

THESE ISLANDS ARE ALIVE, by Julian May. 1971. Hawthorn Books, Inc., New York. 32 p. \$4.50.

Islands have always fascinated young and old alike. This book introduces children to the processes involved in the formation of a special kind of island—the coral reef, with particular emphasis on the Florida Keys and their abundance of life. The author explains reef-building and the limited conditions under which it can occur. Briefly and simply he describes the geology of the southeastern U. S. as it has been affected by the reef-building of the past, and he tells what can be expected from continued growth of the reefs.

Reef ecology is colorfully described. It is regrettable that the excellent illustrations, by Rod Ruth, are in black-and-white only: the colorless pages are a let-down.

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DISCOVERING WHAT GERBILS DO, by Seymour Simon. 1971. McGraw-Hill Book Co. New York, 47 p. \$3.83.

This is an excellent book for the intermediate-grade reader. The author describes the natural habitats of gerbils and describes their introduction to this country, in 1954. Much of the reading is inductive: the child can truly "discover" what gerbils do. Answers to the inductive questions are seldom given. Simon has succeeded in producing a book that contains interesting information yet is open-ended as to ideas and experiments. It is a rare and refreshing combination. The book will satisfy the child and at the same time satisfy educators who espouse "discovery."

Glenn McGlathery  
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THE COLOR OF LIFE, by E. John DeWaard. 1971. Doubleday & Co., New York. 64 p. \$4.95.

The variety and function of color in living things is an interesting subject. This book for young children contains many intriguing examples of the relationship of color to plant and animal adaptation. The book is organized around topics rather than groups of organisms, and this has led the author to present the ideas in ways that cause confusion. For example, the discussion of the weasel leaves the impression that the color-changes of its coat are due to temperature. The photoperiodic explanation is not introduced until much later on; even then, it is not presented clearly.

The chapter on the physics of color

is the weakest. The term "refracted" is used but not explained. It would have been useful to introduce the concept of wavelength: this would have made it possible to point out the difference between insect and human vision. The author aims to make his observations dramatic, and this sometimes leads to sweeping generalizations.

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HOOR OF THE BEAVER, by Hope Sawyer Buyukmihci. 1971. Rand McNally & Co., Chicago. 174 p. \$5.95.

In the last five or six years readers of natural-history books have benefited by a whole cluster of studies of some single species: the gorilla, the wolf, the tiger—even the Laysan albatross. The author's aim, invariably, has been to zoom in with a series of close-ups, then take a longer view. Species that are endangered or headed for extinction, of course, receive highest priority in such expositions. *Hour of the Beaver* is such a book. It recounts the author's personal experiences, and those of her family, with this species on a 250-acre tract of wood and water, "Unexpected Wildlife Refuge," in New Jersey.

On the whole the story is interesting. The 20 photos are not all first-rate, but they add to its charm. If the teenage or young-adult reader, to whom the book seems to be addressed, should share my mild disappointment, perhaps this would be not so much because of the author's occasional sentimentality as because of the author's failure to provide a really adequate long shot, after the close-ups. After all, the subject is a mammal with a glorious past on the American continent. Neither the beaver's role in history nor its present status in North America is adequately discussed by the author.

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PICARO, A PET OTTER, by Dorothy Wisbeski. 1971. Hawthorn Books Inc., New York. 30 p. \$4.25 (hardback).

This book, illustrated with numerous sketches, tells the story of a pet otter—its birthplace, capture, and life as a pet. It would be suitable for elementary-school children to read or for a teacher to read to them.

Those educators who object to keeping "unusual" wild pets in a home will balk at this book.

James R. Okey  
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Bloomington

THINGS TO DO WITH WATER, by Illa Podendorf. 1971. Children's Press, Chicago. 48 p. \$3.95.

This book, one in a series written to stress the processes of science, will be a boon to elementary teachers who are using *Science—A Process Approach*. Podendorf served on the writing team of the elementary-science curriculum project sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She is eminently qualified to write a book of this nature. The young reader is led to use the processes of observing, using space-time relations, predicting, communicating, and measuring as he performs activities designed around these processes. Some of the activities are left open-ended, so that the reader is encouraged to interact with the materials described and to form his own conclusions. The book is an excellent supplement for children using any of the new elementary-science programs, although it is tailored for *Science—A Process Approach*.

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## Books Received

- THE PHYSIOLOGY OF AGGRESSION AND DEFEAT, ed. by Basil E. Eleftheriou and John Paul Scott. 1971. Plenum Publishing Corp., New York. 312 p. \$13.50.
- DEVELOPMENTAL PROCESSES IN HIGHER VERTEBRATES, by Ruth Bellairs. 1971. University of Miami Press, Coral Gables, Fla. 366 p. \$17.50.
- ADVANCES IN BIOPHYSICS, ed. by Masao Kotani. 1971. University Park Press, Baltimore, Md. 206 p. \$12.50.
- CELL-MEDIATE IMMUNITY: IN VITRO CORRELATES, ed. by J. P. Revillard. 1971. University Park Press, Baltimore, Md. 228 p. \$14.50.
- INTEGRATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF BRAIN AND BEHAVIOR IN THE DOG, by Michael W. Fox. 1971. University of Chicago Press. 348 p. \$22.50.
- LUAP, by June Rachuy Brindel. 1971. Bobbs-Merrill Co., New York. 28 p. \$4.95.
- HARRY'S BEE, by Peter Campbell. 1971. Bobbs-Merrill Co., New York. 26 p. \$4.95.
- DISSECTION GUIDE FOR THE CAT (AND SELECTED SHEEP ORGANS), by Kenneth G. Neal and Barbara H. Kalbus. 1971. Burgess Publishing Co., Minneapolis, Minn. 83 p. Price not given.
- DISSECTION GUIDE FOR THE FETAL PIG (AND SELECTED SHEEP ORGANS), by Barbara H. Kalbus and Kenneth G. Neal. 1971. Burgess Publishing Co., Minneapolis, Minn. 44 p. Price not given.
- MODERN BIOLOGY AT A GLANCE, by Maurice Bleifeld. 1971. Barron's Educational Series, Inc., Woodbury, N.Y. 112 p. \$1.25.