

TRAILS OF AN ALASKAN GAME WARDEN. By RAY TREMBLAY. Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 1985. ISBN 0-88240-273-0. 176 p., 1 map, 19 illus. Softbound. Cdn\$11.95, US\$9.95.

Their actions are those of policemen: constant and varied responsibilities aimed at protecting the wildlife of Alaska. They continue to address situations that are seldom appreciated: checking on illegal hunting and fishing, tagging animals, hunting in restricted areas, enforcing regulations — rules and regulations devised to protect the wildlife and that are becoming more complex with the passing of the years.

This book outlines the responsibilities of the people who have chosen to act as enforcers of the rules. The author is one such person who took up this vocation after several years as a trapper in the remote areas of Alaska where he learned the ways of trappers, their techniques and their lifestyles. He started work as a game warden when rules and regulations were relatively simple, when lifestyles of the natives posed only a few problems. With increasing populations and the encroachment of advanced civilizations in the state, more complex regulations were required to serve the interests of wildlife management. With the increase in complexity came new people who were less interested in the "old" ways of man against nature and the natural laws.

According to the writer, a game warden himself, the purpose of game wardens may be widely misunderstood. In his highly readable paperback describing the varying activities of wardens, he writes, "the first six years as a game warden were the most rewarding and interesting, and provided the basis for the majority of the chapters." In Tremblay's well-described view, game wardens (who are required to enforce the rules and regulations) and natives (who rely on hunting and trapping for their existence) often came into competitive positions in which the natives' normal lifestyle was in open violation of the rules. Tremblay relates in considerable detail how he would "look the other way" when an open violation occurred. At no time did the natives ever try to hide their natural practice. They would openly show him the distribution of illegally taken animals among the members of the hungry village, then apologize for breaking the white man's rules.

Trails of an Alaskan Game Warden draws its title from the varied terms of reference under which these outdoors people operated. Trappers followed trails that took them into places where man had never tramped before, hunting and trapping the elusive wildlife for whatever reason. Much of the material used in producing this narrative came directly from specific experiences the writer encountered in carrying out his duties as an Alaskan game warden: the time he left his snowshoes behind because low snowfalls indicated no need for them, only to find that he had to service an area where high snowfalls had occurred; the problems that arose because an inquisitive bird fell into the fuel tank of his plane when someone had neglected to replace the fuel cap; conflicts between biologists and wildlife agents who saw wildlife management from very different points of view; searches for natural hermits who chose to live solitary lives yet had to be "looked after" if accidents befell them. One of the problems that became a major concern was the taking of trophy animals in the area. In concert with taxidermists from the mainland United States, guides would assist non-hunters and others who wanted the material only for good trophies. They were interested in neither the meat nor the out-of-season aspect of the hunt. In contrast, wardens were sometimes asked to provide air ambulance service for injured people when other available transportation was either inadequate or too slow. The variety in the duties of game wardens is revealed in every tale that Tremblay tells, the stories of a man who not only lived all his working life in Alaska but who loved the country, its people and the wildlife.

"Behind every successful man stands a devoted woman," as the saying goes. When applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service, the word devoted took on a special meaning. Tremblay didn't realize how much time he spent away from home tending to his duties until one time his wife presented him with her tally of the days he spent travelling. In one year it amounted to six months! During these long absences, she

looked after the house, their children *and* the Fish and Wildlife office. Her "responsibilities" as the wife of the game warden included monitoring all radio broadcasts by pilots in the area, tagging beavers, and generally looking after the "office," although she was never a paid member of the service.

The writer tells how the Fish and Wildlife Service changed from the time he first joined the service in the 1950s up to the present. Those changes, similar to changes "down south," altered the life of game wardens, and the game wardens also changed. The Fish and Wildlife Service was moved to Public Safety, where agents operate much like state troopers, "so now we have officers enforcing the law without understanding the reasons for their existence and managers requesting regulations that are often unenforceable."

Trails of an Alaskan Game Warden is a highly readable book on the duties and responsibilities of an enforcement officer. It is also the outpouring by a man who loves the life he leads, the land he works in, and the animals he seeks to protect. This he does in a manner that presents to the reader a better appreciation of the life of a game warden and at the same time gives the views of a man who wants to share that knowledge with his fellow man.

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FIELD AND THEORY: LECTURES IN GEOCRYOLOGY. Edited by MICHAEL CHURCH and OLAF SLAYMAKER. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1985. 213 p., illus., index, bib. Hardbound. Cdn\$32.00. US\$25.95.

Canada has more permafrost than any country in the western world, and more seasonally freezing ground as well. Notwithstanding Alaska or the northern United States, Canada is probably most affected economically by the consequences of such freezing. It is a Canadian, too, Ross Mackay, who probably knows most about the natural effects of the freezing of the ground. Some six years ago he retired from his professorial position at the University of British Columbia, and a series of lectures by specialists in the many aspects of geocryology was presented in his honour.

The lectures are now published in book form and demonstrate the wide-ranging nature as well as the diversity of approach inherent in the current knowledge of freezing ground. Ross Mackay specializes in the application of scientific methods, through field studies, to the analysis of the natural processes. Included in this volume are papers describing, for example, laboratory experimental studies and theoretical analyses of the fundamental thermodynamic processes (the scholarly summary by Gold, an ice physicist); the intensity and frequency of periglacial, hydrological events (the paper by Rapp, a distinguished physical geographer); and approaches to clarifying slope stability for civil engineering purposes (the paper by Morgenstern, an engineer).

One of the remarkable things about Ross Mackay is the extent to which he studies the work of others, whether in another discipline or another language, that could bear upon his immediate research. Thus his own works are those of the true scientist, and a similar spirit imbues this book. Half the authors are from outside Canada — mostly from the non-English-speaking world. The paper by Romanovskij on ice and soil wedges in the U.S.S.R. draws attention to a subject that has been comprehensively investigated there. Alfred Jahn's article, while based on his detailed studies in Spitzbergen, brings the middle European viewpoint, and we see a convergence with Mackay's approach. The contribution by Fitzharris based on his New Zealand work on avalanches reflects the attention Mackay has given to this phenomenon.

The five-year interval between preparation and publication of the lectures seems unfortunate, but much of the value of the book is as a