



Birds That Hunt and Are Hunted

Neltje Blanchan

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1899. Excerpt: ... SHORE BIRDS PHALAROPES, SNIPE, SANDPIPERS, PLOVERS, SURF BIRDS, ETC. (Order Limicolce) Birds of the open field, marshy bogs and thickets, or shores close by the water's edge, finding their food on the surface of the ground, in the mud, or among the shallows of the beach, averaging smaller than birds of any other group included in this book, they usually have long slender legs for wading, and long slender bills for probing the mud after food, which increase their apparent size. Unlike the compressed figures of rails and their allies, the bodies of these birds are depressed or well rounded; their wings are long and pointed; their tails, which are short, are very full feathered. As compared with the large footed herons, rails, and gallinules, these birds have short toes, the hinder one very short, elevated, or absent; but certain species find their toes long enough to tread out worms and small shell fish from the mud flats, and some, partly webbed, are well adapted for swimming. The nests of birds of this very large order are mere depressions in the ground, not always lined with grass, and their young, fully clothed with down when hatched, are able to run about immediately. Phalaropes (Family Palaropodidce) A small, select family of three, two of whose species keep so far out at sea during their migrations from the Arctic regions to the south that we rarely see them, Wilson's phalarope, alone, being anywhere a common bird in the United States. Strangely enough, it is far more abundant in the interior than on the coast. The bodies of these small sea snipe, as they are often called, are depressed, covered with thick plumage to resist water that they spend much time upon, for their feet are furnished with narrow lobes that enable them to swim well. They are sm...

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