

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.

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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.

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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,



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