



"Schematic representation of feeding interactions at trees of major fruit species [utilized by] *V. olivaceus*. Two major types are shown: those with small and with large seeds. Some fruit predators find their food in the trees, others on the ground. Fruit predators are divided into seed destroyers and seed disseminators." [From Gray's Monitor Lizard]

to criticize (for example, reptiles don't have "masseter" muscles), and some will disagree with more substantive aspects. For example, Auffenberg accepts an amalgam of previous phylogenies (themselves based on limited, inadequately analyzed, and conflicting evidence), treats living taxa as ancestors, and mentions the extensive fossil record of varanids only as evidence for predation by ancient humans. The resulting narrative falls short of a convincing evolutionary and biogeographic perspective.

However satisfying for its own sake, natural history often is more useful when guided by broader theoretical concerns. That can be hard, because both fieldwork and scholarship are highly time-intensive activities, but this book illustrates the rich potential rewards of the effort. It is even better than the author's *Behavioral Ecology of the Komodo Monitor* (University Presses of Florida, 1981), provides an intriguing, detailed case study for future conceptual syntheses, and will interest herpetologists, behavioral and evolutionary ecologists, and tropical biologists. The conservation recommendations are especially compelling because they incorporate an appreciation for the customs and economy of local people. Auffenberg is still studying monitors, and rumor has it we can look forward to still another compilation of hard-earned knowledge and important insights from this unusually broad biologist.

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## Some Other Books of Interest

**Three Decades of *Daedalus*.** American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, MA, 1988. xii, 498 pp. Paper, \$5. Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, vol. 117, no. 3 (summer 1988).

Though the journal received the name *Daedalus* in 1955, it was in 1958 that the *Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences* (which has been published intermittently since 1846) became a quarterly that took as its goal "to give the intellectual community a strong voice of its own." Hence this anniversary issue, which reprints essays by Erik H. Erikson, Alice S. Rossi, John Maynard Smith, Czeslaw Milosz, Robert N. Bellah, John T. Noonan, Jr., Roger W. Shattuck, Gerald Holton, Frank E. Manuel, Octavio Paz, Northrop Frye, Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., Kenneth S. Lynn, Lewis Thomas, Elizabeth Hardwick, David Baltimore, Jean Starobinski, Stanley Hoffmann, Judith N. Shklar, John Hope Franklin, Mary Douglas, and Per Olov Enquist. In a preface to the issue the journal's editor, Stephen R. Graubard, sketches its history, describes its editorial procedures (designed to bring together "men and women of disparate opinions who would not necessarily agree but could be counted on to maintain civilized discourse" and involving intensive interaction among contributors) and notes some of the broad social concerns that its content has reflected or anticipated. In conclusion, Graubard writes, "To say that contemporary scholarship may in another day be seen as one of the more attractive intellec-

tual features of the twentieth century, an age not conspicuous for its civilized qualities, is to express a wish that an editor, looking over such a record, may legitimately ask readers to consider."—K.L.

**A Bicentenary History of the Linnean Society of London.** ANDREW THOMAS GAGE and WILLIAM THOMAS STEARN. Published for the Linnean Society of London by Academic Press, San Diego, CA, 1988. x, 242 pp., illus. \$25.

"Because the Linnean Society is the world's oldest active biological society and because for virtually 200 years it has provided common ground for both zoologists and botanists, . . . no other society has gathered into its fellowship so many distinguished naturalists," writes William Stearn in the preface to this volume. In 1938 Andrew Gage produced a history of the society, and the present bicentenary volume brings that work up to date, retaining Gage's text with some emendations by Stearn. The first 12 chapters of the volume provide a chronological account of the society's activities, beginning with its forerunners and proceeding presidency by presidency to January 1988. Subsequent chapters are devoted specifically to the society's meetings, publications, awards and grants, botanical and zoological collections (which include those of Carl Linnaeus, along with his books and correspondence), library, portraits and busts of "worthies distinguished in natural history," membership, and finance. Appendixes give further details regarding publications, officers, and staff. "On the whole the Society's life has seemed unexciting," Stearn comments, "and has either been so respectable or so adept at the suppression of possible scandal . . . that unfortunately the readers will not find records here of the personal infighting and jealousy which enliven the histories of [some other British scientific institutions]." He expresses the hope, however, that "much of interest will be found . . . in the variety of characters who have contributed to the Linnean Society's maintenance and achievement for two centuries."—K.L.

## Books Received

**Analytical Isotachophoresis.** P. Boček et al. VCH, New York, 1987. xviii, 237 pp., illus. \$110. Electrophoresis Library, vol. 1.

**Analytical Techniques for Thin Films.** K. N. Tu and R. Rosenberg, Eds. Academic Press, San Diego, CA, 1988. xii, 493 pp., illus. \$89.95. Treatise on Materials Science and Technology, vol. 27.

**Animal Energetics.** Vol. 2, Bivalvia through Reptilia. T. J. Pandian and F. John Vernberg, Eds. Academic Press, San Diego, CA, 1987. xiv, 631 pp., illus. \$115.

**Angiotensin and Blood Pressure Regulation.** Joseph W. Harding et al., Eds. Academic Press, San Diego, CA, 1988. viii, 242 pp., illus. \$55. Research Topics in Physiology, vol. 10. From a lecture series, Pullman, WA, 1985.