

bers", Gray Jays are widespread and Wilson's Warblers are "common in moist areas". The foregoing are just a few examples of inaccuracies which could have been readily avoided, and which are bound to mislead the

potential reader. All in all, this is not a book I can recommend.

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Frogs of Australia: An Introduction to Their Classification, Biology and Distribution

By James R. Turner. 2004, Pensoft, Sofia-Moscow. 163 pages. Price not available.

Australia is renowned for its mammals, unique as a consequence of that continent's long separation from the other land masses. Of the amphibians, only frogs are represented; both the caecilians of other southern continents and the salamanders characteristic of northern continents, are absent.

Frogs of Australia presents 218 forms (213 species, one divided into 5 subspecies and one into 2); 110 of these named since 1960. The five families represented contain 29 genera. Three families are held in common with Canada. Hylidae occurs in the Americas, Europe, Asia and northern Africa but its 76 Australia species are often separated as the Pelodyadidae). Bufonidae is represented only by the Cane Toad, *Bufo marinus*, introduced from Hawaii in 1935 which, despite its near legendary reputation for decimating the native Australian frog and small mammal fauna, has spread only in the eastern edge of the continent, occurring in the Northern Territory, Queensland, and New South Wales. Ranidae, of the Americas, Eurasia and Africa, occurs only marginally with a single species only in the Cape York Peninsula in the northeast. Surprisingly, the latter resembles our Canadian Wood Frog, *Rana sylvatica*, in pattern (dark mask) and call ("like the sound of a duck but lacks a musical quality"). Of the other three families, two are not represented in Canada: the Myobatrachidae 118 species (formerly included in the southern western hemisphere Leptobatrachidae) and Microhylidae 18 species (widely distributed in southern western hemisphere, Africa and Asia).

Most forms are given a vertical half page column, but six have two columns (two with consecutive half pages; four on one entire page each). A problem for the non-Australian (and perhaps even some Australians) is that the forms are sequenced in alphabetical order by English names, rather than being grouped by family or genus. Thus, in one case two subspecies with distinctive common names are separated by 100 pages.

The only other subspecies fortunately have a base common name, each form with a modifier, so all five occur consecutively.

Every form is illustrated in colour and accompanied by a range map. The text accounts are very brief: Latin name, Synonyms, Family name, Habitat, Distribution, Length, Abundance, Status, Meaning (of Latin name), Behaviour (generally breeding and call), Development (number of eggs, where laid), and Locality (political divisions it occurs in). Although all are by the author, the illustrations vary from superb to less so, with those in which a bit of substrate is included more deftly done while the others give the effect of crude cutouts. But as Dr. T. J. Hawkeswood points out in the Forward they "add a 19th century feel to the book". No variations are depicted. The maps apparently give a background of regional elevation in dark green, light green and tan though this seem not to be explained anywhere and the colours could be taken for vegetation zones. Superimposed, the purple depiction of range effectively stands out for all but the most restricted distributions. The superb layout facilitates flipping through for an overall impression of variation and ranges.

Additional text is minimal. A Quick Find Index lists families and contained species by scientific name and page number of account, and an Introduction covers topics such as How Old Are Frogs (at least 180 million years), Common and Scientific names, Species and subspecies, descriptions, distribution. A page of diagrams depicts Diagnostic Characters of Frogs, four pages list the characters of the families and genera with comments on conservation. An outline map gives the eight political divisions and a two or three letter code for each (but West and South Australia are both designated WA whereas the latter is properly SA in the text). The book concludes with a two-page Glossary (address to xeric) a 20 pages of references and a three-page index to common and scientific names.

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Experimental Approaches to Conservation Biology

By Malcolm S. Gordon and Soraya M. Bartol. 2004. University of California Press. Berkeley, California. xv + 343 pages, \$75 US.

The papers collected together in this volume were originally prepared for a conference of the same name held in 2001. The editors have brought together research that emphasizes both basic and applied scientific

experiments related to conservation, particularly those at the organism level.

The book consists of four sections. The first section, Introduction, consists merely of a five-page introduction along with a one-page list of conservation-related websites. The list of web resources is very basic and is limited to five government sites (one Canadian and four American) along with a number of major NGOs



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