

In such a strongly geographical account, detailed maps are essential, but Lotz includes only three maps. The only one that appears to have been drafted specifically for the book covers the entire route of the expedition from Newfoundland to northern Ellesmere Island—inevitably on quite a small scale. The second map is reproduced from Greely's account (1886) of the immediate area around Fort Conger. However, there are no adequate maps of the routes followed on the various exploring expeditions (of which Pavy and Rice's was only one), which makes it difficult to follow the sequence of events. The third map of Cape Sabine and area is labeled as "Lt. Brainard's map." One would assume that this is the map in the endpapers of Brainard's (1929) book, *The Outpost of the Lost*. But in fact, it is that map as refined (with additional routes and dates) by Guttridge in his excellent book *Ghosts of Cape Sabine* (Guttridge, 2000). This latter contribution should also have been acknowledged.

Despite these shortcomings, in this very readable account Lotz has made a useful contribution in highlighting the previously little-emphasized, but very important, role of this Cape Bretoner in an important Arctic expedition.

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PLANET ARCTIC: LIFE AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD.

By WAYNE LYNCH. Richmond Hill, Ontario: Firefly Books Ltd., 2010. ISBN 978-155407-632-1. 239 p., large format colour photographs, further reading, index. Hardbound. Cdn\$40.00.

Anyone who has read magazines or books about the Arctic is probably familiar with Wayne Lynch, as his superb photographs appear regularly in a variety of publications on the North. However, Lynch is also an accomplished author who has penned numerous adult and children's books on natural history. *Planet Arctic: Life at the Top of the World* is his recent natural history offering, published by Firefly Books. This is a large-format coffee-table book containing approximately 150 photographs with accompanying text. As an amateur photographer who also enjoys capturing life

of the Arctic, I state without reservation that the photos in the book range from great to spectacular, making even my best photographs seem quite ordinary!

If you did not see the cover of the book, the title might be a bit misleading. The book is not a memoir of years spent living in the Arctic, nor is it about people there. The *life* in the title refers to wildlife, and most of the photos and examples of Lynch's enviable travels come from sojourns to the North American Arctic, Greenland or Svalbard. The book is divided into six chapters, roughly grouped along major ecological or functional groups. Each chapter is preceded by a two-page introductory essay, which typically includes several personal anecdotes about Lynch's adventures, as well as some scientific background on certain animals and their ecology. The first chapter focuses on caribou, muskoxen, and brown bears; the second, on plants; the third, on terrestrial birds; the fourth, on key predators and their prey; the fifth, on marine mammals; and finally, the sixth on aquatic birds. As a seabird biologist, I am compelled to add that he saved the best for last.

The goal of this book is to take you on a written and photographic journey around parts of the Arctic to share in the admiration of the landscape and the wildlife that it supports. The author hopes that "... *Planet Arctic* will help you to appreciate the logic and purpose in the lives of its inhabitants" (p. 13). I must admit that I found this line a bit odd. As a scientist, I am trained to view Arctic wildlife simply as being there, without logic or purpose per se (i.e., Arctic animals are the product of evolution, adapted to an unforgiving environment, but nonetheless full of mystery and majesty). Despite his odd phraseology, I found that Lynch clearly and passionately articulated the relationship between the Arctic environment and its wildlife repeatedly through the book.

The writing is very readable, targeted at the environmentally aware segment of the public. In the introduction to each chapter, Lynch does an excellent job of describing ecological concepts in a non-technical fashion, such as the diving physiology of marine mammals, or the arms race of adaptation and counter-adaptation between predators and prey. Moreover, his captions for each photograph usually add a bit of science and a personal recollection which markedly enhance our appreciation of the image. Although Lynch does rely on some dated references, he is clearly up to speed on much of the newer science on Arctic wildlife. The reproduction quality of the photographs is good, and the length of text accompanying each photograph is refreshingly generous and thorough, not simply a quick descriptor as is often found in this type of book.

All of the six chapters contain enviable photography, but I was most mesmerized by the chapters *Arctic Miniatures* (plants) as well as *The Hunters and the Hunted* (predator-prey). Perhaps this reflects the bias I perceive with so many other Arctic books, which focus on large, charismatic mammals. *Planet Arctic* does follow this bias a little, with 18 pages on polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*), about 10 more sides than are given to walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus*), muskoxen (*Ovibos moschatus*), or snowy owls (*Bubo*

scandiacus). In contrast, photographs of narwhal (*Monodon monoceros*), ringed seal (*Pusa hispida*) and wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) were conspicuously absent, although Lynch provides an entertaining tale of missing the shot on this last species (p. 48), which many of us who drag a camera around can relate to. Finally, there is only one photograph of an insect in this book, despite their critical importance to Arctic terrestrial ecosystems.

