
This is a volume of high quality which bids fair to become the standard work on this branch of Biblical knowledge for many years. For it we are indebted to an experienced zoologist whose wide technical training is supplemented by a sympathetic interest in the actual Bible material. The author, a familiar figure to millions, we are told, through his TV. appearances in England, after graduating in Arts and Science at Oxford, lived for fourteen years in what is now Ghana as an officer of the Colonial Forestry Service. In 1948 he was appointed Superintendent of the London Zoo. Since 1953 he has been exclusively occupied in writing, lecturing and travelling on an extensive scale in five continents.

The book consists of nineteen chapters as comprehensive in general scope as they are informative and up-to-date in points of detail. This is no aridly composed treatise but a thoroughly human document, interspersed with personal anecdotes and shrewd observation. Alas for the indecision, bungling, and lost opportunities which in high places (and some not so high) have so sadly in the past been detrimental to the conservation of wild life!

There are illustrations in black and white, acceptably removed from the routine variety purveyed in these connections; two appendices, a list of abbreviations, a bibliography which draws attention to the valuable articles by Sir Godfrey Driver on ‘Birds in the Old Testament’ in the Palestine Exploration Quarterly for 1955 (pp. 5-20 and 129-140), and terminal maps and reference material.


H. R. Minn