

The usefulness of the book is enhanced not only by an illustration of each species, but also by a brief diagnosis including size and color opposite each illustration. A convenient millimeter rule is provided for each plate. A fairly comprehensive glossary with easy-to-understand definitions is included.

The serious or professional student will be disappointed by what is missing in this book. In the preface we are told that the work includes 64 of the 109 families and 1,200 of the 10,000 species of beetles. It would have taken only a little more space to include under each genus a brief statement of the total number of species in North America, and to mention the missing genera and families.

References in the bibliography are divided into the following categories: general, ecology, baits and trapping, and techniques; they are also arranged under each family (here 79 families are included) and under the various States and Canada. The amateur will find some of these useful but the advanced student may wonder why certain important references were omitted and many less useful ones included. All of W. J. Brown's papers on Elateridae and Chrysomelidae (except his 1945 paper on food plants and distribution of *Calligrapha*) are omitted. Other omissions, incorrect placing of references, and inclusion of many one- or two-page local lists detract from the value of this section.

The keys are well illustrated and for the most part easy to use. However, there are some weak spots; for example, in the key to elaterid genera, *Alaus* could have been keyed out more easily by the obvious 'eye spots' on the pronotum; *Ctenicera* do not have the metacoxal plates abruptly dilated (compare Figures 236 and 253); *Conoderus* has only the fourth tarsal segment lobed; and couplet 15 should really have been placed between couplets 7 and 8.

Most of the scientific names are up to date. The few mistakes could have been avoided; for example, in the elaterids, *Lacon* not *Lepidotus* is correct, and

Negastrius should have been used for *Hypolithus*. No attempt has been made to give any synonymy, probably correctly so for a book of this nature. Nevertheless, a brief statement here and there concerning major changes might have been useful, such as was done on page 573 with the bess beetle. In the elaterids what is now called *Ctenicera* was known for many years as *Corymbites* or *Ludius*; *Ampedus* used to be called *Elater*.

Most of these criticisms are not very important for the amateur, but will undoubtedly be a drawback for the serious student. All in all, the reasonable price of Dillon's book should make it available to everyone. If it encourages more people to study beetles then the Dillon's have certainly done a service to the advancement of coleopterology.

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Penguin Summer

By ELEANOR RICE PETTINGILL. New York, Potter, 1960. 197 p. \$5.00.

The Falkland Islands are unusual in several respects. As Dr. Pettingill remarked in explaining his urge to visit them, they are "the only place in the world where we can live with people and still be near three kinds of penguins." To North American naturalists in general they are of particular interest because of their curiously mixed fauna and flora.

During the Pleistocene glaciations the Falklands were connected with South America; and during these glaciations the climate along the mountains of tropical America was sufficiently cool to allow temperate plants and animals to cross the tropic barrier. In consequence the islands possess plants and animals closely related to, or occasionally identical with, some that we know in Canada, in addition to those typical of the southern hemisphere. Thus we have a familiar sedge, generally called *Carex paupercula* in our manuals, which seems to be identical with *C.*

magellanica of Tierra del Fuego and the Falklands. In this book we meet some birds that are in the same category: the Short-eared Owl, Black-crowned Night Heron and close relatives of our Robin and House Wren.

This is Mrs. Pettingill's account of a summer in the Falklands, which she and her husband spent under contract to Walt Disney Productions. The penguins tend to steal the show, as penguins will; but the narrative gives us an excellent introduction to the islands and their people, and to the weather, of course—not really the worst in the world, but probably about as bad as one can find in a latitude as low as 52°, and certainly a shock to anyone coming unacclimatized from the northern summer. The story is well told and profusely illustrated. Maps in the end papers show the places visited, and an appendix gives the scientific names of the plants and animals mentioned in the text. All in all it is a charming account of a strenuous project.

D. B. O. SAVILE

Wonders of Rocks and Minerals

By RICHARD M. PEARL. New York; Dodd, Mead; 1961. 63 p. \$3.50.

The author, who is Associate Professor of Geology at Colorado College, has been a collector of minerals and rocks practically all his life and has received awards from organizations on four continents. He has written numerous books and articles including *1001 Questions Answered About the Mineral Kingdom*.

The present volume is designed for the amateur collector, particularly the young collector, who is beginning his study of this fascinating subject. It tells the difference between minerals and rocks, describes some of the more important varieties of each, how and where to collect specimens and how to add to and display collections. The volume is well illustrated and ends with a rock and mineral quiz.

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Hummingbirds

By CRAWFORD H. GREENEWALT. New York, Doubleday, 1960. 250 p. \$22.50.

This is not a formal review, but a spontaneous appreciation of a technical and artistic triumph. I understand from the author that this book is also unexpectedly proving to be a financial success for its sponsors, the American Museum of Natural History, the first edition having been quickly sold out.

The author enlisted the aid of specialists in developing new photographic equipment. By devoting every possible week-end and vacation for five years he succeeded in photographing most of the world's hummingbirds. This book contains a selection of these exquisite portraits, together with chapters on general characteristics, iridescence, flight, and the equipment employed. What started out as a photographic study quickly broadened, and Mr. Greenewalt eventually elucidated or confirmed many details of the flight of hummingbirds and also fully explained, for the first time, the mechanism of their iridescence. These subjects are dealt with in simple terms in the book, the mathematical treatments having been given in separate papers.

The illustrations set a new standard both in color reproduction and in definition, the latter being largely due to achieving an exposure time of thirty millionths of a second at an aperture of f32. The motion of the wings is stopped so perfectly that the photographs have a remarkable quality, somewhat suggestive of a Japanese print. However, no description could do them justice.

Although most of us in our hobbies cannot command the financial resources that went into these studies, yet the scientific and artistic results that the author has achieved surely provide a lesson to all of us. Mr. Greenewalt developed his hobby out of enthusiasm and the discipline of his training in engineering. Many hobbies require no more equipment than that to yield profuse dividends. Although the five years that



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