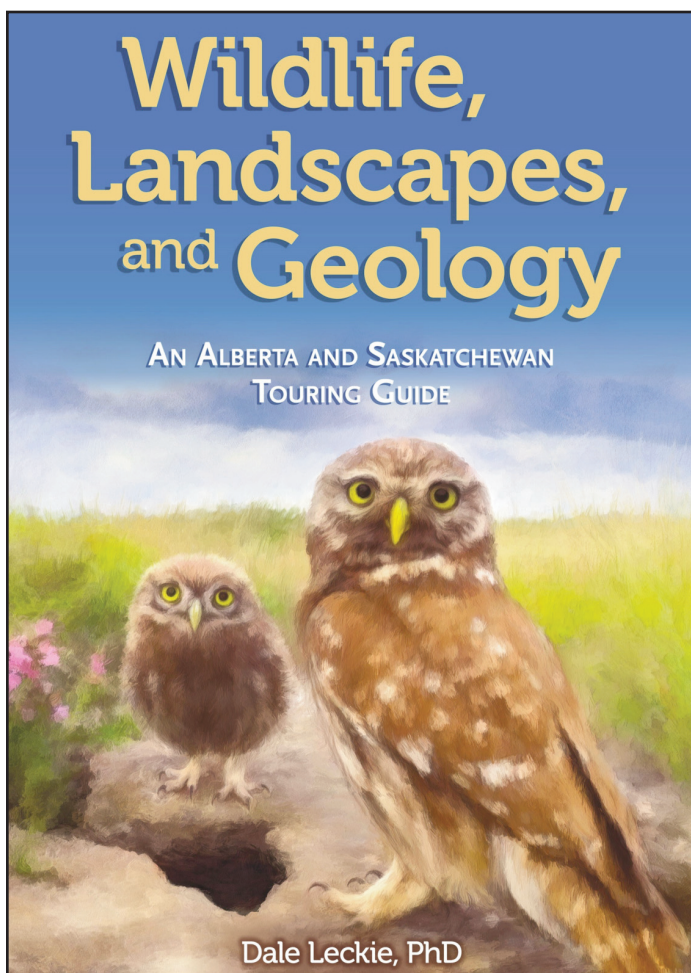


REVIEW



Wildlife, Landscapes, and Geology: An Alberta and Saskatchewan Touring Guide

Dale Leckie

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Reviewed by Brian R. Pratt

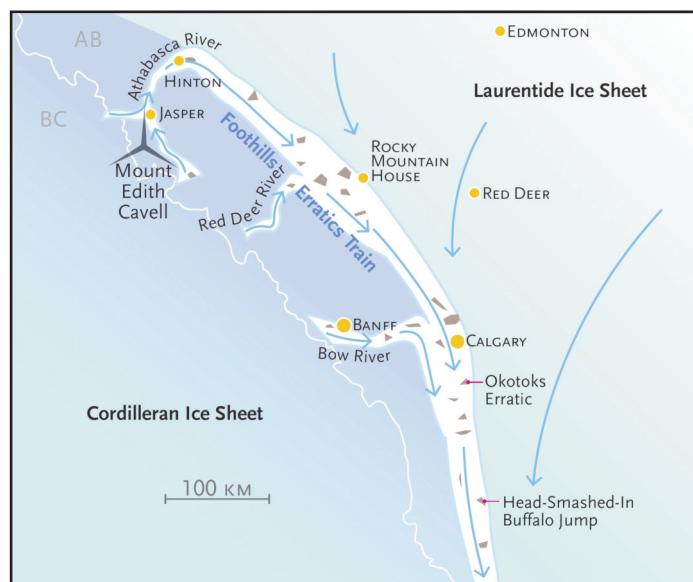
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Dale Leckie, after a notable career with the Geological Survey of Canada and then with Nexen Energy in Calgary as chief geologist, has turned his sights to popularizing geology in the prairie provinces. His third book on the natural history of the region is a masterpiece, full of fascinating scientific information and geographical detail for the traveller, authoritatively explained and beautifully illustrated. The book is replete with route and location maps, landscape paintings, diagrams, animal and landscape photographs, and even a few graphs for good measure.