To be fair, however, the book is not intended as a catalogue of all Arctic wildlife. For those unfamiliar with Arctic plants and animals, this book provides a stunning look at a sufficient variety of species to satisfy your interests. For those who have been in the Arctic, this book will probably whet your appetite to see what else Lynch has produced.

There are certainly a lot of coffee-table books out there on the Arctic, many of which have equally impressive photographs. What set this book apart for me was the personal anecdotes that Lynch used, which clearly highlighted his intense, palpable love and experience with this region, as well as his solid, accessible blending of scientific facts and theories to help explain why so many of these animals merit our awe, attention, and action. I recommend this book for those who wish to learn and see a little more about wildlife of the Arctic, and it would clearly make an excellent gift for friends and family interested in this part of the planet.

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POLAR BEARS IN NORTHWEST GREENLAND: AN INTERVIEW SURVEY ABOUT THE CATCH AND THE CLIMATE. By ERIK W. BORN, ANNA HEILMANN, LENE KIELSEN HOLM, and KRISTIN L. LAIDRE. Copenhagen, Denmark: Museum Tusulanum Press, 2011. Originally published in Danish and Greenlandic in 2008. Meddelelser om Grønland 351; Man & Society 41. ISBN 978-87-635-3168-9. 232 p., maps, colour and b&w illus., references, appendix. Hardbound. €40, DKK300, US\$52.

The past decade has seen increasing concern over climate change in Arctic regions, and effects on polar bears have been a topic of significant interest and debate. There has also been an increased acceptance of the value of local ecological knowledge and recognition of the role that northern resource users play in wildlife management. Local subsistence hunters have extensive knowledge of the wildlife species they depend on, and this knowledge, which complements the quantitative data typically collected, can be of significant value to managers and biologists. With *Polar Bears in Northwest Greenland*, the authors provide a comprehensive and interesting summary of Inuit knowledge about bears, bear hunting, and climate change.

The book, originally published in Danish and Greenlandic, has four main sections (Introduction; Materials, Methods and Background; Results; Discussion), plus a comprehensive reference list and an appendix. The Introduction describes the rationale for the study. Polar bear harvests have increased since the 1990s, corresponding to major environmental changes, particularly in sea ice extent and duration. The authors recognized the importance of collecting local observations to better understand the relationships between bears, hunting, and environmental change, and a survey of local hunters was conducted. The objective (p. 13) was “to gather as much information as possible about the hunters’ observations of climatic and physical changes in the environment, and how these changes have influenced the polar bear catch.” Detailed information on the geographic and seasonal distribution and age and sex composition of harvested bears was also collected. The Introduction also contains a review of the role of local knowledge in studies of Arctic wildlife, including relevant studies of polar bear knowledge in both Canada and Greenland. The authors use the term “local knowledge” to describe the information collected, but note other terms used in the literature, such as “traditional ecological knowledge” (TEK) or Inuit *Qaujimagatuqangit* (IQ).

The next section describes the methods used, including the selection of interviewees, travel to the various settlements, the interview process, data analyses, and statistical methods used. Interviews with 72 experienced hunters of the Qaanaq and Upernavik municipalities were conducted in February 2006 under the auspices of the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources (GINR), the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC), and the Department of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture (Government of Greenland). The questionnaire, included as an appendix, would be of value to other researchers planning similar studies on polar bears or other Arctic species. Also included is a substantial section of background information on physical and climate features of the region, polar bear hunting techniques, hunting regulations and management, and a summary of recent environmental changes. This information provides important context to help readers interpret the survey results.

The most extensive section of the book (pages 28–199) summarizes the results. Descriptions of the interviewees (average age, hunting experience) in the two municipalities are followed by a detailed breakdown (by municipality) of the interviewee responses to the survey questions. The results are summarized in the text, in figures (graphs and charts), tables, and a number of high-quality colour maps. The survey results provide considerable information on bear distribution, behaviour, and ecology, hunting and traveling techniques (and their changes over time), and climate change. Quotations from surveyed hunters are included throughout the section, allowing the reader to read many of the important observations in the knowledge holder’s own words (translated, with notes added by the authors for additional clarification). The authors succeeded in their goal of providing “a reasonable balance between the need to