

candidate for observation may present himself; or that, perchance, by good fortune, he may be even induced to pose for his photograph, thus making a permanent visual record of the observation. "Hunting with a camera, instead of with a gun," has become a slogan in certain quarters. Others amateurs, leaving cameras, field-glasses, and notebooks behind, perhaps derive more pleasure from their observations because they are not encumbered by accessories or the feeling that they must spend a portion of their time in using their paraphernalia and recording their observations with pen and ink.

Printing presses are kept busy in the publication of books and magazines devoted wholly to ornithology, to say nothing of the numerous articles on birds in general periodical literature. Professional ornithologists are flooded with requests for information on the subject. Boys whose future once looked doubtful have become interested in birds and their protection, thus acquiring new ideas concerning the humane treatment of other creatures, and new interests in life to replace former bad habits; hence are destined to better citizenship.

There is no better training of the power of quick and accurate observation, nothing more stimulating to the analytical qualities of the mind, than the study of birds in the field. No careless observer can correctly note the various characteristics by which species may be distinguished one from another as they flit through the bushes—the shape and size of the bill, wings and tail, the colours of various parts of the plumage, the song or call note, and so on. The botanist may sit down with book in hand and plant before him and study it at leisure. The geologist may put the fragment of rock in his pocket and examine it in the laboratory. The field student of ornithology must note and fix in his mind the details of structure and colour of his bird on the instant, so that he will have an accurate picture of it in his mind as he seeks to identify it from descriptions and pictures in the books.

Hence from the moral, æsthetic and educational points of view, as well as for purely utilitarian reasons, general public recognition of the value of birds is important. So in the detailed discussion of the strictly economic phases of bird life we must not forget the less tangible values. We may well remember that even if the birds had no economic value whatever, they would still well deserve our study, encouragement, and protection.

Do you ne'er think what wondrous beings these?  
Do you ne'er think who made them, and who taught  
The dialect they speak, where melodies  
Alone are the interpreters of thought?