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#### BRIEF REVIEWS

**THE MANX SHEARWATER.** Brook, M. 1990. London, T. A. Poyser and Academic Press Ltd. 246 p, illustrated, hard cover. £17.00.

Manx shearwaters *Puffinus puffinus* breed as far north as Iceland's Westermann Islands and roam the length of the Atlantic Ocean to localities as far south as 49°S. This elegant book joins the short list of classical accounts of avian species, written, as it could only have been written, by one who knows his birds thoroughly from many years of devoted study, both in the field (mostly on small islands long after sunset) and in the library. Those looking for a model on which to base a seabird monograph need look no further. Delightfully written and beautifully illustrated by Dafila Scott and others.

**ENJOYING A LIFE IN SCIENCE: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF P. F. SCHOLANDER.** Scholander, P. F. 1990. Fairbanks, University of Alaska Press. 226 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-912006-37-4. \$22.95.

Those involved in polar ecology from the late 1940s onward are likely to have gained from the insights of botanist and physiologist Per Scholander (1905–80), whose Arctic research began in 1930 but bore its main fruit during the post-war years. Swedish by birth, American by adoption, probably best-known for his work on vascular exchanges and acclimation in polar homeotherms, he brought a light and faintly irreverent touch to many fields of polar natural history. As this autobiography discloses, he was also prominent as a policy-maker in US polar and global scientific circles. A most readable tale from a lively-minded scientist who lived through, and enjoyed, interesting times.

**ANTARCTICA: POLICIES AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT.** Hanmer, J. (editor). 1989. Canberra, ANU Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies. (Resource and Environmental Studies No. 1). 74 pages, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-86740-346-2.

Arising from a conference held in April 1987, this is a collection of seven papers by leading Australian commentators (Lorne Kriwoken, Peter Keage, Jeremy Hearder, Richard Herr, Robert Hall, Alistaire Graham, Timothy Doyle, Andrew Constable, Bruce Davis) on Australia's evolving policies toward Antarctica: includes some vigorous and welcome antipodean inputs into Treaty issues, some already out-dated by events. Available direct from CRES, Australian National University, Canberra.

**CANADA'S MISSING DIMENSION.** Harington, C. R. (editor). 1990. Ottawa, Canadian Museum of Nature. 2 vols, 857p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-660-13054-8.

Subtitled 'Science and History in the Canadian Arctic Islands', these are the massive proceedings of the conference held in Ottawa on November 21–24 1987. The two

volumes include an introduction and 41 papers on all aspects of the Canadian archipelago, under the section headings Scientific research: support, conflict and the future; The earth: fossils and paleoenvironment; Freshwater, sea ice; The atmosphere; The Plants; Insects; Fishes, birds and mammals; Human prehistory; History and recent expeditions. Well illustrated, with a comprehensive index. Available from Publishing Division, Box 3443, Station D, Ottawa, Ont., Canada K1P 6P4.

**POLAR STUDIES OF THE JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY, VOL 2. SPITSBERGEN EXPEDITIONS 1983–1987.** Czeppe, Z. (editor). 1990. Kraków, Nakładem Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego. 283 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 83-233-0332-0.

A wide-ranging group of papers in English on aspects of Svalbard research, centred on Sørkapp Land and including studies in land geology and geography, hydrology, ornithology, archaeology of hunters' huts and graves, and archaeological chemistry. This is a reminder, should one be needed, of Poland's remarkable long-standing and continuing record of interdisciplinary studies in this corner of the Arctic.

**TURNING UP THE HEAT.** Pearce, F. 1989. London, The Bodly Head. 230 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-370-31260-0. £12.95.

Subtitled 'Our perilous future in the global greenhouse' and described within as 'the first handbook to the greenhouse age', this book summarizes all the currently accumulating worries of environmentalists on what could happen, might happen, perhaps should happen, if we all go on adding to the greenhouse effect. Provides some insights into the role of polar regions in world climate; cheerful reading for the long winter nights.

**LIFE AT LOW TEMPERATURES.** Laws, R. M. and Franks, F. (editors). 1990. London, The Royal Society. 176 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-85403-402-1. £40.00 (£42.60 overseas), including packing and mailing. Obtainable direct from The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1 5AG.

Published also as *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London B* 326(1237): 515–692, this records a discussion meeting held on 1 and 2 June 1989. It is described as '... an attempt at an integrated multidisciplinary examination of the fundamental principles that govern the responses or organisms in countering the environmental cold stress inflicted upon them', in polar, alpine and laboratory environments. There are 11 papers on water temperature and life; protein structure and function at low temperatures; cold-induced lipid-phase transitions; lipid composition and cryobehaviour of plasma membranes of isolated protoplasts under cold acclimation; low temperatures as controlling factors in plant distribution; cold adaptations of microorganisms; cold tolerance of arthropods; biochemical adaptation for cold hardiness in insects; cold adaptation in marine organisms; mammalian hibernation; and technological synthesis (of environmental crop studies and cryopreservation).