

The size of this undertaking is impressive. Six volumes are planned for the Monocots only, the third and fourth volumes will cover the grasses, the fifth and sixth, the sedges. The publisher does not commit himself on the number planned for the dicots, but we can estimate from previous floras of Illinois, as that of Jones, that there would be approximately three times as many dicots. This estimate suggests another 18 volumes for a total of 24 and the gymnosperms, mosses, hepatics, fungi and algae which the advisory board has decided to cover, have to be added to that figure. The ferns have been completed (Mohlenbrock, R. H. 1967. *The Illustrated Flora of Illinois. Ferns*. Southern Illinois University Press. Carbondale. xi - 191 p.), but are not mentioned in the forward to either volume.

These books are very attractive, the covers are a soft green color with a green dust jacket on the first and a mauve one on the second. Every species is beautifully illustrated with full page drawings in most cases. There are 108 of them for the rush book and 133 for the lily-orchid book, most of them done by Miriam Wysong Meyer. She should be congratulated; her drawings make a significant contribution to the usefulness of the books.

The literature cited at the end of the lily book is additional to that cited at the end of the rush volume. The list is quite useful and, while not extensive, consists of well-selected references which quickly lead one into the literature on the topic. There is a list of excluded species at the end of each volume and reasons are given for excluding them. We also find a compilation of the number of genera, species and varieties treated in each volume. I should like to suggest that the editor consider the possibility of listing the volumes in the series which are already published at the end of each volume as it appears because the existence of the fern volume, for example, was only suspect from the comments given on the inside of the dust jacket and no actual reference could be found.

Considerable variation in the length of the species descriptions is evident which leads one to suspect that they were shortened in order that the two volumes would be approximately the same size. Probably, however, it means that some descriptions were written with the aid of existing monographs but others were not. For example, the description of *Sagittaria* species (for which there is a monograph and where aid was supplied by a specialist) is lengthy, but those for *Sisyrinchium* are short.

My chief criticism of this series is perhaps the obvious waste of space. For example, when a drawing does not completely fill a page, the rest of it is merely left blank. This could have been avoided by using the small (too small) distribution maps as inserts on the illustration or even by combining some illustrations into composite plates. This space waste is especially evident in some of the *Potamogeton* species. The thick paper used in the text does not do anything to alleviate this impression.

Because of its thoroughness and size, the books of this series will be very useful laboratory tools but somewhat awkward to carry into the field. I doubt, too, if the maps are especially significant. In terms of total plant range in the U.S.A. or in North America, Illinois comes out rather a small patch, so the only really significant maps are those of species that are confined to one corner of the state or otherwise have some special distribution feature within the area.

On the whole, the series is thorough, comprehensive and neat, deserving a place on the library shelf (or shelves). Let us hope that this rather ambitious undertaking can be carried successfully through to completion.

JOHN M. GILLET

National Herbarium of Canada
National Museum of Natural Sciences
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M8

ZOOLOGY

The Fisherman's Handbook:

A Complete Guide to Fishing in North America

By John Power and Jeremy Brown. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 1972. 192 p. illus. \$6.95. Available in Canada from Burns & McEachern Ltd., 62 Rail-side Rd., Don Mills, Ont.

This book is a handy introductory guide to freshwater fishing in North America. Basic gear

terminology, often glossed over in other books, is here explained in a condensed style, that, if barely literary, packs the information in. The book, written by two Canadians, published by an American book company is aimed at an American and Canadian audience.

Chapters on gear, techniques, pollution and cooking are included. The penultimate chapter treats the major game fish one by one under the

headings, Spawning habits, Appearance and Angling tips. Also included are distribution tables, one of the more innovative features of the book, which describe the abundance, the average and record size for each province or state where the species is fished for. The identifying characters mentioned under Appearance are sometimes not the best and there is sometimes confusion in nomenclature; these would have benefited from checking by an ichthyologist. Occasional errors such as reporting the blue catfish for Ontario, are found.

In the last chapter the states of U.S. and provinces of Canada are listed alphabetically. Under

each is given the address of the fisheries department, a brief description of the major sport species, and a few suggested fishing hot spots.

The first half of the book would be useful to the beginning angler. The second half might provide useful regional information to the fisherman going to fish outside his own province. It is not, as claimed by its subtitle, a complete guide to fishing in North America.

DON E. MCALLISTER

Ichthyology Unit
National Museum of Natural Sciences
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M8

Freshwater Fishes of Manitoba, checklist and keys

By Alex N. Fedoruk. Manitoba Department of Mines, Resources & Environmental Management, Winnipeg, R3C 0V8 1971. 130 p. 110 figures. \$1.00.

Freshwater fishes of Manitoba is a delightful pocket-sized guide to the identification of the 84 species of fish known to occur in the freshwaters of the province. The keys are thoughtfully designed to assist the amateur in identifying specimens in hand. Two or more diagnostic characters, usually in opposing pairs in the couplets, are presented at most points. There is a drawing, sometimes supplemented by a figure of the young or anatomical details, for each species. There is no attempt in the drawings either to show or to imitate fine details. Clear and careful outlines show the essential shape and form, with stippling to show diagnostic colour patterns where necessary.

Lists of verified species, possible records, and unacceptable records, a section on fish identification, and a glossary precede the body of the text

which is comprised of keys and figures. Possible species, which have not yet been recorded from the province are usefully so indicated and included in the keys. A list of references and an index complete the title volume.

There are a few minor technical errors such as the spelling of ichthyofauna (p. 1) and *Perca flavescens* (p. 100), and the definition of Body Depth (p. 27). Introduced fish are not distinguished from native fish. The headings and captions are sometimes misplaced so that it is not immediately apparent to what they refer. It is doubtful that the glued binding will stand up to use in the field.

The book is a handy pocket size, yet not so small as to restrict the illustrations. Matte paper, serviceable for the field was chosen. The cover design is pleasing. This useful booklet worthily fulfills the goals it sets out to attain.

DON E. MCALLISTER

Curator of Fishes
National Museum of Natural Sciences
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0M8

The Blue Whale

By George L. Small. Columbia University Press, Irvington, N.Y. 1971. 248 p. \$10.95.

This book is a scholarly historical account of the decline in the population of Antarctic blue whales under pressure from the whaling industry; of attempts by the International Whaling Commission to control the fishery, which may be characterised as "too little and too late"; and of the Commission itself.

As a monograph on blue whales, however, it is inadequate, not only because the author has not sufficiently researched the biological literature, but also because he seems determined to prove that the blue whale is approaching extinction, and that the I.W.C. is some kind of sinister conspiracy. As a biologist, I must attempt to redress the balance by what may seem to some, in contrast, as over-optimism.

Populations of blue whales exist in all the world oceans — Southern plus Indian, North Atlantic,



McAllister, Don E. 1973. "The Fisherman's Handbook:A Complete Guide to Fishing in North America, by John Power and Jeremy Brown [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 87(1), 83–84. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.343717>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/89175>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.343717>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/343717>

Holding Institution

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Sponsored by

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.