

on the 'alternative' Tropical Forest Action Plan proposed by the World Rainforest Movement, in which the straps might be untied. His final sentence is, 'In the end, however, it is pointless to tell the Third World to stand on its own two feet when we in the West continue to stand on its hands.'
Tony Whitten.

Painted Wolves: Wild Dogs of the Serengeti-Mara

Jonathan Scott
 Hamish Hamilton, London, 1991, 233 pp., HB £25.00

It may seem odd, at first, that Jonathan Scott feels the need to Anglicize the Latin *Lycaon pictus* (*Lycaon* means wolf; *pictus* means painted or ornate) and rebaptize the species the 'African painted wolf'. After all, the species is more commonly known as the wild dog, or Cape hunting dog. But the wild dog is neither 'wild' (in either the sense of vicious or feral), nor is it closely related to the dog that sits by the fire. And sadly, *Lycaon pictus* has not been sighted anywhere near the Cape for decades. African painted wolf, however, does describe the striking colouration and instantly identifies the species as the ecological replacement for the true wolf, *Canis lupus*, south of the Sahara.

But there is more in a name than its meaning. By emphasizing in his title, and in the common name, the beauty of the species, Scott foreshadows the not-so-hidden agenda of the book: to convince the world that painted wolves, rather than being 'vicious killers', are elegant animals deserving of our attention. Scott fulfils his agenda admirably. This book combines extensive and remarkable photographic illustrations (which won him the

BBC Wildlife Photographer of the Year in 1987) with a wealth of scientific data. Scott writes clearly without diluting information, providing the reader with an accurate and entertaining description of painted-wolf biology in the plains of the Serengeti-Mara. He frequently refers to his collaboration with scientists working in the Serengeti-Mara and it is this collaboration that helps bring the book to life. This is the story of not just a single pack of dogs, but of the biology and future conservation of a species living in one of the world's best studied and most spectacular ecosystems

For decades, African wild dogs have been subject to greater persecution than any other large predator in Africa. This persecution—as Scott demonstrates elegantly with an abundance of historical quotations—results from their method of hunting. Disembowelling one's prey is both messy and, to human observers, 'cruel'. As a result, this species has been extirpated in 19 of 32 countries in which they were once found (Ginsberg and Macdonald, 1990): they are uncommonly rare in all but a few countries. As there are probably fewer wild dogs in protected areas than black rhinos in Africa (Fanshawe *et al.*, pp. this issue), time is running out for the painted wolf.

Not since van Lawick and van Lawick-Goodall's *Innocent Killers* (1970) and Hugo van Lawick's *Solo* (1973) have wild dogs, or painted wolves, had such an eloquent advocate. The Serengeti-Mara is not, perhaps, the last best hope for painted wolves in Africa (larger populations exist in Kruger National Park in South Africa, north-eastern Botswana, Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe,

and Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania). But *Painted Wolves: Wild Dogs of the Serengeti-Mara*, in its abundance of detail and visual distinction, will draw attention to the plight of wild dogs across Africa.

References

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 van Lawick, H. 1973. *Solo*. Collins, London.
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 Joshua R. Ginsberg.

The Mountain Gorilla

Boyd Norton
 Swan Hill Press, Airlife Publishing, Shrewsbury, 1990, 128 pp., HB £16.95

Books on the mountain gorilla are becoming frequent but this is one of the good ones. The photographs are truly evocative and a real effort has been made to set the historical background of gorilla conservation and to encompass the many and varied issues.

These issues include the ambiguities, particularly regarding tourism. Boyd Norton is evidently pro-tourism (and indeed visits as a tourist himself) but is anxious about the risks involved and particularly that of transferring disease from humans to gorillas. I am glad he highlights this problem because it is one that all people coming into contact with the gorillas must be aware of. It must be said, however,

that he misses the most important point of all—if it had not been for the income generated by tourism (with its attendant potential for disease transfer) the gorilla habitat and the gorillas themselves would have been swept away by the pressure for agricultural and grazing land that had already eaten up over half the Volcanoes National Park in the 20 years to 1978. Tourism development (with which the FFPS was closely involved) was a conscious counter-attack against this real threat, which is still only held at bay.

Boyd Norton's descriptions of the gorillas in the forest reflect the intense emotional charge so many people experience when seeing these superb animals. This is all the more poignant when one considers that shortly after the publication of this book in the UK, the park he describes so vividly became a battleground (see *Oryx*, 25, 19–120). The Volcanoes National Park is now in severe difficulties. *The Mountain Gorilla* describes how things were, and what the conservation organizations active in Rwanda are determined to restore.
Roger Wilson.

Portraits of the Rainforest

Adrian Forsyth, photographs by Michael and Patricia Fogden
Robert Hale, London, 1991, 156 pp., HB £14.95

The Fogden's stunning photography and Forsyth's readable, anecdotal but scientifically impeccable text make this book a delight. It is a collection of essays that truly celebrate the rain forests of the New World and which cover topics such as diversity and rarity, adaptive colouration and coevolution, nutrient cycles and life-history

strategies. Never dull, it is informative, entertaining and visually beautiful.
Editor.

A World List of Mammalian Species (3rd Edition)

G. B. Corbet and J. E. Hill
Natural History Museum Publications/Oxford University Press, 1991, 243 pp., HB £30.00

This extensively revised edition of this indispensable list of the living and recently extinct mammals of the world is the first that has been illustrated by attractive line drawings. It lists over 4300 species, each with its scientific and English names, some of the more frequently used synonyms, and distributions. Endangered and threatened species are indicated and there are three extensive bibliographies: one on general works on the diversity and classification of mammals; regional works; and publications on particular groups.
Editor.

The Scientific Management of Temperate Communities for Conservation

Edited by I. F. Spellerberg, F. B. Goldsmith and M. G. Morris
Blackwell Scientific Publications, 1991, 566 pp., HB £45.00, SB £26.50

This volume is the proceedings of the 31st Symposium of the British Ecological Society held in Southampton, 4–6 April 1989. It is a worthy successor to the Society's 1970 Symposium on the Scientific Management of Plant and Animal Communities for Conservation. Conservation science has made much progress since 1970 and this current volume reflects this. Although most of the con-



Woylie
(*Bettongia pennicillata*)



Two-toed sloth
(*Choloepus didactylus*)



Pale-throated sloth
(*Bradypus tridactylus*)

Illustrations from *A World List of Mammalian Species*

tributions are from the northern temperate zone, southern temperate regions are also covered. Global issues are also given emphasis in Martin Holdgate's introduction, which is a broad-ranging overview of conservation in a world context, in G. T. Prance's Rates of loss of biological diversity and in R. A. Pellow's Data management for conservation, amongst other contributions.
Editor.