

Canadian Forestry. The View beyond the Trees

By C. R. Stanton. 1976. MacMillan, Toronto. 70 pp., illus. \$5.95.

The vital role of forests as national wealth is explained. Their management is of prime importance to derive benefits perennially. A historical background is sketched beginning with the construction of houses in the past by Indian tribes. After the European settlements appeared, the shipbuilding industry grew up, utilizing timber. Later on lumber mills were established. Finally paper industry assumed major importance in national economy.

A beautiful colored map of Canada is provided with forest regions and principal tree species, clearly marked. Typical pictures of each kind of vegetation were separately presented to give an idea how each region of vegetation looks like, e.g., boreal, montane, deciduous, and subalpine forest. Bargrams show the forest land in hectares and merchantable timber in cubic metres in each province of Canada. A short account appears on forest administration policy. As fire and pests cause maximum damage, management methods and intensive protection methods are required. New techniques of planting are being developed from time to time in order to keep pace with harvesting. Forest inventory work is speeded by

digitized stereoscope, which presents forest measurements from large-scale aerial photographs in computer-ready form. Mechanized logging operations are carried out replacing the traditional lumberjack with his axe and saw. Veneers, plywoods, particle boards, pulp and paper, secondary wood, shingles, and maple syrup are some of the products of forests. At the same time, wildlife preservation is an adjunct function. Various research centres have been set up to tackle different problems.

This book has numerous colored photographs of very high quality. It is not too technical; A layman could easily understand what forests are, how important they are for man's survival, and their vital role in national economy. Any student (Grade 6 on) could get a bird's-eye view of Canadian forests. I recommend that everyone take a glance at this title irrespective of their background, whether in biology, ecology, or forestry or whatever. We must congratulate C.R. Stanton for bringing out this concise edition.

DR. C. R. CHEVENDRA

Science Librarian, University of Western Ontario, London, Canada

ENVIRONMENT

"Man of the Woods"

By Herbert F. Keith. 1976. Syracuse University Press. Syracuse, New York. 164 pp. \$5.95 (paperback edition of a 1972 publication)

"*Man of the Woods*" is a tale of what most people aspire to do with their lives, to be whom and do what they desire. Herbert Keith dreamed of being, and was, an Adirondack guide on the Oswegatchie River. His work is autobiographical of his life in and love for the town of Wanakena and the Oswegatchie River.

His love for the region was kindled through his boyhood vacations to the lumber town of Wanakena, New York at its peak at the turn of this century. The early chapters of his work give an interesting account of Wanakena's beginning and decline, which depended upon the production of the timber industry. It was this industry that first opened the region for tourism and guiding through the creation of railroad spurs to haul logs to the mills. It was during the timber and post-timber era that Keith dwells longest and introduces the reader to some of the more colorful

characters and events of the time.

His story-telling is based primarily on humor. There are moments of personal tragedy, however: the loss of a friend, the inroads of an insatiable recreative society, and the loss of one man's harmony with nature, which gives the reader a balanced view of the nature of wilderness living, a respect for all things great and small.

The third period Keith dwells upon is that of the automobile. Keith dwelt longest on the first two periods perhaps because they were most memorable to him. Perhaps too, the age of the automobile gives him pain to have seen the careless casual destruction caused by overeager, overbearing, and undertrained modern man. Keith hones in on the problems associated with this new "sport" person in Chapters 18 and 19. I feel he tends to editorialize in these chapters and breaks out of his role as a story-teller, which disrupts the mood set throughout the rest of the work. Maybe this is Keith's method to cause a self-

evaluation of the reader's attitude toward nature.

Apart from Keith's skills as a story-teller, the work contains a fine pictorial essay of the characters and way of life which compliments the story line at the moment. Another strong feature is the notes accompanying the work, referred to at the back of the text; these broaden its usefulness as a source of social and historical information. Also included are two maps. The first is of the railroad system on page 5, but it lacks a directional bearing and scale, which may

limit its value. The second map on page 95 is a regional map which lacks a scale.

Keith's "*Man in the Woods*" is a work well done and a fine piece of reading. It has something of interest for all. I highly recommend it.

G. MADIGAN

Box 39, MacDonald College, Woodland Resources, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec

Ecological Diversity

By E. C. Pielou. 1975. Wiley, New York. 165 pp. \$14.95.

This book is primarily intended for studies of ecological communities. The questions confronted by an ecologist are (1) How many trophic levels are present, and are there a small number of intricately anastomosing food webs or a large number of simple unbranched food chains? (2) Do the species differ much in the amplitude of their tolerance ranges for various environmental variables? (3) Which of the species are autochthonous (evolved locally) and which allochthonous (evolved elsewhere) and which (if any) will soon become locally or globally extinct? (4) Are most or all of the community's species fully adopted to the habit they occupy and to one another?

The principles, explanations, applications, and derivations outlined in this book would throw some light on community studies. Moreover, the author clearly explains the difference between mathematical ecology and statistical ecology. The ecologists of the former category devise dynamic models such as sets of differential-difference equations. Statistical ecologists on the other hand have less faith in conceptual models and the long chains of arguments arising from them. The author is of the opinion that the mathematicians run the risk of constructing interesting models divorced from reality while the statisticians run the risk of proving clear answers to ecologically uninteresting questions. I also fall in line with the firm conviction of the author that an ecologist with

considerable field experience can recognize good questions and good answers.

The book is divided into eight chapters opening with 'Indices of diversity and evenness' which covers Simpson Index, estimation of diversity of a large community, evenness and equitability, and hierarchical diversity. Chapters two and three consisted of species-abundance distributions, followed by a testing hypothesis in chapter four. Spatial pattern, environmental gradients, local factors and global factors cover the other half of the book. A useful bibliography is presented. Conventional subject and author indexes appear as usual. To me, it appears, a little background in mathematics is necessary to apply these principles because I (basically, I am a botanist) consulted a biometrician to explain some of the steps involved. This should not frighten an ecologist from using this book. A little guidance from a mathematician will straighten your problems, if you have any. Taking into consideration all the above facts, this title is an excellent version on the topic in question. Diversity as a whole is treated in a coherent manner. It is highly desirable that a field ecologist be familiar with this type of knowledge. Undoubtedly, this is a piece of scholarly exposition by Ms. Pielou.

C. R. CHEVENDRA

Science Librarian, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario

Energy Flow — Its Biological Dimensions. A Summary of the IBP in Canada 1964–1974

Edited by T. W. M. Cameron and L. W. Billingsley. 1975. Royal Society of Canada, Ottawa. x + 319 pp. \$5.

The book consists of six sections corresponding to International Biological Program (IBP) outline: terrestrial productivity, terrestrial conservation, freshwater productivity, marine productivity, productivity

processes, and human adaptability. The emphasis in all the 18 chapters is on the work carried out in Canada. The opening chapter is an overview presented by W. H. Cook who had dealt with primary and secondary productivity, nitrogen fixation, terrestrial and aquatic environments, ecological sites and



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