



No Trespassing!

► SMALL birds singing lustily in the springtime are not caroling hymns of praise, as a former generation of rather sentimental poets once declared. Neither are they sweetly wooing their mates, as other bards liked to imagine. At the outset, at least, their mates-to-be simply aren't there. In the spring migrations of most species, males come first, and females follow in a later wave.

In the meantime, the males have staked out their respective claims on hunting areas, that will later yield caterpillars, or insects, or whatever it is that the hungry brood will need. They proclaim title by singing as loudly as they can, and if a claim-jumper appears, assail him with fierce little wing-buffetings and pecks. Thus small birds' singing, though more melodious, serves pretty much the same purpose as the crowing of roosters or the gobbling of tom-turkeys.

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There may be three generations of gnats during a summer, with each generation having three or four broods.

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Books Off the Press

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BRITAIN'S SEA POWER—*British Information Services*, 35 p., illus., paper, free.

CLOUDS & WEATHER PHENOMENA—C. J. P. Cave—*Cambridge Univ.*, 46 p., illus., \$1.75.

DUTCH EMIGRATION TO NORTH AMERICA 1624-1860—Bertus Harry Wabeke—*Netherlands Inf. Bureau*, paper, 75c.

A DYNAMIC ERA OF COURT PSYCHIATRY 1914-1944—Agnes A. Sharp, ed.—*Psychiatric Inst. of Municipal Court of Chicago*, 149 p., illus., not for sale. Copies to qualified persons on request while supply lasts.

THE GOLDEN ALMANAC—Dorothy A. Bennett—*Simon and Schuster*, 94 p., illus., \$1. A book for young children—fun and fact, games, stories and poems with a little incidental science.

GUIDING THE NORMAL CHILD—Agatha H. Bowley—*Phil. Library*, 174 p., \$3. A non-technical book of British origin intended for parents as well as teachers.

HEALTH FOR YOU—Katharine Bruderlin Crisp—*Lippincott*, 576 p., illus., \$1.80. A functional high school health text designed for basic use.

INTRODUCTORY ASTRONOMY: A Guide for Night Watchers—J. B. Sidgwick—*Phil. Lib.*, 137 p., illus., \$2.50.

MEDICAL CARE OF THE DISCHARGED HOSPITAL PATIENT—Frode Jensen, H. G. Weiskotten and Margaret A. Thomas—*Commonwealth Fund*, 94 p., \$1. This is the story of a successful experiment in extending the range of a hospital's service; it is of interest primarily to hospital administrators, physicians, health officers, welfare leaders and others concerned with community health.

MIRACLES AHEAD!—Norman V. Carlisle and Frank B. Latham—*Macmillan*, 288 p., \$2.75.

OCEANOGRAPHIC OBSERVATIONS ON THE "E. W. SCRIPPS" CRUISES OF 1940: Cruises X-XVI—H. U. Sverdrup and staff of Scripps Inst. of Oceanography—*Univ. of Calif. Press*, 187 p., \$1, paper.

THE OUTLOOK FOR SYNTHETIC RUBBER—Melvin A. Brenner—*Nat. Planning Assn.*, 32 p., paper, 25c. Planning Pamphlets No. 32.

PACIFIC OCEAN HANDBOOK—Eliot G. Mears—*James Ladd Delkin*, 192 p., illus., maps, paper, \$1. This handbook contains facts about maps, water, coastlines, volcanoes and earthquakes, tides and tidal waves, winds, storms, temperature, rain, navigation and other details of a great fighting area.

PASSENGER TRANSPORT IN THE UNITED STATES - 1920-1950—Lewis C. Sorrell and Harry A. Wheeler—*Railway Business Assn.*, 72 p., paper, 50c.

RIDING ON AIR—Merrill Hamburg and Frederic Beddow—*Pitman*, 130 p., illus., \$2. This book tells how to design, build

and fly model airplanes and gives laboratory exercises that really get across some of the science of aeronautics.

STONE MONUMENTS OF SOUTHERN MEXICO—Matthew W. Stirling—*Gov't. Printing Off.*, 84 p., illus., paper, 35c. Smithsonian Inst. Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin No. 138.

THE TECHNIQUE OF MOTION PICTURE PRODUCTION—Society of Motion Picture Engineers—*Interscience*, 150 p., illus., \$3.50. A symposium of papers presented before the Society of Motion Picture Engineers.

THE WOUNDED GET BACK—Albert Q. Maisel—*Harcourt, Brace*, 230 p., \$2.50.

VOLCANOLOGY

Eruption of Vesuvius Has Taken 26 Lives

See Front Cover

► CONTRIBUTING its bit to the destruction of lives and property in Italy, Mt. Vesuvius has been belching forth molten lava that destroys everything in its path as it flows down the sides of the ancient volcano.

The official U. S. Navy photograph on the cover of this *SCIENCE NEWS LETTER* shows the volcano with its billowing clouds of black smoke.

At the latest count the death toll from the eruption totalled 26. Although residents of the Vesuvius area probably would be reluctant to believe it, the current eruption is not a very big one, from the long-range geological point of view. (See *SNL*, April 1)

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