

nary and unconventional images such as a time-lapse shot of stars moving around the fixed North Star. Hugh Brody, who wrote the short introduction, is a poet, and his prose shows it. He speaks of Nicklen's "immaculate portraits of the natural world". There are no human beings in any photographs, but they are represented by the title "Seasons", which does not refer to our usual four, but the six seasons northern people use to divide the year – an early spring and

early autumn season with their own names added. We may think the Arctic is a bare, barren place, but these portraits illustrate the teeming life above and below the snow, land and water which sustains a flourishing ecosystem. It is a beautiful book.

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When the Wild Comes Leaping Up: Personal Encounters with Nature

Edited by David Suzuki. 2003. Greystone Books, Vancouver, British Columbia. 235 pages. \$22.95.

This latest anthology of nature writings, edited by Canada's pre-eminent scientist and writer David Suzuki, brings together new essays by a breadth of writers. Some of the authors were familiar to me as nature essayists (Diane Ackerman, Rick Bass, Sharon Butala, Wade Davis, Bill McKibben, David Quammen, David Suzuki); others were familiar authors, though not as nature writers (Margaret Atwood, Timothy Findley); while the rest were entirely new (Robert Drewe, Richard Flanagan, Jennifer Potter, Beth Powning, David Reynolds, David Adams Richards). Geographically, they hail from Canada, the USA, Great Britain and Australia.

Suzuki asked the writers to "share an experience that moved them or changed them in some way and that occurred in the natural world" because he argues that preservation of the wild is ultimately about people connecting with nature in a spiritual way, rather than relying on intellectual arguments for biological diversity or economic value.

Many of the stories are woven around moments or events in the authors' lives that influenced them trem-

endously. Rick Bass contemplates when, how and why these moments occur: "Who knows what moments – what complications of the physical and the mental – of landscape and story – conspire to ignite the sparks of enduring memory, formative or pivotal or living memories?" And do these moments only occur in pristine wilderness or can they occur in the humanised environment? The essays by the British authors, set in a small park, a country lane and a commons – tamer versions of the natural world than the Montana where Bass lives – suggest that nature's power can be felt in both. Diane Ackerman agrees, writing about how backyard animals such as deer, squirrels and birds become the entryway to the bustling world of nature for many suburbanites and travellers.

All of the authors write with passion and eloquence, and because of the personal nature of the essays, most readers will find themselves connecting with the stories. This book is an enjoyable antidote to the important, though often depressing, ones detailing destruction of the natural world.

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NEW TITLES

Zoology

***Birds of Chile.** 2003. By A. Jaramillo. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey. 240 pages. U.S. \$29.95 paper, U.S. \$55. cloth.

***Birds of Manitoba.** 2003. Edited by Peter Taylor et al. Manitoba Naturalists Society, Winnipeg, Manitoba. viii + 503 pages.

***Freshwater Fishes of Manitoba.** By K. Stewart and D. Watkinson. 2004. University of Manitoba Press, St. John's College, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3T 2M5 Canada. 360 pages. \$29.95 paper, \$44.95 cloth.

Hawks and Owls of the Great Lakes Region & Eastern North America. 2004. By C. Earley. Firefly Books Ltd., 3680 Victoria Park Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M2H 3K1 Canada. 128 pages. \$16.95 paper, \$24.95 cloth.

***Owls of the World.** 2003. By J. Duncan. Key Porter Books, Toronto, Ontario. 319 pages. \$60 cloth.

***Raptors of Eastern North America.** 2003. By Brian Wheeler. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey. 456 pages. U.S. \$45 cloth.

***Raptors of Western North America.** 2003. By Brian Wheeler. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey. 580 pages. U.S. \$49.50

***Wild Mammals of North America, Biology, Management and Conservation (2nd Edition).** 2003. Edited by G. Feldhamer, B. Thompson, and J. Chapman. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2715 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland. xiii + 1216 pages. U.S. \$175 cloth.

Botany

***Alpine Plants of North America: An Encyclopedia of Mountain Flowers from the Rockies to Alaska.** 2003. Edited by Graham Nicholls and Rick Lupp. Timber Press. 344 pages. \$49.95 cloth.