

MISCELLANEOUS

Sods, Soil, and Spades: The Acadians at Grand Pre and their Dykeland Legacy

By J. Sherman Bleakney. 2005. McGill-Queens Press, Montreal, Quebec, and Kingston, Ontario. *xxiii* + 221 pages. 14.95 CAD.

Sherman Bleakney is widely known in Canada as a zoologist of remarkably diverse interests and publications. As curator of amphibians, reptiles and fish at the National Museum of Canada from 1952 to 1958 his expeditions from the Maritimes to Alberta doubled the national herpetology collection to 14 000 specimens. He published a ground-breaking analysis of the distribution of amphibians and reptiles in Eastern Canada (Bleakney 1958) based on his 1956 Ph.D. thesis from McGill University supervised by legendary Max Dunbar, the first Ph.D. in herpetology at a Canadian university (Cook 2007). In 1958 he returned to Nova Scotia where he had been raised, and to Acadia University where he had obtained his B.S.c and M.Sc., to teach zoology and where he has remained until and past retirement. Although initially his herpetological contributions continued there, particularly on both freshwater and marine turtles, he became increasingly immersed in publishing on fishes and invertebrates of the marine ecosystem of the Minas Basin, culminating in a book on nudibranchs (Bleakney 1996).

Since 1994 he has further broadened his environmental perspective and turned his critical trained eye

and literary skills and enthusiasm to the dykes originally built by the French settlers (Acadians) along the Minas Basin at the head of the Bay of Fundy in Nova Scotia. The result is a fascinatingly detailed and thoroughly documented history and construction analysis, with sections on the geology, post-glacial events, and fauna of an area which boasts the world's highest tides and the land reclaimed and protected from them. For this he has been able to draw on written and oral accounts and has paid particular tribute not only to the builders but also to those who left an accurate record of techniques of dyking brought from the low countries of Europe and adapted to the local conditions.

Literature Cited

- Bleakney, J. S.** 1958. A zoogeographical analysis of the amphibians and reptiles of Eastern Canada. National Museum of Canada Bulletin 155, Ottawa, Ontario.
- Bleakney, J. S.** 1996. Sea slugs of Atlantic Canada and the Gulf of Maine. Nimbus Publishing, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- Cook, F. R.** 2007. Early Canadian reptile studies: anecdote to inventory. Chapter 2 in Ecology, Conservation and Status of Reptiles in Canada. Edited by Carolyn Seburn and Christine Bishop. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles Conservation Monograph 2: 5-22.

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NEW TITLES

Prepared by Roy John

† Available for review * Assigned

Currency Codes – CAD Canadian Dollars, USD U.S. Dollars, EUR Euros, AUD Australian Dollars.

ZOOLOGY

Albatross – Their World, Their Ways. By T. De Roy, M. Jones and J. Fitter. 2008. Firefly Books Ltd., 66 Leek Crescent, Richmond Hill Ontario L4B 1H1. 240 pages, 49.95 CAD, Cloth.

* **Bees.** By C. Savage. 2008. Greystone Books, #201 – 2323 Quebec Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V5T 4S7. 136 pages, 28 CAD Cloth.

* **Extreme Birds – The World's Most Extraordinary and Bizarre Birds.** By D. Couzens. 2008. Firefly Books Ltd., 66 Leek Crescent, Richmond Hill Ontario L4B 1H1. 288 pages, 45.00 CAD, Cloth.

Smithsonian Field Guide to the Birds of North America. Edited by Ted Floyd. Harper Collins Publishers Ltd., 2 Bloor Street East, 20th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M4W 1A8. 528 pages, 26.95 CAD.

* **A Wildlife Guide to Chile.** By S. Chester. 2008. Princeton University Press 41 William Street, Princeton, New Jersey, USA, 08540-5237. 392 pages, 19.95 USD, Paper.

Carnivores of British Columbia. By D. Hatler, W. Nagorsen, and A. Beal. 2008. UBC Press, 20219 West Mall, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1Z2. 416 pages, 85 CAD Cloth.

Coral Reef. By S. Wells. 2008. Firefly Books Ltd., 66 Leek Crescent, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 1H1. 288 pages, 39.95 CAD, Cloth

* **Cranes – A Natural History of a Bird in Crisis.** By J. Hughes. 2008. Firefly Books Ltd., 66 Leek Crescent, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 1H1. 256 pages, 45.00 CAD, Cloth.

Deer World. By D. Taylor. 2008. Firefly Books Ltd., 66 Leek Crescent, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 1H1. 400 pages, 39.95 CAD, Cloth.

Fifty Years of Flukes and Flippers: A Little History and Personal Adventures with Dolphins, Whales and Sea Lions (1958-2007). By William E. Evans. Pensoft Publishers, Sofia-Moscow. In English 147 pages EUR 20.00

Elephant Man. By N. Baumgartl and C. Galluci. 2008. Firefly Books Ltd., 66 Leek Crescent, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 1H1. 160 pages, 39.95 CAD, Cloth.