

REVIEWS

The World of the Wolf

By RUSSELL J. RUTTER and DOUGLAS H. PIMLOTT, 1968. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia and New York. 202 pp. illustrated. \$5.95 (U.S.).

This is another in the fine series of mammal biographies in the *Living World Books* edited by John K. Terres. This volume is authored by two Canadians. Russell Rutter is a long-time Ontario naturalist raised on a small farm near Burks Falls. After wartime service he worked in Algonquin Provincial Park as an Interpretive Naturalist. Douglas Pimlott studied wildlife biology and forestry after his wartime service and later joined the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests to study timber wolves in Algonquin Park. These two men are ably equipped to write of the "world of the wolf" based upon their extensive field studies in Algonquin Park.

Pimlott wrote the chapters on the wolf as a symbol of evil, the war on wolves, the wolf as an individual, the future of wolves and wolves around the world. He is also responsible for the many excellent photographs which profusely illustrate the text. Rutter wrote the chapters on the annual cycle of the wolf and the voice of the wolf.

This book relates mainly the observations and experiences of the authors with Algonquin Park wolves. Little attempt was made to integrate the many published wolf observations although David Mech's study of Isle Royale wolves is frequently mentioned. There is bibliography of 58 titles, but no mention of Mowat's *Never Cry Wolf!* The style is plain and straight-forward in description. This book will be of special interest to Ontario naturalists because of the emphasis placed on Algonquin Park wolves.

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Palaeontology of the Swan Hills Area, North-Central Alberta

By LORIS S. RUSSELL. 1967. Royal Ontario Museum, Life Science Series, Contribution 71, 31 pp., 1 plate. Paperback. \$1.00.

The Swan Hills of Alberta are located in the central region of the province, approximately 400 miles north of the international boundary and near the northern limit of settlement. They also lie within the vast boreal forest region of Canada, where the vegetative cover is rarely broken by exposures of underlying sedimentary strata and precipitation is often heaviest during the summer months. It is not surprising, therefore, that the fossil localities listed by Russell were all artificial exposures created in the course of road construction and drilling operations.

As Russell recognizes, most of the fossil occurrences are of little value except in that they facilitate the mapping of the surface expression of the contact between Cretaceous and Tertiary freshwater sediments. The author, showing a breadth of competency rare among contemporary palaeontologists, identified all of the megafossils recovered by his party, which include the remains of conifers, mollusks, fish, reptiles and mammals. It may be noted in passing that the association of "ganoid" scales with skeletal elements of the amiid fish *Stylomyleodon* (= ?*Kindleia*) presents no difficulty, as another amiid (*Sinamia zdanskyi* Stensio, 1935, Liu et al., 1963) from the late Jurassic or early Cretaceous of China also possesses squamation of the lepisosteid type (I am indebted to Michael Waldman for this information).

One of Russell's localities, however, produced 11 jaw fragments and 20 isolated teeth or tooth fragments of small mammals of late Paleocene age. Fifteen different forms are recognized, including one new species (*Carpolestes cygneus*)

of carpolestid primate. Despite its small size this collection is significant in that it represents the northernmost occurrence of Paleocene mammals in North America. It will not be an easy task to find significant new fossil vertebrate sites across the great expanse of the northern interior of our continent. We are indebted to Russell for making this occurrence known.

REFERENCES

- LIU, T., H. LIU, and T. SU. 1963. The discovery of *Sinamia zdanskyi* from the Ordos Region and its stratigraphical significance. *Vertebrata Palasiatica* 7(1):1-30.
- STENSIO, E. 1935. *Sinamia zdanskyi*, a new amiid from the lower Cretaceous of Shantung, China. *Palaeontologia Sinica* Series C, 3(1):1-48.

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The Olympic Rain Forest

By RUTH KIRK. Published in co-operation with the Olympic Natural History Association by University of Washington Press, Seattle and London. x + 86 pp. Photographs by Johsel Namkung and Ruth Kirk. 1966. \$6.95 (U.S.).

This handsome photographic essay on the three river valleys, the Hoh, Queets and Quinalt, which sustain the world-renowned rain forest of the Olympic Peninsula, should surely elicit a good deal of interest in 1969, the year of the XI International Botanical Congress in nearby Seattle, Washington.

Mrs. Kirk's running commentary on the natural history of these valleys sets the perspective in space and time for viewing the beautifully executed photographs more meaningfully. It is written, I think quite rightly, for the layman.

Instruction in word and picture is most agreeably palatable from the wife of a park naturalist whose life has become very much a part of these valleys. The photographs, whether a panoramic view of the bounding hills bedecked with the enshrouding gossamer of a rising coastal fog or a detailed portrait, in full color, of a banana slug are well done and of considerable artistic merit. Mrs. Kirk and her photographic collaborator, Johsel Namkung, are to be complimented on an exquisite piece of work. Eight pages are devoted to color, the rest to black and white prints; all of them are good and many are sparkling treasures.

Man and his place in these valleys past, present and imponderable future are not omitted. Even the professional biologist is remembered in an appendix giving Latin binomials and brief descriptions of some of the more important floristic and faunistic elements in the ecosystem.

This title and its companion paperback volumes deserve a good market among those who would visit the Olympic Rain Forest.

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By the same publisher:

Exploring the Olympic Peninsula by Ruth Kirk. Illus., maps, \$3.95, paperback \$1.95 (U.S.).

Roads and Trails of Olympic National Park by Frederick Leissler. Illus., maps, paperback \$1.95 (U.S.).

The History of Life

By A. LEE MCALESTER. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N. J. Foundations of Earth Science Series. viii + 152 pp., illus. Paperback. 1968.

For ill or good we live in the age of mass communication and telegraphic



Russell, Dale A. 1969. "Palacontology of the Swan Hills Area, North-Central Alberta, by Loris S. Russell [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 83(2), 177–178. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.364108>.

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