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***Utah wildflowers: a field guide to northern and central mountains and valleys* by Richard J. Shaw**

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BOOK REVIEW

Utah Wildflowers: A Field Guide to Northern and Central Mountains and Valleys.
Richard J. Shaw. Utah State University Press, Logan, UT. 1995. \$12.95 softback.

Wildflower books belong to a genre of publications specifically designed for people who wish to see and identify pretty flowers. The wildflowers of the region covered by this handsomely designed book are certainly worthy of such a publication. It is conveniently sized for carrying into the field and presents species by flower color, as in many other books of this kind. This enables the user to find potential identities of plants encountered in the field.

As in practically all other wildflower books, the writer confronts the enigma of presenting an overall view of the plant or emphasizing the flowers alone. It is the impossibility again of having a wide-angle telephoto lens. The images are clear and sharp, and if the user is able to

make the comparison of flowers alone, then the book will be very useful as an identification tool. The author of the book also had to make arbitrary decisions on which examples to treat. There are more than a thousand species of flowering plants in the region covered by this book, which treats some 92 of them. Those presented are, however, beautiful.

This book should be enjoyed for more than its usefulness in identification. It can be viewed in those times of year, and in those places, where wildflowers are not flowering. The photos will add charm and understanding by themselves.

The author and the press responsible for production of this book should be complimented.

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