

PRACTICAL THOMAS TITLES FOR TEXT OR REFERENCE

MAMMALS OF THE SEA: Biology and Medicine edited by Sam H. Ridgway, *Naval Undersea Research and Development Center, San Diego.* (12 Contributors) A thorough yet basic text covering the biological and medical sciences as they relate to marine animals. Well-illustrated and useful, this book will enhance your library. '72, 830 pp. (6 3/4 x 9 3/4), 434 il. (8 in full color), 43 tables, \$45.00

ANALYZER OF MEDICAL · BIOLOGICAL WORDS: A Clarifying Dissection of Medical Terminology, Showing How It Works, for Medics, Paramedics, Students, and Visitors from Foreign Countries by J. E. Schmidt. Using examples, this monograph explicates the component parts and basic meaning of complex terms thus providing a sound basis for their understanding and proper use. '73, 224 pp., \$6.95

THE REGULATION OF MAMMALIAN REPRODUCTION edited by Sheldon J. Segal, *The Population Council, New York City*; Ruth Crozier and Philip A. Corfman, *both of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Bethesda, Maryland*; and Peter G. Condliffe, *John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences, Bethesda.* (132 Contributors) '73, 614 pp. (7 x 10), 260 il., 91 tables, \$44.50

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301-327 East
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libraries and rarely onto a teacher's handy office bookshelf.

Richard G. Beidleman
Colorado College
Colorado Springs

GENERAL ZOOLOGY, by Tracy I. Storer, Robert L. Usinger, Robert C. Stebbins, and James W. Nybakken. 5th ed., 1972. McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York. 899 p. \$10.95.

This widely used introductory textbook maintains its excellence with some updating and additional material in its fifth edition. Other introductory books may be more interestingly written and have more student appeal, but none can match this one for useful information and accurate facts about general zoology. This is illustrated by the extensive, updated classification at the ends of the chapters dealing systematically with the animal kingdom—chapters that comprise more than half the book. A classical review of animal systems, the frog as a representative animal, chapters on man, evolution, ecology, and heredity, and a new chapter on population and environment constitute most of the rest of the book.

The population - and - environment chapter gets at some of the modern problems of concern to zoologists. Contraception is endorsed as a means of reducing births and lessening population pressure, but no details are provided on the relative worth of the methods. The limitations of the oceans as food-producers are treated in a better fashion, along with the problems of laterization of tropical soils. Heavy metals, urbanization, eutrophication, pesticides, and wildlife changes are discussed briefly and too simply. A presentation of the Aldo Leopold conservation ethic is a fitting finale to this chapter and the book.

Boldface type for key words and animal-group names, pronunciation aids, and word derivations are generously used and are helpful to the serious student. The chapter on evolution has been revised by those who updated this edition (Stebbins and Nybakken). Such topics as preadaptation, isolating mechanisms, speciation, introgression, and the founder principle are included. The distribution of the subspecies of the tiger salamander, *Ambystoma tigrinum*, makes a good illustration for the section on isolation and speciation.

Those familiar with earlier editions of Storer and Usinger will recognize many of the illustrations; but many new ones have been added, and some changes and improvements have been made.

General Zoology is highly recommended as a reference book for the high-school classroom and as a textbook for the serious student of college zoology. The well-thumbed pages of my copy of the first edition attest to its lifelong usefulness.

Paul M. Daniel
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio

THE CARNIVORES, by R. F. Ewer. 1973. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N.Y. 509 p. \$21.50.

Because of the weight of its paper, this volume appears 50% larger than most books of similar length. Thus, one gains the impression of possessing more than is actually present. Furthermore, the author cannot, in 509 pages, offer a comprehensive survey of the carnivores; instead, she presents selected observations on them, largely gleaned from the literature.

The book begins and ends with systematics; in between are sandwiched three chapters on anatomy, three on

behavior, one on reproduction, and one on fossil relatives. What is included is well documented, even though the flow of the narrative is marred by many references. For the most part the author writes well, but occasionally a muddled sentence appears. Also, one takes exception to the pronouncement that all mammalian predators belong to the order Carnivora: where does that leave certain bats, whales, shrews, and seals? And the basis on which the references were selected is not clear; for example, Young and Goldman's work on the puma is listed, but not their book on the wolves of North America. The index is by no means complete, and the cross-referencing within the index doesn't help.

Like so many authors today, Ewer cannot resist mounting a soapbox to castigate the world for its lack of attention to what she believes the most critical issue in ecology to be: in her case, expanding human populations. Such lapses cause one to question the objectivity of the volume. In the envoi, Ewer takes this peculiar stand: "I would have liked to have closed this book by expanding these themes and by noting hopefully the various moves that have been made and are being made to implement conservation and to limit destruction. Only a few years ago this would have seemed right and natural but today it seems futile, if not cynical; for it is too late for expositions of the advantages of conservation to have any relevance." She then goes on to assert that the survival of carnivores is dependent on deliberate voluntary control of human populations—a leap not justified by any data in the book, which has deliberately avoided predator-prey and man-carnivore relationships. If the envoi leads us to believe that human populations are the single determining factor of carnivore populations, then the