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cussion of biocides in the food chain, as well as discussions of habits and habitats, adaptations, migrations, population balance, carrying capacity of land, and other topics. The nine chapters cover virtually every aspect of bird life and bird lore.

The text is illustrated with nearly 40 black-and-white photographs, all from the National Audubon Society. Although each photograph has a legend and is aptly placed in the text, there are no direct text references to the photographs; I found this distracting. The book contains a small glossary (48 entries), a list of books for further reading, and an index.

Junior-high-school librarians would be well advised to buy this book. Students interested in birds or ecology should find it rewarding.

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THE CHANGING WORLD OF LIVING THINGS, by Frances L. Behnke. 1972. Holt, Rinehart, & Winston, Inc., New York. 160 p. \$5.95.

This is a reader in environmental studies for young people (age 10 and up). The emphasis is on biologic aspects of the environment, including some biogeochemical cycles, population dynamics, habitats, communities, predators,

parasites, pollution, noise, and cities. One weakness is the lack of a strong thread of continuity among the chapters on the above topics. However, in chapter 4, comparisons between predator-prey relations and disease situations are quite nicely made.

Several aspects of presentation bear mention. The reading level seems appropriate. Most terms are defined within the text, although some rather technical terms appear without adequate definition. The backbone of the text is a rich array of examples of the concepts presented, and action (of cheetahs, gazelles, etc.) is stressed. This is especially true of the section on predators and their prey. The biogeochemical cycles are not handled as well: only a few examples accompany these concepts. Similarly, the population-dynamics section needs some simple graphs or illustrations.

The major problem of presentation concerns the attitudes conveyed. The author presents many problems but gives little or no attention to solutions. In addition, there are no activity suggestions. A few questions that might stimulate thought or inquiry are raised, but they, too, center on problems rather than solutions. Thus, the text is a bit more negative and emotional in tone than is appropriate for a biologic-environmental book for this readership.

Most of the statements are accurate, within the limits of the general nature and reading level of the book. Such inaccuracies as occur have arisen from the above-mentioned "problem" bias. For example, vast population increases are assumed in an extrapolation of New York City's trash problems (p. 143); but at current U.S. population growth rates, this assumption may not be warranted. In a discussion of the oxygen cycle, the author mentions the possible decrease of atmospheric oxygen in connection with the combustion of fuel reserves. I consider this suggestion unwarranted, as stated, in view of the lack of evidence from atmospheric-oxygen measurements.

Among the book's better features are an outline of topics and terms, a glossary, a bibliography, and an index. Another plus is the frequent mention of the inadequacy of current information and of our inability to answer important questions.

In spite of the weaknesses mentioned, I consider the book useful for middle-school and junior-high-school libraries, for enrichment reading. The teacher who uses it for required reading, however, should be prepared to compensate for some of the weaknesses.

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