

Bird Life - A Study with the Camera.

"Not the eyes alone love Nature in March. Every other sense lies abroad. As one goes early to a concert hall with a passion even for the preliminary tuning of the musicians, so my ear sits alone in the vast amphitheatre of Nature and waits for the earliest warble of the blue-bird, which seems to start up somewhere behind the heavenly curtains."

Thus we read in the Kentucky Cardinal that delightfully realistic little story by James Lane Allen.

We all love Nature and are enticed by her charms. Springtime is not only a change of weather - a spell of cold and

rain giving way to a season of sunshine and warmth, but to the bird-lover it is a life-renewing season; we molt the winter's garb and our ideas feather out into broader vision. ~~(On such a day as this, <sup>has been</sup> there is a real soul longing for the green fields, flowering vales and shady hills. We drink the inspiration with deeper enthusiasm each returning Springtime and find that the ennobling influences of nature form a fountain of perpetual youth, welling up into our beings.~~

The study of nature herself, the contact with her beauty is the greatest in-

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centive to the Art instinct. If you are striving to arouse a greater love for the higher things of life, love for the good and beautiful, you have a noble work. (A university, above all places, should give a full well-rounded life. It should develop a cultured man and a cultured woman, who have the real insight to the art of living.) ~~But~~

Forget not the Nature around you! Let it not grow too common! or later in your walks of life, you may fail to see the primrose and poppy that you thoughtlessly tread under foot, you may fail to hear the songster that

pours forth its melody from the tree-tops.

Nature study has received a great impetus within the last few years through the use of the camera in the field. Catching birds with a camera instead of a gun is a comparatively new diversion in outdoor life. The former denotes a much higher development in man's inherent love for hunting. The old Anglo-Saxon instinct for killing beast and bird for sport is still strong in our race, but the love for nature's creatures ~~has~~ developed too highly in some people for them to find pleasure in killing the objects of their regard. To

these people the camera has opened up a new field, where they may ramble, letting fascination lead them on to untold heights of enjoyment - enjoyment that is enhanced by the difficulties to be overcome and the gratification at obtaining good results.

The difficulties of getting good bird pictures are exceedingly numerous, but the ability to overcome the many obstacles and secure an exact representation of the bird in its wild state places a true value upon the ~~results~~ <sup>work</sup>. In order to catch a bird in a good position, one seldom has the chance of focusing but has to do

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considerable guess work. 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 a good basis of operations. In most cases birds are shy, but the coveted picture may be secured by setting the camera and covering it with green branches and then use a long bulb and hose attachment. Nature, however, has pro-

vided her creatures with wonderful protection as to coloring, and the camera is often incapable of showing some birds to advantage unless a suitable background

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can be secured. ( Besides this protective coloration, the hidden and obscure positions 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 position, is hardest to overcome.