

Book reviews

(Klemm 1973, Gozmány 1979) cover the Palaearctic region and Europe, respectively. The volume under review presents 5391 names of mammals from the whole world fauna. Future volumes in the series (to be completed as a six-volume set) will cover, in order, amphibians and reptiles, birds, fishes, insects, and invertebrates.

Sokolov's dictionary gives us Latin (scientific), Russian, English, German, and French names, with an impressive number of synonyms for the last four, an appendix of nearly 150 pages made up of alphabetical indexes for each of the five languages, and also an extra index of specific names in Latin. The main sources are Sokolov's own *Systematics of Mammals* (1973–9), Corbet and Hill's *A World List of Mammalian Species* (1980), and Honacki *et al.*'s (1982) *Mammal Species of the World*. The book is clearly printed on quality paper and with good use of bold type. Indication of gender for Russian, German and French nouns is another point in its favour.

Very modestly priced and nicely produced, this dictionary will surely be acquired by biological libraries as a matter of course. Many others, not least translators, will welcome its appearance and hope that the remaining volumes will follow very soon.

M.G. Wilson

Livre Rouge des Vertébrés Menacés de la Corse (Corsican Red Book of Threatened Vertebrates)

J.C. Thibault, M. Delaugerre and J.-F. Noblet
Parc Naturel Régional de la Corse, BP 417-F-20184-Ajaccio, Corsica, 1985. 50FF

Red Data Books (RDBs) are beginning to proliferate, and this is definitely a good thing. Local *Red Data Books* are an important weapon in the conservationist's arsenal to save endangered species. Many of the species included in volumes such as this excellent one on Corsica will never find a place in the international RDBs, yet locally their populations are important. Furthermore, as the revision time for the regional and international RDBs appears to be extending further and further into the future, shorter, more easily updated local RDBs will have an increasingly important role.

RDBs for areas of high conservation interest, such
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as Corsica, are of particular value. The herpetofauna, for instance, shows a considerable degree of endemism. As in most other parts of Europe, it is the bats that are among the most threatened species. Twenty-four of the Island's 43 mammal species are bats, and 20 of these are listed in the *Red Book*.

The book is well laid out, with a large bibliography and excellent tables summarizing its contents.
John A. Burton

Oxford Illustrated Encyclopedia:

The Natural World

Edited by Malcolm Coe
Oxford University Press, 1985, £15.95

An attempt to cover the natural world in 375 pages of text and illustrations must necessarily be far from comprehensive, but it is easy to use and attractively presented.

Endangered Plant Species of the World and their Endangered Habitats:

A Compilation of the Literature

Meryl A. Miasek and Charles R. Long
The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries Inc., 1985

Available for \$5.00 (US) and \$6.00 (outside US) including postage, from Mrs Elaine DiLorenzo, The Library, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York 10458-5126, USA.

Our Threatened Inheritance: Natural Treasures of the United States

Ron Fisher, photographs by James P. Blair
National Geographic Society, Washington DC, 1984. No price given.

A lavishly illustrated survey of some of the national parks, forests, wildlife refuges and other federally owned areas in the US, the text examining the problems these areas face and exploring possible solutions.

National Parks, Conservation, and Development: the Role of Protected Areas in Sustaining Society

Edited by Jeffrey A. McNeely and Kenton R. Miller

Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, 1985

Available from Eurospan, 3 Henrietta Street,

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London WC2E 8LU, UK. No price given.

The 825 pages of this paperback cover the Proceedings of the World Congress on National Parks held in Bali, Indonesia, in October 1982.

Conservation of Threatened Natural Habitats

Edited by Anthony V. Hall

South African National Scientific Programmes Report No. 92, 1984.

Available on request from Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, PO Box 395, Pretoria 0001, S. Africa. No price given.

This book grew from the proceedings of the International Symposium on the Conservation of Threatened Natural Habitats held at the University of Cape Town in September 1980. Especially useful for university courses in conservation biology.

Global Ecology

Edited by Charles H. Southwick

Sinauer Associates Inc., Massachusetts, 1985.

Distributed in the UK by Blackwell Scientific Publications, £14.80

This collection of readings is divided into five sections: Divergent Views on the State of the World; Principles and Trends in Global Ecology; Problems of Pollution and Environmental Deterioration; Humanistic Considerations; and Science, Conflict and Human Prospects. The range of papers is wide and the majority are from 1984 publications, although 50 of the total 323 pages are taken up by the Global 2000 Report of 1982, prepared for the President of the US by the Council on Environmental Quality and the Department of State. The Editor has chosen the particular readings because they represent the most important issues of our times—deserving a broad audience among students in many fields. There is an introductory chapter on The Biosphere by Charles Southwick and a useful index.

Extinctions

Edited by Matthew H. Nitecki

University of Chicago Press, 1985, £14.75 (PB), £27.50 (HB)

Proceedings of the Sixth Annual Spring 60

Systematics Symposium in Chicago, May 1983. The book deals with extinctions both large and small, but concentrates on mass extinctions.

Sahara Desert (Key Environment Series)

Edited by J.L. Cloudsley-Thompson

Pergamon Press in collaboration with the IUCN, 1984, £14.95

The 22 contributed chapters (348 pages) cover climate, soil, water, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles, birds and mammals, archaeology and prehistory, indigenous peoples, oases, and concludes with a chapter on the problems of desertification.

Madagascar (Key Environment Series)

Edited by Alison Jolly, Philippe Oberlé and Roland Albignac

Pergamon Press in collaboration with the IUCN, 1984

Illustrated with black-and-white photographs, line drawings and engravings, its 14 chapters, from a total of 18 contributors, cover the diversity of Madagascar's flora and fauna, its conservation and the existing nature reserves.

The Pond

Gerald Thompson, Jennifer Coldrey and George Bernard

Collins, 1985, £9.95 (PB)

A photographic celebration of pond life by Oxford Scientific Films: not just British ponds, the life of European, North American and other ponds is included.

The Whistling Hunters

Michael W. Fox

State University of New York Press, 1984, \$9.95 (PB), \$29.50 (HB)

This, the definitive monograph on field studies of the endangered Asiatic wild dog (dhole), *Cuon alpinus*, at under \$10 is excellent value.

The Lion-Tailed Macaque: Status and Conservation (Monographs in Primatology Series, Volume 7)

Edited by Paul G. Heltne

Alan R. Liss Inc., New York, 1985, £44.00

Proceedings of a symposium held in 1982 to

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