

Book Reviews

Behavior

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR: ITS DEVELOPMENT, ECOLOGY, AND EVOLUTION

by Robert A. Wallace. 1979. Good-year Publishing Company (Santa Monica, California 90401). 590 p. Price not given.

This is one of the most comprehensive books on the topic of animal behavior available today. It completely covers the topic with general discussion in the early chapters; more ecological and evolutionary theory are introduced in later chapters.

The book contains thirty-two chapters, an extensive bibliography, and many varied and excellent photographs, diagrams, and charts. The author's preface is most challenging in that he compares the study of animal behavior to being married. The analogy makes for interesting thought and really stimulates the reader to want to begin reading the first chapter.

In each of the chapters the author does an extensive, thorough presentation of data on each concept of behavior—such as migration, homing, biological clocks, communication, territoriality, population, predation, competition, aggression, genetics, interspecific associations, parasitism, animal societies, and learning.

This book is definitely for the advanced student of biology, but would be an excellent reference text for the secondary students to use to broaden their knowledge in the field of animal behavior. A biology teacher would be remiss if this book was not in the school library.

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Botany

PLANTS THAT EAT ANIMALS

by J.H. Prince. 1979. Thomas Nelson, Inc. (30 East 42nd Street, New York 10017). 92 p. \$7.95.

In this short text, the author divides carnivorous plants into six categories. His classifications include: "Underwater

Traps," such as bladderworts; "Pitfall Traps," such as pitcher plants; "Flypaper Traps," such as the sundew; "Snap Traps," such as the Venus Flytrap; "Pre-daceous Fungi," and "Vase Traps," such as the bromeliads. Each category is covered in a short chapter that describes several "animal eaters" of that type. Photographs and drawings illustrate the various plants and explain to some extent how they function. A final chapter describes how these unusual plants may be raised in the home.

I wish I could say that I was enthralled with the book because its subject fascinates me. Unfortunately, I cannot. I found the book dull and lackluster. Perhaps my reaction stemmed from the first chapter in which the author provides a classification of carnivorous plants. This chapter is dull reading.

No doubt the facts presented are correct. But the way in which they are presented completely lacks dramatic impact. "Plants that eat animals"—the very thought elicits exciting pictures. But the drama is not there.

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PRINCIPLES OF HORTICULTURE

by Ervin L. Denisen. 2nd ed., 1979. Macmillan Publishing Company, Inc. (866 Third Avenue, New York 10022). 483 p. \$14.95.

With so much interest in gardening by such a large section of our society, this book should be very popular. The author has prepared this second edition by incorporating the recent trends in horticulture with an excellent arrangement of material. Amateurs in the field and experts can find the information they want easily. The text will prove useful for parents working with their children in a small garden, secondary students in biology or agriculture, and college horticulture majors.

The beginning of the text is devoted to "Horticulture in Everyday Life" telling about the various areas that come into the field: cultivation of fruits and vegetables, conservatories and parks, landscaping, agronomy, home decoration, and flower arrangement. It is difficult to separate one from the other. They are interrelated and often one depends on the other.

Three divisions in text material follow. Part I gives the minimum botanical information for understanding the description, techniques, and explanations in Parts II and III. It provides a background in plant classification, growth, structure, physiology, and relationship to environment.

Part II develops, explains, and illustrates the skills and practices of horticulture. This contains explicit information for the beginner and the theory behind each practice as well as for the student. Clear illustrations and carefully labeled line-drawings accompany each topic.

The final section of the book, Part III, is entitled *Horticulture for the Home*. This is a do-it-yourself section with clear and definite directions for each phase of practicing horticulture around the home. These grounds are an integral part of family life where the family lives, works, and plays together. They can be made appealing with thought and care, and this book shows the way.

At the end of the text, there is a glossary and index. The latter provides a quick reference for any area of concern. For the instructor, a supplement is provided containing an outline of each chapter and suggestions for examination questions.

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TREES OF LAWNS AND PARKS

by R. Omar Rilett. 1977. Beta Lambda Press (Bloomington, Illinois 61701). 144 p. \$8.

The text enables the reader with little or no knowledge in taxonomy to identify the most common trees found in the parks and suburban areas in most of the country. The excellent black-and-white line-drawings enable the reader to easily identify the various common species of trees presented in the text. An identification key is provided at the end of the text so one is easily aided in the keying out of the various species; the key also helps students learn basic plant taxonomy. A glossary is also included to explain some of the unfamiliar scientific terms so the student can better comprehend what is being discussed in the text.

The text contains a complete description of the characteristics of each species plus other important information such as