

the line drawings do not enhance the text as much as they should.

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### The Pond

By ROBERT MURPHY. Illustrated by Teco Slagboom. E. P. Dutton and Co., Inc. New York. 1964. 254 pp. 5.75.

This is the 1964 winner of the Dutton Animal Book Award; the first was the deservedly successful *Rascal* (see Canadian Field-Naturalist 77(4):230). The latest choice has many of the qualities of the first — a thoroughly likable boy and the same nostalgic time and setting for growing up (the early nineteen hundreds) which bring back a way of life and an abundance of wilderness rapidly being lost in our modern era of intense population growth and organization.

The boy, Joey, is followed through a couple of all-too-short vacations away from his parents at his father's hunting lodge. These experiences rapidly mature his attitudes toward wildlife and people. The first boyish thrills of the hunt are well portrayed — so much so that the emphasis on killing seems to remain dominate despite an eventual change in attitude in the hero. One incident in the story, that of Mr. White and the school-teacher, is perhaps unnecessarily mature material for the intended audience, though many youthful readers will presumably be more-or-less innocent of the implications.

Despite the book's qualities as a "boy story" with a nature setting, I cannot regard it as a suitable animal book award winner. The publishers too obviously searched manuscripts for a book of the *Rascal* "formula" but missed the point. The animals here are background instead of central theme importance. Another by-product of the attempt to exploit *Rascal*'s success is a price explosion in the cost of a volume of the series from \$4.50 to \$5.75.

FRANCIS R. COOK

### The Fields of Noon

By SHEILA BURNFORD. Illustrated by Cécile Curtis. McClelland and Stewart, Toronto and Montreal. 1964. 159 pp. \$4.50.

Anyone with even a slight inclination to allow a little emotionalism with their nature and pet appreciation — and I don't refer to sticky gushiness or bloated awe, but temperate dilutions of humour and pathos — will find this slim volume thoroughly satisfying reading. The author, now well entrenched in her own and Disney-made glory from her first book "The Incredible Journey" portrays here a few brief glimpses of personal experience. Some of the chapters, each a self-contained unit, have previously appeared on the pages of the *Atlantic*, *Macleans*, *Punch*, *Harper's Bazaar* and the *Evening Standard* and the crispness of the short essay approach is retained throughout.

Although I can forgive her totally unscientific chapter on archaeology in its context, I cannot condone the substitution of 'family name' for genus (through error not coyness? — or perhaps for the subtle amusement of some chance scientist) during the explanation of scientific names in the chapter extolling the hunting and eating of mushrooms. Other chapters give brief instances of spring, walking, bird-calling and pets — cat, canary, persistent retriever and aging terrier. They are all portrayed as vividly as the author's personality is revealed.

FRANCIS R. COOK

### Many Trails

By R. D. SYMONS. Longmans Canada Limited, Toronto. 1963. 202 pp. \$5.50.

R. D. Symons was born in England in 1898 and came to western Canada in 1914. This book, his first, is autobiographical and was penned intermittently through the period between 1914 and 1945. It is illustrated, all too sparsely, with the author's sketches which capture its easy style far more ably than could the labours of a commercial artist.



The text retraces the many trails covered by the author — as a ranch hand, a homesteader and a "Provincial Game Guardian" — from the Cypress Hills of Saskatchewan and Alberta to the Chilcotin region in interior British Columbia and back to Saskatchewan to portray the northland of that province as seen in the area to the west of "Le Pas". The material is arranged into sections according to the type of trail taken — cattle, pack, homestead, indian and northern — with a nostalgic introductory chapter on his home life in England.

Throughout, the book is filled with the richness and depth of the writer's outlook and experience; observations of both animals and people are touched by the pioneer's appreciation and love of the unbroken land. His pen breathes life into the Canadian West and it rises in clear images against his flowing monologue style.

The reviewer's copy will inevitably become tattered from years of use as this is a book to be re-read appreciatively innumerable times.

FRANCIS R. COOK

### OTHER NEW TITLES

#### **Herpetological Type-specimens in the University of Illinois Museum of Natural History**

By HOBART M. SMITH, DAVID A. LANGEBAEDEL and KENNETH L. WILLIAMS. The University of Illinois Press, Urbana. 1964. 80 pp. Paperbound \$3.00. Clothbound \$4.00 (Illinois Biological Monographs 32).

#### **The Origins and Growth of Biology**

Edited by ARTHUR ROOK. Penguin Books Ltd. 1964 (Pelican Books A536). 403 pp. Distributed in Canada by Longmans Canada Ltd., Don Mills, Ontario, \$1.25.

#### **The Behavior of Heteromyid Rodents**

By JOHN FREDERICK EISENBERG. University of California Publications in Zoology 69:1-114. 1963. \$2.50 U.S.

#### **The Relationship of Population Density to Endocrine and Metabolic Changes in the California Vole *Microtus californicus***

By R. T. HAULIHON. University of California Publications in Zoology 65(5): 327-362, 9 text figures. 1963. \$1.25 U.S.

#### **Collection and Care of Botanical Specimens**

By D. B. O. SAVILE. Canada Department of Agriculture. Research Branch Publications 1113. 1962. 124 pp.

#### **A Geobotanical Survey of Northern Manitoba**

By J. C. RICHIE. Arctic Institute of North America, Technical Paper No. 9. 1962. 48 pp. + 2 maps.

#### **The Michigan Botanist**

Published by the Michigan Botanical Club. Subscriptions: Mrs. Laura T. Roberts, 2120 Washtenaw Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Volume 1, Number 1, published March 1962.

#### **The Vascular Plants of Clinton, Jackson and Jones Counties, Iowa**

By TOM S. COOPERRIDER. State University of Iowa Studies in Natural History. Vol. 20, No. 5. 1962. 76 pp.

#### **Hibernation in Mammals**

By CHARLES P. LYMAN. Arctic Aeromedical Laboratory, Fort Wainwright, Alaska. Technical Report 61-5, Project 8240-25. 1961, 23 pp.

#### **Major Vegetation Types of Western Ontario and Manitoba from aerial photographs**

By JAMES A. LARSEN. Technical Report No. 7, Department of Meteorology, University of Wisconsin, Madison. 1962.

#### **Vegetation and Soils: A Word Picture**

By S. R. EYRE. Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd. 324 pp. \$6.50.

#### **The International Council for Bird Preservation. C.I.P.O., I.R.V. IX Bulletin**

1963. 180 pp. Obtainable from: Treasurer, U.S. Section, Mr. Milton Erlanger, Room 550, 350 5th Ave., New York, N.Y. \$2.10.





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