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Book Notice

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Professor Lagler's experience as a teacher is manifest throughout his textbook. It begins with statements of methods of observing and collecting fishes, follows with lessons in elementary ichthyology, i.e., statements about the families of freshwater fishes with lists of keys to the fishes of each state and province, then tells students how to make bibliographies. Students are supplied with the basic facts about fish anatomy and embryology, growth rates, foods, diseases and parasites, and fish populations.

Several chapters cover subjects pertinent to fish management, including pollution, legal restrictions, culture, surveys, methods for improving waters for fish production, and the creation of new impoundments. Final chapters cover the commercial and sport fisheries, and a series of appendices give sample scales by families, survey forms, abbreviations, diseases, conversion tables, and check-list with economic classification of North American fresh-water fishes.

A useful book for teachers of fisheries biology in the United States and Canada, creditably unburdened with the emphasis on statistical methods which distinguishes its major competitor. Its index is useful but not complete. Its photographs are excellent illustrations of the ideas presented. Its main weakness is its author's lack of first hand experience with the Great Lakes and their fisheries, and of familiarity with pertinent literature about those waters.

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