

Any naturalist interested in life history studies would do well to study this monograph carefully. Not only will it serve as a guide with regard to the type of data that should be recorded, but it will help to restrain over-enthusiastic researchers from drawing broad conclusions on the basis of a few observations. If, after studying a single species on a small area for a period of ten years, Linsdale and Tevis are unwilling to make generalizations, surely those who have conducted briefer studies should be particularly cautious.

And for those who feel that briefer studies are adequate, the following statement made by the authors is pertinent: "Even with our abundant information, many questions remain unanswered, and often we cannot understand the full significance of the details we have". — AUSTIN W. CAMERON,

#### **Algae of the Western Great Lakes Area.**

By G. W. Prescott. Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bull. 31, 1951, pp. i—xiii 1-946, pls. 1-136. Numerous text-figures and tables. Price \$10.50 (U.S.).

This excellent systematic treatment of the fresh-water algae (excluding desmids, and diatoms) is the first of its scope to appear since Wolle's *Fresh-water Algae of the United States* (1887). The bulk of the work consists of keys to and descriptions of the genera and species of all algae hitherto reported from Wisconsin and Michigan. The ubiquity of the commoner species and the prevalence of similar habitats throughout most of southern Canada and the northern United States renders this work much more widely applicable than the title implies.

No one is better qualified than the author, Professor G. W. Prescott of Michigan State College, to present and discuss such a wide segment of the Plant Kingdom. Since the appearance in the mid-twenties of his first major work on Iowa algae, the author has published at least forty papers dealing with algal taxonomy and ecology. His explorations of algal habitats from Latin America to Alaska have equipped him well for a work of this kind. His familiarity with the scattered but bulky literature on algae is reflected in the bibliography of the present volume and in the recently available *Bibliographia Desmidiacearum* of Prescott and Brunel.

Of especial interest to the limnologist, ecologist, and general botanist are the in-

troductory sections on the geological, physical and chemical factors affecting distribution and growth of algae. This section includes numerous text-tables and graphs.

Those interested in the identification of algae will be particularly pleased with the glossary and illustrations of morphological terms, supplementing the keys and species descriptions in the text. In addition, nearly all of the well over a thousand species are beautifully illustrated by line drawings. This volume brings together for the first time many specific and generic transfers previously recorded only in brief and specialized papers. When the author has not accepted such transfers, he has shown good judgment in including the synonymy together with explanatory notes. The usefulness of the bibliography is increased by the author's use of a superscript to indicate major works on morphology and taxonomy.

It is to be expected that the appearance of *Algae of the Western Great Lakes* so soon after the new edition of Smith's *Fresh-water Algae of the United States* will be reflected in a renewed general interest in the taxonomy, morphology, and ecology of the algae. These two complementary volumes, in addition to their extreme usefulness to the professional phycologist, provide an excellent starting point for beginners in the field.

The publishers are to be congratulated on the quality of the paper, print, and binding used in this volume. For these inflated times, the price is low, thanks to elimination of any profit to the author, publisher, or printer. — ELWYN O. HUGHES.

**A Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi.** By Olin Sewell Pettingill, Jr.; illustrated by George Miksch Sutton. 1951, Oxford University Press, New York. Pp. i-xxi, 1-659. (\$5.75).

Anyone expecting to make field studies of birds in personally unfamiliar parts of the eastern United States (east of the Mississippi) will find this book a most valuable piece of equipment. If your itinerary and destination are already planned, you will find listed in the book the best places to observe birds in or near the localities you visit, as well as local directions for getting there. If your itinerary is not already planned and you want to observe particular kinds of birds this book tells you where, when, and how to go.





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