

The booklet, though small, has volumes of information squeezed between the covers in a concise, readable format. There are no photos, but the text is well illustrated with good line drawings. The extensive research that preceded the writing is very evident giving the reader the benefit of the contents of a number of advanced texts and original papers that he is not likely to have been able to avail himself of for lack of time and facilities. Classic examples of the various phases of behavior are well outlined in the text and clarified by using a variety of animals from paramecia to planaria and molluscs to mammals.

It is indeed unfortunate such a fine reference should be released with no index, and with a most shoddy binding (my copy was losing its cover before I finished reading it).

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THE BIRDS AND THE BEASTS WERE THERE,
Margaret Millar, 241 pp., \$5.95, Random
House, New York, 1967.

This delightful and engrossing book is for everyone. In it, Mrs. Millar tells many stories—humorous, informative, and charming. The book is exciting because of the fabulous array of birds that make their appearance and are portrayed in countless descriptions of their fascinating habits and activities which led the author to set up and operate a feeding station at her wooded canyon home near Santa Barbara. In the complex world of the average person, it is sheer delight to read about and share her days filled with bird watching. The reader is made to feel that he is actually there as he shares each anxiety or joy of discovery, as the case may be.

The book is highly valuable for its carefully researched information about the various birds, both from first-hand observations and encounters, and from information gleaned from library research and other sources. Both Mrs. Millar, who suddenly acquired in incurable addiction to bird watching, and her husband, whose interest was aroused much more slowly, became avid watchers and recorders of anything different or unusual in the activities of the birds and other animals. One wants to keep reading to see what amusing descriptions of the little creatures will be next, after a taste of such expressions as: "a raven ballerina;" "Morgan, the pig-headed pigeon;" "the boozy climax of an avian cocktail party;" and "our wine-making friend Richard the rat."

A very serious note creeps in, however, as

the author describes a California forest fire and its effect on the wildlife. It demonstrates not only the waste of natural resources, but also the regeneration of vegetation following the fire, and the constant conflict between human beings and nature. It indicates a definite concern over the need for human beings to learn to live with nature.

The book provides a new stimulus to those who in past years have been interested in bird watching but have had few opportunities to do much about it. The reader will not want to put the book aside, and if he were not especially interested in birds when he started reading he will be interested in them before he finishes the book.

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ANIMAL TISSUE TECHNIQUES, Gretchen L. Humanson, 569 pp., \$9.00. W. H. Freeman Company, San Francisco, 1967.

This new edition of a successful and respected work appears after a lapse of five years, with its organization and general content substantially unchanged. Like its predecessor, this edition has much that is admirable. The explicit instructions are cogently presented and times for dehydration, staining, and differentiations are given as suggested periods and not absolute times.

The areas in which substantial changes have been made are the sections dealing with protein and nucleic-acid staining, chromosome preparations, histochemistry, and autoradiography. These, of course, are the fields where the most technical progress has been made in the past five years. In addition, a section dealing with vital staining has been added.

Without doubt this is a good book and it should continue to serve as a useful textbook and reference source for undergraduate and graduate students in histological techniques.

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A STUDENT'S DICTIONARY OF ZOOLOGY, A. W. Leftwich, 290 pp., \$6.50, Constable and Company Ltd., London, 1963.

Having just returned from a summer's research in a tropical rain forest, I am currently aware of certain terminological inexactitudes and peculiarities, at least with respect to helminths, reptiles, and insects. Therefore, when a dictionary of zoology came to my desk, I immediately opened it to check on a few of the