

Bird Migrations Still Influenced By Ice Age

Washington—(Science Service)—An ancient "cold snap" may explain why today some southern birds migrate farther south when autumn comes.

Some of the current bird migrations in spring and autumn may stem from a habit developed in the Ice Age which ended about 30,000 years ago. The migratory instinct seems to have been built into the annual life cycle of the species, Dr. Alexander Wetmore, Smithsonian Institution research associate, said here.

Go Further South
Today, he explained, the black-whiskered vireo which nests in southern Florida and the West Indies—where seasonal cold is never a problem—still migrates south. Another species of vireo which nests in the tropics from Mexico to Panama migrates to the upper Amazon in September and October.

"It seems possible that during the period of the Wisconsin ice sheet temperature conditions in these areas of the northern tropics were so different that an annual migration was established which now continues though there is no apparent present necessity for it," Dr. Wetmore said.

There is also evidence that various bird populations are following the current upward shifts in temperature.

More Birds in Iceland
For example, in the past 50 years, seven species of birds have been added to the breeding population in Iceland due to warmer conditions. In Greenland, Dr. Wetmore said, there has even been a reversal of migration patterns. Some fieldfares—a thrush that nests in northern Europe and northwestern Siberia—came there 20 years ago. A breeding colony has been established and the birds remain in southern Greenland throughout the year, although fieldfares migrate in their "proper home" in northern Eurasia.

FOUND IN SHOWER

Ossining, N. Y. —(UPI)—The guards at Sing Sing prison Sunday found their missing prisoner after an all night search. He was hiding in a shower stall in one of the old buildings on the prison grounds. The prisoners, James DeLuise, refused to disclose why he hid in the shower.



RESIGNS—Mrs. Clare Booth Luce (right) has resigned as Ambassador to Brazil following a Senate uproar over a sarcastic remark she made about Senator Morse. Mrs. Luce is shown in the office of the press secretary at the White House, where she met with newsmen after submitting her resignation to President Eisenhower. At left is Anne Wheaton, assistant press secretary.

Newton's Gravitation Theory Now Suspected of Being Wrong

Washington—(Science Service)—A hint that Newton's theory of gravitation, used to predict the motion of planets, may be wrong was reported to the American Physical Society meeting here.

Drs. R. H. Dicke and R. Krotkov of Princeton University said a comparison between the observed and predicted positions of the planet Jupiter shows they do not quite agree. It is possible, they suggest, that the fundamental theory of Newton may not be "quite right."

Jupiter sometimes appears to be ahead of where it should be, sometimes behind. The difference changes regularly with time and goes through a complete cycle once every 12.4 years. The magnitude of the effect is small—Jupiter never gets out of place in its orbit by more than 600 miles.

Barely Measureable
Jupiter is so far away that this 600-mile shift, when observed by astronomers here, puts the planet out of position by only seven-hundred-thousandths of a degree, an angle barely measureable. The sun makes an angle of one-half a degree in the sky.

No clear indication of a

similar effect has been found in the other outer planets, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, they reported.

The reason for studying how well the best theories account for Jupiter's observed motion is, fundamentally, to see if they are correct. Such discrepancies as the small one found in Jupiter's motion have occurred frequently in the past. So far they have been explained either by a previously unsuspected systematic error in the measurements, which can then be eliminated or corrected, or by inadequate calculations of the predicted position.

Extremely Complicated
Although the Newtonian theory of gravitation used to predict planetary positions is very simple in principle, the calculations involved in using it are extremely complicated.

Until electronic computers were developed astronomers could never be quite sure their calculations were sufficiently accurate.

The calculations used by Drs. Dicke and Krotkov in their comparison of theory and experiment were done on an electronic computer by Dr. W. J. Eckert of the Watson Computing Laboratory, New

York; Dr. Dirk Brouwer of Yale University observatory, and Dr. G. M. Clemence of the U. S. Naval observatory here.

The calculations are believed to give very accurately the position of Jupiter, so the small discrepancy can be explained by either an error in the measurements or, possibly, in the fundamental theory.

Change in Orbit
The regular cycle in which Jupiter departs from its predicted position has repeated every 12.4 years for the past 160 years. This is slightly longer than the 11.9 years required by Jupiter to revolve once around the sun. Since these two time periods are nearly equal, the error may be considered due to a steady but gradual change in the shape and orientation of Jupiter's orbit.

