

BOOK REVIEWS

An American Crusade For Wildlife

James B. Trefethen. Winchester Press
and the Boone and Crockett Club,
New York, 1976. 409 p. \$12.50.

In this volume, James B. Trefethen carefully directed his unique capabilities as a professional wildlifer, credible historian, and prolific author to produce an exceptionally well documented chronology of the trials, triumphs, and challenges of wildlife conservation in the United States. Most of us have a fragmented awareness of how our wildlife resource has gone from abundance to exploitation and in some cases wanton destruction, and then to slow and often difficult restoration as the nation grew in environmental con-

sciousness. Trefethen, who died in December 1976, has given us a carefully researched text that presents the whole story in enlightening and orderly fashion.

In Part I, Trefethen tells how things were before white man's entry. He then relates the circumstances, the attitudes and needs, that prompted the settlers and their government to regard and use wildlife as they did.

Part II describes an awakening America, a time when hunters and conservationists began to realize that many species of wildlife and their habitat were in serious trouble. It was a period when sportsmen's clubs were formed and professional societies organized, when new laws were debated and enacted, when far-sighted leaders spoke up and expounded philosophies which were to have a far reaching influence on conservation policy.

Part III highlights the legislative acts and leadership that were most influential in bringing about an enlightened era of wildlife management. Here, as well as in other chapters, the reader is reminded of the political arbitrations and pressures that are constantly in motion to enact and enforce meaningful laws at the local, state, national, and international levels.

In Part IV, the author describes twentieth-century events that have contributed most to the emergence of

modern wildlife management. Frictions and problems are impartially handled, as are the political struggles which develop in response to conservation needs.

In the concluding Part V, Trefethen discusses the most controversial modern-day problems, i.e., predators, threatened and endangered species, wildlife of the seas, conflicts between the hunters and anti-hunters, environmental pollution, and adequate funding. He presents challenges to the wildlife profession and, to some extent, expresses his own philosophy of what is needed to insure habitable environment.

The book gives an especially good account of the part played by conservation leaders such as Theodore Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot, and John Muir; by groups such as the American Ornithologists Union, American Association for Advancement of Science, Boone and Crockett Club, American Forestry Association, National Audubon Society, Wilderness Society, and the Wildlife Management Institute; and by the numerous resource agencies. Pertinent examples throughout the text illustrate how wildlife conservation is inextricably linked to the cultural, social, and industrial changes in our communities and nation.

Features which make the text infor-
(Continued on page 152)

1. TREE RINGS AND CLIMATE

By H. C. FRITTS

This book is the first complete and authentic treatment of a rapidly developing subject—dendroclimatology, or the use of tree rings to study past and present climate. It introduces the reader to the basic facts, concepts, and principles of the field, describes the techniques, procedures, and models currently in use, and draws together a variety of studies into a systematic and unified treatment of the subject. Emphasis is placed upon first obtaining an understanding of the botanical and statistical bases of the science before attempting to infer and reconstruct past climate.

1977, 562 pp., \$35.00/£16.00 ISBN: 0-12-268450-8

2. TROPICAL TREES

Variation, Breeding and Conservation

Edited by J. BURLEY and B. T. STYLES

Included here are all the papers read at an international symposium held jointly at Oxford University in 1975 by the Linnean Society, the Commonwealth Forestry Institute and the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations.

CONTENTS: Background. Breeding Systems, Variation, Population Structure and Taxonomy. Case Studies—Breeding Systems, Variation, Genetic Improvement. Case Studies—Pollination and Seed Distribution. Exploration and Conservation. General Discussion, Resolutions and Recommendations.

