

Wildlife Authority Reports On Animals vs. Chemicals

The "Silent Spring" grows noisier with the sounds of combatants in the wildlife versus pesticides war—and it may get worse, observes a University of Michigan wildlife authority.

Karl F. Lagler, chairman of the department of fisheries in the U-M School of Natural Resources, says that although evidence accumulates that chemical poisons are killing or rendering unfit for human consumption many wild fish, birds and mammals, some individuals and industries appear to be trying to discourage the adoption of needed controls.

Lagler cites examples reported by the National Wildlife Federation on a radio program, "Conservation Report," produced by the University Broadcasting Service:

"FEDERAL BIOLOGISTS recently pointed to traces of the pesticides aldrin and dieldrin as the killers of as many as 2,000 wild ducks annually at three small inland lakes near Denver, adding that many thousands of ducks carried sub-lethal doses of the poisons to their nesting grounds, where their reproduction may be impaired.

"Word from California indicates that pheasants in agricultural areas there carry large amounts of DDT and smaller amounts of dieldrin and that chlorinated hydrocarbons readily pass from the pheasant hen to the egg."

Surroundings May Be Poor For Rich Kids

The teacher can do much to help the "poor little rich" boy or girl.

Many of our deprived youngsters come from homes in the upper-middle or high economic class but live in "poor" family surroundings, according to William Morse, University of Michigan professor of educational psychology.

"These children may have fine clothes and many of the material necessities of life but are deprived of love, intellectual stimulation, good nutritional habits, positive attitudes and other phenomena found in rich, home atmosphere," Morse says.

Teachers, of course, realize that deprived youngsters many times do not adjust too well to classroom situations and show little inclination to learn.

THEY SHOULD nevertheless refrain from using failing grades as a stimulant to greater achievement, Morse says.

"Rather, teachers should give these children more individual counseling and try to take them on more field trips, tours and other educational excursions.

"By getting youngsters out of the formal classroom and providing them with actual experiences, greater learning will occur," he says.

He emphasizes that teachers should "beware of stereotyping children from low economic homes as 'poor' because these young people may be 'richer' in many ways than the children from wealthy homes."

Interaction Will Improve College Plan

How can colleges improve the teaching process?

"One of the first things that a faculty tends to think of when it calls for improving the quality of teaching is to ask for a more highly qualified student body," says Dr. Allan O. Pfister of The University of Michigan Center for the Study of Higher Education.

"There are few faculties which are not of the opinion that if given students with greater ability most of the instructional problems now faced would be quickly solved," Pfister says.

But drastically changing the character of the student body without giving attention to the other elements in the process does not guarantee better teaching, he says.

WHAT ABOUT the teacher? "Is the answer to higher-quality instruction the teachers with wider background and training? A greater proportion of persons with advanced degrees?

"The trend of preparation that leads to quality instruction is not simply command of a great body of facts. The teacher is not a phonograph, playing back bits of information," Pfister says.

"But given a very bright student body and a well-qualified faculty, we still may not have done all we can to improve the quality of teaching. Unless there is a high quality of interaction between the person who instructs and the student, the quality of teaching may after all remain rather poor," says Pfister.

"The highest quality instruction is the result of a combined attack on each of these areas,"

withdrawn from distribution its "outstanding" color film, "Deadly Dilemma," which argues for biological controls combined with a minimum of chemical control.

FEDERAL wildlife biologists who have specialized in pesticides have been "dis-invited" to give a number of talks, "indicating that a concerted effort is afoot to silence the anti-chemical people."

Wisconsin's Natural Resources Committee of State Agencies has drafted a proposed pesticide control bill to be presented to the legislature, the U-M spokesman reports.

A committee chairman of the In-

ternational Union for the Conservation of Nature declared in Rome that pesticides in the long run may increase problems rather than reduce them.

"WITH THIS IN mind, careful consideration should be given to such spectacular and not so effective immediately, may eventually be a more economic way of improving the production of food.

"Such control may be brought about by changing key ecological conditions that favor pests."

ESD To Offer Refresher Courses

Engineers, architects and land surveyors who plan to write the state registration examinations in June of 1964 can apply now for refresher courses during the Engineering Society of Detroit's winter term.

Registration will be held Thursday, Jan. 9 beginning at 7 p.m. in the banquet room of the Society building.

Classes begin on Jan. 11 for engineers, Jan. 18 for architects, and April 11 for land surveyors.

Applications may be obtained by calling TE-2-5400, or at Society headquarters, 100 Farnsworth in Detroit.

The courses will reinforce and refresh previous backgrounds and provide a comprehensive review of the subjects on which candidates will be examined in June.

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