

## A Southerly Fauna

**Latin American Mammalogy.** History, Biodiversity, and Conservation. MICHAEL A. MARES AND DAVID J. SCHMIDLY, Eds. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1991. xviii, 468 pp., illus. \$49.95. An Oklahoma Museum of Natural History Publication.

The mammal fauna of Latin America, which contains about 1100 species, or 25 percent of the world's total, has long fascinated biologists. Interest in the historical biogeography of this fauna is of long-standing thanks to the research of G. G. Simpson a generation ago and L. G. Marshall more recently. Research on the biology of the present-day fauna, in contrast, has languished to the extent that this fauna is perhaps the most poorly known on earth.

Basic features of the biology of this fauna were reviewed in 1982 in a book edited by M. A. Mares and H. H. Genoways (*Mammalian Biology in South America*, volume 6 of the Special Publication Series, Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology, University of Pittsburgh). The present book, planned in connection with a conference held in Cancun, Mexico, in 1987, is meant to complement the "blue book" by stressing such topics as conservation, wildlife management, museology, applied biogeography, and conservation education. Ten of the 36 authors are Latin Americans, and the book's preface, section overviews, and chapter summaries

are presented in both Spanish and English.

Some of the 23 chapters will be of interest primarily to mammalogists, but many should appeal more widely because they deal with broad issues. Thus, in a chapter ostensibly describing the phenomenon of "sapismo" (big toad in a small pond), Mares describes the problems that both North Americans and Latin Americans face in trying to study Latin American mammals and concludes that "as a rule, it is at times more difficult for Latin Americans to do research in Latin America than it is for non-Latins; the roadblocks to research productivity are more effective in Latin America than they are elsewhere." Patterson and Boecklen critically discuss the application of island biogeographic theory to conservation problems and conclude that theory and its predictions often are inconsistent with empirical facts. Patterson argues that systematic faunal surveys of threatened regions and habitats are more valuable than ecological studies of representative species in a time of increasing threats to biodiversity. A major theme that emerges in several chapters is the need to treat wildlife management as a science in the context of the social and economic realities of Latin America.

Since the mid-1980s, conservation education in Latin America, both in a formal university setting and in grassroots campaigns, has become a growth industry, primarily through the generosity of such private foundations as the Pew Charitable Trust, the Noyes Foundation, the Mac-

Arthur Foundation, and the World Wildlife Fund. Wilson describes the Organization for Tropical Studies model, which has had a tremendous impact on basic and applied tropical biological problems, especially in Costa Rica. Lacher *et al.* describe their experiences in developing a graduate program in wildlife management and conservation at the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil, and Packer and Schmidly describe an analogous program at Texas A&M University that is designed to develop strong linkages with Latin America. Finally, Braun and Mares discuss the critical role that natural history museums play in the education of the general public about floras, faunas, and conservation issues. They contend that outreach programs in the form of traveling exhibits are particularly effective in changing people's attitudes toward their natural and cultural heritages.

In sum, this book contains many useful paradigms that can be widely applied in Latin America to save not just mammals but many other features of the region's fascinating fauna and flora.

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## Books Received

**Activity-Driven CNS Changes in Learning and Development.** Jonathan R. Wolpaw, John T. Schmidt, and Theresa M. Vaughan, Eds. New York Academy of Sciences, New York, 1991. xiv, 399 pp., illus. \$90. Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, vol. 627. From a conference, Rensselaerville, NY, May 1990.

**Almost Everywhere Convergence II.** Alexandra Bellow and Roger L. Jones, Eds. Academic Press, San Diego, CA, 1991. xiv, 273 pp. \$49.95. From a conference, Evanston, IL, Oct. 1989.

**Analysis of Hazardous Substances in Air.** Vol. 1. A. Kettrup, Ed. Commission for the Investigation of Health Hazards of Chemical Compounds in the Work Area. VCH, New York, 1991. xi, 223 pp., illus. \$75. Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.

**The Architecture of Supercomputers.** Titan, a Case Study. Daniel P. Siewiorek and Philip John Koopman, Jr. Academic Press, New York, 1991. xviii, 202 pp., illus. \$49.95.

**Biological Molecules.** C. A. Smith and E. J. Wood. Chapman and Hall (Routledge, Chapman and Hall), New York, 1991. xii, 205 pp., illus. Paper, \$27.50. Molecular and Cell Biochemistry.

**Biological Signal Transduction.** Elliott M. Ross and Karel W. A. Wirtz, Eds. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1991. xii, 540 pp., illus. \$198. NATO Advanced Science Institutes Series H, vol. 52. From an institute, Spetsai, Greece, Aug. 1990.

**Children's Understanding of Emotion.** Carolyn Saarni and Paul L. Harris, Eds. Cambridge University Press, New York, 1991. x, 385 pp., illus. \$54.50; paper, \$21.95. Cambridge Studies in Social and Emotional Development. Reprint, 1989 ed.

**Cohen-Macaulay Modules over Cohen-Macaulay Rings.** Yuji Yoshino. Cambridge University Press, New York, 1990. viii, 177 pp., illus. Paper, \$24.95.

**The Common Tern.** Its Breeding Biology and Social Behavior. Joanna Burger and Michael Gochfeld. Columbia University Press, New York, 1991. xviii, 413 pp., illus. \$65.

**Communicating Ideas.** The Politics of Scholarly Publishing. Irving Louis Horowitz, 2nd ed. Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick, NJ, 1991. xviii, 311 pp. Paper, \$19.95.

## Vignettes: AIDS Elsewhere

Why, given all the social and economic factors that distinguish African populations from those in the West, did researchers choose to focus on sexual promiscuity?

—Randall M. Packard and Paul Epstein, in *AIDS: The Making of a Chronic Disease* (Elizabeth Fee and Daniel M. Fox, Eds.; University of California Press)

Even the seemingly simple message to "use a condom" is actually a complicated drama that must incorporate competing scripts, play to hostile audiences, and ultimately raise as many questions as it answers. Already it has returned to the world stage such stock characters as the Ugly American who, in the guise of the U.S. Agency for International Development, distributed in central Africa condoms that were too small and inelastic.

—Paula A. Treichler, in *AIDS: The Making of a Chronic Disease*

The real threat as a result of AIDS in Japan is the generalized perception, demonstrated through public opinion surveys, that anyone other than a "normal" Japanese—meaning foreigners, Japanese hemophiliacs, Japanese homosexuals, and Japanese IV drug users—is likely to have AIDS and should be avoided. In interviews during 1988 Japanese respondents said that they avoided grasping subway handles or using toilets, public telephones, and water fountains after non-Japanese had done so.

—James W. Dearing, in *AIDS: The Making of a Chronic Disease*