

Beebe on the natural history of Kartabo, British Guiana. One of these<sup>1</sup> is virtually a monograph of the Variegated Tinamou, *Crypturus variegatus variegatus*, covering its life history, plumage and molts, nesting, food habits and anatomy, with colored plates of the female in courtship attitude and of the downy chick. The paper forms an important contribution to the life history of one of the most interesting groups of South American birds.

The other contribution<sup>2</sup> deals but little with ornithology being entitled a study of a quarter of a square mile of tropical jungle at Kartabo. There is a consideration of the climate, physiography, water and earth of the region and a list of all of the groups of animals and the more important trees found there. In the great array of insects and other invertebrates, birds, although abundant, cut a comparatively small figure. There is a "Christmas Day list" made on December 27, 1920, in which 116 species are listed, also a comparison of the avifauna of Kartabo, 464 species, with that of New York with 330 species. There is also a list of various insects eaten by birds at Kartabo with the names of the species which devour them, and a breeding record with dates for the nesting of various species. The work well deserves the title carried at the top of each page "Ecology at Kartabo" and there is contained in it a vast amount of valuable data which will prove of value to workers in many fields.—W. S.

**Grinnell on Introducing Alien Game Birds.** Dr. Joseph Grinnell has given a timely warning<sup>3</sup> against the possibilities of danger involved in the introduction of alien game birds into this country. His remarks were instigated by the proposed raising of Hungarian Partridges in captivity in California for the purpose of stocking the state with them. This plan he points out follows several unsuccessful attempts with this or other species, some 13,000 of which have been imported at a cost of \$50,000, with no permanent result. Should the proposed attempt prove successful, however, Dr. Grinnell points out that previous experience has shown conclusively that if two closely related species are forced to inhabit the same area one or the other will be crowded out and disappear and in this case it would be the native California Quail. Sportsmen cannot have them both and we agree with Dr. Grinnell that the native bird is infinitely preferable.

Furthermore, there is the constant danger of introducing some parasite which, while, perhaps, not particularly injurious to the introduced game bird may, play havoc with our native species, as has been the case with various introduced insects brought in on foreign plants. Finally, he voices a rather novel but perfectly logical argument that the wild life of the

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<sup>1</sup> The Variegated Tinamou, *Crypturus variegatus variegatus*. By William Beebe. *Zoologica*, Vol. VI, No. 2, March 18, 1925.

<sup>2</sup> Studies of a Tropical Jungle. One Quarter of a Square Mile of Jungle at Kartabo, British Guiana. By William Beebe. March 11, 1925, *ibid.* No. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Risks Incurred in the Introduction of Alien Game Birds. By Joseph Grinnell. *Science*, June 19, 1925, No. 1590, pp. 621-623. Reprint separately paged.

country belongs just as much to the nature lovers, which are everywhere increasing in numbers, as it does to the sportsmen, and that the latter have no right to jeopardize the native species of game birds without the approval of other bodies interested in them.—W. S.

**Esten on Nest Studies.** Mr. Esten has made an intensive study<sup>1</sup> of nests of a Towhee, Meadowlark and Rose-breasted Grosbeak and presents the results of his observations in tabular form with some additional comment. The data presented show the details of feeding, number of visits of each parent, time spent at the nest, excreta eaten and carried away, the feeding of the individual nestlings, the kind of food brought by the parents, etc. The vast amount of data presented in the small space of the tables is no less a valuable contribution to the life history of the species than an illustration of patient and painstaking observation.—W. S.

**Kalmbach and McAtee's 'Homes for Birds.'** This little pamphlet<sup>2</sup> is another bird box circular issued by the U. S. Biological Survey to meet the popular demand for information on this subject. It supercedes 'Bulletin 609 Bird Houses and How to Build Them,' the edition of which has apparently been exhausted and was probably never large enough to meet the needs of the country, a shortcoming of most Government publications of today. Messrs. Kalmbach and McAtee have compiled a very satisfactory Bulletin with short descriptions and illustrations of the simpler sorts of bird boxes suitable for a number of familiar species. The House Wren problem had not reached the Survey at the time this 'Bulletin' was prepared, so the usual provisions are made for the accommodation of this much discussed species. The famous cat trap of the Biological Survey is also fully described and this will prove of value to many who desire to quietly eliminate destructive felines.

The Survey has also published the usual 'Game Laws for the season 1925-26,' by George A. Lawyer, a pamphlet of 46 pages, which may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for 5 cents per copy.—W. S.

**Sun Brothers.**<sup>3</sup>—This book differs from most collections of nature tales in that whatever the natural history, there is woven with it about an equal proportion of the sayings and doings of mankind. The joy of life and the glory of love are appreciated keenly by the author, but he glosses over none of the unpleasant realities which most of us forget as soon as possible. He tells the whole truth and the effect necessarily is sombre.

<sup>1</sup> A Comparative Study of the Nest Life of the Towhee, Meadowlark and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. By Sidney R. Esten. Proc. Indiana Academy of Science, Vol. 34, pp. 397-401, 1924 [1925].

<sup>2</sup> Homes for Birds. By E. R. Kalmbach and W. L. McAtee. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1456, July, 1925, pp. 1-22. Price 5 cts. per copy from the Supt. of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

<sup>3</sup> By Henry Williamson. E. P. Dutton & Co., New York, 1925, \$2.50.