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## The Southern Wildlife Watcher: Notes of a Naturalist

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Though I was drawn to Frédérique Spill's new book, *The Radiance of Small Things in Ron Rash's Writings*, I did not know the richness of her observations and analyses would uncover unique clues to Ron Rash the "person". Particularly the Appendix (pp. 191 -200) is a fascinating and delightful look at Ron Rash the "person". From questions such as "what is your favorite color; your favorite flavor; your favorite flower; your favorite hero in fiction; what is the book you re-read most frequently; your chief characteristic; your idea of happiness; your idea of misery." On a serious note, Spill asks, "how do you come up with the titles of your books?; now comes a fishy question: what about the overwhelming presence of trout in Southern Writing; in your work, trout reoccur whatever form of writing you pick up, it seems to me a metaphor of resilience."

I recommend this excellent piece of research and writing for readers of college and university level collections, particularly anyone with a passion for "landscape and fiction" as I describe Ron's writings. 280 pages, with Notes, Bibliography and Index 225-273.

*Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D., MLIS*

**The War on Poverty in Mississippi: From Massive Resistance to New Conservatism.** Emma J. Folwell Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2020. ISBN 978-1-4968-2739-5 (Hdbk: \$99); 978-1-4968-2744-9 (Pbk.: \$30) 312 p.



**THE WAR ON POVERTY IN MISSISSIPPI**

*From Massive Resistance to New Conservatism*

EMMA J. FOLWELL

In long ago school days, I remember spelling bees where I was always happy if one word I was to spell for the teacher was "Mississippi". I loved the sound of the word and enjoyed saying it. I knew little about the State of Mississippi but in those days I had an imagination created by stories I read of grand houses, beautiful ladies, riverboats, and magnolia trees. Such was my world as a 9 or 10 year old girl.

Crashing into reality later in my life and removing my rose colored glasses, I learned of a different Mississippi—one that suffered from abject poverty, citizen abuse and suffering, anger and overt discrimination between the peoples and institutions within the state of Mississippi. In her new book, *The War on Poverty in Mississippi: From*

*Massive Resistance to New Conservatism*, Emma J. Folwell leads us to see how attempts by governmental agencies, churches, and philanthropic organizations to right the "poverty" of Mississippi was at best minimally successful spanning the years of the 1960s, 70s, and 80s. Folwell helps us to see that the supposed War on Poverty actually turned out to be the War on the War on Poverty as both reformers and segregationist citizens of Mississippi battled for change or for enforcing the status quo.

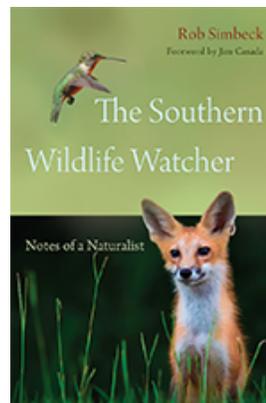
On page one of her Introduction, Folwell excerpts for us: "A paper for pariotic (sic) citizens," was a flyer distributed in the yards of Head Start teachers in Yalobusha County in the late 1960s. Its purpose was to discourage white children from attending the newly formed Head Start schools—a major effort to bring care and education to children in Mississippi. The flyer "declared that 'the worst thing is to mix with the (n---rs) by teaching in (N---) schools, and espailly (sic) those who are teaching in Head Start'". (Page 3)

Folwell challenges us to search for a meaning of "new conservatism" through the evolution and development of powers accrued to white men and black women in Mississippi. These individuals appear to have found comity through sharing leadership positions in the 1970s, 80s and 90s. Their goal became to gain or to regain power and over time to subdue poverty in Mississippi.

Of great interest to explore is Folwell's Chapter Three "The Ku Klux Klan and the War on Poverty", page 72-99. Also see Folwell's final chapter, *The Demise on the War on Poverty*, page 196-211. There are a few black and white photos and some helpful map illustrations. You will find a Section Notes, a Bibliography and an Index. Recommended for public, school and academic libraries.

*Carol Walker Jordan, Ph.D., MLIS*

**The Southern Wildlife Watcher: Notes of a Naturalist.** Rob Simbeck. Foreword by Jim Casada. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-164336-092-8. 168 p. \$18.99 (Pbk.)



