

tropics. These are not just forestry policies, they include policies on extension of agriculture, mining, dams, roads and many other projects directly destructive of forests. They also include tax, credit and pricing policies that stimulate short-term commercial investment in forest exploitation.

The editors identify a series of measures for adoption by tropical governments, and others for adoption by industrial countries and international agencies. They emphasize that industrial nations must recognize the global benefits from setting aside tropical rain forests for conservation, and urge development assistance agencies to site major projects away from critical ecosystems. Finally, they support the Tropical Forestry Action Plan, a five-point framework that gives emphasis to cross-sectoral solutions to tropical deforestation.

This is a scholarly work virtually without illustrations. It is suitable for policy-makers, advanced students and conservationists concerned to find out the underlying political reasons for tropical deforestation today. *N. Mark Collins.*

Studies in Himalayan Ecology

Edited by Tej Vir Singh and Jagdish Kaur

Himalayan Books, New Delhi, 1989 (revised edition), Rs495

This is a slightly enlarged edition of a book first published in 1980. Of the 29 chapters, six are new, one is revised; two of the papers new to this book were first published elsewhere. The mean chapter length is 9.5 pages; a few should have been longer, and some shorter.

The 'Ecology' of the title is used in the widest sense, with

coverage including such disparate topics as floristics, tourism, and the dynamics of water erosion; there is a commendable emphasis on development issues. 'Himalayan' is used more narrowly; the case-study chapters are rooted firmly in India's Garwhal Himalaya and similar regions of Nepal and Pakistan receive no mention.

The book is not for casual reading; the text includes many legible graphs and tables, but there are few photographic illustrations (all, except a small frontispiece, in murky black-and-white). There is an important core of contributions covering: water erosion and remedial measures; watershed conservation; deforestation and flood risk; the ecology of forest fires; plant breeding and development; potential for increased fodder production; agroforestry in the hills; and rural development. The merits of these chapters outweigh the demerits of the few where jargon is more evident than meaningful content. Overall, the book would have benefited from more selectivity, a heavier editorial hand, and an introductory chapter putting the major themes in perspective; nevertheless, it can be recommended as a useful survey of many key topics.

Brian Groombridge.

Conservation of European Reptiles and Amphibians

Edited by Keith Corbett

Christopher Helm, London, 1989, 274pp., PB £11.95

The wide interest shown in Europe's surprisingly diverse herpetofauna (278 species according to the present volume, which includes Turkey and the western USSR) is attested to by the existence of field guides in several European lan-

guages. Given this, the scarcity of readily available information on the current status of these species has been somewhat frustrating to date.

This volume, compiled by the Conservation Committee of the Societas Europaea Herpetologica, goes a considerable way towards filling the gap. Following brief introductory chapters on the European herpetofauna, the threats they face, and international efforts for their conservation (particularly the Bern Convention), twelve 'key' taxa and two critical sites (Evros in Greece and eastern Sardinia) are reviewed in some detail. The rest of the volume comprises brief accounts for each country in Europe, summarizing present knowledge and highlighting the all too evident gaps in that knowledge. Although the book could have benefited from tighter editorial control, it still provides a very useful introduction to the subject.

Martin Jenkins.

Crocodiles

Rodney Steel

Christopher Helm, London, 1989, 198pp., HB £14.95

To judge from the popularity of the dinosaur exhibits at museums around the world, one would anticipate that the appeal of Rodney Steel's book on crocodiles would be enhanced by his frequent reference to their illustrious progenitors. The book is heavily slanted towards the morphology and palaeontological affiliations of crocodiles, but weaves this into a popular account of the family and its biology.

The central part describes each of the extant species of crocodylian in turn, summarizing distribution and status, with a collection of snippets

about their biology and folklore. This often verges on the sensational, and no opportunity is missed to recite documented evidence of monsters and man-eaters. When relating the results of published research, Steel adopts the technique of bringing the names of the authors into the text, noting the approximate date of publication, but then fails to incorporate references to the publications in the extremely sparse bibliography. This reduces the value of the book to the serious student, and suggests it is directed at a school or popular readership. A final chapter presents the obligatory case for conservation, noting the impact of the effects of the uncontrolled skin-hunting of former times, with an account of some of the success of crocodile management that have been achieved more recently.
Richard Luxmoore.

Raptors in the Modern World

Edited by B.-U. Meyburg and R. D. Chancellor
World Working Group on Birds of Prey and Owls, Berlin, London and Paris, 1989, 611 pp., HB? £25.00 (\$45.00, DM75.00). Available from WWGBP, 15b Bolton Gardens, London SW5 6AL, UK (post free)

This important publication is the proceedings of the Third World Conference on Birds of Prey and Owls held in 1987 at Eliat, Israel, and contains 611 pages of specialist papers on raptor migration, population biology, conservation, pollution, habitat analysis, promotion of legislation and education in raptor conservation.

While it is good to read of the efforts to restore nesting bald eagle populations into the

south-eastern United States of America or of the reintroduction of the bearded vulture into the Alps, there is far too much bad news. Depressingly, these magnificent but sensitive predators still fly the gauntlet of poisoning, trapping and shooting in some of the most civilized countries, while in a number of developing countries they are still the victims of the too liberal use of organochlorine pesticides. Enforceable international legislation seems a long way off.
Bruce Coleman.

International Wildlife Trade: Whose Business is it?

Sarah Fitzgerald
World Wildlife Fund, 1989, 459 pp., PB \$25.00, HB \$40.00, plus \$2.00 p. &p. from WWF, PO Box 4866, Hampden Post Office, Baltimore, Maryland 21211, USA

International Trade in Endangered Species: A Guide to CITES.

David S. Favre
Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 1989, 415 pp., HB £75.00 (\$129.00, DM235.00)

Sarah Fitzgerald's book is a non-technical overview of international trade in wildlife. It explains CITES and discusses the problems that still beset this 15-year-old treaty, with particular reference to the 1987 meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Ottawa.

The bulk of the book is devoted to key issues involving groups of wildlife: Part II (Land Mammals) has chapters on Bears, Big cats, Small cats, Elephants, Kangaroos and other macropods, Musk deer, Primates, Rhinoceroses and Vicunas, Part III (Aquatic Animals) considers otters, seals, walruses and cetaceans, Part IV is devoted to birds, Part

V to reptiles and Part VI to other animals, from butterflies and spiders to ornamental fish and corals. Part VII covers plants and the comparative brevity of this section reflects the lack of attention CITES has paid to date to the world's threatened flora species. Nearly every chapter has a box containing suggestions for citizen action. The Appendices include a useful reading list, full references to the text and a detailed glossary. The list of species in the Appendices needs updating since the Lausanne meeting occurred after the book was published but this does not detract from a thoroughly readable and useful book.

While Sarah Fitzgerald's book is aimed at giving law enforcers, traders, travel agents and the general public a readable review of CITES, David Favre's is designed to help the reader understand the detail of the legal and bureaucratic environment in which this complex treaty operates.

The structure of the book follows the structure of the treaty, with the first 11 chapters dealing with Articles I-XI and chapters 12-15 covering Articles XII-XXV. Each chapter is divided into four parts: text of the Article concerned; a general discussion of the Article; a historical note on the development of the treaty language; and a series of notes dealing with the various topics or issues concerned with the Article. The logical structure makes it an ideal reference for either a complete explanation of CITES or a means of checking on specific issues.

The appendices include the full text of CITES, the list of species on the appendices (as of 1987), a list of Parties, and the full wording of selected important Resolutions.
Editor.