

to it again and again for the data and detailed information upon their favorite hobby with which its pages teem.

In the present connection we can do no more than present a brief outline of its contents, leaving those interested to study at leisure the portions of the book which pertain to the special topics in which they are interested.

Beginning with general suggestions for beginners we pass to a forceful plea for the better protection of our wild life, then comes Chapter III entitled "Branches of Photography" in which are considered animal and bird photography, aerial, astronomical and flash-light photography, flower and insect photography and the photography of lightening, snow and moonlight scenes, all interspersed with details regarding equipment and beautifully illustrated. There are also not a few diversions on the habits of the animals whose photography is being discussed, including quite a treatise on snakes, their habits, venom, etc.

Chapter IV consists of "Glimpses of the Vanishing Animal Kingdom of Africa," based on the leading publications on the subject and illustrated by Martin Johnson's wonderful photographs and others from the New York Zoo and the American Museum of Natural History. Next comes (Chapter V) a "Partial Who's Who in Nature Photography," with portraits and biographical sketches of such well-known photographers and writers as Akeley, Baynes, Burroughs, Dugmore, Chapman, Ditmars, Finley, Hornaday, Johnson, Roosevelt, Seton, Shiras and others.

The rest of the work, comprising nearly half of the volume, is devoted to the more technical side of the subject—cameras, lenses, development, exposure, flash-light apparatus and transparencies.—and contains a vast amount of technical data and valuable information.

The illustrations, beginning with the frontispiece—Mr. John M. Phillips' prize winning portrait of the Mountain Goat, form a most attractive presentation of the possibilities of nature photography and are contributed by the leading exponents of the art.

Mr. Nesbit is to be congratulated upon the splendid contribution that he has made to his favorite hobby and we feel sure that he will be successful in diverting many "gun hunters" to the ranks of the "camera hunters," for as he truly says many persons who would fain have become animal photographers have been discouraged by lack of knowledge of the camera and how to use it and this knowledge he has in this volume abundantly supplied.—W. S.

**Dewar's 'Birds of an Indian Village.'**—This little volume<sup>1</sup> is distinctly popular in character and is apparently intended primarily for the boys and girls, to judge by its intimate conversational style. The author's aim, as he tells us, is to interest the people of India in birds and bird study,

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<sup>1</sup> *Birds of an Indian Village.* By Douglas Dewar and Illustrated by G. A. Levet-Yeats. Second Edition. Oxford University Press. 1924. (American Branch, New York. N. Y.) pp. 1-146. Price \$2.00.

and as this is the first book of its kind written for Indian readers it must necessarily be elementary.

At the same time those of us who know Indian birds only from occasional specimens in zoological gardens can learn much from Mr. Dewar's pages and it is very interesting to ascertain something of the everyday habits of these far away birds and compare them with those of our own species.

The Hawk Cuckoo, for example, has a series of crescendo calls just as has our Yellow-bill, while the Crested Cuckoo is associated with the rainy season just as are our Cuckoos, which often go by the name of "Rain Crows." The Indian Cuckoos however are parasitic which ours are not and the complications incident to their parasitism are very interesting.

The illustrations by C. A. Levett-Yeats, while they give us some idea of the birds and their postures, are very crude as compared with what we are familiar with in popular American books. A convenient table at the end of the work gives in parallel columns the English, scientific and native names of all of the seventy odd species treated in the book.

If widely distributed Mr. Dewar's little volume should go far toward developing in the next generation a sympathy with birds and bird protection which more than anything else will aid in the preservation of the avifauna of this interesting country. —W. S.

**T. E. and A. P. Penard on Bird Catching in Surinam.**<sup>1</sup>—It seems strange in these days of bird protection to read of a country in which bird catching is systematically carried on, unless indeed it be in the interests of one of the bird banding associations, yet in Surinam we learn that bird catching is a very general practice. The birds are obtained for three distinct purposes—food, caging and in protection of crops.

The Messrs. Penard, who are well acquainted with the country and its inhabitants, describe in much detail and in an interesting way the several methods employed in this occupation. There is first the coop or fall trap, a sort of basket under which is placed the bait; then the trap cage of several compartments in one of which is placed a decoy bird, and which is often hoisted aloft among the branches of a tree where the song of the captive draws the unwary victims to the trap; and finally there is bird lime prepared from the sap of several native trees. Snares of horeshair were also extensively used in former times and young birds are often sought in the nests and captured just before they are able to fly.

There are interesting details of the methods of capturing certain species, especially Euphonias, which are in great demand as songsters, also accounts of their various songs and calls and the actions of both captive and wild individuals. The authors include the native names not only of the birds but of all the implements used in bird catching as well as accounts of the popular beliefs and folklore relating to bird catching. The paper is a

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<sup>1</sup> Bird Catching in Surinam. By Thomas E. and Arthur P. Penard. De West Indische Gids VII, 12. April, 1926. The Hague, Martinus Nijhoff, pp. 545-566.