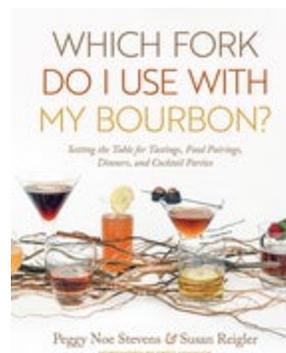
This work is about animals and plants of the South. The author resides in Nashville, Tennessee. He has written

three hundred articles for many periodicals like *Nashville Scene*, *Ducks Unlimited*, and *Field and Stream*. Three books Rob Simbeck wrote are *Tennessee State Symbols*, *Daughter of the Air: The Life of Cornelia Fort*, and *Fifty Seasons a History of the Nashville Symphony*. The writing style is entertaining, eloquent, and easy to understand. Each description is around three to five pages including an excellent quality picture, a description of the animal, range and habitat, and viewing tips.

The work reveals interesting facts about Southern wildlife. Luna moths are very green and titled after Luna believed to be the goddess of the moon by the Romans. Blue jays scream loudly together when snakes, cats, owls, hawks, or humans are around. Two types of rabbits are eastern cottontail rabbits and swamp rabbits. Approximately three hundred thousand years prior, red foxes crossed the Bering Strait to North America from Europe and Asia. Moles create and utilize tunnels that lizards, salamanders, frogs, snakes, toads, voles, shrews, and new moles also utilize. Three hundred million robins exist in North America. Robins go back to the north in spring sooner than the other birds. Connecticut, Wisconsin, and Michigan use the robin as their state bird. Benjamin Franklin preferred the turkey as the bird of the United States not the eagle. Other intriguing information about wildlife is also discussed as follows. Four hundred million years prior sharks existed. Monarch butterflies stay in pine trees of Mexico and cypress trees of California and create beautiful colorful trees in the winter. Crawfish Capital of the World, Breaux Bridge, Louisiana celebrates a Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival in May. Shrimp are pink, brown, or white and are on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. Coyotes are similar to German shepherd dogs. Recommended for anyone interested in the wildlife of the South. The book is superbly researched and a great accomplishment. All public and academic libraries should add the excellent monograph on Southern wildlife to their collections.

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**Which Fork Do I Use With My Bourbon? Setting the Table for Tastings, Food Pairings, Dinners, and Cocktail Parties.** Peggy Noe Stevens and Susan Reigler. Foreword by Fred Minnick. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-9496-6909-1. 203 p. \$29.95. (hdbk)



This work's connection to the South is due to its content Kentucky bourbon. Author Peggy Noe Stevens is the creator of Louisville Kentucky's The Bourbon Women Association and the head of Louisville Kentucky's Peggy Noe Stevens & Associates. She is in the Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame by the Kentucky Distillers Association in 2019 and in 2020 was named to the Whiskey's Hall of Fame. Peggy arranged world activities for Kentucky's Woodford Reserve. Co-author Susan Reigler is the author of *Complete Guide to Kentucky State Parks*, *Kentucky Bourbon Country: The Essential Travel Guide*, *Kentucky Bourbon Cocktail Book*, *More Kentucky Bourbon Cocktails*, *The Bourbon Tasting Notebook*, *The American Whiskey Tasting Notebook: Rye, Malt, Tennessee, and Others*, *Kentucky Sweet & Savory Finding: The Artisan Foods and Beverages of the Bluegrass State*, and *Compass American Guides: Kentucky*. Susan Reigler was also a critique of eateries in the *Louisville Courier Journal*.

Beautiful vividly colorful photographs decorate the book. The pictures of the beautiful glasses, plates, parties, silverware, decorations, food, decanters, flowers, table settings, and trays relating to bourbon are extremely intriguing and magnificently enhance the discussion of Kentucky bourbon. On the sides of the text are Party Tricks offering ideas to make the festivity more successful such as putting the cocktail glasses and containers to mix the cocktails in the refrigerator will create extra cool drinks.

Fifty-three delectable recipes are easy to follow. Twenty-seven cocktail recipes, seven appetizers, snacks, and spreads recipes, eight sides and salad recipes, one bread recipe, five entrée recipes, and five dessert recipes look delicious. Yummy sounding drink recipes are Porch Swing with bourbon, orange juice, and lemonade, the Seelbach cocktail of the 1905 Louisville Seelbach Hotel mentioned in *The Great Gatsby* with bourbon and sparkling wine or champagne, and Dark and Blood Bourbon Mary with bourbon and Worcestershire sauce. Another luscious