growth must be controlled by high death rates or by low birth rates. The National Academy of Sciences in its report *The Growth of World Population* concluded, "Other than the search for lasting peace, no problem is more urgent" (*3*).

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References

1. G. Hardin, *Science*, **162**, 1243 (1968); D. G. Aldrich, Jr., *ibid.*, p. 1309.
2. *United Nations Demographic Yearbook 1968* (Statistical Office of the Economic and Social Affairs Dept. of the United Nations, New York).
3. National Academy of Sciences Committee on Science and Public Policy, NRC Rept. 1091 (Washington, D.C., 1963), p. 2.

Migratory Habits of the Scientific Goose

The rapidly expanding population of the once rare bird, the scientific goose, has increased the importance of attempts to study and interpret the rather exceptional geographic movement patterns of this species. Although permanent nesting areas are found in all habitable regions of the earth, they tend to be concentrated in the vicinity of the major cities. At intervals, which correlate only approximately with seasonal variations, individual birds from widely separated nesting sites simultaneously take flight. They travel, often vast distances, to flocking points where they engage in the "ritual ceremony" or "symposium" which lasts an average of 5 to 7 days, then return to their points of origin. The cycle is repeated again and again, with the only discernible difference being the location of the flocking point.

The assumption that this migratory behavior is related primarily to breeding may be rejected on the grounds that the males greatly outnumber the females; moveover, the frequency of participation appears to accelerate with age, so that the oldest birds (easily distinguishable by their bedraggled feathers and drooping tails) are in almost constant flight. Any alternative hypothesis to explain this mysterious evolutionary adaptation must account for the events of the "ritual ceremony." During this activity the individuals, one by one, take a position facing the others and cackle loudly in turn. Analysis of these sounds has demonstrated characteristic cackling patterns for each individual, the only variation being the addition of

a few novel sounds at the end and the omission of a like number at the beginning of each presentation. Also to be explained are the recent experiments which have shown that the prime characteristic of the migrating individuals is their high position in the pecking order of their home flocks. Moreover, their departure signals a marked relaxation of flock activities as well as an exceptional degree of disorganized and chaotic behavior in the remaining members. In certain respects this overall behavior pattern suggests a form of racial suicide consequent upon the recent extremely rapid rise in the population.

In order to discuss these problems, a Congress on the Migratory Habits of the Scientific Goose has been organized and will be held either on the French Riviera or the island of Tahiti in the fall of 1969.

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Proposed American Society for Neurochemistry

A number of American scientists in the area of neurochemistry have expressed an interest in forming a national scientific society. As a temporary measure, the American members of the International Society for Neurochemistry have selected an organizing committee for the purpose of taking the preliminary steps required in setting up such a society. Anyone actively working in the field of neurochemistry and interested in participating in the work of the founding group is invited to communicate with one of the members of the organizing committee: B. W. Agranoff (Ann Arbor, Michigan), S. S. Kety (Boston, Massachusetts), A. Lajtha (New York City), F. LeBaron (Albuquerque, New Mexico), H. R. Mahler (Bloomington, Indiana), G. M. McKhann (Baltimore, Maryland), E. Roberts (Duarte, California), W. W. Tourtellotte (Ann Arbor, Michigan), D. B. Tower (Bethesda, Maryland), and F. Wolfgram (Los Angeles, California); or with the provisional secretary: J. Folch-Pi, McLean Hospital, Belmont, Massachusetts 02178.

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