



## BOOK REVIEW

### THE WORLD OF ROGER TORY PETERSON

John C. Devlin and Grace Naismith. 1977. Times Books, Three Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016. 266 p. Illus. Index. \$14.95.

Everyone who uses Peterson field guides regularly probably will enjoy reading a biography of the originator of the series. This book not only presents the facts of Roger Tory Peterson's family, education, and career but also reveals much about his attitudes toward art, bird study, conservation, and life in general. I found most interesting the chapters on his boyhood in Jamestown, New York, where he was born in 1908 of Swedish immigrant parents, and on his young adult years. The first bird guide was published in 1934, and it was an immediate success. Royalties from this and subsequent guides enabled Peterson to write, paint, and travel all over the world. At an age when most men retire, Peterson turned to a new field, gallery painting. The book is illustrated with reproductions of some of these beautiful paintings, a few field guide plates, and numerous black-and-white drawings by Peterson as well as with a selection of personal photographs. Sensitive matters such as Peterson's two divorces are handled tastefully. The authors, on the whole, portray a man of genius and tremendous willpower, but still a man with faults that are shared by those of us who use his field guides and admire his paintings.—EFP