

To get this book in the smaller format everything is reduced in size, except the well-designed range maps. This means the font is small, and I need spectacles to read it. A few of the illustrations have been cut too. The result is a book you can carry in the field; well worth such sacrifices.

Is it perfect? Not really as I saw a few tiny items to question [I have never seen a Red-eyed Vireo quite that green.], but I think I would justify my wife's label of me

as grumpy if I raised these points. This book is meant to be used to identify birds in the field with a high chance of being correct. It achieves this and more. If only other field guides were as good. Although meant for birdwatchers in Europe [in the broadest geographical sense] non-Europeans might want to spend the \$30 [excellent value] just to be able to drool and dream.

ROY JOHN

2193 Emard Crescent, Ottawa, Ontario K1J 6K5 Canada

Bear Wrangler: Memoirs of an Alaska Pioneer Biologist

By W. Troyer. 2010. The University of Chicago Press, 1427 East 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637 USA. 256 pages. 19.95 USD, Paper.

In 1951, Will Troyer began a 30-year career with the U.S. Department of the Interior. *Bear Wrangler* is an intimate story of Troyer's experiences as a pioneer biologist in the Alaskan wilderness. Troyer narrates his life story in 26 short but compelling chapters in the 250-page book. The most significant and memorable events highlight each chapter, which are organized chronologically and by themes (e.g., "Fish Cop", "Wrangling Kodiak Bears", "Managing the Kenai Refuge"). Charming black-and-white photographs are interspersed throughout the text providing a welcome visual backdrop to the memories and experiences that Troyer recounts.

Troyer's engaging prose shows just how passionate he is about nature; one can really sense his deep connection to the natural world as revealed in his words. He is certainly a keen-eyed and knowledgeable naturalist. Though some natural history observations are only briefly reported, many are intimately discussed with informative notes (e.g., his birding forays in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, formerly the Clarence Rhode National Wildlife Refuge). No scientific names are used in the text, a somewhat curious omission since taxonomy is an integral component of studies in natural history, but certainly does not detract from the value of the information presented.

Troyer eventually landed his dream job as a wildlife biologist in Alaska, but experienced many hardships. Travelling and working in a rugged landscape like Alaska presented many challenges and hazards, some of which nearly cost him his life. Some of the inherent dangers that Troyer faced were associated with his work on brown bears (*Ursus arctos*) when he became manager of the Kodiak Island brown bear preserve in 1955. Studying and working with such large, powerful, and unpredictable carnivores always involves acknowledging and contending with certain risks; as a pioneer in brown bear field research in Alaska, Troyer was breaking new ground. Even so, Troyer freely admits that he and colleagues often took many unnecessary risks out in the field when anaesthetizing brown

bears. Though the conduct of he and his assistants did not approach the controversial behaviour of other more (arguably) eccentric bear biologists (e.g., Timothy Treadwell), some actions did reflect rather poor judgement. As a professional biologist, I fully acknowledge and appreciate the need and pressure to acquire data out in the field. However, doing so at the expense of one's own safety (if not life), as well as that of others, is generally reckless and lamentable behaviour and is something that I (any many other biologists I know) do not condone. Troyer also took risks in some of his other Alaskan wilderness adventures. For example, his dogged determination in photographing mountain goats (*Oreamnos americanus*) by himself at Horn's Cliff almost resulted in him losing his right eye. Having worked in the field and experienced several close calls with eye injuries, I could certainly empathize with the feelings of angst, panic, and fear that Troyer articulates when he was facing the grim possibility of (partly) losing his vision. Some misadventures while learning to pilot some planes were also frightening recollections. One can argue that Troyer's daring and adventurous spirit served as a source of strength for him in his profession as a wildlife biologist in Alaska. However, that same spirit was also arguably a potential weakness of Troyer's character, and in the context of Alaska's sometimes harsh and unforgiving wilderness, it sometimes did him more harm than good.

Wildlife management was a different profession in the 1950s, with many practices reflecting the ignorance of humans toward the ecological integrity of nature. For example, predator control during that time involved putting out poisoned bait to kill wolves and coyotes without thought and consideration of the consequences of removing predators from ecosystems. Conservation biology and wildlife management are branches in the biological sciences that are intrinsically value laden. They are also intimately linked to politics. Hence, like politics, these fields can often be best described as an art of attempting to achieve compromise between conflicting parties – in this case,

humans and nature. Troyer recounts many such experiences where his struggles to keep Alaska wild sometimes came into conflict with the needs and wants of the local populace.

