

the lithograph of the Purple Heron on page 28). This confusion of artistic styles only adds to the heterogenous appearance of the book.

Unquestionably the most conspicuous fault of this book is that it is totally disorganized and for this I hold the designer, Emil M. Bühner responsible. If you examine the table of contents (which incidentally is on the second last page) you will find that there is a section dealing with mating customs in the middle of a chapter entitled "The Rocky Bird Isle in the North"; there are two different sections dealing with bird nurseries; the chapter on courting customs, comes after the chapter on nest building and what is even more puzzling, the chapter entitled "Wives, Sweethearts, Concubines" has been inserted between "Birds and their Eggs" and "The Bird Family". The designer presumably is also responsible for the format. While the layout is attractive in an artistic sense, it tends at times to become rather confusing for the reader when there are photographs, line drawings and three styles of script all on the same page (c.f. p. 130). The elaborate index on pages 186-191 is so fraught with mistakes as to make it quite useless.

Notwithstanding its many shortcomings, "The Family Life of Birds" is an attractive looking book and I expect that many people will buy it without examining it very closely. I have no doubt but that the publisher will be well rewarded for his investment of money and manpower.

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Blue Meridian — The Search for the Great White Shark

By Peter Matthiessen. Random House of Canada Ltd., Toronto. 1971. 204 p. \$10.75.

Normally, books of this sort are not reviewed in these columns, for this is neither a book for the specialist, nor is it in one sense, a "natural history" book. *Blue Meridian* is the written account of the production of the film "Blue Water, White Death" and it deals with the search for the great white shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, in the waters near Southern Africa, Ceylon, and Australia. To my mind it summarizes more accurately the frustrations, tensions, and problems

of a marine expedition than anything else I have recently read. It does provide some information — as well as speculation — on the natural history of several species of sharks and it also provides some insight into the South African whaling industry. The colour photographs are excellent and one only regrets that more were not included.

It is frustrating for an ichthyologist to read that the expedition made no attempt to capture an unusual shark off South Africa. However, it is disturbing to read "Another thing shark authorities agree on is that sharks should never be provoked, but *probably the exact opposite is true*" (p. 55) [Italics mine]. It seems foolish, if not irresponsible to make such a statement, for it might cause inexperienced divers to attack every shark they see. Sharks have every advantage over humans in the water, and to avoid them is to avoid trouble. On the other hand, if a shark attack is imminent, one has nothing to lose by trying every available means to ward it off.

I agree with the author that "turtle-riding" and fish-feeding antics are disgusting, if not demeaning to the animals involved. But I cannot agree that Prince Edward Island is part of New Brunswick (p. 112).

On the whole the book is interesting for the observations it makes on shark behavior and it is immensely readable. This book presents excellent insight into a marine expedition, but unfortunately it may be passed over in the virtual plethora of recent books on sharks.

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Kamloops, an Angler's Study of the Kamloops Trout

By Steve Raymond. Winchester Press, New York. 1971. 218 p., text-figures, photos, 2 colour plates. \$14.50.

A book of this genre can be written either by a scientist with breadth of vision and skill in popular writing or by a dedicated angler with skill in writing who will delve into the scientific literature. The scientist is frequently not fluent in communicating with the public using the pen. If a civil servant, he cannot give free discourse on

topics such as pollution or government support of his work.

The author, a journalist and angler, is free from these problems that a scientist would encounter. On the other hand he has had to tackle the scientific literature, search, decipher and interpret it. Generally speaking he manages to correctly convey the main principles of fisheries management and ecology of the Kamloops trout. His layman status does occasionally show, as for example in his spelling of caudle for caudal, *Cottus cognaturs* for *Cottus cognatus*, usage of the genus *Aplites* instead of *Micropterus*. Dr. E. J. Crossman has his initials changed to D. J. The table on contiguous species will be of little use in fish identification.

There are chapters in the book on history of the fish, the life cycle, the environment, management, tackle, fishing techniques, and recommended waters. Perhaps his most important contribution is in the bringing together of information on fishing fly patterns. Old patterns, such as Carey's and Nation's are described as well as new ones contributed by the author.

The writing is generally clear and pleasant. It will be an easy introduction to the ways of the Kamloops trout for the angler or naturalist, although for authoritative information on scientific aspects he may wish to go to other sources.

The book is reproduced on matte natural colour paper with wide margins in a shibui binding.

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Seaweeds of Cape Cod and the Islands

By John M. Kingsbury. The Chatham Press Inc., Chatham, Massachusetts. 1969. x + 212 pp., 114 figs., \$12.50.

In scope and, to some degree, intent this book is comparable to that of Muriel L. Guberlet's "Seaweeds at Ebb Tide", University of Washington Press, 1956, which is also a popular treatment of the benthic marine algae, but dealing with species of the temperate west coast of North America. They resemble each other a great deal in the presentation of descriptions and comments, in the line drawings, and even in format, whereby a

species is discussed on one page, and conveniently illustrated (gross habit) on the opposing page. The outstanding difference is price. Guberlet's book, which unlike Kingsbury's is paperbound, could be bought for \$2.95.

Some 93 species, all of which as the title would probably indicate are attached, multicellular forms, are discussed in varying detail as to their habitat, structure, and life histories. To avoid technical terminology as much as possible, it is written in a narrative and commentarial style. Unfortunately, for a group of organisms as complex as the algae, this kind of presentation promotes for the most part an oversimplified judgement on the differences between one species and another. But as the author had apparently intended, the book is primarily one of illustrations which the collector can refer to for the identification of Cape Cod algae. Although the discussion sections have limited practical application towards the sorting of the different species occurring in the Cape Cod region, they are effective in providing a readable, non-technical account of the algae.

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Mountain Sheep: A Study in Behaviour and Evolution

By Valerius Geist. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. 1971. 383 p. \$14.50.

The book *Mountain Sheep* is much more than just a book on *Ovis canadensis* and *Ovis dalli*. It is also a declaration of the author's fascinating theories about the evolutionary forces that shaped the social behavior of large Pleistocene mammals. Mountain sheep are used as a foundation for his theses. However, many aspects of mountain sheep life are thoroughly discussed by Dr. Geist, and the discussions are based partly on the rich fund of knowledge he gathered during nearly four years of field research on the two species of mountain sheep in Canada.

The book is one of a series on wildlife behavior and ecology edited by Dr. George Schaller of the New York Zoological Society. It is organized into a dozen chapters dealing with data collection methods, and with home ranges and movements, social organization and behavior, and the dynamics



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