

along the inner margin of each page, thus not permitting a rapid flip-through while searching through this 600 page book. The final, and dare I say incomprehensible feature of the book was the uninteresting and

out of focus (soft focus?) cover shot of the Territorial bird, the Common Raven. People do judge a book by its cover, rightly or wrongly, and in a book with hundreds of stellar shots, I remain baffled as to why that particular shot was chosen to be most people's first impression of the book.

Overall though, this is a very, very good book, and a must-have for people interested in the birdlife of the North.

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#### Literature Cited

Hess, G. K., R. L. West, M. V. Barnhill III, and L. M. Fleming. 1999. Birds of Delaware. University of Pittsburgh Press. 635 pages.

#### BOTANY

### Wild Flowers of the Yukon, Alaska & Northwestern Canada, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

By John G. Trelawny. 2003. Harbour Publishing Co. Ltd., P.O. Box 219, Madeira Park, British Columbia V0N 2H0 Canada. 224 pages. \$24.95.

The first edition of this wild flower book was published in 1983 and I reviewed it in 1984. The layout in this new volume is much better. The type is larger and more spaced on a purely white paper and is wrapped around the absolutely beautiful colour photographs.

Many of the pictures of the 332 species treated are the same as those in the first edition but the more modern reproductions and paper have made them shine. The descriptive text for each species has been only slightly revised. The surrounding text includes Acknowledgments, an easy-to-read map, an Introduction, an Illustrated Glossary, a Key to Species using Flower Colour and Shape, Photo Credits, Bibliography, an Index, and a list of Additional Field Guides from Harbour Publishing. This is a most interesting

### Wild Flowers of Forest & Woodland in the Pacific Northwest

By Lewis J. Clark. 2003. Harbour Publishing, P.O. Box 219, Madeira Park, British Columbia V0N 2H0. \$12.95

and delightful book for anyone living in, visiting or planning to visit this wonderful area.

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### Wild Flowers of Field & Slope in the Pacific Northwest

By Lewis J. Clark. 2002. Harbour Publishing, P.O. Box 219, Madeira Park, British Columbia V0N 2H0. \$9.95.

### Wild Flowers of the Mountains in the Pacific Northwest

By Lewis J. Clark. 2003. Harbour Publishing, P.O. Box 219, Madeira Park, British Columbia V0N 2H0. \$12.95.

These three books contain absolutely beautiful colour photographs. The photographs are numbered sequentially and each one has a marker [ $\times 0.5$ ] to indicate its size. Each is accompanied by a printed paragraph with the common and scientific names, a detailed description, together with the habitat and range, and a number to indicate its sequence in the book. There are 108 in the first book, 100 in the second and 106 in the third.

There is a four- or five-page interesting introduction at the front of each book and an index, glossary and a list of Additional Field Guides available from Harbour Publishing at the end. There are most interesting pictures on the front covers of each book. On the back covers there is a note about the author, Dr. Lewis J. Clark, together with a map of the Pacific Northwest on which there are shaded areas depicting where the wild flowers can be found. All are elegant.

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#### MISCELLANEOUS

### The Canoe: A Living Tradition

By John Jennings. Firefly Books, Toronto. 272 pages. \$59.95.

There could hardly be a more poetic way to explore the natural world than by canoe. While not all observers of natural history are canoeists, most canoeists have respect for and curiosity about nature. Indeed, a loon's call or the slap of a beaver's tail, accompanied by the quiet burbling of a canoe's wake, has served as an introduction to the contemplation of nature for countless North Americans.

*The Canoe: A Living Tradition* is, in a sense, a natural history of traditional North American watercraft. Included in this beautifully illustrated, coffee table-sized book are chapters dedicated to the history and construction of birch bark and dugout canoes, as well as skin kayaks and umiaks (large, open vessels from the Canadian Arctic). This book also discusses the influence of canoes on the fur trade and the settlement of northern North America, as well as the development of recreational canoes and the preservation of canoe history in more recent times. A respected expert writes each chapter on the type of craft or historical context being discussed. This makes for inconsistent writing at times, but also gives the book an authority that would not have been achieved by a single author. I found that the technical details about the dimensions (i.e., width and length, etc.) of canoes a bit repetitive. On the other hand, the documentation of these measurements may be valuable in the future. As John

Jennings notes in the first chapter, the original canoe designs of several First Nations in North America have

been erased without a trace, a poignant reminder of the terrible loss of traditional knowledge that continues to this day.

While the book brilliantly covers the historical context of canoeing and canoe building (over the span of 230 pages), it pays scant attention to modern uses of the canoe (2 pages). After all, as the title suggests, canoeing and canoe building is a "living tradition". Canoeing is still one of the most elegant ways to explore nature and there are many fine canoe builders in North America currently manufacturing modern and traditional canoes from a wide range of natural and synthetic materials. It seems as though a chapter could have been devoted to recent developments in the design and construction of modern canoes.

The book gives a good overview of how birch bark and dugout canoes are constructed, including useful photographic illustrations; however, before you run out and start assembling materials, take heed: the information provided is insufficient for the "do it yourself" canoe builder. A noticeable shortcoming is the omission of information about the many resources available to those interested in building traditional

birch bark and dugout canoes, as well as skin kayaks. For instance, while the book contains a photograph of a canoe built by César Nawashish, it fails to reference the excellent 1971 National Film Board film "César's Bark Canoe", which documents Nawashish's completion of a bark canoe with exquisite detail. Other contemporary builders of traditional craft have also produced thorough "how to" publications on building birch bark canoes and skin kayaks including David Gidmark, Robert Morris and Wolfgang Brink, which have not been referenced in this book.

While Adney and Chapelle's *Bark Canoes and Skin Boats of North America* will remain the bible of traditional canoe and kayak design, *The Canoe: A Living Tradition* is broader (literally and figuratively), more colourful and more accessible. It is simply irresistible for the canoe enthusiast. Its shortcomings are few and its design and production qualities are excellent. In summary, it is a valuable addition to the annals of canoe culture. Congratulations to John Jennings and the Canadian Canoe Museum for their fine work.

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