

situations to identify how the methods described in this book can be applied to their own data-limited situations. In summary, the management themes that emerge from this collection are highly relevant to all fisheries managers, policy makers and scientists working with data-limited fisheries. However, this book would be considerably more useful to these stakeholders if the context

of each section was clearly described in a one to two page preface and synopsis summary that outlines how this knowledge could be applied in practice.

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## Lapland – A Natural History

By D. Redcliff. 2006. Yale University Press, P.O. Box 209040, New Haven, Connecticut 06520-9040. 352 pages, U.S. \$60. Cloth.

*Lapland: a Natural History* by the late Derek Redcliff, is a remarkable account of the birds and higher plants of northern Scandinavia. This book begins with a general description in land use and the geological background terms followed by a skillful history of the earlier naturalist visitors. The book is mainly given over to a detailed evaluation of the various habitats found in this area. These include Boreal Forests, Forest Peatlands, Lakes and Rivers, Coastlands, Tundra and Man-influenced habitats. Each of these chapters is divided into vegetation and flora and birds. The birds section is subdivided into key groups such as wildfowl, waders (shorebirds), birds of prey, songbirds and birds that are of particular importance in that habitat (e.g., wildfowl or grouse).

The author writes in a style reminiscent of a professor giving a lecture to keen students and as a result the book is easy and pleasant to read. The accounts are packed with information drawn from many research sources, backed up by the author's own observations. The text does contain references, but not in sufficient number to impede the flow of ideas. Every few pages there are four half-page photos. These depict habitats, plants, birds and bird nests. Particularly impressive are the almost two dozen photos of shorebird nests (have you ever tried to find a shorebird nest?). These photos, most by the author, are of very fine quality. Interspersed with the text are some engaging black-and-white illustrations by Mike Unwin, reminiscent of those in the journal, *British Birds*.

I particularly enjoyed the way Redcliff linked the occurrence of a species with the other components of the habitat. He does a wonderful job of showing the inter-dependence of each constituent of a habitat and the consequences of disruptions to the balance, both natural and man-induced.

Even though I found this a treasure trove of information (and wisdom) I did have several problems. I hoped, while doing this review, I could compare the plant life of Northern Canada, Svalbard and Lapland. The author's inconsistent use of scientific names became a source of frustration for making this comparison. The worst case was his discussions of Dwarf Azalea. As he does not include the scientific name it is hard to be sure which plant he is referring to. Lapland Rose-

bay (Canada) or Lapland Rhododendron (Europe) is *Rhododendron lapponica*, but the author quotes this plant separately. Indeed, he includes a beautiful photo of this lovely plant. He also includes a photo of "Dwarf Azalea", but it is a very un-Rhododendron-like plant (more like a saxifrage or even Moss Champion). After much searching and consultation with Bill Cody (author of several books etc. on northern plants) I was still unclear until I found a reference to *Loiseleuria procumbens* as Trailing Azalea (and several other English names) while identifying plants from Cambridge Bay, Nunavut. Similarly I was never sure if the Finnmark Primrose was the same as *Primula erecta* or *nutans* or if it was a new species or subspecies.

Also the book only covers the higher plants well. There is relatively scant mention of the lichens and other more primitive plants. I am sure that there must be well over 500 species of lichens in this area, yet the book refers to only a handful. Other groups are even more poorly represented. On the animal side, birds are well covered. Mammals get an introduction and other groups (reptiles, amphibians, butterflies and dragonflies) get an honourable mention. Other wildlife such as beetles and bugs do not get any attention.

