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Review of *Arctic Biology* by H. P. Hansen (Oregon State University Press, 1967)

Robert L. Rausch

University of Washington, rausch@uw.edu

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BOOK REVIEW . . .

Arctic Biology. Second edition (H. P. Hansen, Ed.), Oregon State University Press, Corvallis. 1967. 318 p., 61 figs. \$6.50.

The second edition of *Arctic Biology* contains the principal papers published in the proceedings of the Biology Colloquium held at Oregon State University in 1957, and a pertinent paper from the proceedings of the 1965 Colloquium. The present volume thus includes all contributions concerned with biology at high latitudes which have been published in this series. The authors were given the opportunity to revise the papers to include more recent information.

The title of the book is somewhat misleading, since it is concerned almost entirely with investigations made in Alaska, in both arctic and subarctic regions. The contributors, all of recognized competence, have had extensive experience in the regions under consideration. The book is appropriately introduced by a review of the history of exploration and development in arctic regions by I. L. Wiggins; an account of the characteristics and effects of permanently frozen ground, with a list of fossil mammals of Pleistocene age, is given by T. L. Péwé; characteristics of the composition, distribution, and ecology of tundra vegetation are defined by M. E. Britton; C. J. Heusser discusses Pleistocene and postglacial vegetation of Alaska and the Yukon Territory; cyclic fluctuations in populations of small rodents in arctic Alaska are discussed by F. A. Pitelka; the utilization and status of wildlife in Alaska are reviewed by J. L. Buckley; A. H. Mick discusses the development

and potential of agriculture in Alaska, with particular reference to the Matanuska Valley; A. J. Alter considers the problem of sanitation in regions of low temperature and its effects upon human health; characteristics of Eskimo culture and problems related to acculturation of Eskimos are discussed by M. L. Lantis; some parasite-host relationships at high latitudes are described by E. L. Schiller. The last chapter of the book contains a discussion of potentialities of the American Arctic by I. L. Wiggins, who emphasizes esthetic and scientific values as well as wise use of renewable resources. Some of the papers are followed by a short discussion, and a list of references is appended to each. The interest of some of the papers is enhanced if the reader is familiar with geographic and biotic features of Alaska.

The book is printed in easily legible type on paper of high quality. Line drawings and charts are clear and readily comprehensible. Photographs, some evidently prepared from colored slides, range in quality from adequate to good; however, the difficulties in obtaining good photographs under often adverse climatic conditions should be appreciated by the reader.

This volume provides an authoritative summary of knowledge about some aspects of biology at high latitudes. It may also serve to bring attention to possibilities for further biological research in northern regions.

Robert L. Rausch, Arctic Health Research Center, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, College, Alaska 99701