

"Since the days when prehistoric man huddled in his cave, irritated by the smoke from his flickering fire, environmental control has challenged man. Even as the caveman had to endure smoke while he worked to improve his environment, so modern man has continued to complicate his situation by adding pollutants to the atmosphere and to water supplies. Nature with its largesse has given us enormous amounts of air and water, and yet the availability of uncontaminated air and water for growing population needs has become a real problem in many parts of the world."

Each of the 18 papers contributes new knowledge to the discussion and new food for thought. The subjects range from air and water pollution and the need for their control through noise and its control to the difference between radiant health and malaise or worse caused by a hostile environment that man has created through his "progress". Increase in short-term death rates through severe air pollution is documented as is auditory damage by excessive noise. The increasing chemical complexity of the atmosphere, which we all must breathe, is considered as an increasing menace to public health. "It is well known that man possesses an amazing ability to adapt to changes in his intake and surroundings, provided such variations occur slowly. But ecologically speaking, the chemical environment has been an explosive development. Since a large sector of the population is already believed to be maladapted to various environmental chemicals, what may be expected of a future which promises greater concentrations of present materials plus many additional ones? . . ."

"Such maladapted stages of chronic reactions may persist for many months or years, as long as accustomed routines are continued. Indeed, life tends to become something to be endured in sick boredom instead of a challenging and exhilarating experience."

The final speaker concluded: "It has been pointed out in the course of this conference that the people and government at all levels must make up their collective minds for corrective action now."

That conclusion is one with which we must all agree.

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Fishes of the Atlantic Coast of Canada

By A. H. LEIM and W. B. SCOTT. Bulletin of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada (155): 1-485, 4 colour plates, 9 text-fig. incl. 2 charts, 224 species figures, 20 distribution maps. Queen's Printer, Ottawa. 1966 [1967] \$8.50.

This work, by the late Dr. Leim and by Dr. Scott, is an important contribution to the ichthyology of the Atlantic coast of Canada. It covers those fishes known between Cape Chidley, northern Labrador and the southern tip of Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick and seaward to the 1000 fathom bathy contour.

Although there has long been Clemens and Wilby's *Fishes of the Pacific Coast of Canada* for the west coast, there has been no corresponding handbook for the east coast. Further studies, it may be noted, are being written on the fishes of the Arctic coast and of freshwaters of Canada.

The contents may be briefly sketched. The book begins with a foreword by Dr. J. L. Hart outlining the development of the book. The introduction contains a historical review, a useful summary of oceanography of the area with charts of the currents and geographic features, and sections on classification, anatomy and format. Keys are presented to the larger groups and to species. The page numbers

given following the species or other taxa facilitates turning to the description. Since the keys provided are basically the same as those in Scott and Scott (1965) which I previously reviewed (1966, Canadian Field-Naturalist 80 (1): 57-58) further comments will not be made on them. Following the family and species accounts are a glossary of technical terms, a full index and space for notes.

Most species are dealt with in an excellent standard format. Above are the English and French common names and the scientific name. The spelling of the scientific names has obviously been carefully checked. Lead-headings facilitate the location of information in the paragraphs — Other common names, Description, Colour, Distinctions, Size, Range, Canadian distribution, Biology and Economics. The inclusion of the world range and French common names is an advance over *Fishes of the Pacific Coast of Canada*. The style is less technical than in the latter. Many species accounts list a single body part ratio instead of a range. Total length, instead of standard length, is used in ratios of body parts. The inclusion of distribution maps for some species is a good feature. Some families lack descriptions and some species appear only in the keys or are represented by abbreviated accounts. One hopes these will be completed in the next edition. Within the family, species are listed in alphabetical order. This sometimes results in related genera being placed far apart, making it difficult to compare them. The classification used is conservative, following C. T. Regan.

Although dated 1966 the volume did not appear until 1967. No references beyond 1964 were noted and those for 1963 were incomplete. Legendre's (1961) paper on *Gadus ogac* was omitted. Delay in publication has had some effect on currency of the text — on names and records. The foreward suggests the possibility of an early revision.

Three-quarters of the species are illustrated. The stippled drawing style employed is capable of giving superior ren-

dition of detail. A certain unevenness results from their being drawn by several artists or from previously published sources. The differing styles and stances of fins, mouths etc. will make comparisons with specimens difficult in some cases. While some drawings are of high quality — the smelt, Arctic shanny, thorny skate and blue whiting, others are technically deficient — the banded killfish and four-horn sculpin. Features of some drawings do not correspond with the text.

The binding, typography and editing are at the usual high level for board publications. Reproduction of figures is excellent save for a few drawings like the oilfish copied from other sources. The use of small type for Canadian distribution is disconcerting as it has the effect of breaking up the species account. The glossy paper is hard on the eyes and sticks together when wet. The colour plates, particularly the elegant one of the redfish add to the appearance of the book.

Fishes of the Atlantic coast of Canada will be a very useful publication for those interested in the fishes of our east coast.

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Silvics of Forest Trees of the United States

(Compiled and revised by H. A. FOWELLS). Agriculture Handbook No. 271. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 1965. 762 pp. \$4.25.

An up-to-date comprehensive summary of silvical information composed of edited versions of 127 silvical leaflets most of which have been released as separates by the U.S. Forest Service. This book of 762 pages will provide a ready reference for teaching and research covering the distribution, life histories and responses to the environment of the



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