I also had problems with many of Redcliff's terms. To start with, he does not really define what he means by Lapland, Fennoscandia, Fennoscandinavia and Scandinavia. As he uses terms like "Southern Lapland", I felt it important to understand the region's precise location. His map showing the location is vague so I thought I would check further. Lapland is somewhat well defined (northern Norway, Sweden, Finland and Russia – or the home of the Sami). Actually I have found Finnmark, Nordland, Nord-Trøndelag and Troms [counties of Norway], Lapland [a province of Finland], Jämtlands Län, Norrbottens Län and Västerbottens Län [counties of Sweden], and Murmansk [an oblast – or "province" – of Russia] form Lapland. Knowing at least where the county of Finnmark is located is most useful when reading the text. However, the other terms vary from source to source. They could include some or all of Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and the Faeroes. Similarly I had trouble with the terms flark, fell, strang, patterned fen and mire. Eventually I did get them sorted out but a glossary would have been so helpful.

I have several problems with the index. First, it does not reference any scientific names, only English ones. None of the photos are listed. Some of the entries are

listed forward (e.g., Lapland Rhododendron and Alpine Lady Fern) and some entries are listed backward (e.g., Primrose, Finnmark and Birch, Downy) making it difficult to decide which letter to use.

The author includes range maps from other sources. The maps for plants use the scientific names (If you did not know *Silene acaulis* is a Moss Campion [as opposed to the synonyms: *Silene bryoides*, *Silene ex-capa*] you would be a little lost. The lovely photo of *Parmelia centrifuga* is not identified as a concentric ring lichen). The map captions for birds use English names. The maps are not in the index.

The Three-toed Woodpecker was split in 2003 into the American Three-toed (*Picoides dorsalis*) and Eurasian Three-toed woodpeckers (*Picoides tridactylus*) using differences in mitochondrial DNA sequences. The author has not mentioned this or any other recent splits. Perhaps this is not as significant an issue in a book focused on ecology rather than identification.

Finally, the book contains two photos of people; one is the author, although the caption omits this detail and the other is Jeanette. The book is dedicated to this lady, but her presence is never explained (she is Mrs. Redcliff).

This is a great book for anyone interested in the far north or who wants to understand the complexities of life. It is wonderful and fascinating reading if you are passionate about natural history, but is of more limited value for research.

Derek Redcliff was the first to establish the role of agricultural pesticides with the decline of birds of prey. He was chief scientist of the Nature Conservancy Council in the UK where he acted as a scientist and lobbyist for nature conservation. He fearlessly attacked and changed agricultural and forestry interests for the damage to wildlife value caused by their policies and practices in place at the time. Not an easy or popular task in Maggie Thatcher's world. Despite his legendary contribution to UK conservation he was denied any honour by the state – in a country that knights pop stars. Redcliff was known an extraordinary naturalist, good company and friend. His last book is a fitting legacy.

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### **Fish, Fur and Feathers: Fish and Wildlife Conservation in Alberta, 1905-2005**

Fish and Wildlife Historical Society. Federation of Alberta Naturalists (FAN), Edmonton. \$39.50, 418 pages.

This sumptuous, well-illustrated book is an eclectic mix of articles, reminiscences and interviews. The main text is on white paper, and the other contributions on yellowish paper. Only rarely does this confuse the reader but the white paper portion of chapter four ends in the middle of an incomplete sentence.

As expected with any product of a committee, some chapters are stronger than others. We often know who wrote a particular piece, but sometimes we don't. Nowhere, not even at the end of the two-page Editor's Note, are we told the name of the chief editor (Bill Wishart, as I learned from a special enquiry to Edmonton). At the end of each chapter are references and a useful chronological list of the main happenings.

In Alberta, as elsewhere, the responsibility for fish and wildlife management grew from a handful of voluntary game guardians to a diverse group of biologists and enforcement officers within professional, academic, and conservation communities. Yet for the better part of a century the emphasis was on fishing and hunting. In 1967 the first female biologist (now the president of the Canadian Medical Association) was hired, and only in 1987 was the first non-game biologist hired. Now there are 14 recovery teams developing and implementing plans for threatened and endangered species.

Some accounts are superb. The account of the change in upland game numbers associated with harvesting practices, from threshing machines, grain separators,

and wheat stooks to combine harvesters, is among the best I have encountered.

