

Book reviews

have both land and water components which must be managed together.

The final section offers a miscellany of case studies, and provides recommendations and strategies to help protected area planners and managers carry out their tasks. These range from a 'manager's guide' (which includes a questionnaire designed to find out if you are a successful manager!) and a discussion of the problems of classifying coastal and marine habitats (including examples from the US and UK), to fairly detailed descriptions of the management of particular marine parks such as the Great Barrier Reef and the Laguna de Tacarigua National Park in Venezuela.

The book draws heavily on the authors' experience and, on their own admittance, displays a strong bias towards their own style of planning protected areas. Most of the examples come from the US and the tropics, particularly Indonesia, but, given the few existing publications in this field, this is a minor quibble and is possibly more indicative of the state of marine conservation in other parts of the world than of any failing in the book. The methods developed over the past century for managing terrestrial protected areas cannot always be applied easily to coastal and marine areas because their ecosystems are so open, difficult to demarcate and economically important. This book should help stimulate major new efforts in establishing and managing our marine heritage.

Susan Wells, IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge

The Island of South Georgia

Robert Headland

Cambridge University Press, 1984, £14.95

Some years ago, I suggested to a publisher that South Georgia would make a suitable addition to a series of titles on islands. The proposal was turned down by the series's advisor on the grounds that the place was of insufficient interest. Robert Headland's comprehensive book shows that, even without the military events of 1982, this was wrong. South Georgia is a magnificent island packed with interest. It has something for everyone, including stamp collectors and even steam locomotive enthusiasts. The book will most

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interest students of polar exploration, maritime history and, now, international politics. For conservationists, South Georgia provides two well-documented stories of animal exploitation: whaling and sealing. It was one of the major centres of twentieth-century whaling. The industry there and elsewhere reduced the Antarctic whale population to only 10 per cent of its pristine size, and it is showing only small hopeful signs of recovery. By contrast, the fur seal was brought even closer to extinction but, perhaps because the removal of the great whales has considerably reduced competition, it is now flourishing. Its numbers are even becoming an embarrassment because the seals are eroding the vegetation around their breeding beaches. A third phase of exploitation, that of fishing mainly for krill, may soon become a major industry. *Oryx* readers will be disappointed that the book does not include more discussion of the ecosystem of South Georgian waters and the human impact on them.

Robert Burton, naturalist and author

Northern Ecology and Resource Management

Edited by Rod Olson, Frank Geddes and Ross Hastings

University of Alberta Press, 1985, £21.00

The Living Tundra

Yu. I. Chernov, translated by D. Löve

Cambridge University Press, 1985, £27.50.

The Arctic is one of the last frontiers. Until World War II, lifestyles of the scattered inhabitants had changed little over the centuries. They were principally nomads who followed migrating herds or shifted hunting grounds according to season. Now there are cities, mines, roads and pipelines springing up and, although the area is huge, the impact of man is becoming felt. Developers are striding into the Arctic wastes, but the conservationists are snapping at their heels. The tundra and taiga of the North has an advantage over the tropical savannahs and forests, because development has just started and the region is within the territories of scientifically advanced and 'environmentally aware' nations. Thus, ecologists are able to make baseline studies and monitor, predict and, hopefully, mitigate the effects of development.

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These two books are very different. The first consists of 17 specialist papers. Some are of immediate conservation interest: disturbance of polar bears, the implications of damming the Slave River, and energy development, tourism and nature conservation in Iceland. Unfortunately, the book has no overview to place these topics in perspective. The coverage is 'western', whereas the second book is 'eastern'. Only one of 58 references cited comes from outside the USSR. It therefore has the particular interest of being based on scientific research which is almost unknown in the West. *The Living Tundra* is an introduction to tundra ecology, with plenty of fascinating information concerning the adaptations by tundra species and their interactions with one another. The final chapter, *Man and the tundra*, shows how easily the ecosystem is damaged, even when human populations are low, and how vulnerable it is to modern exploitation. It concludes with a plea for careful planning, and points out how tampering with the Arctic could dangerously affect the climate of the rest of the world.

Robert Burton, naturalist and author

Birds of Watery Places

The Puffin

M.P. Harris

T. and A.D. Poyser, 1984, £11.60

The Birds of the Wetlands

James Hancock

Croom Helm, 1984, £13.95

Ocean Birds: Their Breeding, Biology and Behaviour

Lars Löfgren

Croom Helm, 1984, £16.95

British ornithologists have a fine reputation for standard monographs of species, beginning as long ago as 1913 with J.H. Gurney on the gannet. Now Mike Harris has added to their number with a first-class study of the Atlantic puffin *Fratercula arctica*, which is not only one of the most photographed birds in the world, but also one of the most researched. This replaces R.M. Lockley's *Puffins*, now more than 30 years old, and should

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hold its place as the standard work until the end of the century. It is a relief, too, to find that he has been able to deal with his subject succinctly, in fewer than 200 pages. There are some excellent black-and-white photographs (though I could not find the photographers' names) and drawings by Keith Brockie.

James Hancock's book is of a very different genre, but one which British ornithologists also do well, the sumptuously illustrated travelogue. His colour photographs of the birds of nine wetland regions around the world are quite superb, and with his predilection for the Ardeidae, he has naturally ensured that herons, egrets and bitterns are well represented. The areas he has visited in all six continents—there are obviously great advantages in choosing the oil industry for your career—include the Everglades, Bharatpur, the South Alligator River and the Coto Donana. Whether you have been there or hope to go there soon, you will treasure this book.

Lars Löfgren's book is again different, being of the illustrated, popular scientific type. It is well designed and deals competently with a wide range of seabird ecology and behaviour. The abundance of magnificent colour photographs and attractive line drawings makes this another most desirable book to possess, but again I could not find out who the photographers are. Is anonymous photography a modern fashion?

Richard Fitter

The Peccaries

Lyle K. Sowls

University of Arizona Press, 1984, \$22.50

By way of introduction, the author states (if somewhat tautologically) that 'the purpose of this book is to bring together in one place most of the existing information on the family Tayassuidae, scant though that may be'. Sowls, who is a noted authority on these animals, comes reasonably close to achieving this objective, although there are a few irksome gaps. The evolutionary history of the group, for example, is treated rather too cursorily, and he offers no treatment whatsoever of the subspecific taxonomy of the dominant genus *Tayassu* (literally 'the gnawer of roots'), which has long been wanting and could, perhaps should, have been usefully included in this book.

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