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## Noteworthy Books

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**From the Mountains to the Sea: Protecting Nature in Postwar New Hampshire** Kimberly A. Jarvis. 2020. University of Massachusetts press, Amherst, MA. 200 pp. \$27.95, softcover. ISBN 9781625345011. In the face of increasing pressures from business and government in the decades following World War II, New Hampshire residents banded together to preserve their most prized natural areas and defining geological features. *From the Mountains to the Sea* explores how history, memory, and tradition created a strong sense of place in the state that led citizen activists to protect Franconia Notch, Sandwich Notch, and the town of Durham on New Hampshire's seacoast from development in the last half of the twentieth century. These efforts led to the construction of a parkway instead of an interstate highway, prevented the building of an oil refinery, and saved Sandwich Notch from becoming a vacation community. Shaped by New Hampshire's unique conservation focus on both resource use and preservation that developed during the first years of the twentieth century, as well as on the tradition of home rule in the state, the outcome of each campaign relied on the insight into, appreciation for, and dedication to protecting the historic and aesthetic values of these 3 places.

**Birds of Maine.** Peter D. Vickery. 2020. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. 664 pp. \$45.00, hardcover. ISBN 9780691193199. The first comprehensive overview of Maine's incredibly rich birdlife in more than 7 decades, *Birds of Maine* is a detailed account of all 464 species recorded in the Pine Tree State. It is also a thoroughly researched, accessible portrait of a region undergoing rapid changes, with southern birds pushing north, northern birds expanding south, and once-absent natives like Atlantic Puffins brought back by innovative conservation techniques pioneered in Maine. Written by the late Peter Vickery in cooperation with a team of leading ornithologists, this guide offers a detailed look at the state's dynamic avifauna—from the Wild Turkey to the Arctic Tern—with information on migration patterns and timing, current status and changes in bird abundance and distribution, and how Maine's geography and shifting climate mold its birdlife. It delves into the conservation status for Maine's birds, as well as the state's unusually textured ornithological history, involving such famous names as John James Audubon and Theodore Roosevelt,

and home-grown experts like Cordelia Stanwood and Ralph Palmer. Gorgeously illustrated with watercolors by Lars Jonsson and scores of line drawings by Barry Van Dusen, *Birds of Maine* is a remarkable guide that birders will rely on for decades to come.

**Grasses, Sedges, Rushes: An Identification Guide.** Lauren Brown and Ted Elliman. 2020. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT. 272 pp. \$22.00, softcover. ISBN 9780300236774. This elegant and easy-to-use guide is an updated and amended revision of Lauren Brown's seminal *Grasses: An Identification Guide*, which was first published in 1979. While maintaining the spirit and goals of the original edition—a portable, straightforward, and user-friendly guide for naturalists and plant enthusiasts—the new edition features more than 100 grasses, sedges, and rushes that are presented with line drawings and color photographs, concise descriptions, and details on the uses of various plants throughout history. In addition, the authors are careful to highlight the subtle differences in similar species to avoid confusion, as well as offering relevant notes on plant survival strategies, invasiveness, and how different plants fit within the broader ecological landscape. Devoid of technical jargon, this volume is an indispensable tool for those curious about the often-overlooked grasses, sedges, and rushes that surround us.

**Unnatural Companions: Rethinking Our Love of Pets in an Age of Wildlife Extinction.** Peter Christie. 2020. Island Press, Washington, DC. 280 pp. \$28.00, hardcover. ISBN 9781610919708. We love our pets. Dogs, cats, birds, reptiles, and other animals have become an essential part of more families than ever before. In North America today, pets outnumber people. Pet owners are drawn to their animal companions through an innate desire to connect with other species. But there is a dark side to our domestic connection with animal life: the pet industry is contributing to a global conservation crisis for wildlife—often without the knowledge of pet owners. In *Unnatural Companions*, journalist Peter Christie issues a call to action for pet owners. If we hope to reverse the alarming trend of wildlife decline, pet owners must acknowledge the pets-versus-conservation dilemma and concede that our well-fed and sheltered cats too often prey on small backyard wildlife and seemingly harmless reptiles

released into the wild might be the next destructive invasive species. We want our pets to eat nutritionally healthy food, but how does the designer food we feed them impact the environment? Christie's book is a cautionary tale for responsible pet owners about why we must change the ways we love and care for our pets. It concludes with the positive message that the small changes we make at home can foster better practices within the pet industry that will ultimately benefit our pets' wild brethren.

