

cause and the measures they take as a society to remedy this. Above all, it is about the possibilities they now have to re-shape and create an environment that fits their highest aspirations".

In reviewing man's impact on the world the author reminds us that it took man about 200,000 years to achieve a population of a billion, but only an additional hundred years to reach 2 billion. With a world population of $3\frac{1}{2}$ billion in 1966 the most recent doubling of population will have occurred in about 35 years. Although many countries have a higher rate of increase, the arrival of a new baby every 12 seconds in the United States coupled with the production of a new car every five seconds together lead to the loss of two acres of countryside every minute. The author reminds us that there are now about 25 million square miles of habitable and cultivable land in the world. He contrasts that with the 780 square miles of land that are taken out of cultivation *a day* for urban expansion, roads, industrial expansion and by erosion. Those figures give us an idea of the urgency of our present problems.

The author treats land in its agricultural, forestry, wildlife and recreational context. He goes on to review the problems of air and water pollution and their complex relations to the rest of the fabric of ecology. There are two chapters on wildlife, which are introduced by a couplet from Alexander Pope's Essay on Man: "From Nature's chain, whatever link you strike, Tenth or ten thousandth, breaks the chain alike".

Under the heading of "Unities" there are useful discussions of famous wetland areas which typify biological complexes. They include the Everglades of Florida, the Norfolk and East Suffolk Broads of England and the Camargue of France. In each case conflicting uses of the areas have led to unintended results in these ecologically fragile environ-

ments. Some similar occurrences in the United Kingdom involving areas other than wetlands are also reviewed.

The last six chapters deal with increasing numbers of people, the impact of their leisure activities on the land and the need for planning of land use to ensure minimum destruction of habitat.

Although much of the book is oriented toward problems as they exist in the United Kingdom, the ideas presented are useful anywhere. A useful 21-page appendix closes with a Chinese proverb: "The art of life lies in a constant readjustment to our surroundings".

There are 16 pages of photographs. The text is clear and free from errors.

All concerned persons interested in natural history and the future of the earth as a place to live should read this book.

V. E. F. SOLMAN

Canadian Wildlife Service,
Ottawa, Ontario

The Flora of Nova Scotia

By A. E. ROLAND and E. C. SMITH. Part I. The Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, and Monocotyledons. Proc. N.S. Inst. Sci. 26, part 2: 3-237, 1963-1964 (published 1966).

The original Flora of Nova Scotia by A. E. Roland appeared in Volume 21, Parts 3 & 4, 1944-46 (published 1947) of the Proceedings of the Nova Scotia Institute of Science, and this part of the new edition which has picked up an additional author appears in volume 26, part 2, 1963-1964 (1966). At the time of this writing, the second part was in press.

The first edition has not been available for some time. It is gratifying, therefore, to see the new edition appear. The text has been rather thoroughly revised; keys, discussions under individual species and statements of range have been rewritten,

expanded or altered as needed. The dot maps use the original base map but have been replotted to incorporate the extensive records accumulated by J. S. Erskine, W. B. Schofield, D. H. Webster and others since the first edition appeared. Because the maps include Prince Edward Island, the distribution maps of David Erskine's flora of that province have been incorporated. Recent monographs have been consulted where available but the old style of discussion of varieties and forms following each species has been retained. The genus *Potamogeton* has been written by D. H. Webster, the genus *Eleocharis* by W. B. Schofield and the Orchidaceae have been influenced by J. F. Donly's treatment of the group for the province. The grasses which were completely omitted in the first edition, are now included. They are taken from the treatment by A. E. Roland and W. G. Dore (The Grasses of Nova Scotia, Proc. N. S. Inst. Sci. 20: 177-288. 1942). The Carices (as in most floras) are based on the work of K. K. Mackenzie (North American Flora 18: 1-478. 1931-35).

The sequence of families follows M. L. Fernald's 8th edition of Gray's Manual which is that of Engler and Prantl. The first edition followed the sequence of the 7th edition of Gray's Manual. This means that the new flora begins with the horsetails rather than the ferns. There are no species descriptions and identification depends wholly on the dichotomous keys plus the illustrations as it did in the first edition. Illustrations, exclusive of the Gramineae and three *Potamogetons* are the same as those used some 20 years ago, but judging from the results, probably reproduced by offset. A few of them should have been replaced and this oversight significantly detracts from the attractiveness of the manual. For example, the illustration of *Lycopodium* on page 17 is still little more than a silhouette and that of *Pontederia* and *Eriocaulon* on page 191 is altogether too light. The new grass plates are excellent although the identity of the illustrator

is not given. There is a small glossary, a page and a half of bibliography and an index. It is hoped that when the two parts are ultimately combined this will be expanded. In this edition the type style is sharp and a high quality glossy paper is used.

The authors are to be congratulated on a fine job of revision and incorporation of new data without loss of the original style and format.

JOHN M. GILLET

Plant Research Institute
Department of Agriculture
Ottawa

Living With Your Land: A Guide to Conservation for the City's Fringe

By JOHN VOSBURGH, Bulletin 53, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48013. 7 + 149 pp., illus., 1968. paperback \$1.00 (U.S.).

The subtitle sets the tone of this attractively designed paperback.

While the book offers hints to suburban land owners it is directed mainly to those who, having for the first time moved beyond the city, face the hazards of slightly "wilder" land. Beginning with soil and its properties as a good or bad base for a building, the author goes on to cover erosion and its control. From land-holding plants to shelterbelts which moderate the extremes of climate is an easy and logical step. A wide variety of animals and plants of the countryside — skunks, deerflies, grouse, turtles and poison ivy to name but a few — are shown to be both objects of interest and also, at times, problems to the householder. The author outlines ways to attract wild creatures or, if necessary, to keep them under control.

The democratic approach in dealing with community problems, from objectionable billboards to land trespass, is stressed. Each landowner has a strong weapon in his ballot.



Gillett, John M. 1969. "The Flora of Nova Scotia, Part I, The Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, and Monocotyledons, by A. E. Roland and E. C. Smith [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 83(3), 290–291.
<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.364143>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/89179>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.364143>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/364143>

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>.