However, there is at present no known reason for such a gradual change to occur. Drs. Dicke and Krotkov pointed out.

Since the Newtonian theory of gravitation has been very successful in explaining the motions of planets, scientists are reluctant to change it unless experiments clearly show it to be wrong. Whether Newton's theory will continue to be as successful as the accuracy of observations and of the numerical calculations improves will be solved in the future.

County Librarians To Attend State Meeting in Bend

Six Jackson County librarians will attend the 1959 conference of the Oregon Library association in Bend May 7, 8, and 9.

The Ashland Public library will be represented by Miss Cora Mason, Mrs. Charles Worth, and Mrs. Robert Penzer. Miss Joyce Marlin, Miss Julie Keiser, and Miss Helen Webster will attend from the Medford Public library staff.

A feature of this year's conference will be an all-day county library workshop, with the morning session devoted to the current and controversial issue of public library service to schools and school library service. The afternoon session will include a discussion of multicounty libraries and the report on the Arizona Institute of Library Development in the Western States. Miss Constance Grier, recently appointed assistant state librarian, will preside at both sessions.

Featured speakers will include Miss Eleanor A. Ferguson, executive secretary, public library division, American Library association, and Omar Bacon, director, Columbia River Regional Valley demonstration. When a check, Wash. film, "Yours for the Asking," recently telecast over KBES-TV will be shown.

Friday and Saturday sessions of the conference will feature sectional meetings for trustees and public librarians will meet at breakfast on Saturday.

PLANE HAS TROUBLE

New York —(UPI)—A Pan American air lines DC7C en route to London with actress Ginger Rogers and 38 other passengers aboard, developed engine trouble over the Atlantic Sunday and returned to Frobisher Bay, Canada.

Kidnappers of Negro In Mississippi Not Necessarily 'Crazy'

Philadelphia—(Science Service)—The masked men who broke into the jail in Poplarville, Miss., and kidnapped a Negro charged with attacking a white woman would not necessarily be considered as mentally ill, Dr. Rives Chalmers, psychiatrist of Emory University, Atlanta, Gr., told Science Service here. Dr. Chalmers is attending a meeting of the American Psychiatric association of which he is a fellow.

Such violence against a Negro could be considered by the kidnapers and in their social group as in keeping with accepted behavior and justified by the circumstances.

Probably Instigator
Although psychiatrists do not feel that a "mob mind" could carry individuals into such violence against their own individual wills, there was probably one man in the group who would have committed the act alone if he could have done so. That single person was probably the instigator.

The instigator must have been a person who was highly emotionally aroused and felt that any aggression against the Negro prisoner was justified. The others followed him because of the force of his emotion and "righteous wrath."

People of the Negro group in the South, as elsewhere, have a great strength as individuals, he said, but where isolation has been enforced, it has prevented them from becoming a responsible force in the community. Some of the white group in the South have a depth of feeling against this minority people that most of us do not realize, and seem to be determined that they shall not be permitted to share opportunity and responsibility on an equal basis, Dr. Chalmers said.

Not Understood
It is unfortunate that psychiatrists do not have the opportunity to make a study of those guilty of such mob violence. Psychiatrists do not examine them either as a group or individually. No one actually understands all the personal and group forces that originate and carry out lynchings.

Dr. Chalmers feels, however, that inevitably the act will have a serious effect on the self respect and integrity of those who took part in it.

WHAT PRICE GLORY

Edmunds, England —(UPI)—Edward Coe, 15, has decided to accept a role in the Ume Magna Carta pageant here. In the pageant Coe is hurried fully clothed into the River Lark. There are 24 performances scheduled.

Institution Funds Slashed by Senate

Salem —(UPI)—Through use of a parliamentary device seldom employed in the Oregon Legislature, the Senate yesterday went into a committee of the whole, considered House Bill 1096 containing appropriations for state institutions and slashed \$1,028,014 from the budget. It now goes to the House.

The Joint Ways and Means committee had recommended a budget of \$2,781,664 for this purpose.

The \$991,014 budget for the new correctional institution with the exception of an item of \$33,300 for an inter-institutional fire alarm system was deleted from the budget.

