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Cob Mute Swan with young Canada Goose he has killed. Regina, Saskatchewan. May 8, 1973.

AGGRESSIVE MUTE SWAN KILLS GOSLING

by GARY W. SEIB*

While I was taking photographs in Regina's Wascana Waterfowl Park on May 8, 1973, I noticed an unusual demonstration of territoriality among waterfowl.

A pair of Canada Geese with seven 2- or 3-day-old young were resting on the shoreline when a car drove up and scared them into the water. Quickly, a male or cob Mute Swan charged at the family group, scattering the young. The excited adult geese offered no defence when the swan picked up a gosling in its bill, shook it and then held it under water. It escaped and the swan chased another which eluded him

by diving. Then the swan singled out a gosling swimming away from shore into deeper water. He repeatedly bit it, shook it and held it under water until it was drowned. All this took only 3 or 4 minutes.

The parent geese and their remaining young climbed onto the shore and the swan patrolled back and forth to prevent them from entering the water again.

The swans were nesting on an island in the lake, almost $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from where this incident occurred, but the cob seemed determined to keep a large area of water free of other birds; he drove off ducks and coots as well.

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