1976, 262 pp., \$30.25/£12.00 ISBN: 0-12-145150-X

3. TREE PHYSIOLOGY AND YIELD IMPROVEMENT

Edited by M. G. R. CANNELL and F. T. LAST

This book presents the proceedings of a joint conference of physiologists and tree breeders concerned with "Physiological Genetics of Forest Tree Yield" held at Middleton Hall Conference Centre, Gorebridge, Scotland, from 13th to 21st July 1975, under the auspices of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations. It examines the physiological basis of inherent differences in tree yield, and considers how this information may be exploited in tree breeding. In order to facilitate a detailed discussion the book is restricted to wood yield as the breeding objective.

1976, 568 pp., \$32.75/£15.00 ISBN: 0-12-158750-9

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BOOK REVIEWS

(from page 151)

mative and enjoyable are a list of common and scientific names of birds and mammals mentioned in the text, an exceptionally fine list of references by chapter, an index of topics and authors, interesting photos, and drawings by Peter Corbin.

LOWELL K. HALLS
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Tropical Rain Forests of the Far East

T. C. Whitmore, xiii + 282 p. Oxford University Press, New York, 1975. \$31.25.

The tropical forests of the Far East have been exploited, managed, and studied much more intensively than their counterparts in Africa and the Americas, and so it is appropriate that the first broad treatment of tropical

forest ecology to appear in 24 years should concentrate on southeast Asia. Whitmore starts off with floristics and structural forest botany, including sections on growth forms, canopy architecture, and plant-animal interactions that will be of interest to foresters. The next section, billed in the preface as one of three recent "main fields of advance," deals with tropical seasonality and its implications for plant and animal life. (The other two main fields are forest growth and descriptions of various kinds of rain-forest associations.) The seasonality section is a disappointingly short 17 pages; it describes the changes in climate during the year and the responses of the plants, but does little to tie the two together evolutionarily.

The 38-page section on forest growth is the strongest part of the book. Much of it is based on information gleaned from foresters, and it covers such subjects as seed dispersal, seedling establishment, and light gaps. A chapter on silviculture places several of the tropical "weed" trees (e.g. *Eucalyptus deglupta*, *Anthocephalus chinensis*) in

ecological perspective. The final chapter summarizes height and diameter growth of typical tree species and includes a critical look at the only total-ecosystem productivity studies that I am aware of from the Far East: those of the Japanese workers at Kaho Chong, Thailand.

The longest section describes the various kinds of forest vegetation in the Far East, including heath forest, forests on excessively drained soils, monsoon forests, mountain forests, and the economically important swamp forests. The section starts with C. P. Burnham's sketchy chapter on soils, in which the best parts are the relationship between soils and the vegetation found on them—especially as illuminated by Burnham's own research findings. In addition to structural, floristic, and biogeographic descriptions, the section includes chapters on animal life, tropical conifers, and variation within lowland evergreen rain forest, this last being essential reading for anyone interested in the ecology of dipterocarp forests.

The final brief section on man and the tropical rain forest is the most interesting part of the book. Here Whitmore concisely summarizes past and current human impact, including shifting agriculture, and concludes with a rational case for not rapidly switching from mixed forest management to all-species chipping and vast monospecific plantations.

About one-fourth of the book consists of clear and informative photographs, many of which are full-page. The bibliography is comprehensive (more than 600 entries), and publications are cross-referenced to the place where they are cited in the text.

Two points bothered me. First, Whitmore often seems to be holding back, not daring to interpret, synthesize, summarize, or tell how he feels about an issue. He presents the data, cites the references, then moves on to the next topic. For example, in the one-paragraph section on mangroves: "This . . . type . . . has been . . . described in several . . . publications to which, for lack of space here, the reader is referred." The second criticism concerns Whitmore's decision to write a book that did not repeat the topics covered in P.W. Richard's *The Tropical Rain Forest* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 1952). Thus we are forced (as Whitmore urges in his preface) to use two books: Richard's rambling, comprehensive classic, and Whitmore's more restricted, terse treatment of fewer topics, backed up by an additional 24 years' worth of field data. No tropical forester or ecologist should be without either volume.

JACK EWEL
Gainesville, Florida

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