

# Book reviews

which to a limited extent it does, along with missed opportunities, inaccuracies and contradictions. For example, considering parr (a conspicuously marked juvenile stage of *Salmo* species) we are not informed about the likely and interesting biological significance of the sexually precocious male parr. Comment on the statement that dense populations retain the juvenile parr would have been beneficial. Not constructive are descriptions of parr markings as 'territorial' on one page and 'being typical of species that live in fast water' on another.

Conservation is mentioned but with the strong implication that these species should be conserved for the sport angler. This attitude appears in such phrases as 'unspoil fly-only salmon rivers' and population densities are described as 'rod-hour effort'. It is possible for the altruistic conservationist and the angler to work together but only if the survival of the fishes and their environment is the genuine common aim.

The colour illustrations are adequate, although the scales are represented by intersecting diagonal straight lines. Each page has a small line sketch at the side, the purpose of which eludes me. Why, for example, should a small sketch of the nase (a cyprinid fish—*Chondrostoma nasus*) appear, without explanation, on p. 105?

Potentially interesting points are not capitalized on. Mention is made of giant trout in the Caspian Sea; I can find no reference to these in Berg's monumental work on the fishes of the USSR and would have appreciated details.

Finally, although I had already decided not to recommend this book, my resolution was firm by p. 116 where I read 'All species can be kept in aquaria' and among other horrors 'char are easily tamed'. I still do not know why this book was

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written and I still cannot think of anyone who would benefit from reading it.

Dr Keith Banister, Banstead, Surrey

## The Fishes of Arkansas

Henry W. Robinson and Thomas M. Buchanan

University of Arkansas Press, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 72701 USA, 536 pp., HB £40.00, SB £24.00

This is an excellent book. Many years ago (especially during the 1950s) American states started publishing works on their own ichthyofauna. A formative star was Trautmann's *Fishes of Ohio* (1957). This work follows that scholarly and useful format.

The book starts with a general geographical review of Arkansas and a history of ichthyology in that state. No punches are pulled, accidental chemical spills are mapped as are the sites of the nation's most hazardous wastes. Significantly, perhaps, these sections are followed by a list of the threatened, locally extirpated and extinct species in the state.

The bulk of the book is a detailed account of all the species of the state. Initially, the families are keyed out and each family has a key to the species contained therein. For each species an account is provided with a description, distinguishing features, habitat and biology data, usually a coloured picture and a map of pre- and post-1960 distribution.

If there is a criticism, it is that some of the distribution maps are too small. I have not yet found the solid triangle representing pre-1960 distribution on the distribution map of *Noturus flavus* (p. 305). That is my only complaint.

To finish, is an appendix containing hints on identification, a species list and a glossary. The bibliography is extensive. All in all, this is

a splendid book and a superb example of how state-wide faunal studies should be conducted.

Dr Keith Banister, Banstead, Surrey

## The Shamba Raiders: Memoirs of a Game Warden

Bruce Kinloch

Ashford Press Publishing, 1988, 405 pp., £15.95

*The Shamba Raiders*, Bruce Kinloch's memoirs of his work as a game warden in Uganda and Tanganyika (Tanzania), was first published in 1972.

The triviality of a charging buffalo, not of course trivial for the person charged, is dealt with in the same fine detail as the description of the really important decisions that were taken during the period of Bruce Kinloch's sojourn with the Game Department. The background to the realization of the need for National Parks in Uganda and the development of Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth National Parks are carefully described. Their early development, with an eye to the tourist and therefore their economic contribution to a developing nation, not only established these two parks, but paved the way for the Kidepo Valley National Park and Lake Mburu National Park, which were to come much later.

The presumption that 'nature would take care of herself' was identified as unsound in Uganda. Research in Uganda Parks by Fulbright Scholars from the USA recognized the need to manage if the diversity of the wildlife was to be maintained, in areas, which although large, were fast becoming islands in a sea of human development. The formation of the Nuffield Unit of Tropical Animal Ecology to be succeeded at independence by the Uganda Institute of Ecology, which still exists today, is described. The trustees of the

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Uganda National Parks, of which Kinloch was a member, were right in questioning whether such a draconian step as culling animals in the parks was necessary, but the fullness of time has not only justified their difficult decision to do so, but it has now become the practice in many national parks worldwide.

In Tanganyika he masterminded the setting up of the Mkweke College of Wildlife Management to be used by trainees from wildlife organizations in Africa, and indeed from further afield, which was a masterpiece of forward thinking. Despite all the difficulties that the newly emerged nations have faced, this institution has continued to produce young men and women trained in wildlife management at both certificate and diploma level.

Two criticisms of this extremely well-written book. Firstly, that the five years spent in Tanganyika were not dealt with in the same detail as the rest of the book. The second is the problem of adequately describing what has transpired over the past 23 years. He acknowledges that it is a difficult task and in many ways I think it is disappointing that he has not sought a wider range of views for the Afterwords section.

His writing is so delightful that perhaps in his retirement years he can be persuaded to put to rights the shortcomings of what is otherwise a most readable book and one which I believe greatly helps our understanding of the development of many important philosophical and practical elements of wildlife conservation in East Africa.

*R.J. Wheater, The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland*

## Red List of Chilean Terrestrial Vertebrates

Edited by Alfonso A. Glade  
Chilean Forest Service (CONAF) Av.  
Bulnes 259, OF.604, Santiago,  
Chile, 1988, 67 pp., no price given

This publication is much more than a red list, being the results of a four-day symposium, *Conservation Status of Chilean Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna*, organized by the Chilean Forest Service in April 1987 in Santiago. It was the first meeting of its kind in Chile and the assembled specialists agreed that two taxa have become Extinct, 50 are Endangered, 92 are Vulnerable, 53 are Rare, 2 are under Indeterminate Threat, 46 are Insufficiently Known and 6 are Out of Danger.

For the purposes of the symposium terrestrial vertebrates were taken to include 'wild vertebrates native to Chile, living or breeding in a definitely terrestrial environment, and continental water fishes'. Twenty species are illustrated by excellent colour photographs. In addition to the lists that show the conservation status of each species in the country as a whole and in each Administrative Region, there are nine agreements reached by the symposium, including one promising support to CONAF's Conservation of Chilean Threatened Wild Fauna Programme. There are also 31 General Recommendations including one to continue with efforts to pass a Wild Fauna Act to replace the obsolete Hunting Law, and Particular Recommendations for each faunal group.

## The Irish Red Data Book. 1. Vascular Plants

T.G.F. Curtis and H.N. McGough

Stationery Office, Dublin (Government Publications Sales Office, Sun Alliance House, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2, Ireland), 1988, 168 pp., PB £7.00

Ireland's wild plant species are an impoverished sample of the flora of north-west Europe. The authors of this book give a total of only

1309 vascular plants, which includes introductions that are well established in the wild. However, Ireland's botanical interest rests not in the number of species, but in their ecological groupings. In particular the Burren region of Co. Clare, Connemara in west Galway, and Cork and Kerry in the south-west are renowned for their unique plant associations.

The book describes the methods of collecting the data and gives details of current legislation protecting plants in Ireland, but the bulk is taken up by species accounts divided into habitat groups. Each account gives a brief description (its status past and present and a comment on why it is rare or declining, and its distribution in Ireland, Britain and Europe). Distribution maps are given for species whose distributions illustrate a particular feature or trend, and 14 flowers are illustrated with colour photographs.

The final synthesis lists 10 species of the 159 recorded in the book as Extinct; 6 species as Endangered and 44 Vulnerable.

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