**Freshwater Fishes of North America: Volume 2: Characidae to Poeciliidae.** Melvin L. Warren Jr., Brooks M. Burrwith, Anthony A. Echelle, Bernard R. Kuhajda, and Stephen T. Ross (Eds.). 2020. Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD. 272 pp. \$150.00, hardcover. ISBN 9781421435121. When the first volume of *Freshwater Fishes of North America* was published, it was immediately hailed as the definitive reference in the field. Readers have been fervently awaiting the next volume in this encompassing 3-book set ever since. Now complete, Volume 2, covering families Characidae to Poeciliidae, is the result of decades of analysis by leading fish experts from universities and research laboratories across North America. Each volume in this authoritative synthesis covers the ecology, morphology, reproduction, distribution, behavior, taxonomy, conservation, and the fossil record of the included North American fish families. The encyclopedic reviews of each family are accompanied by color photographs, range maps, and artwork created by noted fish illustrator Joseph R. Tomelleri. The result is a rich textual and visual experience that covers everything known about the diversity, natural history, ecology, and biology of North American freshwater fishes.

**Climate Change and Microbial Ecology: Current Research and Future Trends (Second Edition).** Jürgen Marxsen, Editor. 2020. Caister Academic Press, Poole, UK. 548 pp. \$250.00, softcover. ISBN 9781913652579. The distribution and function of microorganisms are of crucial importance for the Earth's biogeochemical cycles. Effects of microbial communities on the carbon and nitrogen cycles are particularly

important for climate gases. These biogeochemical cycles are significantly impacted by global climate change, and microbes may respond by accelerating or alleviating human-caused change. Understanding microbial ecology in the different ecosystems is essential for our ability to assess the importance of biogeochemical cycles–climate feedbacks. In the first edition of this acclaimed book, a broad range of renowned scientists reviewed the most important hot-topics in the area of climate change and microbial ecology, thus providing a timely and authoritative overview of this increasingly important area. Climate change is continuing unabated and this new, expanded edition contains revised and updated chapters and the addition of 4 new chapters covering more of the topical fields in this important area of climate science. This is an essential book for every microbial ecologist from the Ph.D. student to the experienced scientist and is also recommended for everyone interested in the field of global climate change.

**Book of Birds: Introduction to Ornithology.** John Faaborg. 2020. Texas A & M Press, College Station, TX. 472 pp. \$65.00, hardcover. ISBN 9781623497767. John Faaborg, renowned expert on avian ecology and conservation, brings a fresh and accessible sensibility to the study of ornithology. In this beautifully illustrated volume, Faaborg's approachable writing style will engage students and birders alike while introducing them to the study of the evolution, taxonomy, anatomy, physiology, diversity, and behavior of birds. With its unique focus on ecology, the text emphasizes birds' relationships with the environment and other species while showing the amazing diversity of avian life. Faaborg pays special attention to the roles that competition, community structure, and reproductive behavior play in the astonishingly varied and interesting lives of birds seen around the world. Combining vibrant visuals and knowledgeable insights, *Book of Birds* offers readers a firm foundation in the field of ornithology and an invaluable resource for understanding birds from an ecological and evolutionary perspective.

The *Northeastern Naturalist* welcomes submissions of review copies of books that publishers or authors would like to recommend to the journal's readership and are relevant to the journal's mission of publishing information about the natural history of the northeastern US. Accompanying short, descriptive summaries of the text are also welcome.