

To a cat specialist, it is obvious that Kitchener is not a specialist. He fails in his knowledge of wild cat lore. For example, he reports there were 140,000 tigers in India at the turn of the century and now there may be 4000. Some tiger specialists insist the turn-of-the-century figure is 40,000. On the other hand, no one really knows how many tigers there were in 1900. The point is there were a lot and now there are very few. I was disappointed to see that Kitchener missed the pioneering work on snow leopards by Rodney Jackson and his associates and that he did not include the recent and rapidly expanding literature on reproductive physiology in wild cats. Further, his section on cat conservation seems weak. But cat specialists are in a quandary on the best approaches to saving some of these species, so this is difficult to fault. In sum, Kitchener's is a valiant attempt to master a difficult subject.

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