

author's tabulated and appended list of species, fairly free of 'suspect' identifications but perhaps not sufficiently detailed for pertinent taxonomists, reveals his ready familiarity with the various invertebrate phyla. Although he has relied fairly heavily on the earlier work of Dunbar, McGinitie, and Thorson, among others, for several basic concepts, he is to be commended for the neat interpretation of the peculiar communities he encountered during his four-year exploration of the region, and for his good general grasp of problems relating to arctic marine ecology.

E. L. BOUSFIELD

### **The Balance of Nature**

By LORUS J. MILNE AND MARGERY MILNE.  
New York, Knopf, 1960. 329 p. \$5.50.

The last decades have brought an ever-increasing number of books emphasizing the need for conservation of the rapidly diminishing natural areas of the world and their inhabitants. Few authors have done better than the Milnes in presenting an eloquent chronicle of past and present deteriorative changes in the status of much of the world's flora and fauna.

A reader can't fail to be depressed when he is reminded of white man's folly in demanding a 100-percent yield from his land—something unknown in nature. Story after story recounts his greed for immediate economic gain to the detriment of the land and its wildlife, overshadowing any attempts at wise use of renewable natural resources. Most disturbing of all is the account of chemical warfare waged on insect and fungus pests which rapidly evolve resistant strains and continue their havoc. They record undeniable evidence that the indiscriminate use of untested 'pesticides' (really 'biocides') causes widespread death to the *natural* predators on insects, bringing about effects opposite to those desired.

Readers of the Milnes' earlier books and texts will be familiar with their clear, graphic and unfailingly interesting style and with their ability to incorporate well-chosen, often witty, and always pertinent quotations from other authors. They have drawn on their vast biological experience gained in field trips covering over 330,000 miles of travel and on an impressive acquaintance with the literature, both classical and up-to-date. A fine set of black and white illustrations by Olaus J. Murie, an unobtrusive but useful 23-page list of references and an index have been provided.

I noted only six typographical errors and can take exception to but a few minor points otherwise. To the American reader unfamiliar with Canada, the unqualified statement on page 77 that "in Canada...the timber wolf...may be scarcely reduced from pioneer times" may conjure up unrealistic visions of our country. The Ontario naturalist proud of the province's single species of lizard, the blue-tailed skink, will object to reading on page 119 that "Ontario has no lizards." The reader who is used to the common names of fishes in the works of Hubbs and Lagler and of Scott will find that on pages 151 and 152 the authors are confusing the commercially valuable lake 'herrings' or ciscoes (*Leucichthys* or *Coregonus*) with the alewife (*Pomolobus* or *Alosa*), which in the Great Lakes is "puny" and "unsaleable."

This sort of book, with its logical, nonhysterical, up-to-date documentation of facts *must* be widely read to arouse public opinion and action on local, national and international levels. Man must be educated *immediately* to understand the land and must be imbued with the obligation to leave it in better condition than he found it and to retain for future generations the long-term economic, cultural and esthetic values of its native flora and fauna.

DONALD A. SMITH





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