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taxonomic problems surrounding this kind of analysis, and the author has opted for simplicity—for ‘lumping’ generally accepted species into one in several cases. One could argue that it is more valid to be a ‘splitter’ for conservation purposes, if one is concerned with conserving the full array of variation that occurs. I naturally turned to the section on gibbons to assess the usefulness of the analysis, and found that agile, moloch and Muller’s gibbon had been treated with lar gibbons (recognised as separate species on the basis of songs and pelage by all field workers) with thoroughly confusing results. The same applies to the treatment of all species of the *Presbytis aygula* and *melalophos* group as one, and, I imagine, to *Macaca nigra*, *Cercopithecus aethiops*, *Colobus badius* and *Ateles paniscus*; there is also no clear separation of information on lowland and mountain gorillas, and no mention of the ban on exports of *Macaca mulatta* from India in the late 1970s.

The tardy publication and lumping together of distinctive primate populations are my main disappointments with an otherwise excellent volume, full of important and fascinating information that has been very well analysed.

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Cranes of the World

Paul A. Johnsgard

Croom Helm, London, 1983, £25.00

The author of this handsomely produced work justifies its coming into being only 10 years after Walkinshaw’s *Cranes of the World* on the twin grounds that the precarious status of many crane species requires fresh examination and that Walkinshaw’s study lacked comparative analyses and maps. Being involved in bird conservation and having had cause—for other reasons than conservation—to resort to Walkinshaw’s book. I fully support Johnsgard’s line: I would even say this new work is overdue.

Johnsgard has a history of writing bird family and such like monographs (*Waterfowl of North*

America, Grouse of the World, Plovers, Sandpipers and Snipes of the World) and his experience in organisation and synthesis at this level of interest makes *Cranes of the World* an attractively professional piece of documentation, each species being dealt with very fully, and with a most useful sequence of introductory chapters on the family’s biology and conservation; yet I also find it mildly disappointing, precisely because, lucid and serviceable though it is, it is only a professional piece of documentation (where both ‘professional’ and ‘documentation’ become slightly pejorative terms). First, the book is a relentless recital of findings in other sources, unrelieved (so far as I have read) by any personal information or even commentary from the author. Second, the sources used are sometimes themselves merely syntheses of other sources. The account of the blue crane, for example, gets by on just seven references, taken or derived from standard publications; and to say, under Range of wattled crane, that its ‘status in Zaïre is scarcely better . . . (than) totally unknown’ shows a remarkable lack of initiative, possibly therefore of interest: at any rate, there are at least nine sources published before 1978, all available at the Alexander (Edward Grey Institute) Library where Johnsgard says he spent time researching this book, which could have told him rather more than that ‘the south-eastern corner . . . may support some birds, especially in the Upemba Basin region’. This is scarcely reprehensible, but it confirms my feeling that there is a dimension lacking in the book—a personal spirit of inquiry, or of involvement in the subject-matter. Essentially, we have here a presentation more than a study, synthesis more than analysis; but even so, as a work of reference it has much substance and authority, and I certainly welcome it.

I had hopes, though, of a full airing of the issue of cross-fostering of whooping cranes with sandhills, and this is promised for chapter 9 (page 194). There is no chapter 9, however, and a cursory statistical account of the experiment in chapter 5 does not explore the theory or explain the practice. For readers to know how the real rarities are doing, the book is of course inevitably out of date, and Johnsgard’s hint of gloom about the recent productivity of whoopers is already dispelled (*Oryx* 18, 110). I was sorry, incidentally,

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that among all the obscure vernacular names dug up for the various species, there was no space for the Angolan Portuguese for wattled crane: *panda*.

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Catalogue of New World Amphibians

Keith A. Harding

Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1983, £44.00

Although this may be of considerable value to museum taxonomists, it is unlikely to be of significant use to most conservation-orientated herpetologists. This is a great pity, since it would have been relatively simple to improve the book by giving some useful information on distribution. As it is, distribution is given by country—and a simple 'Brazil' or 'USA' is not much help. The product of a word-processed listing, there are useful synonymies and cross-referencing by country, which are a slight compensation for lack of distributional detail. At £44, perhaps an expensive luxury.

John A. Burton

The Evolution of National Wildlife Law (revised edition)

Michael Bean

Praeger, New York, 1984, \$12.95

At the meetings of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Michael Bean has been prominent among the US NGOs, and most effective. He is one of the foremost environmental lawyers in the US, and since this book appeared in 1979 it has been the standard reference. Now, the revised edition is a must for any conservationist with an interest in US conservation law or involved in developing conservation legislation in other parts of the world. It is extremely lucid and shows the layman the way

through the jungle of the law and legal phraseology.

John A. Burton

The 1982 International Yearbook; Volume 22

Edited by P.J.S. Olney, Zoological Society of London, 1982,
£23.75 hardback; £18.50 softback

The regular 'Reference Section' of the IZY needs no introduction, nor even a review. It is so much part of the conservation establishment, that one cannot envisage life before it. Lists of breeding successes, and the censuses of rare and endangered species in captivity are the essential tools of practical conservationists, and their importance is evident in the *Red Data Books*, and in many articles in *Oryx*.

Volume 22 is mostly devoted to New World Primates with 20 papers ranging over a wide variety of topics, often with emphasis on conservation. Dr Russell Mittermeier, Chairman of the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group (and a regular contributor to *Oryx*), wrote the introduction and is co-author of several of the papers, notably a succinct survey of 'Conservation of Primates in the Atlantic Forest Region of Eastern Brazil' and 'Conservation of Primates in Brazilian Amazonia', which together with separate accounts of Peruvian Amazonia, Venezuela and Surinam, give an invaluable and reasonably comprehensive review of the situation.

In addition to the sections mentioned above, the regular IZY 'New Developments in the Zoo World' includes several papers relevant to conservationists, including a survey of gorilla breeding success, the effects of inbreeding on leopards and a census of marine mammals in North America.

As ever, the IZY is essential for any library, public or private, which attempts to keep abreast of modern conservation.

John A. Burton