

find enough natural history, and many readers may be disappointed by the absence of any application of island theory to pseudo-islands such as nature reserves, but it is a good, clear and constructive book that makes a valuable assessment of the current state of work on island biology.

A.W. DIAMOND

**Domesticated Animals from Earliest Times**, by **Juliet Clutton-Brock**. Heinemann/British Museum (Natural History), £9.95.

Good, comprehensive reference books on domesticated animals are few and far between. Zeuner's *History of Domesticated Animals*, published in 1963, has long been difficult to obtain and most others deal only with the more obvious species, or are superficial. Dr Clutton-Brock's book almost fills the gap – almost, because a few species are not covered. Animals is restricted to mammals, and a few of the newer domesticated species (such as gerbils) are omitted, as are zoo-bred species such as macaques and some of the 'tamed' animals (such as duikers). Nevertheless the breadth of the coverage is impressive. A lucid text is illustrated with excellent line drawings and colour photographs, although some of the 'wild' species look as if they were captive! The reproduction of the black and white photographs is not always of a particularly high standard.

Domestication, probably because of its economic importance, is often a controversial subject. Dr Clutton-Brock asks why 'one species of animal is favoured as a supplier of meat to one nation, whilst to another it is considered a taboo animal, unclean and untouchable?'. Why should pigs be abhorred in some areas, but primary sources of meat in others? The origins of many domestic animals are also controversial, and not every taxonomist will agree with her views, but she presents a concise summary of many controversial areas – such as the origins of the domestic cat.

Domestication is of considerable importance to conservationists since throughout history (and prehistory) there has been a tendency to exterminate the wild ancestors or relatives of domesticated species – a process which continues today.

JOHN A. BURTON

**Behavioural Ecology: an evolutionary approach**, edited by **J.R. Krebs** and **N.B. Davies**. Blackwell Scientific Publications, £18.00 hardback, £8.50 paperback.

This is not just a collection of assorted essays, but a carefully integrated book. The offerings of the fourteen authors have a pleasing uniformity in style and level of presentation. The editors themselves have provided a very clear and competent opening chapter, introducing the ideas that permeate the rest of the book; that natural selection is concerned with gene survival, and that the optimal behaviour for the gene-bearing individuals to maximise their inclusive fitness will depend on the behaviour of other individuals and on the ecological circumstances.

The other 12 chapters are grouped into three sections, each introduced by a short but lucid editorial, reflecting the three main problems and animal encounters in its endeavours to maximise the survival of its genes. *Predators and Prey* considers in four chapters how and where the animal decides to feed, and on what food; whether foraging in a group is advantageous; the particular problems of insect sociality; how the animal avoids being eaten itself. *Sex, Mating and Signals* consists of five chapters covering the advantages of sexual reproduction; the mate to be selected; how such a mate is found; co-operative breeding; how and why animals communicate. *Strategies in Time and Space* devotes two chapters to considering how the animal deploys its behavioural options in space, taking up territory or selecting particular habitats, and two to