

Observations on the patterns of aggressive and submissive behaviour have shown that the postures used by adults and young are similar, but adults are more vigorous than young and parents are more vigorous than adults without families. Males attack more and are more successful than females though there is no clear difference between the sexes in vigour. There is a direct relation between intensity of threat and response, and response is also affected by the status of the attacker but apparently not by that of the victim. There is very little fighting within families. Geese of other species are tolerated within flocks.

The frequency of attacks within a flock is affected by its composition and density, by the general level of activity, by disturbance, and by the accessibility of drinking places. Conflicts for food are rare.

TRIUMPH DISPLAY IN GEESSE

The following note has been received from N. G. Blurton Jones and Robert A. F. Gillmor who spent a week at Slimbridge under a special grant from Leighton Park School.

During the first week in January 1953, we carried out a comparative study of the triumph displays of the 'true geese' (*Anser* and *Branta*) with especial reference to the movements involved and their relation to the colours and markings of each species. Notes, sketches, photographs and a film showing the aggressive and triumph displays of most of the geese in the Trust's collection were made. The film's main use was to help in further analysis and study. Some observations were also made of a particularly aggressive individual Andean Goose, although it does not belong to the two genera of 'true geese.'

The aggressive displays are basically the same in both *Anser* and *Branta*. They appear to be ritualised stages in a direct attack, e.g. 'high head waving,' as if the bird is swimming or walking towards its opponent, and the 'bent-necked aggressive posture,' as if the bird is about to peck its opponent.

It was found that certain species 'specialised' in various postures, the high head aggressive posture being typical of the Bar-headed Goose, for example. The triumph display consists of an extreme aggressive posture disguised by the following movements: (1) a horizontal waving, with the head held low and outstretched; (2) an up and down vertical waving; and (3) a thrusting forward of the bent neck. In black geese the Red-breasted Goose has only the horizontal waving, but the Canada Goose has all three components very marked which combine to produce a snaking movement, which is characteristic of the species.

ROUNDING UP CANADA GEESSE

1. LEICESTERSHIRE

In the winter of 1952 Lord Gretton, of Stapleford Park, Leicestershire, asked the Trust for advice on methods of capturing Canada Geese, because the flock at Stapleford had grown inconveniently large. Since the geese were full-winged and not very tame, the simplest way of catching them promised to be by rounding-up at the time when the adults were flightless (having moulted their flight-feathers) and the goslings were not yet full-grown. It was agreed that the Trust should undertake the task.

On 25 June 1953 three members of the Trust staff went to Stapleford.¹ The

¹ H. Boyd, R. Philpott, Miss Peggy Cameron.