

BINOCULARS AND SCOPES AND THEIR USES IN PHOTOGRAPHY, a book by Robert J. and Elsa Reichert. The Modern Camera Guide Series. Chilton Co., New York & Phila., 1961. \$1.95.

The Reichert's of Mount Vernon, N.Y., a well known name to many birders, have written a paperback book entitled "Binoculars and Scopes and Their Uses in Photography", one of the Modern Camera Guide Series, priced at \$1.95.

This 128 page book contains useful and factual data, some of which has been previously published by them, describing binoculars first in general and then in specific terms. Of particular interest to this reviewer is the Reicherts' description of the variation in binoculars imported from various European countries and Japan. Basic elements of reliability are stated, thus giving the unfamiliar buyer a good standard of judgment.

Upwards of 60 pages are devoted to technical details of the various types, sizes and specifications of binoculars. This is followed by a 20 page section on scopes and accessories following a similar pattern. The third section discusses the various types of camera which can be joined to scopes for picture taking purposes. The single lens reflex camera is recommended. Scopes can be used with the camera lens attached, called binophotography; or without the lens attached, called mono-photography.

The balance of the book is devoted to an explanation of how to take pictures through scopes or binoculars, thus obtaining the equivalent of a very high powered telephoto lens. This section will be of most interest to birders or bird banders, a class of citizens presently owning binoculars and probably scopes as well. The explanations are adequate to acquaint one with the fundamentals of using the equipment and the techniques of taking pictures through the scope or binocular.

As a birder with the required "hardware" this reviewer has taken pictures using his scope and has seen nature pictures so taken by other photographers. As compared to color slides using "orthodox" equipment this reviewer found the results disappointing.

High speed film is required for scope photography because of the small fixed f-stops used. Such film is not the recommended film for ordinary scenic, outdoor or family shots. Thus, a camera loaded with a high speed film partly used for scope photography is far from ideal for ordinary pictorial photography - a situation which cooled this reviewer's ardor for the marriage of scope and camera. While some have taken creditable pictures using tripods and the other cumbersome paraphernalia necessary for sharp slides, others have tried hand held shots which, to this reviewer, were very disappointing.

The book contains picture subjects taken by the ordinary 50mm lens and, for comparison purposes, pictures taken through 7 power binoculars as well as through 15, 20 and 30 power scopes. Generally these are pictures of fixed objects or zoo animals, good as examples of what can be done but not very appealing to a birder whose photographic target would more likely be a wild bird or animal.

In sum, this reviewer finds the most value in the data which can prevent an inexperienced buyer of a glass or scope from blindly purchasing the wrong instrument. On the other hand, this reviewer's personal experience resulted in the conclusion that better pictures can be taken more easily using regular camera and telephoto equipment.

-- Reviewed by Charles W. Lincoln

CATCHING BOX PLAN (SIDE VIEW)



SWING
DOOR

CATCHING
BOX

BANDER'S EXIT

THE HELIGOLAND TRAP BASIC PLAN (Top View)

