

Book reviews

Uganda National Parks, of which Kinloch was a member, were right in questioning whether such a draconian step as culling animals in the parks was necessary, but the fullness of time has not only justified their difficult decision to do so, but it has now become the practice in many national parks worldwide.

In Tanganyika he masterminded the setting up of the Mkweke College of Wildlife Management to be used by trainees from wildlife organizations in Africa, and indeed from further afield, which was a masterpiece of forward thinking. Despite all the difficulties that the newly emerged nations have faced, this institution has continued to produce young men and women trained in wildlife management at both certificate and diploma level.

Two criticisms of this extremely well-written book. Firstly, that the five years spent in Tanganyika were not dealt with in the same detail as the rest of the book. The second is the problem of adequately describing what has transpired over the past 23 years. He acknowledges that it is a difficult task and in many ways I think it is disappointing that he has not sought a wider range of views for the Afterwords section.

His writing is so delightful that perhaps in his retirement years he can be persuaded to put to rights the shortcomings of what is otherwise a most readable book and one which I believe greatly helps our understanding of the development of many important philosophical and practical elements of wildlife conservation in East Africa.

R.J. Wheater, The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland

Red List of Chilean Terrestrial Vertebrates

Edited by Alfonso A. Glade
Chilean Forest Service (CONAF) Av.
Bulnes 259, OF.604, Santiago,
Chile, 1988, 67 pp., no price given

This publication is much more than a red list, being the results of a four-day symposium, *Conservation Status of Chilean Terrestrial Vertebrate Fauna*, organized by the Chilean Forest Service in April 1987 in Santiago. It was the first meeting of its kind in Chile and the assembled specialists agreed that two taxa have become Extinct, 50 are Endangered, 92 are Vulnerable, 53 are Rare, 2 are under Indeterminate Threat, 46 are Insufficiently Known and 6 are Out of Danger.

For the purposes of the symposium terrestrial vertebrates were taken to include 'wild vertebrates native to Chile, living or breeding in a definitely terrestrial environment, and continental water fishes'. Twenty species are illustrated by excellent colour photographs. In addition to the lists that show the conservation status of each species in the country as a whole and in each Administrative Region, there are nine agreements reached by the symposium, including one promising support to CONAF's Conservation of Chilean Threatened Wild Fauna Programme. There are also 31 General Recommendations including one to continue with efforts to pass a Wild Fauna Act to replace the obsolete Hunting Law, and Particular Recommendations for each faunal group.

The Irish Red Data Book. 1. Vascular Plants

T.G.F. Curtis and H.N. McGough

Stationery Office, Dublin (Government Publications Sales Office, Sun Alliance House, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2, Ireland), 1988, 168 pp., PB £7.00

Ireland's wild plant species are an impoverished sample of the flora of north-west Europe. The authors of this book give a total of only

1309 vascular plants, which includes introductions that are well established in the wild. However, Ireland's botanical interest rests not in the number of species, but in their ecological groupings. In particular the Burren region of Co. Clare, Connemara in west Galway, and Cork and Kerry in the south-west are renowned for their unique plant associations.

The book describes the methods of collecting the data and gives details of current legislation protecting plants in Ireland, but the bulk is taken up by species accounts divided into habitat groups. Each account gives a brief description (its status past and present and a comment on why it is rare or declining, and its distribution in Ireland, Britain and Europe). Distribution maps are given for species whose distributions illustrate a particular feature or trend, and 14 flowers are illustrated with colour photographs.

The final synthesis lists 10 species of the 159 recorded in the book as Extinct; 6 species as Endangered and 44 Vulnerable.

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