

## Fishes of the Thunder Bay Area of Ontario: A Guide for Identifying and Locating the Local Fish Fauna

By Connie Hartviksen and Walter Momot. 1989. Wildwood Publications, Thunder Bay, Ontario. 282 pages, illus. \$24.95.

This is a handy guide to the fishes of the Thunder Bay region of Ontario which includes the area from the north shore of Lake Superior to 52° N, over 600 km northwards. Eighty-two (according to text) native and introduced species (some now extirpated) over 40% of Canada's freshwater fish fauna, have been recorded from the region.

The 23-page introductory portion of the book includes the following sections: Preface, Acknowledgments, Notes to the Reader, About the Authors/Illustrators, Some Important Publications about the Canadian Fish Fauna, A Summary of North Ontario Fishing, Map of the Region, Description of the Study Area, Glaciation, Hydrology and Fish Distribution, External and Internal Anatomy of Fishes, Checklist of Species found in the Thunder Bay area, and Key to Fish Families. Most of these sections provide pertinent information, but the list of important Canadian fish publications seems out of place. The significance of angling to the region is revealed by the presence in 1980 of 44 600 resident and 24 300 non-resident anglers. The description of the river basins will assist anglers in choosing a vacation spot. The accounts of deglaciation and postglacial movement of the fishes provide interesting reading. I did not find any discussion of environmental issues.

Species accounts occupy 210 pages of the book. For each species the reader is given the common and scientific names, an illustration, description of the fish, its relationship to man, the first record for the area and its location, and other common names. Under description, biological as well as descriptive information is given. The pen-and-ink drawings provide a good impression of the fish and enough detail to assist in identification. Identification is further assisted by a pictorial key with a list of diagnostic characters at the beginning of each family. Much new information on fish distribution is provided. The scientific name for the Deepwater Sculpin, however, is now generally accepted as *Myoxocephalus thompsoni*, not, as in the text, *Myoxocephalus quadricornis*.

A lake inventory, glossary, supplemental reading list, and index complete the book. The lake inventory gives the latitude and longitude of the lake, a geographic (?) code, and a list of the known fish species. A colored map with fine details of rivers, lakes, and road is provided in a pocket on the back cover. The scale is 1: 600 000.

This is an excellent guide for the angler in northern Ontario. It also provides information useful to the ichthyologist and naturalist. I highly recommend it.

DON E. MCALLISTER

Ichthyology Section, Canadian Museum of Nature, P.O. Box 3443, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6P4

## Predators and Predation: The Struggle for Life in the Animal World

Edited by Pierre Pfeffer. 1989. English translation by Mark Howson. Facts on File, New York. (Originally published in 1985 by Editions Balland as *Qui mange Qui*). ix + 419 pp. U.S.\$50.

Had this encyclopedic reference work been around in the middle of the last century, Tennyson's celebrated poetic description of "nature red in tooth and claw" might never have been written. In scores of examples, the 70 contributors to the volume do their best to dispel the antiquated (but still pervasive) notion of "hostile, immoral, and wilfully cruel" animal predators, equipped with an arsenal of fangs, claws, pincers and tentacles straight out of a grisly late-night horror film. Instead, the book attempts to present a more balanced overview of the role of predators in natural systems, devoting as much

space to such unlikely predators as the European Dormouse and Scarlet-Chested Sunbird as it does to their more spectacularly-armed predatory colleagues.

As a guide to the gastronomic habits of over 500 vertebrate and invertebrate species, *Predators and Predation* is one of the most ambitious, if misguided, reference volumes on this topic I have seen to date. A typical 500-word entry contains a physical description of the predator, its geographical range, and highlights of its natural history, as well as a description of how it hunts and captures its prey. For quick reference, black triangular symbols are embedded in the text to highlight both the common prey species and the predators of the animal in question. But it demands a great deal of patient browsing to appreciate the broader intent of the authors.





McAllister, Don E. 1990. "Fishes of the Thunder Bay Area of Ontario: A Guide for Identifying and Locating the Local Fish Fauna, by Connie Hartviksen and Walter Momot [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 104(4), 615–615.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.356474>.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/106989>

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.356474>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/356474>

#### **Holding Institution**

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

#### **Sponsored by**

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

#### **Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.