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A Naturalist's Guide to Ontario (book review)

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REVIEW

A NATURALIST'S GUIDE TO ONTARIO. W.W. Judd and J.M. Speirs (eds.). Published for the Federation of Ontario Naturalists by University of Toronto Press. 210 pp., 6 1/8 x 9 1/4 in. 1964. Price: cloth, \$4.95; paper, \$1.95.

This book fills a long-time need and is a truly worthwhile endeavor. The first chapter is an excellent general discussion of the geology of Ontario by W.M. Tovell (illust. with 3 maps and table). Chapter 2 is an outline of the vegetation and fauna by J.B. Falls and J.H. Soper; forest regions are mapped and described with lists of characteristic plants and typical vertebrates.

The next 148 pages are "regional guides" — concise descriptions of many Ontario localities of general interest to naturalists. These are contributed by numerous individuals, nature clubs, and the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests. Included are most important provincial parks and other natural areas. The plan of these "guides" is similar to Pettingill's familiar books on bird finding. Directions to the locality are followed by remarks on interesting species found there. Comments on the geology of several areas (especially Niagara Falls) are most helpful. Information on camping and the addresses of local naturalists' organizations are included.

Descriptions range from the shore of Hudson Bay (don't travel there without reading the sections on "Cape Henrietta Maria" and "Hudson Bay Lowlands") to southernmost Point Pelee, but most are in the south and readily accessible by road. One can scarcely visit Ontario without encountering points of interest included in this guide. I noted the omission of the Kettle Point, Ipperwash, Pinery Park, Grand Bend region, but Dr. Judd assured me that, at the time the guide was prepared, the editors had no one to write this section. I assume that additional regional guides will be included in future printings.

Separate indices to "species of interest" and "points of interest" are very useful but need a few minor corrections (*e.g.*, prickly-pear is indexed as "Pear, Prickly") and additions (a number of items mentioned in the text are not indexed). The exclusive use of common names does not delight the biological mind, but helpfully, many of the plants are associated with scientific names in Chapter 2.

The widespread and peculiar tradition that naturalists are primarily interested in plants and vertebrates (especially birds) is generally followed. Even though Dr. Judd is a well-known entomologist, the sole invertebrate mentioned in the index is the "European praying mantis." It would be unreasonable to suggest that a book of this nature contain much information about that vast majority—the invertebrates. But it might be nice to include a number of particularly interesting species to cheer the invertebrate zoologist as he reads the long lists of birds, plants and mammals.

The book has a pleasant format and is easy to read. It is enhanced by Sylvia Hahn's artistic illustrations. The editors and authors deserve an accolade for undertaking such a difficult task and bringing it to such a fruitful conclusion. Its faults are all slight and A NATURAL-

IST'S GUIDE TO ONTARIO is highly recommended to all who may travel that widespread province or wish to know more about its geology and its varied wildlife.

R. C. Graves

SPECIAL NOTICE

The Michigan Entomological Society has decided to dispose of several volumes of the PAPERS and ANNUAL REPORT of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters which we inherited from the former Detroit Entomological Society. These items are being offered only to libraries in the state of Michigan. A letter announcing the sale, dated 19 May 1966, was mailed to all major Michigan libraries. If your library does not have these items, your recommendation to acquire them will be appreciated.

In the event no library in Michigan makes an acceptable bid, the items will be sold to the highest bidder. If you are interested in purchasing these books please contact the Society.

The items for sale are:

1. PAPERS OF THE MICHIGAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, ARTS, AND LETTERS, volumes 1-14, complete, bound in red buckram.
2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MICHIGAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, ARTS, AND LETTERS, 1st-22nd (1900-1921), complete, bound in red or black; and 23rd-44th, unbound, complete except for 34th-35th.

We understand that present volumes of the PAPERS are being sold for \$10 each. Early volumes of the PAPERS will soon be reprinted, at an approximate cost of \$15 per volume.

The deadline for receipt of bids from Michigan libraries is 15 August 1966. The minimum bid for Items 1 and 2 (they will NOT be sold separately) is \$175, F.O.B. East Lansing.

Please mail bids to the Michigan Entomological Society, Department of Entomology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.