

Reports and Journals

Ecology of Deer: a research review relevant to their management in Scotland, by Brian Mitchell, Brian W. Staines and David Welch (Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Cambridge, is an excellent summary of the ecology and conservation problems of one of Scotland's most controversial animals. The main factual sections cover dispersion, feeding, social and other behaviour factors affecting distribution; impact on the habitat; and population dynamics and performance. It is a measure of the success of the former Nature Conservancy in setting up research programmes that its part-successor is able to produce this valuable document. There is probably now no other British animal about whose ecology we know more.

In 1976 Peter C.H. Pritchard, supported by WWF(US), spent a month in Micronesia, the 2203 Pacific islands almost all in US Trust Territory, collecting background information about the marine turtles (green and hawksbill) in order to provide the groundwork for a conservation plan. His 83-page report and recommendations, *Marine Turtles—Micronesia* (Chelonia Press, 536 Fifth Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118), says firmly that present trends if not reversed will undoubtedly lead to the extinction of these turtles in Micronesia. Law enforcement, particularly to stop the tourist trade in hawksbill shell souvenirs is essential, as are beach surveys on remote islands (only tough persons able to survive the conditions need apply). The central issue is that to save the declining populations fewer turtles must be killed; it is not enough just to protect nesting beaches. 'An adult female turtle on the feeding ground or in migration is just as important a member of the population as a turtle on the nesting beach; it is simply more difficult to catch!'

A Field Study on Sumatran Orang Utans, by H.D. Rijksen (Nature Conservation Dept., Agricultural University, Marykeweg 15, Wageningen), is a comprehensive, thorough and well illustrated 400-page report of a three-year field study in the Ketambe area of the Gunung Leuser Reserve, where the population density of orangs was considerably higher than in other areas of Indonesia. Ecology, social behaviour and conservation are discussed, and considerable space devoted to the threats that keep the orang utan an endangered species. Formerly hunting was an important factor; today forest destruction by commercial logging and invading agriculture (result of the human population explosion) is much the most serious. From the point of view of watershed management (let alone the orang utan) Indonesia would be wise to make a reserve of all the remaining forest in north Sumatra.

Dolphin Drawings

The three dolphin drawings reproduced in the last issue of *Oryx*, 14, 2, p. 165, were unfortunately not acknowledged. They were by W.F.J. Mörzer Bruyns from his excellent *Field Guide of Whales and Dolphins* (1971, Tor, Amsterdam).

Surinam Correction

The abstract of 'Wildlife in Surinam' in the December 1977 *Oryx* was incorrect on two points: Surinam's reserves range in size to 220,000 ha, not 22,000, and among the turtles which breed on its beaches is the olive ridley, not Kemp's ridley.

THE WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTRE

Middle Garland, Chulmleigh, Devon, England.

Tel: Chulmleigh 461

JOHN HENSHAW, DR.TECHN. (Wildlife Management)

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