

ences in climate, terrain, and marine life on each island. On most occasions the author stayed in the homes of friends or islanders and is therefore able to give insight into different cultures, the mixed benefits of island life, self-sufficient lifestyles, and the unique characteristics of each particular island. As the author has visited many of the islands in earlier years, one can also benefit from his comments regarding changes or stable continuity of island life over the years.

The text is accompanied with detailed ink drawings by Noel W. Cusa and hand-drawn maps. Throughout the text the author often refers to or

quotes from literary works relating to the subject matter, touches on the history of the islands and voyages of early explorers such as Captain James Cook.

Easter Island, the Falklands, Tahiti, or islands of the Canadian Arctic, whatever one's taste, *Birds and Islands* is a delightful armchair adventure from a naturalist's perspective to many of the remote islands of the world, each briefly but beautifully portrayed.

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Migrations: Travels of a Naturalist

By Bobby Tulloch. 1991. McClelland and Stewart, Toronto. 151 pp., illus. \$44.95.

In this book, the reader follows the travels of the naturalist Bobby Tulloch as he explores his home turf of the Shetlands as well as some interesting habitats abroad.

His objective is to introduce the reader to a variety of species of birds as well as shed light on their behaviour and migratory patterns. He accomplishes this by adeptly conveying to the readers his extensive observations from recent and past excursions. Whether he is conducting land or sea tours, or frequenting local birding hot-spots, one cannot help but enjoy his interesting narratives.

A good portion of the text covers the composition of bird populations in the Shetlands throughout the various seasons. Tulloch highlights the differences between resident and transitory species as well as the various factors that can affect their migration.

Travelling further afield, Tulloch recounts his travels to the Falklands, the Arctic, the Seychelles, Lapland, and several islands of the North Atlantic. When describing birds of these areas, he often aids the reader by referencing a similar species which one can more readily identify. One will be absorbed in the text as the author describes

visits to King Penguin colonies and sightings of the rare Dolphin Gull in the Falklands, and his observations at the waterfowl breeding grounds at Iceland's Lake Myvatn area.

There are other features that bear noting in this book. An abundance of colour photographs accompany the text and are of excellent quality. The photo-descriptions are lengthy and can be enjoyed while reading the whole book, or read independently. Though the illustrations may have artistic merit they have little value in aiding the reader in identification of species as they have a wash effect and lack crisp delineation. It should also be noted that the book unfortunately does not include any maps. It is highly recommended that one have an atlas close by to reference the islands and their specific areas that are discussed.

Tulloch succeeds in broadening the readers' knowledge of different island environments, migration patterns, and identification of numerous species of birds. His material is well presented, his coverage thorough, and one cannot help but vicariously enjoy his travels.

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BOTANY

Mushrooms of North America

By Roger Phillips. 1991. Little, Brown, Boston, Toronto. 319 pp., illus. Cloth U.S. \$39.95; paper U.S. \$24.95; \$29.95 in Canada.

Interest in fungi has mushroomed during the past two decades. The increased awareness of the environment, ecology, natural history, and related areas has directed attention to the role of mushrooms and other fungi. Also, mushrooms have become a popular motif with artists and craftsmen.

Roger Phillips' book is the pleasing result of the art of a professional photographer melded with the interest of an avid mushroom enthusiast in the technical distinctions between species. Both the composition and reproduction, especially the critical colors, of the photographs is excellent. With over 1000 species illustrated in color photographs, it contains the most varied selection of North American mushrooms yet published. For example, forty species and

varieties of the genus *Amanita* are pictured. All the common, the popular edible and the poisonous species are included, as are a variety of rare or unusual mushrooms.

This is a book of pictures; about 65 per cent of the 319 pages is devoted to photographs. The descriptions and notes on habitats and edibility occupy a distinctly subordinate role. The short introduction discusses such topics as "What is a mushroom?", collecting hints, poisoning symptoms, popular edible species, how to go about identifying wild mushrooms, and an explanation of the technical terms it was necessary to use in the book.

Unfortunately the illustrations of *Oxyporus populinus*, *Poronidulus conchifer*, *Hydnochaete olivacea*, and *Auricularia auricula* have been inverted,

but they are the type of fungi where it doesn't have a disastrous effect. The photograph labelled *Trametes pubescens* shows a variety of *T. versicolor* and not *T. pubescens*. In a few photographs the mushroom is so small that the technical details, needed to accurately identify it, are obscure; e.g., *Panellus stipiticus*. But these are minor inconveniences.

This is a highly recommended, modestly-priced volume for anyone interested in mushrooms, and for naturalists who should be aware of the variety to be found and their important role in the environment.

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Fungi Without Gills (Hymenomycetes and Gasteromycetes): An Identification Handbook

By Martin B. and J. Pamela Ellis. 1990. Chapman and Hall, New York. x + 329 pp., illus. U.S. \$79; \$99 in Canada.

The first volume in this series of identification handbooks, titled *Microfungi on Land Plants*, was reviewed in *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* 100: 448-449 (1986). The kingdom of the Fungi is composed of two major classes, the Ascomycetes and the Basidiomycetes. Fungi with gills are mushrooms and they are Basidiomycetes. Fungi without gills are the large Basidiomycetes other than mushrooms, such as boletes, polypores, puffballs, toothed fungi, stinkhorns, jelly fungi, and coral fungi.

The series is designed to encourage interest in the fungi and especially in those groups of fungi which require the use of a microscope to accurately identify collections. Although based upon the fungi in Great Britain, most of the species also occur in North America. However, the book is not comprehensive and our mycoflora is more extensive than that of Great Britain.

Most of the book is a series of keys (statements of contrasting characters) and brief descriptions of the pertinent distinguishing features of the genera and species. There are 974 species treated and 543 are illustrated. A host index, glossary and the ink drawings of fruiting bodies and microscopic features, such as spores and cystidia, conclude the volume.

This is an excellent series and no comparable work exists for Canada or the United States. The book presents information on taxonomically and ecologically diverse groups of fungi, which previously was widely scattered in the literature. It will be a big help to mycologists, plant pathologists, ecologists, and others who have to identify these fungi in their work. Hopefully it will stimulate interest in students, amateurs and professionals to the point that a similar book will be prepared exclusively for the North American mycoflora.

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A Natural History of Trees of Eastern and Central North America

By Donald Culross Peattie with an Introduction by Robert Finch. 1991. Reissue of 1948 edition. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, xvii + 606 pp., illus. Paper U.S. \$16.95.

A Natural History of Western Trees

By Donald Culross Peattie with an Introduction by Robert Finch. 1991. Reissue of 1950 edition. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, xvii + 751 pp. Illus. Paper U.S. \$18.95.

These two treasures, first published in 1948 and 1950 respectively, and reprinted several times, contain a wealth of interestingly written information about the various trees which are native to the eastern and western parts of North America.

In each of these volumes, one to several pages are devoted to each species. At the end there is a simple key to the species, a glossary, and indexes to scientific and common names. For the individual species, common names (accepted and alternate), scientific



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