



ADVENTURES IN BIRDING

by Jean Piatt
Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.
New York City 10022
68 pp. 1973. \$7.95

Adventures in Birding has been written primarily for birders, whether they be young or old, neophyte or professional, but it is also a book for armchair travellers who enjoy poking into every nook and cranny of mountain and valley, desert and wetlands, prairie and forest, seaside and even the sea itself. Dr. Piatt and his wife, Marybelle, both inveterate listers and members of the 600 Club, have travelled all over America including Alaska and parts of Canada in search of their beloved birds and enjoyment of nature as a whole. One's interest is held by this man's deep feelings and great thought.

Dr. Piatt writes with touching tenderness about all wildlife and his descriptive passages are so vivid that the reader is drawn right into the picture to share the infinite beauty of any areas, the bleakness of some and most always utter peace.

The author is a preservationist, ecologist and philosopher with tremendous understanding of man's ailments. He is blessed with a most delightful sense of humour which permeates the whole book except when man's stupidity towards nature becomes apparent. "Extinction of a species is a terrifying finality" is one subject upon which our author gives vent to his anger and disgust. His views are interesting and give food for thought to all of us.

At times the reader begins to feel somewhat satiated with the almost in-

cessant bird listing but our clever author has already anticipated this reaction and he suddenly lifts us into a different line of thought — a little philosophy, perhaps — a new area of travel — a humorous anecdote or an altogether different subject such as the section of the book on well known birder's clubs, publications, etc. Dr. Piatt does not hesitate to make a derogatory remark when he feels circumstances warrant it.

One particularly amazing section of the book is a humorous dissertation on birders — we are all there! We can recognize our friends as easily as though the good Doctor knew each one personally — yes, I found myself there, too!

Dr. Piatt is an anatomist by profession — a birder by obsession and an author whose work can be read and enjoyed by persons from every walk of life who have any awareness of the world of nature around us.

The following few lines of poetry are a fitting conclusion to this review. A lover of all wild nature, John Masefield wrote:

"And over them flew birds of every kind
Whose way, or song, or speed, or beauty brings
Delight and understanding to the mind."

— Pat O'Neil,
1125 Elliott St.,
Saskatoon, Sask.

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Outside your kitchen window there may be a spider spinning his web. Lift up your child to see it, and tell him that this shining silk drawn out of the spider's body has a greater tensile strength than steel. If he learns admiration instead of disgust for the tiny spinner, he will have learned one of the greatest lessons in nature — that all life is sacred. *Donald Culross Peattie.*

HELPFUL HINTS FOR NATURE ACTIVITIES AND SUMMER FUN

by DIANE WEIR*

ANGIER, Bradford. *Skills for taming the wilds*. 1967. A handbook of woodcraft wisdom for the camper, vacationer, hunter, fisherman, hiker and anyone who might like to live next to nature.

796.5 A588s

BARANET, N. N. *Bicycling*. 1973. A guide to bicycling for the amateur or professional cyclist including information on history, buying a bicycle and activities using a bike.

796.6 B225

BORLAND, H. G. *Beyond your doorstep*. 1962. A handbook to the country for anyone who walks the woods and fields and wants to learn about the living things he has often looked at but never seen.

500.9 B735

BRAINERD, J. W. *Nature study for conservation*. 1971. A handbook for environmental education which stresses what an individual can find out about nature with little or no fancy equipment.

500.1 B814

BRANDWEIN, P. F. *Invitations to investigate*. 1970. An introduction to scientific exploration through experiments with step-by-step instructions, diagrams and photographs.

Y 501 B821

BROWN, Vinson. *Knowing the outdoors in the dark*. 1972. Numerous illustrations, maps and charts are an integral part of this excellent guide to nature's night life in which Brown explains how to heighten the perceptions of the senses and how to identify birds and animals by their silhouettes, activities and sounds.

Y 574 B881

CLARK, Gregory. *Outdoors with Gregory Clark*. 1971. A Canadian naturalist, story-teller and newspaper-

man shares his observations, anecdotes and knowledge in this selection taken from "Packsack" columns written in daily newspapers between 1948 and 1962.

