

Although the book was originally intended for high school and university use, few students will be able to afford it (at \$15.95), and its lavish production and size will prevent its practical use in the field. It is a book for the reference shelf. A handier paperback edition at an eighth of the price would be most welcome (see Cowan and Guiguet, *The Mammals of British Columbia*, 1965).

The distribution maps are one of the author's major contributions. The maps are remarkably detailed; each solid dot represents one or more specimens currently preserved in a permanent museum collection, while open squares represent other records not substantiated by specimens. Yet there is little doubt that the maps would have been more valuable scientifically if much unused page space, and that given over to unnecessarily large print, had been used to document the most important (e.g., marginal) distribution records, or those not listed by Hall and Kelson (*The Mammals of North America*, 1959). Where present and former ranges of species (e.g., caribou, Map 85) are given, graphic legends would have been convenient for quick interpretation.

Line drawings vary greatly in quality—perhaps partly because of the number (five) of contributing artists. Contrasts between the Düreresque flying squirrels and shrews, and the cartoon-like cottontails are staggering, and this lack of uniformity detracts from the appearance of the book.

Peterson has made no attempt to revise or validate the subspecies listed, but it is apparent that a thorough study will reduce the number of racial names that are currently recognized. In a few cases, where he has gained special insight through his work, he makes suggestions about subspecific relationships. Probably the wapiti formerly present in northwestern Ontario was the Manitoba wapiti rather than the eastern race, as some have suggested. He also considers the interesting point that the yellow-nosed vole (*Microtus chrotorrhinus*), with its peculiar eastern distribution, may belong to the same species as the yellow-cheeked vole (*M. xanthognathous*) of northwestern Canada and Alaska. Many other problems ripe for research are mentioned.

The reliability and breadth of the study

reflect Dr. Peterson's wide-ranging interests in the field of mammalogy—from studies on Pleistocene grizzly bears, and the habits of meadow voles, to his well-known monograph, *North American Moose* (1955). The book is a valuable and lasting contribution to Canadian zoology.

Although there are concise discussions of a number of arctic mammals, including arctic foxes, ringed seals, and polar bears, they will perhaps be of peripheral interest to arctic mammalogists. This conclusion emphasizes the need for a *Mammals of Arctic Canada*.

C. R. Harrington

NATUR I LAPPLAND. KAI CURRY-LINDAHL, EDITOR. *Stockholm: Svensk Natur*. 1963. 8 x 11 inches, Part I, 498 pages; Part II, 548 pages. Sw. crowns 184.

Nature in Lappland is the bold and final effort in the series on Swedish nature, published over an eighteen-year period under the editorship of the well-known scientist, Kai Curry-Lindahl. The Lappland volumes comprise the twenty-third in the series which covers all the traditional counties and landscapes of Sweden. This publication completes the set which, though not perhaps a "best seller," represents a very comprehensive coverage of Swedish nature, from the southernmost Scania, approximately on the latitude of Copenhagen and with characteristic continental European influences on physical, biological, and human environment, to the barren mountain lands on latitude 69°N. Few countries have similar encyclopedic works in which so many prominent scholars and specialists have tried to merge their knowledge in one common mould.

In order really to appreciate the Lappland volumes, one should also have had access to the volumes on other parts of the country.

As it is, the reviewer can only judge the Lappland volumes *per se*; even that is a Herculean task, as they consist of some thousand pages of text, pictures, and maps.

Technically, one should expect a high quality of reproduction of photos in black and white, as well as in colour, particularly in a work of this prominence. I find this

not to be the case. Even if the pictures portray relevant situations, there is a greyishness in many of the black and white pictures which does not go with the overall high quality of the work. In certain cases the photo material is old, and then the grey tone is understandable; however, I find recent pictures too are poor and unimaginative, and not even the colour pictures give the right splendour to the beauty of the wide flatness of the Laotakjaure delta with its snowclad background, or of the serene view through mountain birch groves in the Rapa valley, both in the Sarek National Park.

There is a very wide range of articles. Part one is divided into two main sections: "Old Lappland" and "Today's Lappland." The remainder of Part I and Part II gives a regional presentation of the distinct Lappmarks with some 15 articles for each of the two northernmost areas: Lule and Torne Lappmarks. The section on old Lappland in Part I is fascinating reading for a geographer as the articles cover both geology and aspects of the human geography, colonization, and settlement development of Lappland by such well-known authors as G. Lundquist (geology) and E. Manker and E. Bylund (colonization and settlement). The section on today's Lappland consists of contributions by such specialists as Gunnar Hoppe (geomorphology), C. C. Wallen (climate), W. Schytt (glaciology), and F. Hjulström (hydrology), to mention only a few.

The presentations of the Lappmark-regions are extensive and one gets a very intimate picture of landscape and nature from intelligent and enthusiastic writers of academic standing and with a particular knowledge of the region. For the reader unfamiliar with vast area of Sweden, the numerous maps accompanying some of the articles facilitate understanding. In some cases, additional maps would have made the distribution and regional characteristics of particular phenomena even more appreciated.

Of great value to the interested reader is the bibliography that goes with the majority of articles, in which references to both Swedish and English literature are cited.

Finally, this work is partly a cultural history and this is most vividly realized if Lappland is put in its proper national con-

text, which is beautifully done by Carl Fries. In the introduction, Fries describes his feelings and memories of Lappland in the 1910's, when he travelled in the interior for the first time, encountering the virgin forests, before the days of modern efficient forest management, and compares what he saw then with today's controlled landscape. The reader is by this personal experience made aware of the penetration into this wilderness that the last 50 years have witnessed. Fries makes a bitter attack on these modern intrusions into the last remaining wide natural areas of western Europe and can see nothing but unnecessary and shortsighted exploitation of the environment and its few inhabitants. Although all decisions are lawful, they militate against a minority who are fighting hopeless odds in an effort to preserve the environment they have grown up with. Israel Ruong, of Same origin, gives similar visions of exploitation of these areas by outside sources, not for the benefit of the inhabitants but for people and areas "far away from the brook and the lake and the people and the houses along the shores."

Jan Lundgren

THE MYTH ABOUT LAPPLAND: ESSAYS. BY JOHAN PALSTIG. *Stockholm: Natur och Kultur. 1963. 115 pages. Sw. crowns 14.50.*

This is a fascinating book on the gradual cultural integration of Swedish Lappland into the national state of Sweden. The process began early: the Viking kings were the first to show an interest in the lands of the Same people and traded for furs with those living in Lycksele Lappmark as early as the late ninth century.

The author focuses on the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, when the Same people in Lappland were confronted with central government policies for colonization and settlement, dealt with in the provocatively titled chapters, "Occupied Lappland" and "The Christening of Lappland."

A translation of this book into English would interest many readers.

Jan Lundgren