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THE HUMAN BODY: THE SKELETON, by
Kathleen Elgin. 1971. Franklin Watts,
Inc., New York. 64 p. \$3.75 hardback.

This book, intended for children in
grades 4-6, is a rather complete treat-
ment of the subject. It includes explana-
tions of how bones are formed and of
joints and their functions, and it names
some of the main bones. The illustra-
tions, in red and black, are well done.
Some pages of the text are white-on-
red, which is a combination not very
easy on the eyes. Other pages are red-
on-white, which is a better but still
rather difficult combination. The infor-
mation seems accurate, but the text is
not written to hold the attention of the
average nine- to 12-year-old: the au-
thor goes into too much detail, and
technical terms are overemphasized. On
the other hand, the book will serve as
a factual reference book for the seri-
ous young student.

Glenn McGlathery
University of Colorado
Denver

ECOLOGY, by Shelly Grossman and Mary
Louise Grossman. 1971. Grosset &
Dunlap, Inc., New York. 48 p. \$1.50
hardback, 60¢ softback.

Because "ecology" is a popular word
of the times, the authors have prepared
a children's book that explains the term.
With their interesting and readable text
and their outstanding photographs, the
Grossmans succeed. They begin by pre-
senting photographs of easily identifi-
able animals and discussing ways in
which energy passes through the food
chain. Through a series of questions
and answers they explain habitats and
biomes: eastern forests, grasslands, des-
erts, mountains, and coastlines. Then
they discuss briefly a few problems
(as, insecticides) and alternatives (as,
biologic controls) in the same question-
answer format. In the concluding para-
graphs the authors show that man is
part of the total complex and that he
is one of the endangered species.

For children of grades 4-6 this book
should provide interesting reading. It
could be read to children of grades 2-3.

Bernadette R. Menhusen
Kansas State Teachers College
Emporia

ANIMALS OF THE DESERT, by J. L. Clouds-
ley-Thompson. 1971. McGraw-Hill
Book Co., New York. 32 p. Price not
given.

This volume, one in a series of natu-
ral-history books for the intermediate
reader, discusses and illustrates selected
desert animals. The choice of animals
(including camels, kangaroos, antelopes,
rodents, reptiles, and insects) allows the
author to present many interesting as-
pects of animal adaptation to an arid
environment. The addition of a dimen-

sional scale for the illustrations would
have been helpful, but the book, over-
all, is well done.

Rudy G. Koch
University of Wisconsin
Superior

FOLLOW THE BUTTERFLY STREAM, by Lo-
renz Boyd. 1971. Abingdon Press,
Nashville, Tenn. 35 p. \$3.50 (hard-
back).

The dust-jacket says the book is for
"all ages." It surely is. There is some-
thing here for everyone. For the poet
the easy, lyric style is reminiscent of
Rachel Carson in *A Sense of Wonder*.
The author has a command of rich
imagery that soothes the spirit and
kindles the imagination. For the en-
vironmentalist the ecosystem of the
Great Smoky Mountains is vividly por-
trayed. For the critic an explanation
of how a giant boulder happens to be
in the forest leaves much room for
debate. For the lay naturalist there is
beauty in the pictures and in the text,
which describes the flora and fauna—
particularly the butterflies—of the
Smokies. For the serious student-natu-
ralist there are photographs with labels
that name the wildflowers and insects
described. Included is a photographic
essay on the life cycle of the buckeye
butterfly. For the child there is an ex-
citing, readable text and clear, beauti-
ful pictures that make him want to
read the book again and again and per-
haps dream of a visit to the "butterfly
stream."

The book is clearly superior and
should be given serious consideration
for prizes in several categories this
year.

Glenn McGlathery
University of Colorado
Denver

**WINTER SEARCH PARTY: A GUIDE TO IN-
SECTS AND OTHER INVERTEBRATES**, by
Helen Ross Russell. 1971. Thomas
Nelson, Inc., New York. 171 p. \$4.95.

This book deals with insect and other
invertebrate life during the winter
months. It discusses behavior, structural
adaptations, insect galls, insect develop-
ment, insect migration, invertebrates
commonly found in and around the
house, and symbiosis and several other
ecologic concepts; and it describes
indoor and outdoor projects with in-
vertebrates, the collecting of experi-
mental data, the equipment and tech-
niques for collecting invertebrates, and
the taking of field notes.

This book is written for children 10
to 13 years old. It would be useful in
the junior-high-school science class-
room, and it would be a good gift for a
youngster interested in insects and
other invertebrates. The author's en-
thusiasm can be felt, and her chapter