
Noteworthy Books

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Beneath the Surface: Understanding Nature in the Mullica Valley Estuary. Kenneth W. Able. 2020. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, NJ. 320 pp. \$34.95, softcover. ISBN 9780813590196. The Mullica Valley estuary benefits from a combination of protected watershed, low human population density, and lack of extensive development, making it the cleanest estuary in the northeastern US. Author Ken Able helps the reader gain insights into the kinds of habitats, the animals, and plants that live there. For the first time, readers will gain a better understanding of the importance of these shallow waters, how the amount of salt in the water determines where animals and plants are found in estuaries, the variation in their occurrence, and how all this is changing as the result of climate change. *Beneath the Surface* emphasizes what this unique marine resource can tell us about the larger world.

Mosses of the Northern Forest: A Photographic Guide. Jerry Jenkins. 2020. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY. 176 pp. \$16.95, softcover. ISBN 9781501748615. The Northern Forest Region lies between the oak forests of the eastern United States and the boreal forests of eastern Canada. It is, collectively, one of the largest and most continuous temperate forests left in the world and, like much of the biosphere, it is at risk. This guide is an essential companion for those interested in stewardship and conservation of the region. With multi-image composite photos that allow for unparalleled depth and clarity, this unique guide illustrates the myriad varied and beautiful—and often overlooked—mosses of the Northern Forest. Accompanying large-scale foldout charts are also available.

The Bog Walker's Companion: A Guide to the Orono Bog Boardwalk. Jerry R. Longcore, James E. Bird, and Robert Klose (Editors). 2020. University of Maine Press, Orono, ME. 166 pp. \$28.00, hardcover. ISBN 9780891011309. "Bogs are isolated, little-known habitats that most people stay away from because of their lack of easy accessibility or any reason to visit them. This book will inspire you and open possibilities about

visiting a boreal bog, and not just the Orono Bog, a section of the larger Caribou Bog complex—where the Orono Bog Boardwalk is located. With the information provided here about what such bogs are, their formation from glacial lakes and transition to forests, and their content of plants and animal life, this book's relevance is not restricted to the Caribou Bog, but by implication to all boreal bogs. It will bring you back to the ending of the last Ice Age, when the glaciers retreated, leaving eskers, kettle holes, and the plants that we now find there. The bog peat is still trapping atmospheric carbon dioxide and holding the carbon because decay is slowed by lack of oxygen, low temperature, and acidity. The accumulating mat of dead vegetation became the peat platform upon which we can now observe a community of plants and animals found nowhere else." – from the Preface by Bernd Heinrich.

Unnatural Companions: Rethinking Our Love of Pets in an Age of Wildlife Extinction. Peter Christie. 2020. Island Press, Washington, DC. 280 pp. \$28.00, hardcover. ISBN 9781610919708. We love our pets. Dogs, cats, birds, reptiles, and other animals have become an essential part of more families than ever before. In North America today, pets outnumber people. Pet owners are drawn to their animal companions through an innate desire to connect with other species. But there is a dark side to our domestic connection with animal life: the pet industry is contributing to a global conservation crisis for wildlife—often without the knowledge of pet owners. Christie's book is a cautionary tale for responsible pet owners about why we must change the ways we love and care for our pets. It concludes with the positive message that the small changes we make at home can foster better practices within the pet industry that will ultimately benefit our pets' wild brethren.

The *Northeastern Naturalist* welcomes submissions of review copies of books that publishers or authors would like to recommend to the journal's readership and are relevant to the journal's mission of publishing information about the natural history of the northeastern US. Accompanying short, descriptive summaries of the text are also welcome.