

Wildlife Management in Savannah and Woodland results from the Ibadan/Garua International Symposium on Wildlife Management which drew together wildlife biologists both from East and West Africa. Most of the research on African wildlife in the last twenty years has been concentrated in the open savanna habitats of East and South Africa. The logistic problems posed in studying mammals in the wooded savannas of West Africa or their ecological analogues in Central Africa take new and as yet partly unsolved problems.

The overriding theme of the symposium was the recognition of the fact that in West Africa wildlife management is primarily concerned with the rational exploitation of its natural resources. This is important when we remember that the populations of most West African nations derive up to 100 per cent of their protein from large and small wildlife species. This volume contains 26 of the 40 papers presented, arranged in four sections which deal with population dynamics and monitoring of wildlife populations, habitat utilisation by wildlife, the effects of fire in East and West African habitats, and an important final section on management, training and education. It is encouraging to notice that 14 of the papers were presented by African wildlife biologists, which demonstrates that training programmes at the local level are now paying dividends. All those interested in the study of wildlife in wooded savanna will find this a valuable source.

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Australian Endangered Species by **Derrick Ovington**. Cassell. £15.

Canadian Endangered Species, by **Darryl Stewart**. Gage, Toronto.

With the ever-increasing threat of a massive worldwide loss of species it is important to identify those at risk so that measures can be enacted to prevent their extinction. In this regard more and more nations are producing detailed national lists of endangered species and as part of their conservation education campaign producing glossy books on the subject. Derrick Ovington, Director of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service and Chairman of the IUCN Ecology Commission, has written an excellent reference text on Australian wildlife conservation. The species accounts are based on a series of descriptive leaflets issued by the National Parks and Wildlife Service as part of its campaign to promote awareness of endangered species and their protection. 23 mammals, 18 birds and 2 reptile species or subspecies are listed, each with a paragraph on description, breeding, distribution, ecology and conservation, as well as a distribution map of present and former range and a full-page colour drawing. However, the merit of the book lies not so much with these accounts, which the author admits do not include all endangered species, but in the two additional sections describing how Australia's wildlife has arrived at its present predicament and what can be done to reverse the trend: *Australian Scenario of Extinction* includes chapters on *People and Wildlife*, *History of Extinction*, *Wildlife Biology*, and a *Conservation Chronology*, and is a mine of information, and *Conservation Strategy* includes a thorough discussion on *Conservation Action Priorities*. This book will be of interest to both the professional conservationist as well as the general reader.

Canadian Endangered Species is the softback edition of a book first published in 1974; as the text has not been updated since then, the species accounts are of limited use for up-to-the-minute information. Written in popular style for the non-specialist, the book is intended as an introductory text. Mammals, Birds, Reptiles and Amphibians, and Fish are listed, plus a section on extinct species. The 32 colour plates include one of the best photographs I have seen of the highly endangered black-footed ferret.

JANE THORNBACK

The Penitent Butchers, by **Richard Fitter** and illustrated by **Sir Peter Scott**, £2.65 from the FPS office.