

hs, and middle toe with claw. ed "Color Descriptions" and depiction of the colours of the l as that of the soft parts called ts" of all the species dealt with ur descriptions are meticulous sell colour notation which pro- and bias free element of com- entitled "Identification Keys" ant part of the book. It starts and is followed by keys to enus. This part can be consid- ights of the work. In addition reise text, the outstanding drawings of each species com- rovide the necessary informa- tifications of downy young. an unusually high quality and instances for identifying an ithout having to refer to the y accurate but also delightful. or has contributed an outstand- waterfowl studies along with and life sketches scattered

The colour plates are excep- eproduction to the extent that considered as works of art. t of view, the postures of the nd the colours of the plumage at

quences and classification may not be in agreement with oposals but this should not be is time because the taxonomy iding waterfowl, is currently t of new techniques of analy- mic studies. Results of future e taxonomic proposals of the ute to a better understanding ationships of these birds.

in waterfowl biology, particu- o identify downy waterfowl, essential reference in their ce is more than reasonable for t is therefore with great plead it to anyone working with anyone interested in birds in

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Last of the Curlews

By Fred Bodsworth. 1995. Counterpoint, Washington. 192 pp., illus. U.S. \$15.

The vast number of Eskimo Curlews of the past century were decimated by market hunting, not an unfamiliar story in North America. What is riveting about this species is the tantalizing hints of its lingering as a few scattered survivors still occasionally reported along the traditional spring and fall migration routes, mixed with flocks of other shorebirds, some similar enough in appearance to leave a element of doubt to sight identifications.

This slim volume is a reprint of the 40-year-old classic, originally published in 1955 by Dodd, Mead & Company, in which Bodsworth imagines a year in the life of a surviving Eskimo Curlew, and in doing so graphically re-creates its behaviour and ecology centred on its nine-thousand-mile migration route from the far north of North America to the far south of South America. Particularly poignant is a fleeting companionship with a potential mate which does not survive to the nesting grounds. Although this is biol-

ogy from a personal birds-view of events, instinct is stressed. An effective text contrast is provided by stark verbatim excerpts from the scientific literature which introduce many chapters.

This edition is illustrated by Abigail Rorer who has redrawn from the originals by the late Terry M. Shortt. It begins with a forward by W. S. Merwin outlining his personal discovery of the book and subsequent championing of its re-printing. Fred Bodsworth has added an Epilogue documenting the scattered evidence of Eskimo Curlew survival in the past four decades, and Murray Gell-Mann an Afterward touching on other North American abundant species decimated by over-exploitation and why we should care, ending starkly: "The human race must get used to the simple idea that the Earth is really finite. The sooner this happens, the happier the outcome will be."

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Bats: A Community Perspective

By James S. Findley. 1993. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge. xi + 167 pp., illus. U.S. \$19.95.

This is a good book for professional community ecologists working on bats or interested in comparing their study species with bats. The first third of the book is somewhat introductory: chapter 1 justifies the study of bat communities. Much is made of the fact that bats are exceptional, being small yet K-selected mammals who live in stable habitats. Chapter 2 provides brief descriptions (3-6 sentences) of each bat family and their habits. The non-chiroptologist will do well to read this section carefully, as family or genus names regularly appear in the rest of the book. Chapter 3 gives an overview of the methods used in the field to catch bats and to determine their movements, interactions, and diet. This chapter ends on a presentation of ecomorphology, an analytical field which uses multivariate techniques to group morphologically similar species in the hope that ecological similarities will be reflected in such groups.

The remaining two-thirds of the book is where the beef is for the community ecologist. Chapter 4 describes the bat communities of the following five geographical regions: temperate North America, Europe and Russia, tropical Africa, tropical Asia and Australia, Central and South America. Exhaustive tables list the species found at various sites within these zones, sometimes with abundance indexes. Chapter 5 looks at the influence of food, foraging areas, roosting sites, heat, and water, and concludes

that although some of these factors may be limiting to bat populations, competition for them does not appear to be important. Chapters 6 and 7 deal with the global pattern of bat distribution in terms of species number, biomass, and trophic types. The first of these two chapters is more descriptive, with a lot of ecomorphograms, whereas the second one is more analytical, concluding that bat diversity seems to depend on habitat area and on the number of ancient or modern refuges (partitions in habitat).

Chapter 8, a 5-page summary where parallels are established with plants, birds, rodents, and freshwater fishes, ends by restating that bat species seem to have arisen in refuges and managed to coexist thereafter, without much evidence for the role of competition and resource limitation. Proponents of these two concepts as important factors shaping communities can take solace in several studies mentioned in the book where competition was apparent, and in the author's admission that, as a whole, studies in the field of bat communities are still relatively few, owing to the difficulty of studying a nocturnal animal for which species are sometimes hard to identify in the hand. Notwithstanding this last comment, the author did a good job of reviewing the literature, giving 206 references.

