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Book Notice

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Some years ago A. E. Shipley wrote, "Birds are not only birds but aviating zoological gardens" and Rothschild and Clay present an abundance of information on this subject as indicated by their chapter titles which are: Parasitism, Commensalism, Symbiosis, The effect of parasites on the host, The effect of parasitism on the parasite, The origins of parasitism and the evolution of parasites, Fleas, Feather lice, Protozoa, Worms, Flies, Mites, Micro-parasites, The fauna of birds' nests, Skuas, and The European cuckoo. Also there is an excellent bibliographical appendix and a general index. The 40 plates and additional figures are very good and add much to the book.

In addition to being a scholarly treatise on bird parasites this fascinating book serves as a delightfully written introduction to the science of parasitology from the biological rather than from the usual medical or veterinary aspect. Therefore, there is much of value to both the serious student and the amateur naturalist.

The authors are prominent British zoologists and in the United States are best known for their researches on bird fleas and bird lice. Their volume is one of a series, published as the New Naturalist Library, which has over thirty titles finished or in preparation.

Carl Venard.