Wildflowers of Delaware and the Eastern Shore. Claude E. Phillips. xi, 305 pp., illus. Delaware Nature Education Society, Hockessin, Del. 19707. 1978. \$8.95 paperback, \$16.00 hardcover.

The small area of Delaware and the adjacent shore of Maryland contains an unusually rich flora. This easily portable volume illustrates and describes 768 plants. As the author points out in his introduction, this is considerably less than the number recorded in a technical flora written in 1946. Since many of the plants have doubtless been wiped out by the activities of people, he stresses the need for education and conservation.

The book is organized in a rather complicated way. It works, but might be too much for some beginners in wildflower studies. The lengthy key starts with some very obvious characteristic of the plant, usually flower shape. Each major group is illustrated with a line drawing of a typical flower. Further subdivisions lead the reader to 93 groups. These are treated in order in the text, which provides common name, Latin name, family and a short, but pertinent, description. A reference beside the name takes the reader finally to a small color plate.

Photographs of eight plants have been fitted onto each page. The quality is generally good, but a few are underexposed. Most concentrate on the flower, so details of habit or leaf shape are usually not visible. Since so many plants are illustrated, it is essential to first use the key to find the right group. Color is used only as a secondary character, so the reader will find flowers of many colors (but the same shape) on one page.

Additional keys have been provided for complicated genera like *Aster* and *Viola*. There is a glossary, an index and empty pages for personal notes. Even the endpapers have been used, to illustrate technical features of flowers and leaves. Mr. Phillips has done a fine job in presenting the varied wildflowers of his region. Anyone with a bit of botanical knowledge would find his book to be a valuable reference.—EILEEN K. SCHOFIELD, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY 10458.