.m.—voluntarily. The "A" math students crammed a normal year's instruction in solid geometry and trigonometry into the semester.

Mathematics instructors from Colorado School of Mines, Colorado University and Denver University then gave them college-level instruction.

Nearly half the class won college scholarships. Jefferson County school officials are so pleased with the success of the 7 a.m. class for exceptional students that the policy will be continued.

### Congressmen Eye Departure Time

Washington—(UPI)—Congressional leaders looked forward today to adjournment in two or three weeks—provided the Middle East crisis doesn't worsen and upset their plans.

Assistant Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield (Mont.) was on record with a prediction the 85th Congress would wind up its business by Aug. 9, House Republican Leader Joseph W. Martin Jr. (Mass.) circled the same date.

Some other key lawmakers, however, thought Aug. 16 would be a more likely departure time in view of the array of major legislation still to be acted on.

Congress still has to deal with "must" legislation including defense appropriations, farm tax, welfare and labor bills.

### Increase Noted in Lightning Fires

Portland—(UPI)—Regional fire control chief Alfred E. Spaulding of the U. S. Forest Service said there has been a striking increase in the number of fires and the total acreage burned during the 1958 fire season as compared with the similar period last year.

Forest service findings disclosed the increased number of fires caused by lightning, and a decreased number of man-caused blazes.

**ACTOR DIES**  
New York—(UPI)—Harry T. Joyner, 71, an actor and narrator, died Sunday after an illness of several months.

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