

ation map, and a national classification of the soils of Canada according to type and use."

"Conservation in Canada" deserves a wide audience and it is recommended both as a review of the present situation of land use in Canada, and as a reference book on the principles and practice of conservation.

—W. K. W. BALDWIN.

**HUNTERS AND HUNTED.** By Stephen Collins, Canadian Wildlife Service, Department of Resources and Development, Ottawa, 1952; illustrations by Ted Ingram; pp. 19.

The demand for well-written, accurate literature on natural history subjects far exceeds the supply. This is particularly true of inexpensive booklets and pamphlets that are within the financial means of the average student. Most of those available have been written by professional writers who are often careless about their facts, or by scientists who have little to recommend them from the literary standpoint. It is an unfortunate fact that "those who know about science can't write about it and those who can write about it don't know about it."

It is a pleasure, therefore, to review the present pamphlet. It seems to have achieved that rare quality of literary excellence combined with scientific accuracy. Although obviously written for students in the intermediate and senior grades, it should provide pleasant and informative reading for the adult who has an interest in wildlife conservation.

"Hunters and Hunted," as the title implies, deals with the relationship that exists between predators and their prey. The author sets out to answer the question, "Are predators, in the long run, detrimental to man's interests?" This is a very pertinent question that is almost certain to arise in any discussion on wildlife conservation. Most of us, unfortunately, are biased in favour of the prey. From the days of bedtime stories onward, we have been taught to look upon the wolf, the bear, and the hawk as blood thirsty killers that deserve the harsh treatment meted out to them by farmers, trappers, and hunters. Personal experience is unlikely to change our attitude greatly. When we see a fox run down and kill a rabbit, our reaction is unfortunately emotional rather than rational and the episode serves only to strengthen our preconceived ideas. In this day and age, however, it is time we relinquished our prejudices and considered the problem from a disinterested vantage point. "Hunters and Hunted" will provide a good basis for such a reconsideration.

By means of well-chosen illustrations based on scientific evidence the author points out that (1) predators play an important role in the "balance of nature," and their existence is necessary in order to maintain a proper balance between herbivorous species and the latter's food supply, (2) since the number of herbivorous species resident in an area is strictly limited, the excess population must be removed by predators and other factors, (3) predators are the natural, and, therefore, most effective means of limiting the density of prey species, (4) each predator is especially adapted for the capturing and killing of a certain type of prey, and it is, therefore, capable of doing so much more effectively than any means devised by man, (5) if the proper balance between predator and prey is upset through the partial or complete elimination of predators, many prey species may increase to such an extent that they constitute a serious threat to man's interests (examples: meadow mice, rabbits, squirrels, etc.), (6) predators are often accused of killing domestic and game species, when in fact, the necessary evidence is lacking, or at least wrongly interpreted. And most important of all, it must not be forgotten that man himself is the most effective and, at the same time, the most despicable predator there is.

The excellent illustrations by Ted Ingram add immeasurably to the value of the pamphlet as a teaching aid.—AUSTIN W. CAMERON.

# NOTES ON THE BOBCATS (LYNX RUFUS) OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF A NEW RACE.

By Randolph L. Peterson and Stuart C. Downing. Contributions of the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology and Palaeontology, No. 33, p. 23, illus.

The present study is a review of the taxonomic status and distribution of the bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) in eastern North America, with the description of a new race, *Lynx rufus superiorensis* from the area around Lake Superior. Heretofore only two forms, *rufus* and *gigas* have been recognized from eastern Canada and their taxonomic status has been poorly understood. Consequently, the thorough study carried out at the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology and Palaeontology will be welcomed by mammalogists who have had to deal with this perplexing genus.

As many mamalogists have long suspected, *gigas* is shown to be conspecific with





Cameron, Austin, W. 1952. "Hunters and Hunted, by Stephen Collins." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 66(5), 149–149. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.341453>.

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