

Mammals of Ontario

By Anne Innis Dagg. 1974. Otter Press, Box 747, Waterloo, Canada. 159 pp. Hard cover \$10; soft cover \$6.50 + 50c postage.

In her publication, *Mammals of Ontario*, Anne Dagg has attempted to review the 76 known species of mammals found in Ontario. As a reference text for zoologists, the book has little value. As a field handbook, the publication is a useful addition to any naturalist's library. From a format standpoint, the book is effectively organized. Each species is treated on two pages with information regarding distinguishing characteristics, Ontario distribution, and an "item" on research findings. Line drawings by Roslyn Alexander highlight the treatment of each species.

Although the book claims "to provide an up-to-date glimpse of what mammalogists are currently studying," many of the references given are definitely not current. Similarly, certain species have single references, also somewhat misleading since many aspects of each species known for Ontario have been examined in varying detail. In the book's favor, however, is the fact that the item section is short, well written, and readable.

Probably the handiest feature of *Mammals of Ontario* is that it is solely dedicated to the treatment of Ontario wildlife. Although this will most probably restrict the sales of the book, it is a bonus for residents of Ontario since it reduces confusion of species and allows for easier field identification by amateur naturalists.

Books of this sort may be compared to the very popular *Peterson Field Guide Series*. Dagg's book has several advantages over the Peterson publications. First, as previously mentioned, it treats only Ontario mammals thereby reducing confusion. Secondly, each species is pictorially represented along with a visual distribution review. Perhaps Dagg could have used the Peterson technique of placing arrows on the figures pointing to prominent distinguishing features. Perhaps Otter Press should have reduced the publication size to that of the Peterson books in order to make the book more 'packable'.

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A Guide to Alberta Vertebrate Fossils from the Age of Dinosaurs

By Hope Johnson and John E. Storer. 1974. Provincial Museum of Alberta, Edmonton, Publication Number 4. 127 pp. \$5.70.

This book constitutes one of the less orthodox attempts at a handbook that would be of general use to amateur palaeontologists in Alberta or, indeed, adjacent parts of Saskatchewan and the USA. Dr. Storer gives some idea of the background of the book when he notes in the foreword that Mrs. Johnson "is a noted nature artist," has had her works widely exhibited, and has been connected with museums and universities both within Alberta and the rest of Canada. Dr. Storer contributed "a few photographs and revised the text" as he felt that Hope Johnson's drawings constitute a notebook, through which she shared her knowledge with her readers.

I am in the fortunate position of knowing both authors well and believe I understand their motives in putting forth this guide. As with any of its sort, it is not exhaustive nor is it intended for specialists. In general, the text is good and relates the information that a discoverer of a

fossil might desire when he tries to identify it. The diagrams are similarly interesting to me, for they are not the sort that a textbook contains, but such as might be drawn in the field. Some are diagrammatic, some overlap in information, and some are not extensively labelled, but they all transmit the air of discovery that the unknown produces. Mrs. Johnson has also included one of her attractive prairie landscapes for the colored cover, which depicts the "Badlands in the Oldman Formation, Dinosaur Provincial Park," near Brooks, Alberta.

The book includes chapters on the Legal Land Descriptions used in Alberta and Saskatchewan, descriptions of the geological formations mentioned in the work and their major outcroppings, osteological terminology, and short chapters on some Cretaceous mammals, and on bison and horse teeth which are often mistaken for dinosaur teeth, all of which contribute markedly to the book's usefulness. There are also twelve references offered for further studies and a glossary of scientific terms.

Obviously, in a work of this sort, there will be errors. Satisfyingly enough, there were no typographical errors that I noticed, although some other errors have intruded. On page 6, "Russell 1970, pp. 1105, 1105" does not refer to D. A. Russell, 1972, pp. 375-402, as cited, but to L. S. Russell, 1970 (Correlation of the Upper Cretaceous Montana Group between Southern Alberta and Montana. *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences* 7(4): 1099-1108). There are places where the text appears unclear, e.g., on page 10, "The neural canal is enclosed above by the neural arch" or "Vertebrae that take ribs have facets between the centra, and facets on the neural arches or transverse processes, for attachment of rib heads." It would be better to have said that the neural canal is surrounded by the neural arch (as defined on page 127), or that the heads of the ribs articulate with the facets between the centra, and the tubercles on the ribs with those on the arches or transverse processes. On page 31, "The new tooth moved into its predecessor through this opening, and developed beneath it" is similarly imprecise, even when the opening is given as "the small, arched opening in the base of the rooted tooth shown . . ."

Dimensions are usually measured in both Imperial and Metric, which is suitably timely. Diagrams vary from excellent (e.g., Figure 35) to uninspired (e.g., Figure 29). In Figure 43, the humerus is omitted and chevron bones are introduced for the first time but not explained until page 99 or Figure 111. Exception might

also be taken to the statement that "The hadrosaur had the most complex and efficient dental equipment of any animal known" (page 75). Comparison with an elephant or horse for a similar apparatus does not suggest that. Meckelian is misspelled "MecKelian" in Figure 85. On page 77 "A.M.N.H." is not explained, and diacritical marks on "*Troödon*" and parentheses within parentheses on page 31 should have been omitted. There are also a few omitted or misplaced hyphens, commas, or other punctuations.

Despite these criticisms, the book is well worthwhile for anyone who needs a non-technical and reasonably priced guide on his shelves, especially if he lives in the Canadian Prairies. It should delight the heart of any young fossil hunter and be useful to many an older person who is either just curious or has inquisitive juniors. It should also be available in many school libraries throughout Canada, where it will be well thumbled by those children interested in natural science. I therefore recommend it to any that are interested in Natural History and especially to amateurs or those unfamiliar with the area and its deposits.

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The Vanishing Harvest

By Ken Johnstone. 1972. Montreal Star, Montreal. 87 pp. \$1.95.

The Vanishing Harvest by Ken Johnstone is a book concerned with the Canadian fishing crisis which has arisen as a result of (a) pollution, and (b) ineffective national and international control of declining fisheries. Although pollution is of great concern, by far the more important danger according to Johnstone is that of overfishing. His premise is that with the advancement of modern technology we are capable of determining the location of, and capturing, whole schools of fish. The contributing factor to this crisis is the philosophy of "unlimited supply." Only in recent years have we learned that the area of greatest productivity of the seas does not extend much further than the limits of the continental shelf, nor deeper than the layer of water a photon of

light might penetrate. In terms of world surface, this is a very small productive area. Johnstone points out International Conferences of the Sea policies are ineffective as many countries reject a policy of limiting captures on declining stocks.

Because Johnstone is a journalist by trade, many would consider his book an opinion. Although he does not cite a bibliography, which weakens the impact of the work, it does appear to have been well researched. The book proceeds logically and is interesting to read. I would recommend it as an informative inquiry into our fisheries and their problems.

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