

head height. By January it was knee height due to the snow bank. I now have it at almost-too-high-to-reach height and hope it gets no lower than my chest level by mid-winter.

I had a little trouble with the index when I looked up sunflower seed as it is listed as striped or black-oil and not under sunflower.

This book is a must for beginners and anyone setting up in a new location. Following Thompson's logic

will allow you to pick a sound plan for your yard. All you will need then is patience and a willingness to adapt to your local situation. It will also be useful to even seasoned feeder watchers and it is a great book to keep by the window. I learned a few new tricks and I have been feeding for 45 years – next spring I will put out crushed eggshells and melon rinds.

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## BOTANY

### Freshwater Algae in China

By Wei Yinxi, Hu Hongjun, Science press, Beijing, 2010, 1023 pages, price: 195.00 Yuan RMB.

Algae, or scientifically known as phytoplankton, are the most important primary producers on Earth. It is estimated that the total amount of organic carbon produced through their photosynthesis is approximately seven times that of higher plants. Freshwater algae vary in shape and color, and survive in a large range of freshwater habitats. In these habitats, they are the essential part of the ecosystem and the base of the aquatic food chain. They are not only an important source of food for herbivores, they are also the most important source of atmospheric oxygen given out from their photosynthesis. They can exert profound influence beneficially or detrimentally on the material cycles of natural ecosystems as well as environmental quality.

Owing to the large territory and the varied natural environment of China, the freshwater algae are both abundant and diverse. Nearly a century of investigation has shown that all the categories of freshwater algae occur in China, their variety demonstrated by the nine thousand species recorded. Though China's freshwater algal resources are numerous, because of change to the natural environment (such as drought and other natural disasters) and human activities (especially the accelerated industrialization and urbanization, as well as environmental pollution and water body eutrophication), some rare species have become extinct, or are at the edge of extinction, and harmful algae blooms extensively and frequently occur in many areas of China. In China, the research work on freshwater algae has not been carried out intensively for a long time, and the monograph on the classification and ecology of freshwater algae has long been lacking. This is obviously unfavorable when problems occur and some efficient countermeasures need to be taken. The newly published book *Freshwater Algae in China* timely meets the current and urgent demands to some extent.

In past decades, as fast development and application of science and technology of electron microscopy and modern molecular biology in research area of algae, a large number of new results have been obtained, and

the systematic evolution theory and classification system of algae have changed greatly. Thus, a timely summary of these results seems to be very necessary. According to the new results of micro structure observation, photo synthetic pigment composition, ultra structural characteristics and molecular systematics of algae, the book systematically discusses the evolution of algae, and according to the classification system of algae presented, a total of 1572 species, varieties and forms of common fresh water algae which have been found and published in China are included. In addition, a handful of groups and species of algae not been reported presently in China, but widely distribute in other countries and may also exist in China. Some foreign algae species being introduced into China as experimental material have also been included. Morphological traits and habitat characteristics of each taxon are described, together with keys, and one to several figures. The book also briefly discusses the ecology of phytoplankton and water quality monitoring. The main contents of the book are: Geological age, origin of life and the evolution of algae; Cyanophyta; Prochlorophyta; Glaucophyta; Rhodophyta; Chryso-phyta; Haptophyta; Xanthophyta; Bacillariophyta; Phaeophyta; Cryptophyta; Dinophyta; Euglenophyta; Chlorophyta; the ecology of phytoplankton and water quality monitoring.

The book is well written with few errors. It can serve as reference for persons who are engaged in botany, phycology, environmental science, algae resources exploitation, environmental protection of surface water and aquaculture.

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***Erratum The Canadian Field-Naturalist 126(4)***

In response to the review of *Contributions to the History of Herpetology*. CFN 126(3): 344-345, the book's editor Kraig Adler pointed out (personal communication to FRC 12 May 2013): "Only one small correction. Mrs. Martof used a kitchen knife, not a gun. She told the police she slipped while cutting some pizza. But Bernie was stabbed up under his rib cage several times!"

***Erratum The Canadian Field-Naturalist***

It has come to our attention that sections of many of the book reviews by Li Dezhi and Qin Aili were copied from sources without attribution. The journal and the authors apologize for this oversight.