Altogether, Troyer provides an honest introspective account of his professional and personal life, one that abounds with passion, hard work, and gratitude. I recommend this title to anyone wishing to learn about the

rigours of leading a challenging and rewarding career in wildlife management, especially in Alaska, one of the last truly great wilderness frontiers in America.

HOWARD M. HUYNH

Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, B4P 2R6 Canada
Present address: Department of Biological Sciences, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79049 USA.

The Grizzly Manifesto: In Defence of the Great Bear

By J. Gailus. 2010. Rocky Mountain Books, 406 13 Avenue NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 1C2 Canada. 168 pages. 16.95 CAD, Cloth.

This delightful little book will probably make you very angry: It fully exposes and documents the poor actions by the government of Canada when it comes to the mis-managed grizzly bears in Alberta and the National Parks of Banff, Jasper etc. The text starts out kindly. It gives a well-balanced and nice overview on bear biology, human-bear co-evolution, some of the spirituality around bears, and what YtoY (Yellowstone to Yukon corridor) is and stands for. This publication is a true "Manifesto" (=crisp and clear with a sound message), and makes for a fascinating read for everyone and beyond naturalists. This manifesto turns indeed "grizzly" when Parks Canada and the provincial government of Alberta get described in more detail, and how they not only ignore their mandate, e.g., ecological integrity, but also grassroots citizen science. As this book shows, the state of the Canadian tax-paid entities these days often just represents a sad mix of an industrial buy-out, an uncritical top-down tradition by "the crown", and a lack of awareness and action, spiced up with non-achieving labour union arguments, and weak legal terminologies that have no teeth and which can hardly get quantified and assessed for performance. Dubious policies by the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), the Canadian Pacific Railway, Weldwood industries operating on public lands, and similar "contractors" and "professional biologists" like D. Ealey are further named by the author, or how the Minister of Sustainable Development, T. Morton, single-handedly disbanded the entire Albertan Grizzly Bear Recovery Team. Gailus, a former journalist, did also a great investigation to explain the more or less successful model in U.S. National parks like Yellowstone and the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA), showing that "In Canada, our governments are failing us". Similar to L. Willcox in the U.S., it turns G. Stenhouse, B. Stelfox, V. Pissot and others into truly Canadian environmental heroes for getting fired or discriminated because they showed how bad roads are for bears (a fact the Alberta government opposes in order to keep business running at all costs), that bear extinction looms in

less than 50 years, and that a full-blown development AND protection can never happily go hand-in-hand on a finite land base. This little and easy to read publication of 150 pages and 9 chapters (no photos or maps) presents Parks Canada and SARA (Species at Risk Act) as a national shame (cited expert claim: ... "failed miserably"...) and as an insult to the global audience witnessing the extinction process in Canada first hand. All tourists and experts see it. The tragic bear biographies of "Mary" and "#56" presented in the text make that extremely clear: If you are a bear, the last thing you want is to live in an Alberta National Park like Banff (a true mortality sink) or on industrial forest land.

Consequently, this book calls for a revolution (a thing rarely heard of in Canada); to stop the Canadian laissez-faire attitude (à la "things will probably be all right"), to end the terror of the "policy wonks in Ottawa" and to stop the so conveniently "self-policing of the industry". It has, for instance, already resulted in the environmental fact that "Canada's record is one of the worst in the developed world". Canada does not handle well mass-murders, nor 'crimes against nature' (the Convention of Biological Diversity CBD 2010 targets have not been met by Canada). As this book thankfully elaborates for us, the governmental claims that Canada would be the world leader in biodiversity, and in species recovery (A. Latourelle, Parks Canada CEO) are easily exposed as incorrect and when growth in tourism and a short-term economy are the promoted goals instead: Canadians AND bears all deserve justice. "The arrogant disregard Canadian governments seem to have for both the democratic process and the natural resources they have been charged to protect" becomes obvious to all, and is now written in stone for the world to see.

This book's text can hardly be improved. But a reference to Alaska's T. Treadwell would perhaps have been good, and that The Wildlife Society (TWS) and others run a Steady State Economy initiative already for over a decade (not really existing in Canada though, apart from efforts by N. Dawe et al.), and which would make