

necessity. But the role of fire in some forest associations such as the ponderosa pines of the west, and the yellow pines of the southeastern U. S. is very different from that which it plays in the eastern deciduous woodlands. I think we need to encourage much more research and thinking about the ecology of forests. The simple answer is not always adequate as the situation in California dramatically points out almost every year.

Frank N. Young  
*Department of Zoology  
Indiana University*

PORTRAIT OF AN ISLAND, Mildred and John Teal, 167 pp., \$3.95, Atheneum Publishers, New York, 1964.

This book paints a vivid word picture of nature on Sapelo Island, one of the sea islands off of Georgia. It is written in language easily understood by junior high school and high school youth, as well as any adult interested in science. The book explains the origin of the island, with the natural division of its parts: the land, the marsh, and the beach. The interaction of the tide and the winds that form the climate of Sapelo Island, and of the plants and animals that live on and in the three areas—to the mutual benefit of all—is described in such a manner as to make the reader live the experience of the authors. *Portrait of an Island* is a description of the geological formation, the physical characteristics, and the natural history of the three main areas of the island.

The book is written with much interesting terminology by the authors, and it is evident that this fine writing couple thoroughly enjoyed their stay on the island; they describe the island as being one of the most beautiful spots on earth. The story of the island includes excellent descriptions of the kinds of living things, as well as the inanimate, and the complex interrelationships affecting all. This is certainly an excellent resource book from an ecological point of view, and will undoubtedly be utilized by both science-minded students as well as casual lay readers. The illustrator of the book is R. D. Rice, of Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and the illustrations are artistically done as well as informative. In spite of their simplicity, the illustrations enable the reader to have a feeling for the flora and fauna of this unusual island. This text is of great value because of its descriptions and unusual presentation. It is undoubtedly going to be of special interest to all readers.

Stanley B. Brown  
*School of Education  
Indiana University*

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