Alberta has had some unique successes. The Peregrine Falcon restoration program, under the direction of Richard Fyfe, was immensely important. One week in the 1960s, biologists taught a three- or four-evening short course in wildlife biology and management, specially designed for Members of the Legislative Assembly; more than half of them attended! A M.Sc. thesis on the fish and wildlife damage inherent in the planned Highwood Dam helped to influence the shelving of that project.

Biographical information is generally excellent, giving credit to world leaders in biology, especially William Rowan. Even though this book is co-sponsored by the FAN, amateurs are somewhat slighted, except for Frank Farley, Cam and Joy Finlay, Elsie McAllister, Myrna Pearman, Dewey Soper, and Kerry Wood. Edgar Jones is barely mentioned and Otto Höhn, Robert Lister and Al Oeming are omitted. Information resulting from bird banding is provided only as regards waterfowl. The Beaverhills Bird Observatory is not indexed. The outstanding studies of Golden Eagle migration west of Calgary by Peter Sherrington, the landmark studies of Ferruginous Hawk biology by Josef Schmutz, and the northern owl banding by the Edmonton group are not mentioned.

The compilers are frank about some of the bureaucratic bumbles ("bureaucracies are often much too short-sighted," page 207) and failures, such as legislation

Bill started as an assistant with the Canada Department of Agriculture in Ottawa. Twenty-one years later in 1967 he was made a Research Scientist. This classification was generally reserved for people who had a Ph.D., but Bill's outstanding accomplishments at that time were judged by his colleagues and the science arm of the federal civil service to warrant treatment at the Ph.D. level. The awards that Bill has received since then are numerous, but one in particular draws attention his broad contribution. In November 2002 he received a Queen's Golden Jubilee Commemorative Medal. These medals were awarded to a limited number of people who have made a significant contribution to Canada, in this case "especially for his work on *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, Canada's foremost scientific journal for field biology." Bill has served as the business manager, article and book review contributor, and manuscript reviewer for this journal for 60 years, and his influence on its development, support, improvement and content is beyond question.

Bill also served as curator of the largest dried plant collection in Canada from 1959 to 1988 and was largely responsible for its development. This collection of now over 1 million specimens has become a major tool of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada for plant identification. This collection provides a wealth of informa-

tion that is needed to implement Agriculture and Agri-food Canada's Biodiversity Strategy and to respond to the International Convention on Biodiversity. It is particularly valued as a tool for improved plant classification studies used by researchers in other institutions both in Canada and worldwide. It is also important in protecting Canada's borders and enforcing federal regulations. Many thousands of specimens that Bill collected in the northern wilderness under extreme and dangerous conditions are part of this collection and serve as vouchers for his numerous publications and books.

Bill was born in Hamilton on 2 December 1922. His father was a doctor and his mother a nurse at Hamilton General. He grew up in Hamilton and received his B.A. from McMaster University in 1946.

The Yukon Biodiversity Awareness Award plaque that Bill received included a photo of one of Yukon's rarest plants, McBride's Phacelia (*Phacelia mollis*) which is a Beringian endemic (confined to the unglaciated area of Alaska and Yukon).

Text slightly modified from that provided courtesy of Paul Catling, Canada Agriculture and Agri-food, Ottawa. Photograph of the award plaque courtesy Stephen Daryshire, Canada Agriculture and Agri-food, Ottawa.

### Errata *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* 120(1)

**Book Review.** Lapland a Natural History, pages 123-124: replace "Redcliff" and Redcliffe" with Ratcliffe, throughout.

#### Articles.

Diversity and range of amphibians and reptiles of the Yukon Territory. Brian G. Slough and R. Lee Menell in Literature Cited page 91 "Matsurla" should read Matsuda.

Recent Declines of House Sparrows, *Passer domesticus*, in Canada's Maritime Provinces. Anthony J. Erskine. Page 48 insert following Dunn et al.

**Erskine, A. J.** 1980. A House Sparrow die-off. Nova Scotia Bird Society Newsletter 22: 183-184. For reference following Erskine 1992b insert **Erskine** before initials.