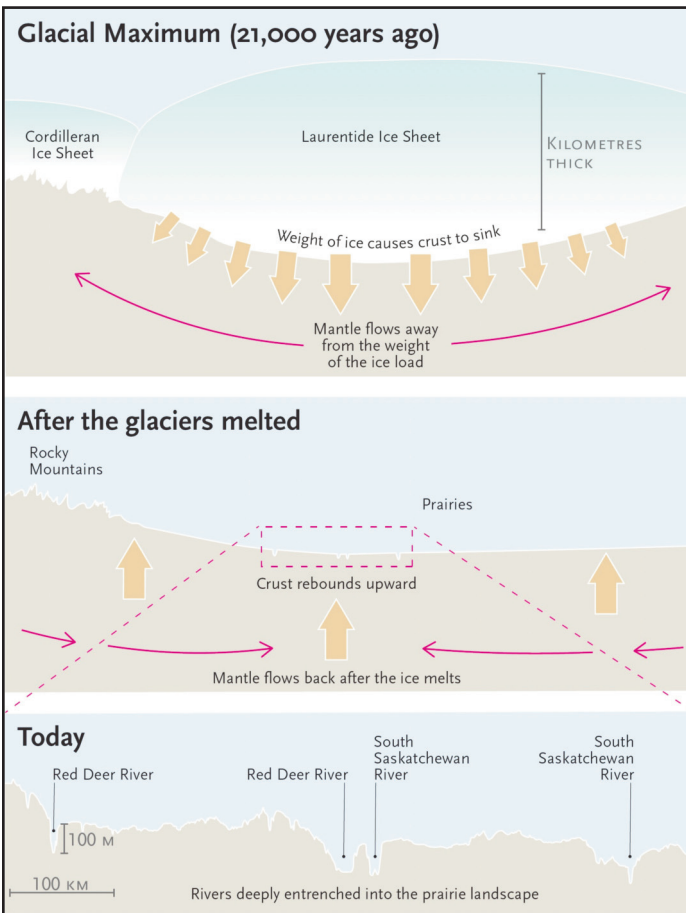
The introduction explains the various ecozones represented, giving a series of maps showing north-south highways with key locales. The next sections deal with wildlife and post-glacial geomorphology—geology, broadly speaking—starting with the mountains and ending with the rivers that cross the prairies. Each of these sections is colour-coded along the top of the pages. He picks a variety of animals, such as the snow goose, hoary marmot, hognose snake, harlequin duck, lake sturgeon, golden eagle and Ord's kangaroo rat, and describes how the post-glacial landscape has influenced their biology and distribution. The Banff Springs snail is one of two invertebrates to make an appearance. The book describes such features as sand dunes, kettle lakes, and ice-thrust ridges. Glacial erratics come in for a mention, and it is noted that large ones were favoured by bison to scrape their rough hides during hot weather. Along the way the book describes how the climate



Foothills Erratics Train: The Foothills Erratics Train is a ~600 kilometres long array of large quartzite blocks that originated from a giant land slide on Mount Edith Cavell in Jasper National Park.



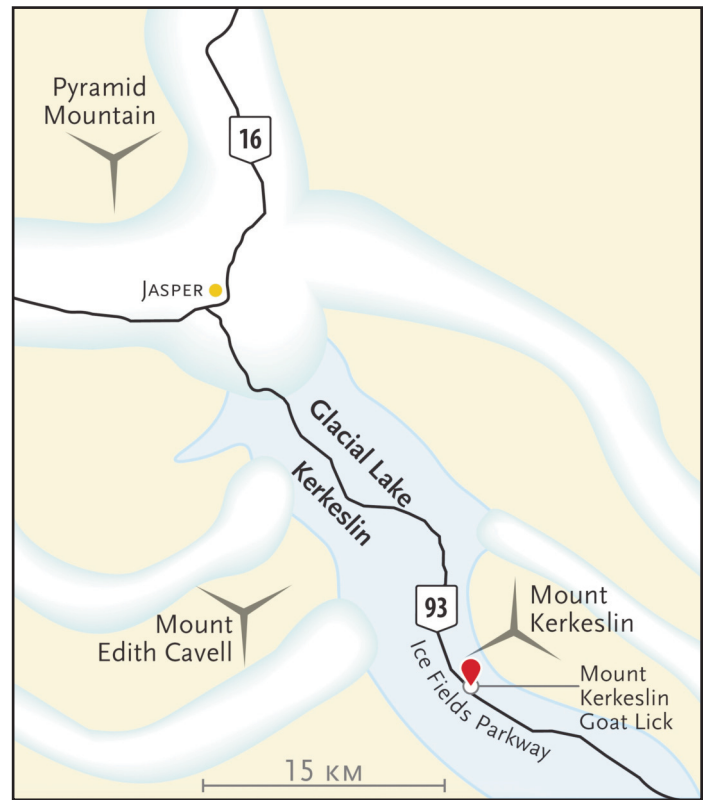
Spring Valley, 20 x 60 inches, Dean Francis. Landscape: entrenched river valley, glacial lake plain, badlands, semi-arid rain shadow.



Entrenched Rivers: Formation of deeply entrenched river valleys across the prairies.

changed through the Cenozoic, and the waxing and waning of continental ice cover and the consequent migrations of large mammals between Asia and North America during the Pleistocene.

The book ends with acknowledgements, a glossary, a list of image credits which serves as a partial bibliography, and biographies of the contributing photographers and artists respon-



Glacial Lake Kerkeslin: Glacial Lake Kerkeslin was an ice-dammed lake into which silt was deposited. When the lake drained, the silt was left as the Mount Kerkeslin Goat Lick.

sible for the landscape and animal paintings. The book has dispensed with an index, but this is not an inconvenience given the straightforward organization and the detailed table of contents.

The text is full of tidbits that anyone with even a mild interest in the natural world will appreciate. Dale Leckie has really done his homework. I thoroughly recommend this book, and it serves as a more detailed companion to other guidebooks that focus on scenery.