

those who, while recognizing the necessity for continuing control, are concerned lest control may be continued for its own sake. Given the principle that control will only be continued where and for so long as the public interest demands, it is possible to evolve out of our war-time and earlier experience the type and kind of control to suit our purposes. These purposes and needs will vary from industry to industry and with the national situation, but there is no reason to doubt the ability of Great Britain to develop a framework of government and industry sufficiently flexible to serve those needs and to foster enterprise and efficiency while securing the essential measure of public control. That involves, as Mr. Morrison and others have indicated, experimenting with different types and degrees of State control over industry, varying from public ownership and operation to a limited degree of control of prices and practices exercised from outside. It involves an intelligence service—or liaison or public relations service, call it what you will—adequate to ensure that the control is always in touch with the local or specialized needs of industries or communities. The joint production committees represent only one aspect of the way in which such public relations work must develop, and no section of a ministry to which the controls are entrusted is likely to be more important than its public relations department. Undoubtedly it will also involve special attention to the questions of recruitment and training of staff.

For all this, the war-time controls can provide only a part of the basic experience required. Beyond such experiment lie the vital factors of policy and of men, as so clearly indicated in the reports mentioned above.

Whatever machinery is devised, there must be the clear enunciation of policy at the centre. The execution of that policy must be entrusted to men who, whether drawn from the Civil Service or from industry, possess the administrative ability and initiative, the imagination and vision, and the impartiality and integrity to ensure that the nation's purposes are fully served.

BIRDS AND THE CAMERA

Birds of the Day

By Eric J. Hosking and Cyril W. Newberry. Pp. 128 (78 plates). (London and Glasgow: Wm. Collins, Sons and Co., Ltd., 1944.) 12s. 6d. net.

THERE is a well-known saying that great things arise from small beginnings, and this is true of modern bird photography, which began in those seemingly remote days when a stand camera was the only instrument for all types of photography. There is some dispute as to who took the first wild-life photographs. The names of Riley Fortune, Oliver Lodge and C. J. King, of the Scilly Isles, are among those of the pioneers. They worked with their heads under a black cloth, and their plates were so slow that they could only give a really fast exposure under exceptionally good lighting conditions. Yet they achieved some remarkable results, and when the Kearton brothers perfected the system of working from a hide, nature photography, and in particular

the photography of birds, made rapid strides and attained wide popularity.

To-day those who practise bird photography and use their camera to record details of bird behaviour are beyond counting; but none of them has used his camera with better results than Mr. Eric Hosking, whose studies of birds are well known for their interest and beauty. Some of them are snapshots in the fullest sense of the word; for example, a picture in this, his latest book, of a marsh harrier alighting on its nest. The camera has caught it with wings raised in a pose as exquisite as that of a tern; while others are perfect portraits, models of exactness and of accurate rendering of every feather detail.

"Birds of the Day" is the joint work of Mr. Hosking and Mr. Cyril Newberry, the first named being responsible for the pictures of the forty or so species here dealt with, and the latter contributing much field work and descriptive matter. The descriptions vary from short paragraphs in the case of the blackbird and the song thrush to several pages in the case of the marsh harrier and the bittern, perhaps two of the most interesting birds found in Britain to-day. If this is termed a picture book we feel sure the authors will not cavil, for it is obvious the work of the pen is subsidiary to that of the camera.

The subjects are not treated in any special order or sequence, and are limited only to "Birds of the Day". Owls, we understand, are to be dealt with separately later on; however, an example of modern flashlight photography is given in this collection, namely, the portrait of a jackdaw at its nest in an old mill. The introduction of the soundless, odourless flash bulb has placed a most useful tool at the disposal of wild-life photographers. As examples of camera portraiture of birds the two very charming pictures of a male and female bearded tit, the latter with two dragonflies in her beak, perched on the reeds are indeed excellent, even if we long to see the cock depicted in all the beauty of his sandy-red and R.A.F. blue plumage, enhanced by the orange-yellow of his eye and beak, and set off by the black of his moustachial stripes. However, the extended use of colour photography in the ornithological field is coming fast.

For a useful record of bird-behaviour, combined with fine portraiture, the description of the greenshank carrying off hatched egg-shells from the nest and the accompanying illustration are particularly good. The authors tell us that a hiding tent had been in position beside the greenshank's nest for some days, but when the photographer arrived one morning he found the nest empty, only hatched shells remaining; however, he entered the tent and waited results. Before long "the hen greenshank came back, settled over the empty egg-shells, and began to rake them under her. Presently, in response to a soft call from the hen, the chicks came out of hiding in the grass and made their separate ways back to the nest, but the hen was preoccupied with the pieces of eggshell and paid more attention to them than to the chicks . . . she was restless and, after a little while, picked up a piece of shell with her bill and flew away, dropping it in flight . . . gradually all the shell was removed and the chicks came in for their full share of maternal devotion".

Seeing that greenshank chicks leave the nest within a short while of hatching, it is difficult to suggest what purpose, if any, there is in tidying up the nest. It is such observations as these that add value to the work of bird photography.

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