

## REVIEWS

**The technique of bird photography**, by John Warham. 4th edition. Focal Press.

What a wealth of information this book contains. It is large, nearly 300 pages, and covers almost every aspect one could think of for using both still and movie cameras. When I began to photograph birds seriously, I bought a copy of the first edition of this book and was impressed then with the information given. This latest edition, completely rewritten and reillustrated, must surely be the most comprehensive book available on this topic. It has about 30 colour plates, 60 b/w pictures and 70 very useful line drawings.

Besides a thorough coverage of the basics such as cameras, lenses, accessories, hide construction, nest photography, use of artificial light, details are also given of

Photography for the field ornithologist such as time-lapse techniques, bird census work, food analysis, and behaviour

Planning the shooting and editing of movies

Expedition photography; what to do in the tropics, in polar regions, deserts, swamps, and so on.

A chapter is devoted to the history of bird photography, and for those interested in entering their best bird pictures in photographic salons there is a section on birds as pictures. Perhaps in more than any other field of natural history photography, the cameraman concentrating on birds is most likely to disturb his subjects and their environment. A chapter on ethics covers this important aspect.

Naturally, this book is not aimed primarily at New Zealanders, as shown by the appendices covering British birds for which you need a permit for photography and a guide to photographing British birds at their nests. The data in these appendices applies to several New Zealand species also. A valuable reference list is given to books and papers quoted in the text.

The bulk of the book covers those aspects the average bird photographer needs most to know. Over 100 pages are about stalking birds, birds on the wing, filming birds in flight, use of baits and lures, remote control, nest finding, placing of hides, "gardening", working single-handed, stills and cine together, automated nest photography, pylon hides, combating wind, photographing birds underground, electronic flash at night/ in daylight/ in the rain, and so on and so on.

After 20 years of bird photography in New Zealand and in the tropics, I found myself nodding in agreement on almost every page and thinking "I wonder if the beginner will realise just how useful that information is?" This book is excellent, comprehensive and thorough in its coverage; the fruit of a lifetime in the field with a camera. I highly recommend it.

Don Hadden

**The birds and bird lore of Samoa**, by Corey and Shirley Muse. 156 pages, 70 col. ill., maps. Sponsored by National Audubon Society. Pioneer Press, Walla Walla, Washington 1982. (Copy in OSNZ library).