I recommend the book, albeit with a few caveats. This is a popular history. Anyone looking for analysis and deep insight into superpower science in the Arctic will be disappointed; the book does not offer much detail about the many different scientific activities at drift stations, the scientific questions that were being addressed, the scientific and political rationale, the methods used and results obtained, and the immediate and longer-term significance of the data. The book would have benefited from the services of a good editor, as the prose is often turgid and repetitive. Rather than letting the facts speak for themselves, the author sometimes tries too hard to inject a sense of adventure and excitement into the story. I grew tired of the overuse of the image of drift stations as rafts, particularly as rafting has a specific meaning in the context of sea-ice dynamics and mechanical thickening. There are avoidable errors. For example, the Polar Continental Shelf Project is first described (p. xi), correctly, as an agency within Energy, Mines and Resources Canada (Natural Resources Canada since 1995), but later (p. 180) incorrectly, as part of Environment Canada.

Notwithstanding these objections, polar history enthusiasts will want to add this book to their collections. So, too, might Arctic (and perhaps even Antarctic) researchers. It is not a textbook, but university professors in the Arctic natural and social sciences could recommend it to their graduate students to broaden their horizons and place their studies in a wider context.

Martin O. Jeffries
Geophysical Institute
University of Alaska Fairbanks
903 Koyukuk Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska, USA
99775-7320
martin.jeffries@gi.alaska.edu


This book by Richard Sale, with color photographs by Per Michelsen and the author, is meant to be “a celebration of the Arctic” (p. 5). It sets out to describe, in a single volume, the entire Arctic—its geology, climate, habitats, adaptations and speciation, and sensitivity to human activities. It’s also meant to be a field guide to the common birds and mammals of the Arctic, as well as a guide for visitors. The author is an experienced writer and Arctic traveler, with several other books and articles to his credit (e.g., Sale, 2002; Potapov and Sale, 2005).

The introduction begins with an interesting discussion of alternative definitions of the Arctic based on (1) the positions of the sun on the vernal and autumnal equinoxes and the summer and winter solstices, (2) the locations of various polar water masses, (3) the extent of sea ice in the North, (4) the approximate location of the timberline, i.e., the northern limit of tree growth, (5) a measure of annual incident solar energy per unit area, (6) the 10°C (50°F) summer isotherm, and (6) a modified version of the 10°C summer isotherm that considers the mean temperature during the coldest winter month. The author adopts (p. 8) the modified 10°C summer isotherm definition as a “starting point,” with exceptions made for some species and circumstances described later in the book.

The sections on Arctic geology and climate are current and informative. The discussions on human occupation, habitats, adaptations for Arctic survival, speciation and biogeography, and the fragility of the Arctic make up the remainder of the introduction and set the stage for the field guides to Arctic birds and mammals, which comprise the remainder of the book.

The field guides are preceded by a concise “how-to-use” section that discusses how the accounts of each species are organized. The accounts themselves have subsections on identification, confusion species, size, voice, distribution, diet, breeding, and taxonomy and geographical variation. Another subsection describes the color plates associated with the species accounts and summarizes abbreviations that designate age and plumage or pelage for each species.

The remaining 400 pages consist of the species accounts, which are generally grouped by taxonomic family. General information is given about the various species for each family, and thereafter one to two pages are allocated for each bird or mammal species. The book has a distinctive European flavor, but care is taken that both New and Old World terminology/taxonomy is used. Each species account consists of text and a distribution map that shows the combined breeding and over-wintering range for the species.

The six-page visitor’s guide to the Arctic gives an excellent general summary of the interesting features of Iceland, Jan Mayen, Svalbard, Bear Island, Fennoscandia, Russia, Alaska, Canada, and Greenland. This section describes the physical environment, fauna, accessibility, climate and weather patterns, and travel regulations and restrictions.

The three-page index gives common and alternative common names, as well as scientific names of species with “full entries” in the field guides. Place names and topics covered in the introduction are not included in the index. There are no literature citations in the text, and there is no bibliography or reference list at the end of the book.