574.971 C5

COLBY, C. B. *The art and science of taking to the woods*. 1970. Encyclopedia of woodlore and outdoor living with all the shortcuts, basic skills and advanced techniques needed to feel confident about outdoor living and traveling.

796.54 C6

CUTLER, K. N. *From petals to pinecones*. 1969. A nature art and craft book with instructions for making gifts and decorations using such natural objects as pine cones, nuts, flowers, dried wood and stones.

Y 745.5 C9

ELMAN, Robert. *Discover the outdoors*. 1969. Well illustrated guide to the outdoors — camping, hiking, fishing, hunting, discovering — North America filled with woodlore and practical tips.

796.5 E

Family Book of Hobbies. 1971. Detailed in this volume are a variety of hobbies including numerous nature and outdoor ones which will appeal to any age group.

790.13 F1

FRANKEL, L. B. *Bike-ways*. 1971. New and exciting things to do with a bike ranging from tours and trips to organizing a bike rodeo or bike club.

Y 796.6 F8

ICKIS, Marguerite. *Nature recreation*. 1965. How to inject fun in a recreation program by introducing nature through the activities of camping, handicraft, games, dramatics, music, the dance and aquatics.

574.07 I

MUSSELMAN, V. W. *Learning about nature through indoor gardening*. 1971. To grow and care for 74 of the most familiar house plants and thus learn

*Saskatoon Public Library,
23rd St. and 4th Ave.,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

about nature's miracles is the subject of this book for both children and adults.

635.965 M989

BRINGLE, Laurence. *Discovering the outdoors*. 1969. A nature and science guide to investigating life in fields, forests and ponds and suggesting scientific experiments and investigations that can be conducted on each site.

Y 574 P957

CHEFFER, V. B. *The seeing eye*. 1971. Well illustrated book with colour photographs in which a naturalist shows you how to see the marvellous forms, textures and colours of nature.

Y 500.9 S317

CHOENFELD, C. A. *Cabins, conservation and fun*. 1968. A complete guide to leisure time living in the country with the pleasures and pitfalls encountered in finding and developing a rural retreat.

333.76 S365

CHOENFELD, C. A. *Everybody's ecology*. 1971. A field guide to pleasure and perception in the outdoors.

574.5 S365

CHWARTZ, Alvin. *How to fly a kite, catch a fish, grow a flower and other activities for you and your child*. 1965. A parents' do-it-yourself guide to recreation, athletics and nature.

790.0192 S399

COANE, E. A. *The complete book of bicycling*. 1970. Comprehensive guide to all aspects of bicycles and bicycling including buying, history, maintenance, cycle competitions, cycle camping and touring trips (another copy in reference and at the Circulation desk).

796.6 S634

MARIDGE, N. A. *The teen-ager's guide to collecting practically anything*. 1972. Aimed especially at teen-agers, this book suggests the traditional collectibles as well as those from new areas such as ecology, the environment and American arts and crafts.

Y 790.132 S636

Letters

ONE MAN'S MEAT. . .

I agree with the views expressed by Robert Page concerning the rights of predators (*Blue Jay*, March 1974). In this connection I would like to draw attention to portions of two articles which have appeared in the *Regina Leader-Post*. The first (Jan. 19, 1973) was discussing the permits to be issued by the Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources for hunting coyotes and foxes:

"Snowmobile hunting by special permit requires hunters to chase down a coyote or fox until it is exhausted. Once the animal is exhausted or cornered, the hunter can dismount from his machine and kill it."

The second (Mar. 22, 1974) relates to a court case in Winnipeg:

"Maximum fines and jail sentences have been imposed on two Manitoba men who used a snowmobile to run a fox into a state of exhaustion and then shot the animal".

How can two neighbouring provinces with similar governments have so vastly different predator policies that one promotes a practice which brings severe punishment in the other? —
Nora M. Stewart, Craven, Sask.



Coyote

Fred Lahrman