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Nature study has received a great impetus within the last few years through the use of the camera in the field. Employed in this way it affords not only a pleasing pastime, but encourages the closest study and is of considerable scientific value. But of the thousands who use the camera comparatively few employ it for any valuable purpose. Much time is spent and effort made by the amateur photographers on what has been termed "reminiscent photography" in the taking of scenes and views of only momentary interest. This serves as an amusement but it cannot compare in interest with the gathering of a series of pictures of nature's creatures in their favorite haunts. The formation of getting a picture of a bird in its wild state is something that not

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many people have experienced; to be successful it requires a knowledge of birds and a close study of their actions, habits and ways.

The greatest natural requisites are a big store of patience and perseverance, a good eye and a level head. Without great patience, little can be accomplished. Some birds are friendly and unsuspecting, but many are shy and wild and can only be photographed by using some skillful device for hiding and perhaps by waiting a long time for the coveted opportunity. Many birds nest in the wildest places, high up in the trees, among the cliffs of the mountains, or on the rugged rocks off the sea-shore, but there are few nests that cannot be photographed, providing, the photographer has the proper requisites, a true love for the study and a desire for natural-

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History picture making.

In order to catch a bird in a good position one often does not have the chance of focusing on the subject, but has to do considerable guess work. Sometimes the camera is focused on the place where the bird is expected to return, as, for example, a perching place or feeding-ground, or, if it be during nesting season the nest is then the best place to get a focus and await the birds' return. In cases where the bird is shy a picture may sometimes be secured by setting the camera and covering it, all except the lens, with green branches and then using a long hose and bulb attachment.

While the difficulties of getting a good bird picture are exceedingly numerous yet the ability to overcome the many obstacles and secure an

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each representation of the bird in its wild state places a true value upon the results and gives the subject its fascination. Nature has provided her creatures with wonderful protection as to coloring and the camera is incapable of showing some birds to any advantage unless a suitable background can be secured. Besides this protective coloration, the hidden and obscure position of bird nests, the small size of the occupants, the rapidity with which they move and above all, the difficulty of getting the required amount of light from the right direction at the proper instant, when the bird is in the desired position is hardest to overcome.

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