

Birds in Bermuda (1975)

Preface

It has been so long since the last illustrated book on Bermuda birds was published that a whole new field of artistic expression in the form of colour photography has had its birth and evolution in the interim. Indeed, this volume is the first compendium of Bermuda bird photographs ever produced.

The demand that exists for such a book can hardly be overstated. Every year, thousands upon thousands of our tourist visitors have been inspired by Bermuda's natural beauty. Yet despite the fact that birds comprise an important part of that beauty, there has been no publication available which could truly be said to capture the essence of our bird life. Richard Slaughter has at last provided a book that will fulfil this role with distinction. It is a truly professional job, combining the latest in photographic techniques with a considerable degree of artistic talent.

Birds in Bermuda is much more than a picture book, however; it is also a book for reading. The text contains a wealth of up to date information on the ornithological history of Bermuda, and is written in a way that conveys the author's personal philosophy in an autobiographical style. Here is the story of one man's gradual awakening to a full appreciation of the wonders and beauty of the natural environment. It is a story told in the tragic context of an oceanic island whose primeval character has been transformed through human colonisation from a virgin wilderness, teeming in seabirds, into a noisy, congested mid-ocean metropolis in which the very survival of the original bird life is now at stake.

In a skilful combination of words and photographs, Mr. Slaughter conveys a powerful appeal for the preservation of Bermuda's unique natural heritage. Those in Bermuda who have already toiled for so long towards this goal will derive great satisfaction merely from knowing that enough has survived to provide the inspiration and material for this beautiful book.

David B. Wingate, M.B.E.
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
15th April 1975.

Contents

Introduction; The migratory birds; The impact of man on primeval Bermuda; The initial impact; From forest to farm; Toward the island metropolis; Conservation measures; Turning the tide? Gardens, golf courses and wildlife refuges; Conservation in action: the Cahow.

Appendix: Summary of the nesting habits and survival status of birds nesting in Bermuda.

SLAUGHTER, R. A. *Birds in Bermuda*. Bermuda Bookstores Ltd., Hamilton, Bermuda: ix + 158pp (1975) With photographs by the author.

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