

emphasize concepts that are presented in the text. But it is no longer enough to add a few new paragraphs to an old text. It is remarkable to think how much one additional decade of work has changed our perspectives on planetary survival.

I rate the text a minimal pass on my first criterion, and a failure on the next two. Better texts are now available, and instructors and students would do well to consult them.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Hawk Lady: the story of a woman who opened her home to care for wild birds of prey

By Stellanie Ure. 1980. Doubleday and Company, Toronto, 215 pp., illus. \$14.95

The "hawk lady" of the title, Stellanie Ure, has recorded her experiences in caring for and rehabilitating injured, sick and orphaned raptors of 26 species. She and her family have been instrumental in returning many of their patients to the wild, and she imparts much information on the behavior, feeding, etc., of the many hawks and owls she treated. She is to be

commended for her efforts in assisting these threatened birds. Unfortunately, the book seems overly long and detailed, and failed to sustain my interest. I feel it would be a real value only to those actively involved in similar endeavours.

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Completely Foxed

By Miles Smeeton. 1980. Van Nostrand Reinhold. Toronto. xi + 148 pp., illus. \$9.95.

After he retired from the British army in 1946, Miles Smeeton and his wife Beryl moved to Canada, later sailed around the world, and finally settled down on what has become a private game sanctuary in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains near Calgary, Alberta. Their aim was to do what they could to help native endangered species; this is the story of their efforts on behalf not only of the Swift Fox as the title of the book suggests, but also the Trumpeter Swan, the Wood Bison, and various other animals, especially the Moose.

The publisher calls this a joyous book, but such an adjective glosses over the hard work and often heartache which accompany living day by day with and for wild animals. An example was the care of Zeus and Io, two pinioned Trumpeter Swans which the Smeetons obtained with great effort from the government and

hoped to breed so that their progeny would return to the wild. These birds lived happily in summer on the sanctuary pond, but in winter when the water froze over they were at the mercy of any passing lynx or coyote. The Smeetons thus erected a wind and motor-driven propeller which would theoretically continually stir up the water and keep it from freezing. This was successful only until the weather turned really cold. Then someone had to break up the newly-formed ice by hand each morning, hauling it to the edge of the pool and piling it high. Since this task took up to two hours a day, some other solution had to be found. The next plan was to build a geodetic dome of wood and fabric over the water to make the swans an indoor swimming bath. This worked well until spring, when the 600-lb dome had to be removed before the ice melted and it sank from sight. At first the Smeetons tried to raise and shift it with the help of a hot-air balloon, a job which was beyond them and sent sev-

eral helpers to hospital. Finally, with friends, they managed to carry it to shore.

The following winter the well near the swan's pond went dry because of drought, so the Smeeton's were forced each day to siphon into the pool about five 45-gallon drums of water brought from the house. They only gave up their efforts on behalf of the swans when they were informed by government that no birds raised in captivity could be released to the wild (the whole point of their labors) and that they must pay for a licence for the pleasure of keeping their swans. They reluctantly turned over Zeus and Io to the Saskatoon Zoo.

Other chapters in this book are devoted to the antics of the Swift Foxes Emma, Napoleon, Josephine, Nelson, and their progeny; to the Wood Bison Martha and Mary who likes to sneak indoors to lick the butter on the dining room table; and to various Moose who feed from Beryl Smeeton's hands. Those who like to read about such an animal wonderland will enjoy both the text and the lovely photographs.

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Evolution for Naturalists: the simple principles and complex reality.

By Philip. J. Darlington, Jr. 1980. Wiley, Toronto, xvi + 262 pp., illus. US \$19.95.

This book should be used by both serious amateur naturalists and advanced professional biologists. By reading this book serious naturalists will obtain a "self-education" in evolution while professional biologists will obtain a fresh reorientation of evolutionary theory. Since Darlington argues about several profound aspects of evolutionary theory, serious amateur naturalists who wish to make intelligent decisions about evolution will have to work and think while reading much of this text. Professional biologists may feel the text is too verbose until one of Darlington's innovative, unconventional ideas causes a re-reading of sections and careful thinking. The text is replete in many areas with very "simple principles" that everybody understands while in others are "complex realities" upon which professional biologists have yet to agree. Therefore, the subtitle of this book perhaps describes this text best.

Darlington verbally separates naturalists from professional biologists throughout his book but he has done an inadequate job trying to create such a dichotomy. Many areas of the text are clearly written for uninformed naturalists while others are much too involved for such persons. Stemming from his objective to write for uninformed persons by using little terminology, grammatical errors and clumsy phrases become numerous.

Darlington feels that there have been many evolutionary principles uncritically accepted with bias and therefore many theories are most likely wrong. He provides many reassessments of evolutionary thoughts not available in other texts. An excellent discussion is provided on the Darwinian revolution (chapter 1). The small print on page 5 should be

carefully read by all persons interested in evolution because each will be awakened to the fact that a perfected theory of natural selection was published by a Patrick Matthew in an obscure journal before Darwin first boarded the *Beagle*. Kin and group selection are put into contexts totally unfamiliar to both amateur naturalists and professional biologists. Good arguments are provided concerning population-wide reciprocal altruism inhibiting kin-limited altruism. The primacy of the chicken/egg hypothesis is nicely discussed. Darlington sees natural selection as the "selective elimination of individuals that walk in the wrong directions". He feels that competitive exclusion is the result of convenience since the choice for or against coexistence is facultative. Another idea is "Genes that promote evolution . . . by reducing their own stability actually promote their own survival." An informative chapter (9) on human evolution is perhaps the best in the book. Darlington consistently provides good reasons for deploring the oversimplified approach used in many scientific journals purporting to construct mathematical models of evolution.

Typographical errors are scarce and the text reads with facility. A "reading and reference" list at the end of each chapter cites literature by subject and an excellent index appears. University professors should find this text the best newer book available for evolutionary seminars and discussion groups held with both undergraduate and graduate students. One's speculative power will greatly increase after reading this book.

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