

The book consists primarily of 29 coloured reproductions of paintings by Bernard and Harriet Pertchik. The subjects chosen are all cultivated trees of the Caribbean area (chiefly the West Indies, the Guianas, and Venezuela). The task of choosing which species to include must have been difficult; there are other species one would like to have seen so superbly illustrated, for example *Erythrina crista-galli*. But many of the best known trees are included along with some that are usually seen only in botanic gardens or on large estates. The quality of the paintings is outstanding. There is an almost photographic reproduction of detail and yet each plate is most satisfying artistically. The six-colour process used in printing has resulted in very accurate portrayal of colour, notable especially in the flowers of the cannon-ball tree (*Couroupita guianensis*) and in the blue-violet flowers of the fern tree (*Jacaranda filicifolia*).

About two pages of text accompany each plate. This includes a brief account of the folk-lore and legends that have grown up around each tree, a description of the chief characteristics of the tree, and notes on its uses, habitat and distribution. Botanists and plantmen of the New York Botanical Garden and of some of the Caribbean countries have assisted in providing information for the text and the artwork. The volume concludes with a bibliography and a glossary of the technical terms used.

Flowering trees of the Caribbean is not intended as a botanical text though it contains much useful and accurate information. It is not the sort of book you carry with you for quick identification of unfamiliar trees but it is a volume that will help the reader relive his visual memories of brilliant flowering trees of the tropics.—HAROLD A. SENN.

A New Flora of the Lake Erie Islands: *The Flora of the Erie Islands; an Annotated List of the Vascular Plants*, by Earl L. Core, Ohio State University, Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory, Contribution no. 9, VIII + 106 pages, 43 illustrations. 1948.

This is a most welcome and useful addition to the rapidly growing series of local Floras covering in a detailed manner limited areas of Canadian territory. Actually the present publication covers the 21 islands of Lake Erie, 9 of which, including Pelee Island, are Canadian territory. Under each entity recognized are listed the island or islands where it is known to occur. Thus it is possible

to extract from this book a list of the known flora of each one of the 21 islands. The list itself is preceeded by 40 pages of text giving a description of each island and a good ecological description of the major associations and more important habitats to be found in the archipelago, with shorter chapters on the history, geology, soils and climate of the area. Some 43 illustrations, mostly photographs, enliven the text and actually render it much more intelligible.

Under most entities also appears a brief statement of the habitat where each species grows. This is a very useful and valuable feature of the Flora. The total number of entities reported is stated as being 818, but their author has not actually seen all of them and quite a number of them are included on the basis of previous mentions in the botanical literature. There are no keys or descriptions.

The area concerned has long been the subject of floristic studies and the botanical literature on those islands is fairly considerable. The last major previous study was an Annotated List of Flowering Plants and Ferns of Point Pelee, Ont., and Neighbouring Districts, by R.C. Dodge, in 1914. The flora prepared by Core adds well over 100 species to the flora of the area, but there still remains quite a lot of exploration to be done before the list is anywhere near completion. As pointed out by Core himself, Pelee Island is larger than all the other islands together, but its known flora is less than that of the much smaller Kelley's Island and over 100 species less than the flora of the still smaller South Bass (or Put in Bay) Island. This is due to the fact that for various reasons some of the islands have been subjected to much more intensive botanical exploration than others.

Core's flora has brought up to date the nomenclature of the flora of the area and this is invaluable as Dodge's list was becoming rather outdated. This book will undoubtedly prove very useful to people interested in the flora of the Lake Erie Islands, some of which represent the southernmost extension (lat. 42° 40') of Canadian territory. — BERNARD BOIVIN.

American Wildlife and Plants. By Alexander C. Martin, Herbert S. Zim and Arnold L. Nelson. McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1951, Pp. IX, 1-500. \$10.25.

In the Preface to "American Wildlife and

Plants" it is stated that the book is "planned not only for wildlife technicians, sportsmen, naturalists, bird students, and all others directly interested in wildlife, but also for foresters, landscape gardeners, botanists, and additional groups concerned with the vegetation upon which our country's wildlife depend." The authors have been most successful in achieving their goal. The text is clearly written and at the same time presents a vast amount of data in compact form for ready reference.

The book is a compilation of food habit studies from many sources, in large part from records of the former United States Biological Survey and related programs. In general concept it somewhat resembles Cottam's "Food Habits of North American Diving Ducks" and Martin and Uhler's "Food of Game Ducks in the United States and Canada". It covers, however, a vastly broader field in a more compact and convenient form, although references to plants in Canada are the most pertinent material has been omitted.

The authors have introduced maps, graphs, abbreviations and star and numerical systems of rating to reduce to a minimum the written descriptions required and to make the information quickly available. There are no pages devoted to a long and comprehensive bibliography, but references are given although of necessity in less detail. All but with the topics to which they pertain.

While the data are compiled primarily from observations in the United States and are presented to apply to that part of North America, mention is usually made of those animal ranges which extend into Canada, throughout the text immediately associated few. The book is still of use, however, to many people in Canada, since for ease in presentation of data the United States is divided into 5 major vegetation-wildlife districts. In Canada the southern and populus areas, at least, are easily related to those United States areas immediately adjacent.

The book is divided into three parts. The first gives a brief general discussion of the relations of wildlife to its food, including such topics as the value of plants as food and cover, the problem of the "good, bad, or indifferent" values of wildlife to the farmer, and the methods of food habits studies.

The second part of the book deals with animals and their food. There are brief general discussions of the diets of bird and mammal families which are almost entirely carnivorous, and fish, amphibians and reptiles are treated in a short chapter. The section is principally devoted, however, to detailed data on more than 200 species of birds (divided into waterbirds, marshbirds and shorebirds, upland gamebirds and song birds) and some 75 species of mammals (fur and game mammals, small mammals, and hoofed browsers). Although the amount of information varies, these data usually include a range map, a graph of the proportions of plant to animal food eaten during each of the four seasons of the year, a general listing of the types of animal food eaten, if any, and brief notes on matters of special interest. Frequently there is a sketch of the animal in a typical pose. In most cases the bulk of the treatment is given over to a list of the plant foods taken in each region where the animal occurs and from which data are available. For each region the plants are listed according to their star rating of use. The number of animal specimens examined in each season, the season the plants are taken and the parts used are also indicated.

The third part of the book is, in a sense, a cross indexing of the data of the second section, using the plants as the basis for presentation and listing the animals which use them. The plants are treated most often as genera, sometimes as species. For each plant there are notes of interest, often a range map, frequently a sketch, and a ratio of the total number of use stars to the total number of users, which indicates in a general way the degree of importance that the plant has as an animal food. Finally, there is a list of the actual users with their star ratings and the regions in which the plant is used by them. Some 100 woody plants, 100 upland weeds and herbs, 30 marsh and aquatic plants and 20 cultivated plants are treated in this way. The book concludes with a summary of this part in the form of a series of tables of wildlife plants ranked according to their approximate food-use values.

A wealth of valuable information concisely presented, careful editing and attractive presentation make this a reference book of great interest to both amateur and professional naturalists. — RUTH H. SOLMAN.



Solman, Ruth H. 1952. "American Wildlife and Plants, by Alexander C. Martin, Herbert S. Zim and Arnold L. Nelson [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 66(4), 115–116. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.341433>.

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