A book of this size and complexity that did not have a few omissions, typographical errors, and mistakes would be surprising; I found a few worth mentioning. The “pale-bellied black goose” illustrated in Plate 4 is actually a pale-bellied brant goose. The “saxifrage” depicted on page 33 is not a saxifrage, but moss campion, a member of the
carnation family. The scientific name of the red fox (p. 387) is *Vulpes vulpes*, not *Vulpus vulpus*, and the genus of the river otter (p. 407) was changed from *Lutra* to *Lontra*. Similarly, scientific and common names of some Nearctic birds mentioned in this book were recently revised by the American Ornithologists’ Union (Banks et al., 2006).

Another example of Old World bird species that have spread from Asia to North America, along with the northern wheatear and arctic warbler mentioned on page 43, is the bluethroat, which is well established as a breeding bird in northwestern Alaska.

On page 43, an important detail was omitted about the extinct great auk and spectacled cormorant—they were flightless or nearly flightless, which no doubt was a contributing factor in their extinction.

Although the Nearctic hoary marmot is briefly mentioned in the introduction to the sciurids (p. 351), there is no species account or range map for this widespread species. The same is true for the collared pika, although there is a passing reference to it on page 367 in the introduction to the lagomorphs. These omissions seem strange considering the extensive accounts and range maps given for arctic hare, Alaskan hare, and mountain hare, which some authorities consider to be conspecific. I was puzzled that the double-crested cormorant (p. 787), a species that breeds only as far north as the Alaska Peninsula and Near Islands in the Aleutian chain, was included as an “Arctic” species, while the great cormorant, which breeds along the coast of southwest Greenland, was not.

Notwithstanding these few issues, the overall quality of this book is excellent; it has very sharp, well-reproduced color photographs, excellent illustrations, and concise, well-written text. The typeface (which appears to be Arial) is small, but simple and easy to read. I strongly recommend this book to anyone interested in the Arctic.

REFERENCES


Given the lack of tourism-specific projects in the International Polar Year (IPY), *Prospects for Polar Tourism*, edited by John M. Snyder and Bernard Stonehouse, is a timely addition to the polar tourism literature. This new text updates Hall and Johnston’s *Polar Tourism: Tourism in the Arctic and Antarctic Regions* (1995), which provided the first comprehensive overview of tourism issues across both polar regions. *Prospects for Polar Tourism* also builds upon Bauer’s *Tourism in the Antarctic: Opportunities, Constraints and Future Prospects* (2001), and the more recent book edited by Baldacchino, *Extreme Tourism: Lessons from the World’s Cold Water Islands* (2006).

Against a backdrop of growth in the polar travel sector, this new book sets out to “provide multiple perspectives intended to advance our understanding of the role of tourism in the polar worlds” (p. 14). It is aimed at researchers in tourism, ecology and environmental studies, and those involved in developing sustainable tourism in the polar regions. The edited text is usefully divided into four sections: the first introduces general concepts related to tourism and the polar environment, the second examines the economic dimensions of polar travel in both the Arctic and Antarctic, and the third updates developments in Antarctic tourism, specifically. The final section provides a series of case studies to illustrate management issues, again mainly focusing on the Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic regions. The editors briefly introduce each section, providing the reader with a quick overview of the following chapters.

The first section of the text, although the material is largely known to those already engaged in polar tourism research, provides a useful update of information presented in Hall and Johnston’s (1995) text. Highlights of this section include the well-documented chapter by Snyder on the pioneers of polar tourism and their legacy and Stonehouse’s examination of polar tourism in light of global environmental change. A good companion read to this chapter is the recent work by Johnston (2006) on the impacts of global environmental change on polar tourism.

The second section of the book provides a welcome analysis of tourism in the Arctic. Huntington and others provide a good introduction to tourism in three Alaskan rural communities: Anaktuvuk Pass, Kotzebue, and Yakutat. A map highlighting these locations would have been a useful addition for those unfamiliar with Alaska. The analysis of tourism in Nunavut by Robbins does well to portray the challenges of sustainable tourism development in Canada’s newest territory, although his sometimes subjective writing style is a little distracting at times. Snyder presents a regional economic analysis of tourism in the eight Arctic nations. And Bertram and others wrap up