

Book Reviews

Botany

Vegetation of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania

By Dennis J. Herlocker and Herman J. Dirschl. Canadian Wildlife Service, Report Series Number 19. 1972. 39 pp. \$1.25. Available from Information Canada Bookstores.

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area is 3,200 square miles of reserved land, 2 degrees south of the equator in northern Tanzania. It is one of the few areas in the world that is managed and administered specifically for the integration of multiple land uses, which include wildlife and vegetation conservation, the protection of watersheds and indigenous husbandry, and the promotion of tourism. This region of Africa has been the subject of scientific survey since the beginning of this century, and now the Conservation Area is the focus of a large research effort centered at the Serengeti Research Institute.

Herlocker and Dirschl have produced a vegetation map suitable for use as basic data for the other research programs. Their method of identifying the vegetation patterns observed on aerial photographs (taken 1957/58) from surveys in the field (made 1966/67) includes an ecological component that gives the resultant map a significance beyond the purely botanical. The vegetation has been classified into five primary physiognomic categories — Forest, Woodland, Bushland, Grassland, and Herbaceous swamp — directly from the aerial photographs. The woody vegetation was then further subdivided into mapping categories from the tones and textures of the photographs.

Variations in grasslands could not be directly identified, but mapping units of short-, medium-, and tall-grass dominance were interpolated from associated geographic and topographical data. The units used in the vegetation map are based on physiognomic and dominance formulae, reflecting the strata structure and species composition of the vegetation.

The report contains many good photographs which illustrate both the major vegetation types and the general character of the Conservation Area. Unfortunately no basic map is provided to show the locations and topography which are mentioned. In addition to names on the vegetation map itself, a small outline map of the area with physiographic regions and drainage systems would clarify the regional vegetation descriptions which comprise the main part of the publication.

This vegetation survey is as complete and accurate a mapping of the area as is possible to date, given its areal extent, its degree of inaccessibility, and the accuracy of local cartographic data. Its greatest use will be as a source of primary information upon which to base planning and management decisions for the development of the exciting concepts of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

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Zoology

Birds of Rocky Mountain National Park

By Allegra Collister. Denver Museum of Natural History, Museum Pictorial Number 18, Denver. 1970. 64 pp. \$1.00.

This annotated bird checklist is the fourth since 1937 on this portion of mountainous Colorado. Accounts of the 256 bird species recorded in or near the park are concise, well prepared, and reasonably free of typing errors. The many excellent photographs by Alfred M. Bailey, Patricia Bailey Witherspoon, and others are worth the modest price alone. The booklet will be of interest primarily to persons visiting north-central Colorado, and perhaps to

observers inhabiting other parts of the Rocky Mountains, who wish to compare the birds found in their areas to those elsewhere in the same mountain range. A map of the area covered by the book would have been a useful additional feature.

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