

Book reviews

also a 15-page bibliography to help those who wish to give further study to particular aspects, and a useful checklist of plants and animals.

The author's history is a little less accurate than his natural history, but this is not a matter of great moment: scientists often fail to check historical information with the care they would consider obligatory in their own disciplines. Mr Jackson is a sound biologist and knows the islands intimately, having taken part in the Cambridge University Darwin Centenary Galapagos Expedition as well as serving there for years as a naturalist guide. He writes simple, straightforward English with a minimum of scientific jargon, even in his chapter on 'Colonisation, Evolution and Ecology'. When he is driven to use technical expressions, he explains them.

Altogether, this is a useful addition to Galapagos literature. How I wish there had been a comparable book when I first visited the Galapagos a generation ago.

G.T. Corley Smith

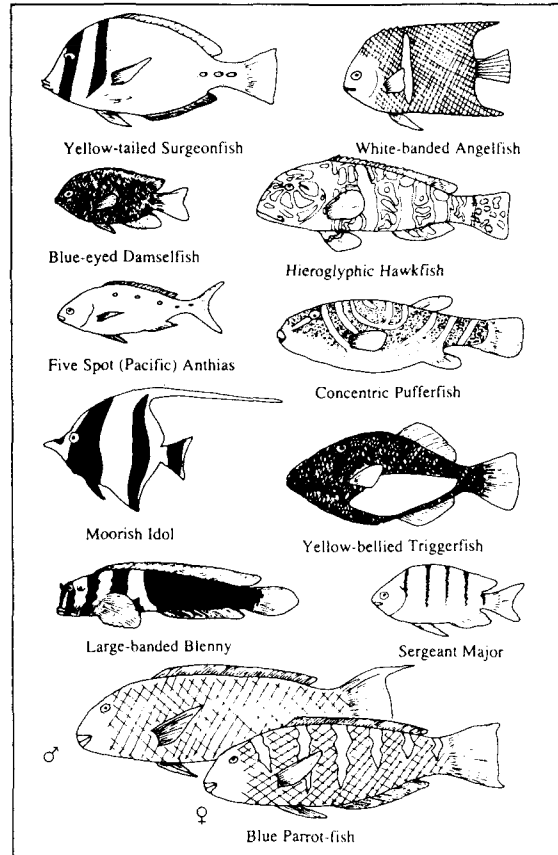
A Directory of Crocodilian Farming Operations

R.A. Luxmore, J.G. Barzdo, S.R. Broad and D.A. Jones

Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit, IUCN, 1985. £8

When the TRAFFIC Group (ancestor of the World Trade Monitoring Unit) was being run from the FFPS office, one of the first projects developed was a survey of wildlife farms. Nearly 10 years later success has been achieved and a comprehensive survey carried out. This publication is part of the results. It is difficult to eulogize the style, but I can say that it is a basic research tool for anyone interested in crocs or captive breeding. A goldmine of facts and figures, it lists every known farm, country by country. Crocodile farming is a growth industry, but its effects on wild crocs are mixed. Ranching, which uses wild animals, may be a better option, since it involves habitat conservation. However, the main threat is summarized in the last line of the introduction. 'The high levels of illegal trade in crocodilian products suggest that the current degree of control is far from adequate in many parts of the world.'

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Some Galapagos fish (based on drawings by Sir Peter Scott). From *Galapagos: A Natural History Guide*, published by University of Calgary Press. The book contains over 100 black-and-white photos and illustrations, and a 16-page full-colour insert.

The Blue Holes of the Bahamas

Robert Palmer

Jonathan Cape, 1985, HB £10.95

Blue Holes are the entrances to some of the world's most spectacular underwater caves. The first exploration of the Bahamian Blue Holes was as recent as the 1960s, and since then those on Andros have been surveyed in some detail by Rob Palmer's team. His book, written as a tale of adventure and exploration, provides an exciting account of their discoveries, culminating in a 1984 expedition, which was the subject of a BBC documentary. Apart from a giant moray eel encountered rather uncomfortably by the author in a narrow passage, most Blue Hole wildlife cannot be described as spectacular, but it is treasure to the biologist. An entire new order of

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