

Book reviews

References

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- Hose, C. 1929. *The Field-book of a Jungle-wallah*. London: H. F. and G. Witherby (Oxford University Press, 1985).
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Collins Guide to the Rare Mammals of the World

John A. Burton, illustrated by Bruce Pearson
William Collins Sons & Co. (London), 1987, 240 pp., HB £12.95

1988 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals

Prepared by the IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, in association with the International Council for Bird Preservation

International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1988, 154 pp. PB £6 or US\$12. Available from CMC, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL (postage and packing extra).

Rare Mammals of the World, by the former Executive Secretary of the FFPS, is a testimony to the current species extinction crisis. It describes over 1000 species that might be considered threatened with extinction, including those so poorly known that it is uncertain whether they are flourishing or already extinct, and others that are still widely distributed but are locally threatened.

In standard field guide format the text gives a brief description of the species, a summary of its status in the wild and in captivity, and any protection it receives. A checklist of species in an appendix gives vernacular and scientific names, IUCN threatened categories and CITES appendix listings where these exist, and a 'star' rating indicating the degree of threat based on a system devised by the author. The informative text, Bruce Pearson's attractive paintings, the distribution maps and bibliography make this an invaluable book for anyone interested in mammals and conservation. It will also be a useful starting point for any young conservation scientist intending fieldwork designed to contribute to the knowledge of the world's vanishing mammal fauna and help stem its decline.

The 1988 IUCN Red List of Threatened Animals is an index of the 555 mammals, 1073 birds, 186 reptiles, 54 amphibians, 596 fishes and 2125

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invertebrates known to IUCN to be threatened with extinction. It is depressingly long, especially when one realizes that there are many many more unlisted species almost certainly under threat. An update of the 1986 list, it is intended to complement the IUCN Red Data Book series, which contain the more detailed information essential for the development of conservation action plans, and will be a convenient information source. It is planned to publish new editions regularly.

Editor.

Birds to Watch: The ICBP World Check-List of Threatened Birds

N. J. Collar and P. Andrew

International Council for Bird Preservation, Technical Publication No. 8, 1988, 303 pp. PB £9.50, including postage from ICBP, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ, UK

The Bird Red Data Books are basic reference texts for the conservation practitioner. A problem, though, is that they take so long to produce that one may be dependent upon out-of-date information between the appearance of the various volumes. There is a need for an interim publication giving a general overview of the situation and this is it. It is a shocker, too; the last global overview, made 10 years ago, lists 290 species while this one covers no fewer than 1029. Over 11 per cent of the world's birds are threatened. As the authors state, the birds in this book are the ones to seek out, survey, monitor and observe.

Roger Wilson.

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