
Noteworthy Books

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Minnesota's Natural Heritage. Second Edition. John R. Tester, Susan M. Galatowitsch, Rebecca A. Montgomery, and John J. Moriarty. 2021. University of Minnesota Press. Minneapolis, MN. 496 pp. \$49.95, Cloth. ISBN 9781517903572. The story of Minnesota's natural landscape, reaching back to the time of the glaciers, covers at least 12,000 years. Yet even against that vast expanse, recent decades have significantly transformed the natural world that is Minnesota's greatest resource. In the 25 years since the first publication of *Minnesota's Natural Heritage*, the definitive volume on the state's natural history and ecology, human activity and climate change have profoundly altered the major ecosystems that give the state its rich and varied character. The second edition of *Minnesota's Natural Heritage* introduces readers to these ecosystems—the lakes and rivers, forests and prairies, farmlands and wetlands—and explains how they have come to be, how they function, and how they have changed so rapidly and dramatically in recent years. The most complete treatment of Minnesota's natural environment, compiled and accessibly written by scientists whose collective knowledge spans the book's expansive content, *Minnesota's Natural Heritage* is the one indispensable companion for both visitors and inhabitants, as enlightening to page through as it is valuable to study.

Loon Lessons: Uncommon Encounters with the Great Northern Diver. James D. Paruk. 2021. Minnesota University Press. Minneapolis, MN. 256 pp. \$24.95, softcover. ISBN: 9781517909406. Written by one of the world's foremost experts on the subject, *Loon Lessons* is a compendium of knowledge about the common loon and an engaging record of scientific sleuthing, documenting more than 25 years of research. It describes the Common Loon's biology in an entertaining style that affords a deeper understanding of the bird's natural history and annual life cycle. James D. Paruk has written a wonderful, personal account of loon biology. He recounts 30 years of adventures with loons, summarizing what we know about them in the context of loons' basic

biology and behavior. Highly readable and informal, this book is for anyone who wants to learn more about loons.

Managing the River Commons: Fishing and New England's Rural Economy. Erik Reardon. 2021. University of Massachusetts Press. Amherst, MA. 192 pp. \$90.00, Hardcover. ISBN: 781625345851. New England once hosted large numbers of anadromous fish, which migrate between rivers and the sea. Salmon, Shad, and Alewives served a variety of functions within the region's preindustrial landscape, furnishing not only maritime areas but also agricultural communities with an important source of nutrition and a valued article of rural exchange. Historian Erik Reardon argues that to protect these fish, New England's farmer-fishermen pushed for conservation measures to limit commercial fishing and industrial uses of the river. Beginning in the colonial period and continuing to the mid-19th century, they advocated for fishing regulations to promote sustainable returns, compelled local millers to open their dams during seasonal fish runs, and defeated corporate proposals to erect large-scale dams. As environmentalists work to restore rivers in New England and beyond in the present day, *Managing the River Commons* offers important lessons about historical conservation efforts that can help guide current campaigns to remove dams and allow anadromous fish to reclaim these waters.

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.