

chapter deals with the search for appropriate diets for captive lorises and galagos based on what is known of their feeding habits in the wild. A second discusses the history of lorises in captivity and the importance of zoo records, and a third reviews and recommends best practices for their breeding and husbandry. The ecology and behaviour section comprises eight chapters, covering behavioural research in the wild, including visual function and ecology, thermoregulation (lorises), home range and activity budgets, a general review of what is known of potto and angwantibo behaviour, positional behaviour and substrate preference, feeding and foraging of released Philippine slow lorises, ranging patterns of the pygmy slow loris in Cambodia, and mother–infant interactions and behaviour of captive Sunda lorises.

Lorises being small, often solitary, night-owls, a number of the chapters in the second section are revelatory in the creative methods used to study them in the wild: identifying them and following them to record their activities and diets, and their foraging, ranging and social behaviour. Five chapters in the third section, ‘Research, trade and conservation’, cover research methods: censusing, data collection, the sophisticated equipment and techniques used, and the precautions and care required in trapping and collaring them. Notable is a box that explains the need for the use of red light when observing them—white light disturbs them and probably damages their sensitive eyes.

All of the nine slow loris species, *Nycticebus*, are categorized as threatened on the IUCN Red List, two as Critically Endangered. The red slender loris *Loris tardigradus* of Sri Lanka is also Endangered, and the grey slender loris *Loris lydekkerianus* of Sri Lanka and India is, for the moment at least, considered Least Concern. Too little is known of the pottos *Perodicticus* and angwantibos *Arctocebus*, but the Benin potto *Perodicticus juju* is categorized as Endangered. Declines in their numbers result from the destruction of their habitats and from hunting for human consumption and the wildlife trade. Following a review of the distribution and conservation status of the pygmy loris and Bengal slow loris in China, the remaining five chapters cover the appalling international and domestic commercial trade in lorises for bushmeat and medicinal purposes, and as pets and photo props in social media, the latter particularly affecting the lorises. In South-east Asia, horrific numbers of slow lorises are cruelly traded in wildlife markets

for medicinal purposes. The chapters also cover the considerable efforts underway to combat this abuse and slaughter.

This is a benchmark compendium for our understanding of these creatures—a small but truly fascinating outpost of the primate radiation.

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Rewilding: The Radical New Science of Ecological Recovery by Paul Jepson & Cain Blythe (2020) 176 pp., Icon Books Ltd, Cambridge, UK. ISBN 978-1-785786273 (pbk), GBP 8.99.

Rewilding is a hot topic in conservation biology, policy and practice, and is seen to be at the cutting edge of modern conservation techniques. For many it offers a bold, new vision for the future and as a result is an expanding area of interest within scientific, public and political discourse. This publication, promoted as ‘the first popular book on the ground-breaking science’ intends to provide an account of the science behind rewilding.

The book opens with an enthusiastic, ambitious and upbeat tone that continues to permeate throughout the narrative, proving an uplifting read. This introduction is followed by chapters exploring theories related to grassland savannahs and the role of large herbivores within these systems. Here the authors present some compelling arguments and evocative dreamscapes of alternate realities. These early chapters are successful in highlighting the central importance of grassland ecosystems to a wider audience.

Chapter 4 briefly discusses many of the well-known case studies that those familiar with rewilding science might expect to see, followed by a series of chapters exploring a selection of interesting perspectives and well-researched theories from complementary sciences. Here the authors illustrate a fuller picture of rewilding as a concept, but largely rooted in western perspectives and grassland systems.

The narrative of this book is embedded within wilderness interpretations of rewilding, and stays within that realm. There is not much content on alternative rewilding approaches, other global perspectives, or an exploration of people’s place within the natural environment. However, much of this may have simply been

because of restricted page space. Chapter 9 is one of the most engaging; it discusses current challenges and opportunities for rewilding practitioners and demonstrates the complexity of turning theory into practice. The authors end with a chapter outlining their 10 predictions for the future—a logical and forward-looking ending, but one that perhaps fails to match the punch of the introduction.

What comes across strongly is the authors’ enthusiasm and belief in their interpretation of rewilding, so it is truly an account of rewilding from the first person perspective, as opposed to a more complete and objective review of all rewilding science. As a result, my overwhelming sense of this book is that it acts as a philosophical treatise on rewilding. It demands that the reader evaluates how they feel about the most radical ideas in rewilding science, and how much this perspective of rewilding represents the whole.

Throughout the book, the authors consciously place herbivores at the centre of the rewilding narrative, rather than their predators. They also avoid the controversy and critique inherent within the wider rewilding debate. Other underlying ideas take us back down the well-trodden path of intrinsic versus utilitarian perspectives of nature, which conservationists have been arguing about since at least the late 1980s. But there is also an unsettling ‘us vs them’ attitude permeating the book, which I found divisive. There are several misguided swipes at conservation biology and practice that come across as unreasonable.

In summary, this is a bold, yet technical book that reflects the optimistic and energetic mood of the rewilding movement. I found it forward-looking and informative, but narrow in its scope in terms of the systems, geographies and attitudes that it presents. Nonetheless, the authors deliver on their own account of rewilding, from a tranche of the movement in Europe.

Although readers would benefit from some technical grounding in conservation or ecological theory to get the most out of this book, for those seriously interested in rewilding it is a must read. It adds depth to the rewilding conversation, and I am sure any reader would find something new within its pages. Although it does not feel complete as a standalone book on the topic, it is certainly an interesting interpretation of a novel and changing subject matter.

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