

*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.

F. J. ALCOCK

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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



he spent on his project must have been strenuous, it is doubtful whether the president of a great corporation could find a surer way to avoid the maladies that proverbially beset busy executives.

D. B. O. SAVILE

### **The Lawn Book**

By ROBERT W. SCHERY. New York, Macmillan, 1961. 207 p. \$5.95.

Dr. Robert W. Schery has long been recognized as one of the foremost authorities on turf in the United States. He is one of the most prolific writers on the subject of lawn construction and maintenance. It is encouraging to see that he has finally published a book which makes available to the lawn owner a great deal of his vast fund of knowledge concerning the various problems associated with lawn culture. It is fortunate that this information becomes available at a time when interest in turf is at an all-time high.

Dr. Schery's book covers the whole field of lawn making and care. Included are the selection of species, which he describes in the opening chapters making no secret of his well founded admiration for natural Kentucky blue grass, the preparation of the seed bed, the use of lime, fertilizer and soil amendments, methods of planting, and pre-emergence and post-emergence care. Among the items on lawn maintenance are watering, fertilizing, mowing and the control of weeds, diseases, insects and other pests and disorders in turf. All aspects are treated from the regional viewpoint when such information is pertinent. Of particular interest are sections at the conclusion of each chapter in which the author dispels many of the popular misconceptions concerning lawn culture. The publication is abundantly illustrated with photographs, maps, tables and line drawings of lawn grasses and weeds, all of which assist in understanding the well written text.

The Canadian reader may experience some difficulty at first in sorting out the

information applicable to conditions in this country but as reading progresses he will find that the text follows a clearly defined pattern and the pertinent information can be secured more readily. All of the author's recommendations concerning procedures for the Northern United States are equally suited to Canadian conditions. The book is a valuable contribution to the not too abundant literature on turf culture.

J. H. BOYCE

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### **The Friendly Evergreens**

By L. L. KUMLIEN. Toronto, Rinehart, 1954. 237 p. \$11.00.

This is a friendly book. The author presents several articles on various aspects of his subject and by this means a lot of information to stimulate interest in and enjoyment of evergreens.

Mr. Kumlien is not a botanist. His book cannot be considered primarily technical. He is, however, a nurseryman, and his long years of association with evergreens have enabled him to express the particular fondness he has come to have for a type of plant that lends stability and permanence to a constantly changing scene. He gives good advice on transplanting and on managing seedlings and plants in their later stages of growth. Lists according to type of form provide the home owner with valuable information. Although the book does not contain a key, the good line drawings of the foliage of each genus give definite help in identification.

"Descriptions of Varieties" is naturally the largest section. The colored illustrations are, unfortunately, poorly printed, but the text convinces the reader of how intimate is the author's acquaintance with his subject. This section in itself is enough to prove that Mr. Kumlien achieves his aim: to lead many lovers of nature into a little better understanding of the friendly evergreens.

ROBERT A. HAMILTON





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