

ness of the ideas is evidenced by the frequent use of modifiers.

A major portion of the book is devoted to adaptive radiation, and specific examples of six major island (or island-like) groups are developed in detail. This is followed by a discussion of loss of dispersibility and reproductive strategies of island life. The latter chapter, devoted almost exclusively to plants, fails to explore the little that is known about the role animals play in plant reproductive strategies. However, this section is a potpourri of ideas and questions and could serve as the springboard for numerous theses.

As must be the case with a book of this nature, there will inevitably be points of disagreement between author and reader. Indeed, matching wits with Carlquist through *Island Biology* is a stimulating exercise. Needless to say, this well illustrated (line drawings and black-and-white photographs), immensely readable book deserves to be read by all those interested in evolutionary biology.

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OUR WILDLIFE LEGACY, by Durward L. Allen. Rev. ed., 1974. Funk and Wagnalls Publishing Co., New York. 432 p. \$3.95 (softback).

This book is a well-documented account of the present state of America's wildlife resources. The author presents a comprehensive and extensively documented discussion of all contemporary aspects of wildlife management principles. A common theme throughout the book is the concept that man's domination over wildlife and other natural resources must be planned for and managed wisely. This book should contribute significantly to the development of a sound conservation philosophy and ethic toward our renewable natural resources. I highly recommend it for use as supplementary reading and discussion material in both high-school and college courses in environmental science.

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A QUAIL IN THE FAMILY, by William J. Plummer. 1974. Henry Regnery Co., Chicago. 124 p. \$5.95.

The unusual relationship between a male Gambel's quail and the author's family is interestingly portrayed in this book. The unique personal style of the author holds the attention of the reader throughout. Although this book is easily read and understood by upper elementary students, it contains observations that will interest all ages. Valuable information, documented by daily descriptive notes, is given about the be-

havior of an otherwise hard to observe species. The addition of a short appendix concerning general information on the Gambel's quail obtained from other sources verifies the authenticity of this book. A delightful combination of humor and careful concern for wildlife adds to the importance placed in saving wildlife in our ecological setting of today.

Sister Louise Frankenberger
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POLLUTION LAB, by Melvin Berger. 1974. John Day Co., Inc., New York. 125 p. \$5.95 hardback.

This book does a very nice job of introducing the student to pollution technology. Each chapter deals with a different type of pollution (water, air, solid waste, and so on) and tells how a technician goes about his particular job of monitoring and recording pollution levels. The author follows the technician through several case histories of pollution crises, from detection to correction. The author makes no distinction between technician and scientist; all of the principals are referred to as scientists. However, as far as the technology of environmental management is concerned, the student should become well informed of activities involved in both the lab and the field. Teachers could benefit from reading the case histories for discussion and enrichment in the classroom. The reading level is junior high-school or lower high-school. There are numerous black-and-white photos that compliment the text in spite of the mediocre quality of the pictures.

Jerry P. Murray
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SUPERSPILL, by Mary Kay Becker and Patricia Coburn. 1974. Madrona Press, Seattle. 161 p. \$3.95 (softback).

This is an extremely well-written and fascinating story of the grounding of a supertanker at Bird Rocks in Puget Sound in 1978. The day-to-day account is so realistically told it is hard to believe it is not happening at the present time. One receives the impression that this preventable accident is not only possible but will happen in the near future unless safeguards are established by the oil companies, state and federal governments, and foreign governments. After the supertanker hits the rocks in the channel and millions of gallons of oil start to move toward the seacoast, one begins to see how ill-prepared the officials are to cope with a disaster of such proportions. Many of these individuals are more concerned with their own welfare than in working together.

The material presented in this book is accurate, up-to-date, with good maps

to show the progress of the ship and the flow of oil, and with the ecological facts interestingly treated. This book is "hard hitting" and in language anyone can understand. The layman, the ecologist, or the student should find this book well worth his time and attention.

Lester D. Shields
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FRESHWATER ECOLOGY, by T. T. Macan. 2nd ed., 1974. John Wiley and Sons, New York. 351 p. \$10.95.

Recognizing the mass of information available in the field of freshwater ecology, the author has carefully retained many examples from the first edition of this book that illustrate basic principles. However, recent studies which show principles more clearly or replace apparently obsolete studies have been included. In addition, marine examples have been replaced, when possible, by recent freshwater data.

The book is organized in terms of how ecological ranges of species are limited. The examples chosen strongly emphasize the importance of considering that the threshold for any one environmental factor for an organism varies with the strength of other factors; that the tolerance of environmental extremes varies with age; and that competition, or some other relationship, frequently restricts the range of an organism. Specific chapter topics include (among others) transport, behavior, interrelationships, physical factors, oxygen, salinity, and calcium. There is a complete list of references and helpful indices to species names, English names, and authors' names. Unless one is familiar with European species and the freshwater flora and fauna, it is often difficult to ascertain what kind of an organism is described. Many analyses and comparisons of data are made evaluating the importance of the research studies as well as what must be done in order to improve our understanding of the freshwater environment.

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES: ECOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND THE BIOSPHERE, by Albert R. Hibbs. 1974. Laidlaw Brothers, River Forest, Ill. 96 p. \$1.59 (softback).

This textbook introduces students to the important subject of environmental science. Hibbs has organized his book with good pictures, activities, and interesting reading so that the future can be a world to discover. He uses a process-oriented approach to facilitate the students' understanding of the interrelationships and effects of the various forces at work in the environment.