

recall vividly. This style makes the book unusually attractive to the general reader while the facts of behaviour are so accurately presented that it in no way detracts from its value as a scientific work.

The first night on the island was supposed to be devoted to much needed sleep: "but," says the author, "imagine yourself in the center of a field in which are tethered a hundred donkeys, then imagine these donkeys all braying at once—that was the discordant noise that drove us far from slumber." "But," he adds, "one can get used in time even to the sound of tram-cars passing one's bedroom window!" This loud braying of the birds accounts for their popular name of "Jackass" Penguin.

The thousand birds present when the author landed seemed a host in themselves but they sank into insignificance when the five million came up from the sea a few days later from their "winter quarters" farther south, their heads bobbing up and down as far as the eye could reach over the waves, and began to prepare for their nesting. The Black-footed Penguin digs a diagonal burrow one to three feet deep in the ground, or scoops out a shelter under an overhanging rock where some sticks, seaweed or grass stems are placed, upon which the eggs are laid. These are usually two in number, sometimes three or even four.

The courting performances, fights, bathing and molting are described in detail, for the birds were perfectly tame and went on with their business regardless of the presence of the visitors, sometimes actually walking into the tent.

There are chapters on the gulls and ibises which were ever on the alert to steal an egg and on the sharks which were dreaded enemies in the water, while seals and turtles which frequented the island receive due attention. Mr. Kearton has given us a most interesting account of the life of a fascinating bird and we are glad to learn that his book is deservedly popular. When the reader has finished its perusal he will, we think, agree with the author that the "Island of Penguins" is the "eighth wonder of the world."—W. S.

**Crandall's 'Paradise Quest.'**—We have already reviewed Mr. Crandall's preliminary accounts of his trip to New Guinea in the interests of the New York Zoological Society in quest of Birds of Paradise (see *Auk*, 1930, p. 109). This matter has now been amplified and issued in book form<sup>1</sup> and makes a most interesting narrative of life and travel in this still little known island. Most of the volume is devoted to detailed experiences with the natives and the wilderness and there is much information as to the method of life of the wild tribes, all abundantly illustrated.

One chapter is entitled "Birds of Paradise" and here are described several of the more noteworthy species secured, but as all specimens were obtained from the natives who catch them with snares, there is little or no

<sup>1</sup> *Paradise Quest, A Naturalist's Experiences in New Guinea.* By Lee S. Crandall, Curator of Birds, New York Zoological Park. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York and London. 1931. Pp. i-xvii + 1-226. Price \$3.50.

personal observation of the birds in life. There are, however, accounts of the display of several species after their arrival in the aviaries of the New York Zoo and photographs and accounts of the bowers of the 'Bower-birds,' also members of the Paradise family, as seen in the wilds. In the introduction we learn that the first specimens of Paradise birds seen by Europeans, were those of the Greater Bird of Paradise (*Paradisaea apoda*), obtained by Magellan on his voyage around the world in 1522. No living specimen reached Europe until Wallace brought some of the Lesser Bird of Paradise to the London Zoo in 1862 and none reached America until 1910. Thanks to the Crandall Expedition, however, thousands of persons visiting the zoological gardens in New York, Philadelphia and some other cities, have been able recently to see and study several different species of these wonderful creatures in life, and to watch their fascinating displays.

Mr. Crandall's book will furnish first hand recent information about life and travel in the mysterious land of New Guinea, only a small portion of which has yet been trodden by white men and the mountains of which still doubtless hold many undescribed forms of life.—W. S.

**Blatchley's 'My Nature Nook.'**—Mr. Blatchley, well known as an entomologist and author of several scientific monographs and lesser papers in that field, is also well versed in other branches of natural history and has furthermore the ability to write entertainingly of his experiences. The present little volume<sup>1</sup> is a delightful picture of Florida's Gulf coast in the neighborhood of Dunedin, where the author established a winter home in 1913, clearing his own land and eventually building his house.

On nearly every page there is mention of birds, details of the habits or actions of familiar species rather than records of rarities, and among the commoner neighbors of his home which receive due consideration may be mentioned the Red-bellied Woodpecker, Clapper Rail, Grackle, Fish Hawk, Ground Dove, Blue Jay and Loggerhead Shrike.

There is frequent mention of familiar Florida trees and shrubs, of insects and sea shells, as well as comments on the negroes and on the philosophy of life, and last but not least on the weather which the author tells us is not always the balmy springtime that it is pictured by enterprising real estate agents.

It is sad to contrast the Main Street of Dunedin as he found it in 1913 bordered with splendid live oaks, pines and cabbage palmettos with the paved street of today, largely bereft of trees, and to learn that the former "city of oaks" is now through "advancing civilization," "just another town." There is, however, still much of interest for the lover of nature in the out of the way spots on the Gulf coast of Florida and Mr. Blatchley's little book will lure many to sojourn there while to those familiar with the region it will arouse delightful reminiscences. We wonder whether the record of the

<sup>1</sup> My Nature Nook or Notes on the Natural History of the Vicinity of Dunedin, Florida. By W. S. Blatchley. The Nature Publishing Company, 1558 Park Ave., Indianapolis. 1931. Pp. 1-302. Price \$2.00 net.