

the influence of plumage and pelage on sex attraction is well known. The point to remember is that all these functions—of variety, sex attraction, concealment, warning, recognition—are definite functions; that one in no sense excludes another; that any one may at any time act the leading part and at another be relegated to the subordinate part. Such being the case, it is ill-advised to lay so much stress on any one function that all others are warped and bent to fit it. Whether Nature so patterned her creatures that they might be distinguished one from the other, and then incidentally arranged that those patterns should help conceal or reveal at need; or whether she intended concealment as the major requisite, and handily fitted in the other functions; or whether, quite simply, she was working out the mysterious world-need for beauty and infinite variety, it is each man's privilege to decide for himself. But I think it should be remembered that most often she works by *tendency* rather than by hard fact.

