

# Book reviews

have both land and water components which must be managed together.

The final section offers a miscellany of case studies, and provides recommendations and strategies to help protected area planners and managers carry out their tasks. These range from a 'manager's guide' (which includes a questionnaire designed to find out if you are a successful manager!) and a discussion of the problems of classifying coastal and marine habitats (including examples from the US and UK), to fairly detailed descriptions of the management of particular marine parks such as the Great Barrier Reef and the Laguna de Tacarigua National Park in Venezuela.

The book draws heavily on the authors' experience and, on their own admittance, displays a strong bias towards their own style of planning protected areas. Most of the examples come from the US and the tropics, particularly Indonesia, but, given the few existing publications in this field, this is a minor quibble and is possibly more indicative of the state of marine conservation in other parts of the world than of any failing in the book. The methods developed over the past century for managing terrestrial protected areas cannot always be applied easily to coastal and marine areas because their ecosystems are so open, difficult to demarcate and economically important. This book should help stimulate major new efforts in establishing and managing our marine heritage.

*Susan Wells, IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge*

## **The Island of South Georgia**

Robert Headland

Cambridge University Press, 1984, £14.95

Some years ago, I suggested to a publisher that South Georgia would make a suitable addition to a series of titles on islands. The proposal was turned down by the series's advisor on the grounds that the place was of insufficient interest. Robert Headland's comprehensive book shows that, even without the military events of 1982, this was wrong. South Georgia is a magnificent island packed with interest. It has something for everyone, including stamp collectors and even steam locomotive enthusiasts. The book will most

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interest students of polar exploration, maritime history and, now, international politics. For conservationists, South Georgia provides two well-documented stories of animal exploitation: whaling and sealing. It was one of the major centres of twentieth-century whaling. The industry there and elsewhere reduced the Antarctic whale population to only 10 per cent of its pristine size, and it is showing only small hopeful signs of recovery. By contrast, the fur seal was brought even closer to extinction but, perhaps because the removal of the great whales has considerably reduced competition, it is now flourishing. Its numbers are even becoming an embarrassment because the seals are eroding the vegetation around their breeding beaches. A third phase of exploitation, that of fishing mainly for krill, may soon become a major industry. *Oryx* readers will be disappointed that the book does not include more discussion of the ecosystem of South Georgian waters and the human impact on them.

*Robert Burton, naturalist and author*

## **Northern Ecology and Resource Management**

Edited by Rod Olson, Frank Geddes and Ross Hastings

University of Alberta Press, 1985, £21.00

## **The Living Tundra**

Yu. I. Chernov, translated by D. Löve

Cambridge University Press, 1985, £27.50.

The Arctic is one of the last frontiers. Until World War II, lifestyles of the scattered inhabitants had changed little over the centuries. They were principally nomads who followed migrating herds or shifted hunting grounds according to season. Now there are cities, mines, roads and pipelines springing up and, although the area is huge, the impact of man is becoming felt. Developers are striding into the Arctic wastes, but the conservationists are snapping at their heels. The tundra and taiga of the North has an advantage over the tropical savannahs and forests, because development has just started and the region is within the territories of scientifically advanced and 'environmentally aware' nations. Thus, ecologists are able to make baseline studies and monitor, predict and, hopefully, mitigate the effects of development.

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