

Book Reviews

ZOOLOGY

The Red Colobus Monkey

By Thomas T. Struhsaker. 1975. *Wildlife Behavior and Ecology Series*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago. 311 pp., illus. \$25.

In collecting the material for this book, the American primatologist Thomas Struhsaker spent 1593.7 hours observing Red colobus Monkeys in the Kibale Forest Reserve of western Uganda, writing his field notes using carbon paper so that there was little possibility of their loss. He solved the difficulty of working in a dense forest by observing the monkeys from trails marked on the ground in a grid pattern cut along compass bearings, whose intersections occurred either at 50- or 100-m intervals. His book incorporates many of his raw data, making it a more detailed work than the earlier ones in the same series, such as *The Serengeti Lion* by George Schaller and *The Spotted Hyena* by Hans Kruuk, and therefore one less appealing to the layman. In addition to the descriptive text some of the data are incorporated into 58 detailed tables.

Red Colobus Monkeys weigh about 10 kg, with the males somewhat heavier than the females. They are not really red, but have large or small patches of chestnut-colored fur on their trunks, depending on the subspecies. Like most monkeys the Red Colobus lives in social groups that include more females than males. Although they are considered to be arboreal animals, they tend to move rather clumsily in the trees, often jumping from one tree or branch to another with a mighty spread-eagled leap.

An interesting feature of this book is the extensive treatment of vocalizations. Struhsaker used a tape

recorder to tape 16 discrete call types, many of them illustrated by sonagrams. They are described in a number of sections with intriguing titles such as Scream, Sqwack, and Shriek; Wheet; Bark-chist and Chist-bark; Uh!; and Squeals and Gasp of Dying Infant (the infant was found lying neglected on the ground, so Struhsaker carried it home and before it died made extensive recordings of its cries). In this 40-page chapter on vocalizations, as in the others, Struhsaker employs a comparative style that greatly increases the value of his work. After describing the basic sounds made by *Colobus badius tephrosceles* monkeys of Uganda and noting when, by whom, and under what circumstances they were made, he compares their repertoire with that of other races, and his analyses with those of other primate workers. Zoologists studying other species will find these summaries invaluable.

Struhsaker hopes with the publication of this work that more biologists will become interested in the rain forest biome, not only because it is a fascinating, little-studied habitat, but because it is being rapidly destroyed in tropical countries throughout the world. Since it would take 200 or 300 years to replace the largest trees, this biome, once lost, will probably never be regained. Rain forests supply some lumber, but their value as a source of oxygen and of tourism is far greater.

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Reptiles and Amphibians in the Service of Man

By Wilfred T. Neill. 1974. Pegasus, New York. 248 pp.

The sponsors of this book's series (Science and Society) promise at the outset that this biological sciences curriculum study book will be "highly readable," "nontechnical," and instructive. It is.

Neill, noted Florida-based herpetologist and author of the superb *Last of the Ruling Reptiles*, has produced another fine book. Even the title is provocative — surely we do not usually think of reptiles and amphibians as serving man. In this book, Neill is lucid, persuasive, interesting, and often speculative. He frequently argues by anecdote and analogy, and he argues from wide field and laboratory research (see

p. 85). In fact the twenty chapters are laced with personal observations. More important, and for the sake of brevity, he does not just retell the sorry tales of over-exploitation of so many "herptiles" by man ("herps" Neill considers slang, p. 5). Periodically, he debunks myths about his subjects, or reveals that facts about them are often stranger than fiction (e.g., p. 146).

Technical "hardware" and technology are usually well incorporated at appropriate points: in the treatment of developmental biology of the frog and the space program, radio-telemetry, computerized retrieval systems, etc. His sense of herpetofauna and ecological associations is keen, especially when he



Dagg, A I. 1977. "The Red Colobus Monkey, by Thomas T. Struhsaker [Review]." *The Canadian field-naturalist* 91(4), 427–427.
<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.345472>.

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