

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,