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BOOK REVIEW

Wildflowers of Michigan. Roberta L. Simonds and Henrietta H. Tweedie. 96 pp., illus. Simonds and Tweedie, 913 Aurora Way, Wheaton, Ill. 60187. 1979. \$3.50.

The authors of this small book are to be congratulated. Not only did they produce the text and illustrations, but they published it as well. It is an attractive volume, printed in brown on off-white paper. The outstanding features are the graceful line drawings arranged three or four to a page. They very nicely capture the habit and important characteristics of the plants. Each plant is identified by common name, then Latin name and family. A few brief notes give details such as flower color, size and habitat. The reader would use the illustrations first to match up a specimen, then consult the descriptions.

The only problem with this book lies in its organization. The plants are arranged by season of the year and then by habitat. Although many pages contain several examples of flowers from the same habitat, this is not consistent. Consecutive pages may skip from dry woods to aquatic to fields. It would have been helpful to have all plants from one habitat in one section to avoid the necessity of flipping through many pages of spring flowers to find the one you want. Even better, sections could have been organized by color. Flower color is the first thing that many people notice. It should somehow be featured prominently in the format of a book that does not use color plates.

The Michigan plants discussed are also found in other areas of the midwest and east, so use of this book is not limited to a local flora. Students of wildflowers in this region and collectors of botanical illustrations would find much of interest in *Wildflowers of Michigan*.—EILEEN K. SCHOFIELD, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY 10458.