
Noteworthy Books

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A Love Affair with Birds: The Life of Thomas Sadler Roberts. Sue Leaf. 2021. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, MN. 296 pp. \$15.95, Paperback. ISBN: 9780816675654. Professor Thomas Sadler Roberts (1858–1946) was a doctor for three decades, a bird lover virtually from birth, the father of Minnesota ornithology, and the man who, perhaps more than any other, promoted the study of the state’s natural history. *A Love Affair with Birds* is the first full biography of this key figure in Minnesota’s past. Roberts came to Minnesota as a boy and began keeping detailed accounts of Minneapolis’s birds. These journals, which became the basis for his landmark work *The Birds of Minnesota*, also inform this book, affording a view of the state’s rich avian life in its early days—and of a young man whose passion for birds and practice of medicine in a young Minneapolis eventually dovetailed in his launching of the beloved Bell Museum of Natural History. Bird enthusiast, doctor, author, curator, educator, conservationist: every chapter in Roberts’s life is also a chapter in the state’s history, and in his story acclaimed author Sue Leaf—an avid bird enthusiast and nature lover herself—captures a true Minnesota character and his time.

Opossums: An Adaptive Radiation of New World Marsupials. Robert S. Voss and Sharon A. Jansa. 2021. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD. 328 pp. \$59.95, Hardcover. ISBN: 9781421439785. Opossums are the most diverse and ecologically important group of New World marsupials, although only the Virginia Opossum is familiar to North American residents. In fact, many species of opossums are found in Neotropical rainforests, savannas, and other habitats, where they are key participants in food webs and other ecological relationships. One species, the Short-tail Opossum (*Monodelphis domestica*), has recently become a model organism for biomedical researchers. Eclipsed in the public imagination by their Australian relatives, opossums remained for many years a somewhat obscure group, of interest primarily to taxonomists and students of mammalian reproduction. While thousands of scientific articles have appeared in recent years on opossum systematics, morphology, behavior, physiology, genetics, and ecology, this important but widely scattered literature has never been effectively summarized—until now. In *Opossums*, the first book-length treatment of these fascinating organisms, recognized authorities Robert S. Voss and Sharon A. Jansa synthesize a wide range of available information about the diversity, comparative biology, and natural history of the opossum. Peering into every biological facet of the lives of these long-neglected mammals.

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.