

In the context of offences now arising out of the 1911 Protection of Animals Act the authors rightly acknowledge that Acts of Parliament are not static. As the culture and public concern for animal welfare increases so too the courts will re-orient their views, and circumstances may give rise to offences which were not previously recognized. Consequently, they state that the very act of putting a dog into a hole to fight a fox may now be regarded as a 1911 Act offence in the appropriate circumstances.

Another area of the law which is so difficult to grasp is the hunting exemption in the 1911 Act. This is explained in a straightforward manner in the relevant chapter. Badgers are dealt with in detail – a wild mammal which caught the public imagination causing it to have consolidating legislation all to itself. Finally, whilst referring to the detail in the book, a short chapter on cock-fighting demonstrates the difficulties of enforcement in relation to this vile activity.

In conclusion, the book is, forgive the cliché, equally useful to lay people and practitioners alike. The text is objective – only rarely moving for changes where the absurdity of the law is obvious. In welfare terms you will be disappointed if you expect an analysis of the problems with the hunting exemption, the defects in the Badgers' Act and so on. However, pragmatically, since the book is so accessible and easy to absorb, it should assist in its own way to educate those involved in field sports (who are not already knowledgeable about these matters) to take a further step towards caring for the welfare of their target and other wild animals. However, the book is not geared to persuade those who participate in field sports to take up other activities.

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Creative Conservation: Interactive Management of Wild and Captive Animals

Edited by P J S Olney, G M Mace and A T C Feistner (1994). Chapman & Hall: London. 517pp. Hardback. Obtainable from the publishers, 2–6 Boundary Row, London SE1 8HN (ISBN 0 412 49570 8). Price £55.

This volume comprises the proceedings of the Sixth World Conference on Breeding Endangered Species. It represents something of a landmark, as the first conference was held in Jersey in 1972, some twenty years previously. This inaugural meeting was held under the auspices of the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust and (as it was then) the Fauna Preservation Society. Sadly this review is being written some weeks after the death of Gerald Durrell, the founder of Jersey Zoo and one of the instigators of that first meeting.

I therefore thought it would be appropriate to review this book, not only for its contents but also for what it represents in showing developments, progress in our understanding and knowledge of the breeding of endangered species.

The proceedings of the first conference (Martin 1975) consisted of some very useful papers, but all were on the methodology involved in captive breeding a variety of species of reptiles, birds and mammals. Only seven of the 31 papers in the present volume of *Creative Conservation* are on individual species, and all of these discuss captive breeding in relation to reintroduction and management of wild populations of the species concerned. For those of us who complain that things are moving too slowly, this is very encouraging as it shows that

in twenty years we have come from simply developing methods for breeding species in captivity to managing captive-bred animals in relation to reintroduction programmes and the remaining wild population.

The science of reintroduction is a new and developing one and Part 2 is devoted to 'Reintroduction and Captive Breeding'. The review carried out by members of the Reintroduction Specialist Group is of particular interest: it presents the results of a survey of reintroduction projects and tries to evaluate those characteristics that lead to success. The authors emphasize from their findings that much scientific work still needs to be carried out on the techniques employed. This paper is complemented by work from Kleiman, Stanley-Price and Beck on the criteria for reintroduction.

Many of the contributions deal with issues of genetics and demography of both wild and captive populations. There is a good range of papers: notably Craig on the importance of meta-populations and their management; Durant and Mace on the use of population viability modelling in development of conservation strategies; Wayne *et al* on the use of the techniques of molecular genetics in addressing conservation questions; Vasarhelyi and Martin give a useful example of genetic fingerprinting of the endangered Goeldi's monkey; and Holt describes how recent advances in our understanding of reproductive biology can enable us to use artificial techniques to aid reproduction and preservation of ova, semen and embryos.

However, without co-ordinated and planned breeding programmes none of this will work, and papers by de Boer, and Seal *et al* describe how the theory can be put into practice in managing programmes in captivity, and to some extent in the wild. The final Part 4 also demonstrates how the entire picture can work by taking examples from four regions: the Philippines, New Zealand, Venezuela and Vietnam.

The editors have to be congratulated in producing from this conference a document, which not only contains much up-to-date, relevant and important information for anyone working in the fields of conservation and zoo biology, but which also clearly demonstrates how far we have progressed in our knowledge and understanding of the breeding of threatened species both in the wild and in captivity. The final challenge being how much work still needs to be carried out.

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