Book Review

Utah's Wasatch Range: Four Seasons Refuge—25 Years of Photographs

Howie Garber

Portsmouth, NH: Peter E. Randall Publishers, 2012

US\$39.95, 224 pages, softcover

The Wasatch Range is a small mountain range extending about 160 miles through central Utah to the Idaho border. These mountains constitute the western edge of the greater Rocky Mountains and the eastern reach of the Great Basin region. Rising to nearly 12,000 feet, they are home to some 1100 species of plants and 250 types of animals and provide critical watershed for some 2 million people—85% of Utah's population—living in Salt Lake City and other communities along the Wasatch Front.

Although not high compared with the Rockies or Himalayas, the Wasatch Mountains are notably rugged, having been sculpted by glaciers, and they receive especially heavy winter snowfalls that have a dry powdery texture because of the area's low relative humidity. They are the site of many renowned ski resorts, numerous parks and rock climbing areas, and hundreds of miles of hiking, biking, horseback riding, snowmobile, and cross-country skiing trails.

This large horizontal-format coffee table-type book captures the diversity and seasonal splendor of the Wasatch Mountains in 180 landscape and wildlife photographs, almost all of which are in color. These stunning photographs are accompanied by 18 essays authored by naturalists, scientists, and elected officials offering important insights into the environmental and political tensions prevalent among developers, outdoor recreational enthusiasts, ranchers, and other land users in this spectacularly beautiful area. Their sometime sobering messages are cause for serious reflection.

The author, an emergency medicine physician, is a well published and award-winning photographer who has been captivated by the Wasatch Mountains' beauty for some 40 years and who has been capturing their majesty in photographs for the past quarter century. He has produced a visually and intellectually satisfying work that will be enjoyed by diverse outdoor recreational enthusiasts, persons interested in wilderness land use, and all who appreciate natural beauty and skilled photography. I heartily recommend this book.

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