

REVIEWS

LOGBOOK OF MINNESOTA BIRD LIFE, 1917-1937
by Thomas S. Roberts, M. D. University of
Minnesota Press, \$3.50, Minneapolis, 1938.

For twenty years Dr Roberts has been regularly reporting on the seasonal variations of the bird life of his state. In bi-monthly instalments he has recorded the varying or fluctuating aspects of the changing seasons, the birds and allied phenomena. Here they are all gathered together from their original publication in *Bird-Lore* with some additions and expansions. It makes a most useful history and seasonal comparison that will be invaluable to Minnesota ornithologists and to those of broader ecological interests. Though recording masses of rather disconnected events it is written in an agreeable and readable style, is much more than a bare schedule of dry data, and is interesting reading for its own sake. It is nicely bound in two shades of buckram, the paper is of pleasing soft cream against which the sharp type stands out clearly. Numerous pen and ink drawings adorn the chapter heads and there is a beautiful frontispiece of a Duck Hawk well reproduced from an etching by W. J. Breckenridge and a map showing the faunal areas of the state. Author, artist and printer are all to be congratulated on their work.—P. A. T.

CANOE COUNTRY by Florence Page Jacques. Illustrated by Francis Lee Jacques, The University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1938 \$2.50.

This is an intimate narrative of a late summer canoe journey to the Quetico Reserve, western Ontario, and the adjoining Superior National Forest in Minnesota, as recorded by Mrs. Jacques who is here revealed as a sensitive poet-naturalist who lives every minute of her first canoe trip. The book is illustrated freely with drawings by her husband, the well-known nature artist. Between the two of them they have managed to transport an old friend of theirs back through the years to remember details of numerous canoe trips in a different but similar part of the vast northern Ontario wilderness. In fact they give the feeling of their trip so well that the reader journeys with them and sees the charm of living near to nature, feels the joy of wind, of sunsets, of wild flowers; and even smells the jackpines on a hot summer day. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Jacques, I enjoyed travelling with you.—H.L.

THE BIRDS OF ALGONQUIN PROVINCIAL PARK, ONTARIO, by D. A. MacLulich, Contributions of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology No. 13, Toronto, 1938, pp. 1-47.

This is a valuable contribution to Ontario ornithology by the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology that is so rapidly coming to the fore as an important institution of research in Canada. Many ornithologists, amateur and professional, have visited this park and have recorded their experiences in various scattered printed and manuscript notes. This brochure brings all available information together in a well-digested whole. Great care and discrimination has been exercised in its compilation and it should be of exceeding value to all naturalistically inclined visitors to the park, besides adding another exact detail to the provincial picture.—P.A.T.

A FAUNAL INVESTIGATION OF WESTERN RAINY RIVER DISTRICT, ONTARIO. by L. L. Snyder; Contributions of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, No. 14, Reprinted from Trans. Roy. Can. Inst. XXII, Part 1, 1938, pp. 157-213.

The southern peninsula of Ontario has long been subjected to intensive faunal study but the great area to the north and west until recently has been a biotic *terra incognita*. Darkness on the subject however is being rapidly cleared away by the systematic investigations of this, one of our youngest museums, along a line north of the Great Lakes. Numbers already published in this series are on Lakes Nipigon and Abitibi and others are understood to be in various stages of preparation. This report covers the birds and mammals of the extreme southwestern corner of the province and is of particular value in relation to adjoining localities and in fitting this end of the province into the general continental scheme.—P.A.T.

THE NORTHWEST COAST SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. by L. L. Snyder, Occasional Papers No. 4, of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology, Toronto, July 14, 1938

After a critical examination of some 283 specimens, 75 of which were of summer, presumably breeding, dates, Mr. Snyder has made a careful study of the species. Following Peters he discards the current specific name *velox* (Wilson) as

conspecific with and predated by *striatus* Vieillot. Ridgway's proposed subspecies *rufiatus*, he regards as a synonym of *pacificus* (Lesson), type locality Mexico and therefore of far southern distribution. A new northwest coast form, Alaska to Vancouver Island, he therefore names *Accipiter striatus perobscurus*, *Subsp. nov.* "Like *A. s. velox* in size but darker; the race most markedly differentiated in the juvenile plumage. Type locality,—Masset, Queen Charlotte Islands.—P.A.T.

A PREDATOR RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SHORT-EARED OWL AND THE MEADOW MOUSE.
by L. L. Snyder and C. E. Hope, Wils. Bull.
L, 1938, 110-112.

A study of above populations at Toronto during the winters of 1936 and 1937 in which an abnormal abundance of mice was accompanied by unusual numbers of Short-eared Owls that preyed upon them. The results are based upon pellet examination of material found under an owl roost in an evergreen grove. The percentage of small rodent remains found in 1330 pellets was 99.1% and 99% for the respective years, involving 2033 individual Meadow, Deer and House Mice. In view of the fact that this probably was but a fraction of the total number of these pests consumed by the birds the value of the study and demonstration is too obvious to need enlargement.—P.A.T.

PROPAGATION OF PLANTS by Koins and McQuesten.
Orange Judd Publishing Co., Inc., New York,
1938, \$3.50.

For twenty-two years the original edition, now out of date and out of print, has been the standard text on this subject. To meet the demand for a new edition including all the many recent advances and discoveries, the authors, after two years' effort, prepared the present encyclopedic volume of 555 pages with 600 pictures made into 350 plates.

While it is the kind of book that every naturalist who grows any plants, and every amateur gardener will want to have near him it gives abundant advanced information to the professional plant grower, experimenter, teacher and student.

Chapter headings, including ones on germination, seed testing, vegetative propagation, layerage, cuttings, potting, transplanting, grafting, fruit tree stocks, budding, nursery management, pest control, quarantine and planting orchards, indicate the scope of the work.

The teacher will be interested in fifty "practicums" for his classes. A list of the material required for these, as well as a complete outline of each is furnished.

There is an index to plant lists which give particulars for growing each species, and also one general index to subject matter, figures and tables.
—H.L.



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