

policy, the transition from trading post to settlement, relations between Inuit and white Canadians, and the politicisation of Inuit culture. But again, the reader also learns about Matthiasson arriving in the Arctic as a young anthropology student and about his life with an Inuit family.

Very few books about the north written by anthropologists have made an outstanding contribution to general anthropological theory. Many, however, have added to the vast literature of popular accounts of Arctic peoples. Neither of these two books makes any theoretical claims, nor are they intended to; indeed, Matthiasson says that he 'shied away from discussion of anthropological issues of theory and methodology' (page 158). However, both are good examples of the kind of anthropological literature contributing to an ever-increasing popularisation of anthropology, and will perhaps raise methodological questions about ethnographic writing. This should not be taken as criticism — they are well worth reading. (Mark Nuttall, Department of Human Sciences, Brunel University, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 3PH.)

THE NATURE OF RUSSIA. John Massey Stewart. 1992. London: Boxtree Limited. 192p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 1-85283-138-3. £18.99.

Throughout the Cold War, reports and rumours of long-term abuse of the Russian countryside by the Soviet government were a cause for concern in the west. It appears that these concerns have been justified, and the true horror of environmental destruction and misuse is beginning to emerge. As recently as April 1993, Russia officially admitted to the dumping of radioactive waste in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. John Massey Stewart's book, based upon three one-hour episodes of 'Survival' shown on ITV in 1992, addresses some of these issues, while at the same time managing to convey a sense of the beauty of Russia and its many indigenous species of plants and animals.

The first chapter gives an overview of Russian history as it has affected the land — from the use of fur-bearing animals as a source of tax beginning in the ninth century (the fur-tribute system began in 859 and lasted for almost 1000 years), through the slash-and-burn techniques used by the first agriculturalists, to the disastrous collectivisation of farms initiated by Stalin in the 1950s. The remaining seven chapters take distinct types of habitat (tundra, taiga, steppe, the Caucasus mountain ranges, the volcanic Kamchatka Peninsula, the Russian far east with its monsoon-like summers and bitter winters, and lakes and rivers). In each, the wildlife is carefully described, and information from history is used to compare the status of flora and fauna today. The author describes the chequered history of the *zapovedniki* (reserves) and *zakazniki* (reserves with limited protection) under a variety of regimes: the first conservation order for game in Russia was in the eleventh century; Peter the Great (1682–1725) ordered afforestation schemes in the southern steppe; Catherine

the Great (1762–1796) abolished these (although she banned hunting between March and June); by 1917, the first six nature reserves were established; in 1951 and 1961, many reserves were abolished; in 1990, there were around 160 reserves, some of which are protected under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme.

However, the book not only concerns itself about the effect of humans on the Russian environment, but about the diversity and size of the country and its unexploited wildernesses. The quality of the illustrations in the book is outstanding, and, although this is a book for the general public, the text is informative, detailed, and well-written. (Liz Cruwys, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

GLACIAL MARINE SEDIMENTATION: PALEOCLIMATIC SIGNIFICANCE. John B. Anderson and Gail M. Ashley (Editors). 1991. Boulder: Geological Society of America (Special Paper 261). viii + 232 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-8137-2261-6. US\$47.50.

This Special Paper produced by the Geological Society of America arises from a symposium on glacial marine sedimentation held in Denver in 1988. It consists of 14 papers with the overall aim of elaborating the main differences between glacial marine sedimentation in high polar and more temperate latitudes. The main conclusion is that, although local glacier variability often confuses the issue, there are broad contrasts in the environment of deposition, which are reflected in the sediments. In temperate environments, glacial marine sedimentation is characterized by the presence of tidewater glaciers and abundant meltwater; these produce deltas, fans, stratification, and a dominance of suspension deposits. In polar environments, glacial marine sedimentation is dominated by the presence of floating ice shelves, and there is a near absence of meltwater; thus, there are few deltas, and fans and deposits are typically massive, laminated units dominated by sediment gravity flows.

These conclusions are based on an interesting mix of papers. One group of papers looks at present-day sedimentation in Antarctica and Alaska. Highlights are the various models of sea-shelf sedimentation in Antarctica and the high rates of sedimentation focused at the termini of Alaskan tidewater glaciers ($24 \text{ g cm}^{-2} \text{ d}^{-1}$). Also, it was remarkable to discover that graded sediment couplets form as frequently as twice a day in response to tides. Other papers look at glacial marine sedimentation during the warming stage of the last glaciation in the Canadian high Arctic and the Gulf of Maine. The Maine papers are particularly interesting for their insight into the large volume of sediments associated with the retreat of the Laurentide ice margin as it withdrew from the late-glacial sea, the big eskers, and sub-aqueous fans, and the evidence that the esker deposits within one ridge must be time-transgressive. Finally, there are papers looking at glacial marine sedimentation in the late Cenozoic (Alaska) and detailed discussions of two late Precambrian and two late