

The book closes with a useful chapter on bird observation in Guatemala, a 3½ page bibliography, and an index.

Packed with well-chosen information on many aspects of Guatemalan birds, and well illustrated in color, this compact little volume is a must for anyone interested in Middle American birds.

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Biology of Bats

By W. A. Wimsatt (Ed.). Academic Press, New York.
1970. Vol. 1, 406 p. \$25.00. Vol. 2, 400 p. \$26.00.

Work on echolocation has stimulated general interest in the Chiroptera, and the use of mist nets has made them easier to obtain for study. These two factors have made bats popular subjects for research as reflected by these two volumes which are part of a multivolume treatise designed to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date summary of our knowledge of the Chiroptera. With these as the stated aims of the series, the first two volumes are certainly evidence that Wimsatt and his colleagues are succeeding.

The two volumes now available include the following chapters: Volume 1 — Bat origins and evolution (G. L. Jepsen), Karyotypic trends in bats (R. J. Baker), The skeletal system, The muscular system, Flight patterns and aerodynamics (T. A. Vaughan), Development : prenatal and postnatal (R. T. Orr), Migrations and homings of bats (D. R. Griffin), Hibernation : ecology and physiological ecology (W. H. Davis), Thermoregulation and metabolism in bats (C. P. Lyman), Urinary system (R. M. Rosenbaum), Volume 2 — Integument and derivatives (W. B. Quay), The central nervous system (O. W. Henson, Jr.), Peripheral nervous system (W. B. Quay), The ear and audition (O. W. Henson, Jr.), Vision, olfaction, taste (R. A. Suthers), Pineal organ (W. B. Quay) and Bats in relation to the health, welfare and economy of man (D. G. Constantine).

In each chapter the information on the subject under consideration is reviewed with comments about the current state of knowledge. The litera-

ture reviews are extensive, but not complete (this is not a bibliography of bats), a further reflection of the tremendous amount of material that has been published about bats, most of it in the last 30 years. Of course, there is not a vast quantity of literature for all of the subjects under consideration; e.g. W. B. Quay comments when introducing the Pineal organ, that there is "... not a shred of published information . . .".

The introduction of new slang in Chapter 1 of Volume 1 is regrettable and unnecessary. Bats become "chiropts", the Megachiroptera "megabats" and the Microchiroptera, of course, "microbats" — irregardless of the fact that some of the Microchiroptera are much more "mega" than some of the Megachiroptera. I hope that these nicknames will die without propagating.

The books, which come at a time when the available information should and can be collated and reviewed, are a must for anyone contemplating research with bats. By assembling so much relevant material from the literature and combining it with personal expertise, the two volumes are also rendered indispensable to anyone wishing or needing to familiarize himself with bat biology. The recurrent theme in the book is the "diversity of bats". Lengths of the various chapters are usually a reflection of the state of our knowledge of the topics covered, but in all cases, the reader cannot help but be impressed by the paucity of information about this, the second largest order of the Mammalia.

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Infectious Diseases of Wild Mammals

By J. W. Davis, L. H. Karstad and D. O. Trainer
[Eds.]. Iowa State University Press, Ames Iowa.
1970. 421 p. \$18.00.

This book is a collection of sections describing specific infectious diseases of wild mammals written by many well known wildlife disease investigators. Each section covers one disease, using the same general format, beginning with the history of the disease and then through the etiology, signs, pathology, diagnosis and control. Not all



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