

photographs of the original Okanagan which make for startling and disturbing comparisons with the present.

The Cannings are to be congratulated on the publishing of a very fine regional bird book. The two major objectives outlined in the book's preface are squarely addressed: spelling out the known biology of Okanagan birds and showing where the

gaps lie. I strongly suspect the *Birds of the Okanagan Valley* will be a standard against which similar books across Canada will be measured.

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The Collins Field Guide to the Mammals of Africa including Madagascar

By Theodor Haltenorth and Helmut Diller. Translated from the German by Robert W. Hayman. 1988. (Reissue of 1980 edition). Stephen Greene Press. (Distributed by Penguin, New York). 400 pp., illus.

The Collins Field Guide to the National Parks of East Africa

By John G. Williams. 1988. (Reissue of 1981 edition). Stephen Greene Press. (Distributed by Penguin, New York). 336 pp., illus.

Although the *Mammals of Africa including Madagascar* field guide is large, containing 400 pages of small-print text, it is not a definitive work, omitting as it does almost all small species of rodents and insectivores, and all bats. For the hundreds of species it does describe, it usually gives details under the headings of Identification, Distribution, Habits, and Reproduction. There are small distribution maps, a few line drawings, and 63 attractive color plates of animals. A lengthy introductory section discusses the geological and climatological history of Africa, and how mammalian life evolved on this continent. Maps give the climatic zones, the vegetation zones, and the varying altitudes of the continental terrain.

Despite the impressive format, I was disappointed in the one page of information provided for one common species, the giraffe. The French spelling is incorrect (la giraffe instead of la girafe); the horn description is weird ("1 pair on forehead, 2 smaller on crown, sometimes a stud or small horn between both pairs"); the tongue is dark, not "flesh-coloured" (whatever that means); weight is given as 500-800 kg, yet individual males have weighed over 1200 kg; there is no "family troop" as such; the sentence "Dominant males with their wider view may add to their troop" is incomprehensible; to write "midday standing in shade," is misleading, because even if shade is available giraffes often stand or lie at midday in the sun; and to state that giraffes drink every two days or at least once a week is wrong. The distribution map indicates that giraffes are more widespread than they really are at present, perhaps because this work was first published in 1977.

The National Parks of East Africa supplies far less information on each species, but even that on the giraffe is incorrect. The text claims there are two species, the Reticulate Giraffe and the Common Giraffe, with the latter represented by two subspecies, the Masai and Rothschild's. In fact, all three types are subspecies of a single giraffe species. The text describes briefly only the appearance, distribution and habitat of each species in the 73-page Part 2, "The Mammals of East Africa." Despite this title, most bats, most insectivores, and most rodents are again omitted.

Part 3 (94 pages) of this guide is more correctly titled "The Commoner Birds of East Africa." There are about 1294 birds in this area, comprising Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, so only those most frequently encountered are discussed in groups or as individual species. As with the mammals, there are some line drawings and many beautiful colored plates. The art work is by Norman Arlott and Rena Fennessy.

Part 1 (150 pages) of this book, "The National Parks, Game Reserves, and other faunal areas," seems especially useful for anyone planning to visit Africa. Over eighty parks are described briefly, discussing how to reach them, their main physical attributes, and the animals one could hope to see there. For the better-known parks and reserves, long lists of resident mammals and birds are included. For these popular parks, 25 maps are given showing roads, tracks, rivers, lakes, and campsites.

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