Also deleted was \$70,000 for planning a new women's prison, after Senate President Walter J. Pearson (D-Portland) suggested that the building already completed and grounds at the new intermediate institution could be converted into a women's prison.

ASKS RADIOACTIVE STUD
Washington —(UPI)—A congressman has urged the Public Health Service to study the relationship between radioactive rocks and the birth of abnormal babies. Rep. Samuel S. Stratton (D-N.Y.) said in a recent report by a regional officer of the New York State Health Department showed a high degree of correlation between radioactive rock outcroppings and large numbers of malformed infants.

Godfrey Walks Several Times

New York —(UPI)—Arthur Godfrey walked without help several times Sunday for the first time since his lung cancer operation.

Godfrey's recovery from the five-hour operation on Thursday to remove part of his left lung continued satisfactorily, a Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center spokesman said today.

He is expected to resume his radio-television duties in about three months.

A FEDERAL CASE

Laurel, Miss —(UPI)—The FBI has joined in investigation of a 13-car tire-slashing case here. Four of the vehicles are owned by the federal government.

MAIL TRIBUNE, Medford, Or.
Monday, May 4, 1959

REDS FIGHT ILLITERACY
Tokyo —(UPI)—Communist China claimed during the week end that it will wipe out illiteracy among young people in two years. The official Communist New China news agency said 36,000,000 "young illiterates" learned to read and write during 1958.

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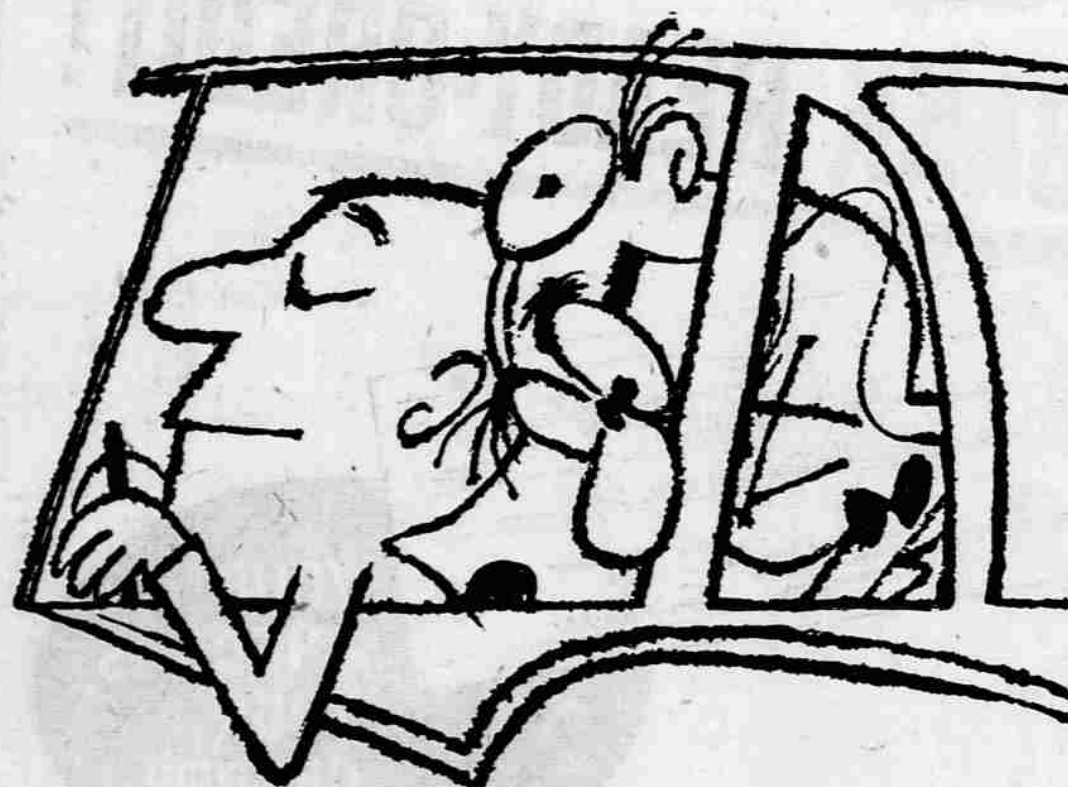
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