

to their environment. Their interdependency of living things, the water cycle, and the relation of man to 'nature's balance' are other general topics which are carefully presented with interest-catching examples. Well-known birds, mammals, insects, and plants and their relationships with each other and with man are the subject matter of other chapters of the book.

The importance of soil and water conservation is stressed and basic techniques applicable to each are well described. The illustrations in this section are particularly effective. The final chapter contains practical suggestions for conservation projects which youngsters can undertake. At the end of most chapters there are suggestions for additional reading.

Partners With Nature is written in a fashion which most young people will not find difficult and should enjoy. Most of the animals and plants mentioned are those that are typical of the United States Middle West and, to a lesser extent, southern Ontario and Quebec. There are only a few references to the seas, the seashores, the northern forests, the arctic or the tropics. However, there is little doubt that the lessons most easily learned are those that refer to familiar situations, and while the book's area of usefulness is thereby somewhat limited, its influence within its region of primary interest is probably enhanced.

DAVID A. MUNRO

Arctic Birds of Canada

By L. L. SNYDER. Illus. by T. M. SHORTT. Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1957. 310 p. \$4.75.

Because of the rapidly increasing numbers of people visiting or living in the Arctic there is a growing need for books dealing with the natural history of the north. The volume under review makes a substantial contribution towards providing an understanding of our arctic birds. Seventy-two species are treated in detail, and an appendix records the occasional or accidental occurrence of ninety-three others. The major species are discussed under the headings: Additional Names (English and Eskimo common names), Status, Habitat, Characteristics, and Remarks. Each is beautifully illustrated in black and white by Mr. Shortt who shows a wonderful appreciation of arctic habitats. Although I doubt whether the manner of presentation would allow easy identification by a beginner, this book will be a useful supplement to a field guide. There is

an unnecessary amount of repetition of information presented under Status in the sections on Habitat and Remarks. If the space thus used had been devoted to information on breeding calls, courtship and food, the usefulness and interest of the book might have been greatly enhanced. As it is the text fails to provide a mental picture of the birds on their breeding grounds.

The format and printing are good and the text seems to be very free of typographical errors. Unfortunately there are more errors of fact than seem to be justified. For example the map for the Red-throated Loon is seriously in error for the southeast part. The ranges of *Charadrius hiaticula* and *Acanthis b. hornemanni* are not shown to include Alert, although these records were published in 1953. The same source gives some Ellesmere dates for the European Knot although Snyder deplores the lack of such information. Although this paper is absent from the bibliography it is curious to note that data from it are plotted in the Knot and Ruddy Turnstone maps. *Passerculus sandwichensis anthinus* is omitted from the map although it occupies about a third of the arctic and subarctic range of the species. The words "right" and "left" are transposed in the legend of the Sabine Gull illustration. In early breeding seasons the Whimbrel often reaches southeastern Canada in late July. *Branta canadensis interior* is given as *B. c. ungava*, and *B. c. leucopareia* of the Aleutians is "supposed to occupy the extreme western Canadian Arctic." Rock Sandpiper is stated to be appropriate for the Purple Sandpiper, but it is already in use for the related *Erolia ptilocnemis*. Finally, readers unfamiliar with the arctic should be warned against the inference on page 10 that it supports a dense population of birds. Breeding censuses show that scarcely any habitats in North America support as low populations as arctic tundra, and that many carry five to ten or even twenty times as many birds. Despite such slips, however, this is an attractive and useful book.

D. B. O. SAVILE

Introduction to Agronomy

By R. S. DUNHAM. New York, The Dryden Press, 1957. 324 p. illus. \$4.50.

This compact volume will give the beginner-student and the general reader a brief but satisfactory introduction to the science of agronomy. The experience and knowledge of the author, acquired by many years of teach-



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