The book is well produced, although I did catch six typos and found graph lines to be too thin. The writing gets technical in places (particularly where ecomorphology is concerned) but it is otherwise clear, and the summaries at the end of each chapter, if not at

the end of chapter sections, are well done. The book is part of the Cambridge Studies in Ecology series; it is too specialized for the field naturalist, but community ecologists should find it useful.

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No Room for Bears: A Wilderness Writer's Experiences with a Threatened Breed

By Frank Dufresne. 1991. Alaska Northwest Books, Bothell, Washington. 252 pp., illus. Reprinted from 1965 edition. U.S. \$12.95; \$15.95 in Canada.

Dufresne draws upon years of personal experience with people and bears to craft first-hand accounts of human behaviour in bear country and the response of bears to the people they encounter. While some chapters address black bears and polar bears, most of this book focuses on the brown bears of Alaska. There are many interesting, and sometimes chilling, accounts of human-bear encounters at the fire side, in tent camps, around fishing holes, at photographer blinds, and at remote cabins.

Dufresne rounds the book out with information about bear biology, evolution, and folklore; he makes anecdotal reference to bear species inhabiting other continents as well. In addition to bear

mortality through direct encounters with humans, Dufresne addresses threats to the Alaskan brown bear resulting from habitat alienation and destruction. In his plea for the preservation of North American bears, Dufresne provides a series of recommendations for people living and working in bear country.

Because this book was written in 1965, some of the information on bear biology and evolution is outdated. But for those interested in mid-century human-bear interactions, this book will make a worthwhile addition to your library.

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Bird Life of Woodland and Forest

By Robert J. Fuller. 1995. Cambridge University Press, New York. xiii + 244 pp., illus. U.S. \$64.95.

This is an excellent and well-written account of woodland birds in Britain. Overall, the book is readable, informative, and provides interesting insights and questions about bird life in forested habitats. It is unfortunate that the book deals largely with British birds which might limit its interest to Canadian naturalists.

The book is well organised and the initial chapters provide a historical perspective on the forests of Britain and Europe followed by a discussion of how birds use woodland habitats. A chapter on the abundance and distribution of woodland birds is well thought out and discusses factors which determine the diversity of birds. Comparisons with avifaunas in mainland Europe and North America are made where appropriate and the book is well referenced throughout. The book has chapters on broad-leaved forest, coniferous forest, scrub forest, and upland woods, and includes sections on human managed "woodland" systems such as coppice, wood-pasture, and heath.

One aspect of the book that I found refreshing was the insights into bird distribution and behaviour which reflect the dynamic interactions between many species of birds and their habitats. The long history of human intervention in forested habitats in Britain, well over 2000 years, has left no old growth forest and very little mature forest; the majority being variously managed types of forests. Associated

with changes in management of forests and their species composition have come changes in the distribution of birds. Dr. Fuller's reference to the general change in the habitat of the mistle thrush over a hundred years or so, from coniferous forests, through deciduous forest to largely suburban habitats indicates the adaptability of some species to changing environments. Likewise, the variation in habitat use in different parts of a bird's range, indicate the difficulty in finding appropriate indicators for measuring the health of forests. In central and eastern Europe, coal tit, goldcrest, bullfinch, and mistle thrush use coniferous habitats while in Britain they may be found in a range of deciduous habitats.

Major concepts of bird distribution such as edge effects, patchiness of habitat, and stand structure are discussed. Dr. Fuller draws on a wide personal background of research as well as that of the British Trust for Ornithology and other researchers and naturalists to make this a valuable book. The inclusion of a chapter on woodland in a changing countryside provide much food for thought and provide an understanding of how man's use and management of forests through millennia have affected the distribution and abundance of birds.

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A Supplement

By Charles G. Sibley
University Press
U.S. \$25.00.

The publication of *Taxonomy of Birds* by Sibley and Monroe is a fact that the club has challenged. The work as definitive corrections. Read "extensive" received. These authors form the

The supplement consists of a detailed changes and corrections in the first section. It changes in classification, species, and names. The section "complete updates" that the a

A World Check

By Burt L. Monroe
University Press
U.S. \$50.00.

This typical and 2063 general Monroe in the supplement. It is identical to become "a tax Monroe (SAM) use the check and is followed by symbols which book includes the SAM classification of genera

Each specific name is recorded the signal follows with a distribution and stations and by the abbreviation one become