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SKUTCH, ALEXANDER F. A naturalist on a tropical farm; il. by Dana Gardner. 397p \$16.95 '80 University of Calif. Press

591.97286 Skutch, Alexander Frank. Natural history—Costa Rica. Birds—Costa Rica. ISBN 0-520-03802-9 LC 78-64474

"Ornithologist and naturalist Skutch has written [an] . . . account of life on his homestead in Costa Rica. The numerous, illustrated vignettes of incidents, people, plants, and animals are distilled from nearly 40 years' experience at his farm, Los Cusingos. Skutch . . . draws attention to the adaptiveness of human and animal

behavior, and to processes that take place during the year and changes that have taken place over many years." (Library J) Index.

"[Skutch's] introspective excursions into domestication, predation, symbiosis, man's place in nature, and other aspects of natural philosophy are refreshing." R. E. Silberglied

Library J 105:625 Mr 1 '80 100w

"[Skutch's] comments touch on 248 different species of birds, all clearly identified in the excellent index and many of them illustrated in distinctive line drawings. Nearly 100 different kinds of plants are discussed and similarly identified to species in the index, but not illustrated enough for a reader with no experience in the American tropics to recognize them. Various mammals, reptiles and insects also make their appearance through entertaining anecdotes. Human neighbors become personalities, as do some domestic animals. . . . A gentle account by a considerate man who tries to keep up with scientific literature despite his isolation." L. J. Milne
Sci Bks & Films 16:261 My/Je '81 180w