

An introductory section includes useful hints on observing and photographing mammals and general information on national parks and monuments.

Designed for the amateur, the treatment is non-technical and common names are used throughout (an appendix lists scientific names). The book is well-written, easy to use, and nearly completely free of typographical errors. In addition to being a useful

guide for anyone interested in mammal-watching within the park system, this book is interesting and informative in its own right. I recommend it highly.

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The Fisher: Life History, Ecology, and Behavior

By Roger A. Powell. 1982. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis. xvi + 217 pp., illus. U.S. \$19.50.

Like the wolverine, the fisher is perceived as a mysterious, almost mythological animal, which lives a secretive existence in the forests of North America. Surprisingly, a considerable amount of research has been completed on this member of the mustelid family; however, few books deal with the fisher in a comprehensive manner. Powell has successfully written a book which appeals to the general public, as well as the scientific community. This is a most difficult task, one which few authors successfully accomplish.

Through 10 chapters Powell examines the ecology and biology of the fisher. He relies heavily on his own research and experiences with captive and free-ranging fishers. Powell complements the text with a fairly extensive literature review. The chapters discuss: taxonomy; anatomy; life history (including a succinct review of the theories of delayed implantation); distribution and population density; general habits, home range and movements; food habits; hunting and killing behaviour; and the fisher's relationship to humans. Powell undertakes to integrate population, habitat and behaviour data throughout the book. This integration is limited only by virtue of the fact that his review of the fisher in the context of a much larger ecological system is cursory.

Many myths about the fisher have evolved through

the ages. Powell works to dispel some and clarify others. This is evident in the chapter on the predator-prey relationship of the fisher and the porcupine. One myth is that fishers turn over porcupines and kill them by attacking the soft, unprotected ventral surface.

Of six major predators, (ie. wolf, coyote, mountain lion, lynx, bobcat, and fisher) Powell reports that the fisher is the best adapted species to deal with porcupines. Unlike the other predators, the fisher is built low to the ground, which allows it to directly attack the face and head area of the porcupine. In addition, the fisher is powerful enough to inflict substantial wounds to the face and head, but is agile enough to avoid the porcupine's tail during a confrontation. Once the porcupine is killed or immobilized, the fisher then turns it over and feeds on the soft, unprotected ventral surface.

The book is illustrated with black and white photographs, and black line ink drawings and maps. A reference list is provided.

I recommend this book to all who are interested in the biology and ecology of the fisher. It is an excellent introductory reference.

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A Bird-finding Guide to Ontario

By Clive E. Goodwin. 1982. University of Toronto Press, Toronto. 248 pp. \$12.50.

Authors who attempt regional bird-finding guides must necessarily face the question of what to include, and the more difficult question of what to leave out. For an area as vast as the whole of Ontario the prospect is daunting indeed. Clive Goodwin has in one small volume presented a list of the better known birding areas in Ontario along with detailed information on how to get there, when to go, and what one might reasonably expect to see.

This book covers everything that would be expected

from such a guide, including brief descriptions of habitats, weather, a bird-life chronology, tips for visitors, and a checklist. Central to the book, and occupying 75% of the pages, are the lists of birding localities. To make this more manageable Goodwin has subdivided Ontario into six regions corresponding, more or less, to major ecological zones. The localities in each region are arranged alphabetically; the space devoted to each being roughly equivalent to its birding productivity. An outline map of each region is provided to show the relative position of the places mentioned.

There are a few points readers should keep in mind



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