

solved only through a focusing of international energies and will. Few of us are able to reach out beyond our immediate work and interests without help of this kind.

NHRI deserves our thanks for this series of valuable review volumes.

#### REFERENCES

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**SHIELD COUNTRY: LIFE AND TIMES OF THE OLDEST PIECE OF THE PLANET.** By JAMIE BASTEDO. Calgary: Arctic Institute of North America, 1994. Komatik Series No. 4. x + 271 p., maps, b&w illus., colour illus., glossary, bib., index. Softbound. Cdn\$20.00.

Mr. Bastedo, a well-known northern naturalist and environmental consultant, is a long-term resident of the Shield country who operates out of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. The style and content of this book are aptly described in the author's own words:

This book is part personal journal, drawing on events that illustrate my relationship with the land. It is also part storybook, portraying the land's past, present and future as I see it. It is also part reference book, complete with systematic descriptions of ecological phenomena, an extensive glossary of terms and a detailed index. And finally, it is part field guide, providing sufficient information on the region's geology, plants and animals for you to recognize the main ecological players on this particular northern stage. (p. 5)

It is obvious from first opening *Shield Country* to the final pages that Jamie has an unquenchable curiosity and passion for the Canadian Shield, which he infuses into his writing style and successfully passes on to the reader. This book is a delightfully insightful account of the Canadian Shield's last four billion years. The author's literary traverse over vast space and time has been exceedingly well researched. He writes in a refreshing style that puts the reader at ease. While tackling subjects as diverse as the development of plutons and the philosophies of bioregionalism, Jamie writes with clarity, spiced with humour and poetry.

The editors have done an excellent job of keeping this book free of irksome typos and errors. They have also included over 100 photos, diagrams, and drawings, which are interspersed throughout the text. The diagrams help the reader understand some of the more complex geological theories, while the archival and recent photographs visually connect the reader to the landscape and its inhabitants.

This is an ideal textbook for any university course dealing with Canada's North. In fact, I highly recommend *Shield Country* to all who are interested in the North, whether they are high school or university students, naturalists, scientists, consultants or the lay public.

In the introduction (p. 5), Jamie states: "In choosing to write a book about the taiga shield, my aim was as much to inspire as to inform." Congratulations, Jamie—you have succeeded!

**SKUA AND PENGUIN: PREDATOR AND PREY.** By EUAN YOUNG. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994. 452 p. ISBN 0 521 32251 0. Hardbound. No price indicated.

Adelie penguins are the most loved of all Antarctic animals, while south polar skuas have traditionally been cast as villains. Skuas steal penguin eggs and small chicks by stealth and cunning, while older penguin chicks are strong enough that killing them is a drawn-out, messy business. These conspicuous behaviours have attracted a plethora of subjective comment from laypersons and scientists alike, but objective accounts of the relationship between skuas and penguins have been few.

This long-awaited book is the result of five Antarctic summers, 1965 to 1970, spent documenting the relationship between skuas and penguins. To any biologist, Adelie penguin colonies with their attendant skuas raise a host of intriguing questions. Do skuas depend on penguins to breed successfully? Why do some skua territories have few penguins while others have many, and does breeding success vary with access to penguins? Why are skuas such inefficient predators and what do skuas feed on outside the penguin breeding season? These questions and many more are answered in Euan Young's book.

This is probably the most detailed account of the interactions between any predator and its prey. Young and his team recorded the activities of skuas in tremendous detail, but the results presented are equally intricate. This excessive detail makes the book cumbersome to read and difficult to use. Too often I found myself bogged down in detail, having lost track of the issue being discussed. The book contains a wealth of information and ideas for anyone interested in penguins,