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Review of *Lewis and Clark on the Great Plains: A Natural History* By Paul A. Johnsgard

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Lewis and Clark on the Great Plains: A Natural History. By Paul A. Johnsgard. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2003. xiii + 143 pp. Maps, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$14.95 paper.

In *Lewis and Clark on the Great Plains: A Natural History*, Paul A. Johnsgard takes us on the Lewis and Clark trail from Kansas to Montana, describing the flora and fauna Meriwether Lewis and William Clark encountered on their historic journey in 1804–1806. Johnsgard focuses on species initially described or discovered by Lewis and Clark and on known species for which the explorers uncovered new biological information. Readers will not only discover which species Lewis and Clark first identified, but why in some cases the explorers failed to be credited with a discovery because that species wasn't formally named as distinct until many years after the expedition.

Thirty-nine beautiful illustrations by the author enliven the volume. Mammals, birds, reptiles, fish, and plants are discussed, but it becomes evident that Johnsgard is a bird expert through the numerous fascinating particulars he's included, such as his identification of species based on Lewis's detailed descriptions. What makes this more than a reference book of the flora and fauna Lewis and Clark encountered is the ecological information about how the status of each species has changed in the past two hundred years—whether it has increased, declined, is endangered, or extinct, and what factors may have contributed to its current status. For flora, Johnsgard also recounts how Native Americans used each plant. Information about each species is refreshingly short but instructive. Place names, aided by maps showing Lewis and Clark's campsites in the context of current national parks, grasslands, and Indian reservations, make it easy for readers to relate entries to specific localities.

Johnsgard makes one want to visit portions of the Lewis and Clark trail for wildlife watching and to compare historic with current conditions. The section he's included on Lewis and Clark sites of biological and historic interest in the Great Plains, including national park sites, wildlife refuges, and historic locations, offers further encouragement. An overview map of the trail through the entire Great Plains would have made a welcome addition.

Anyone interested in Lewis and Clark, their wonderfully detailed observations, and the ecological changes the Great Plains has undergone over the last two hundred years will want to read this book. **Andrea S. Laliberte**, *USDA-Agricultural Research Service Jornada Experimental Range, New Mexico State University*.