

coverage is given to function this is more than the usual anatomy guide. The inclusion of a greater than usual quantity of discussion on the function of various structures makes the book much more palatable and useful.

There is a wealth of illustrations and they are very well done. Details are easy to see, and the illustrator has used shading to perfection to give the illusion of depth and form. The overall quality of the printing is excellent.

For a course that involves students with these kinds of laboratory activities this book should serve more than adequately. The use of the book will be limited by its restricted coverage, but nevertheless there is a good deal of good zoology between its covers.

It is not, however, without a few of the lapses that send students scurrying to an assistant. For example, occasionally italicized terms appearing in the text do not appear on the illustration. The number of these occurrences is relatively small, however, and it is refreshing to find the illustrations numerous enough

and detailed enough to include virtually all structures named or discussed.

Finally a note about the editors who initiated the undertaking by their own undergraduate students: they did their work well. There is some but not a great deal of difference in writing style and readability among the subsections written by the different student authors, and that in itself is a tribute to their editorial abilities.

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FISHES OF THE WORLD, by Alwyne Wheeler. 1975. Macmillan Publishing Co. (866 Third Ave., New York 10022). 366 p. \$27.50 hardback.

This is a large (9½ by 12 inch), expensive, profusely illustrated, authoritative book which is organized in dictionary style. In addition to illustrations of all known orders of fish, the book contains 500 color photographs, 700 line drawings and more than 2,000 species descriptions.

The introduction briefly discusses the evolution of fish from the Agnatha through the Teleosts. The general characteristics of each group are also presented. These descriptions are followed with a discussion of the types of fish found in the various aquatic habitats. Adaptive body forms and fish behavior conclude the introduction. Included are such topics as sound production, the lateral line, light organs, and the olfactory and gustatory senses.

The introduction is followed with three line drawings, illustrating the various external features found on different types of fish. A short glossary is also found in this section.

An excellent series of color photographs leads into the actual "dictionary." The photos are of common and exotic species of fish from all over the world.

Family and species' descriptions make up the greater part of the book. The information is organized alphabetically by family and genus groupings. Common names and synonyms are cross-referenced. Although each description is relatively brief, interesting material on "geographical range, size, habitat, commercial importance, strange behavior patterns and interdependence of species" holds one's interest.

This book provides an excellent, *general* reference source and its value is enhanced by the photographs and line drawings. The price may prohibit its widespread usage.

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#### Audiovisuals

THE WORLD OF ENDANGERED WILDLIFE. National Wildlife Federation (1412 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036). Color filmstrip with cassette, plus teacher's guide and resource materials. 25 min. Purchase \$22.50

The filmstrip presents information on such endangered species as the California condor, American peregrine falcon, Devil's Hole pupfish, Florida manatee, and the black-footed ferret. Although the film raises the question of wildlife survival, no attempt is made at extensive coverage of the topic. Points made about the continuing loss of wildlife habitat and the problems of the use of chemicals could both furnish material for follow-up activities.

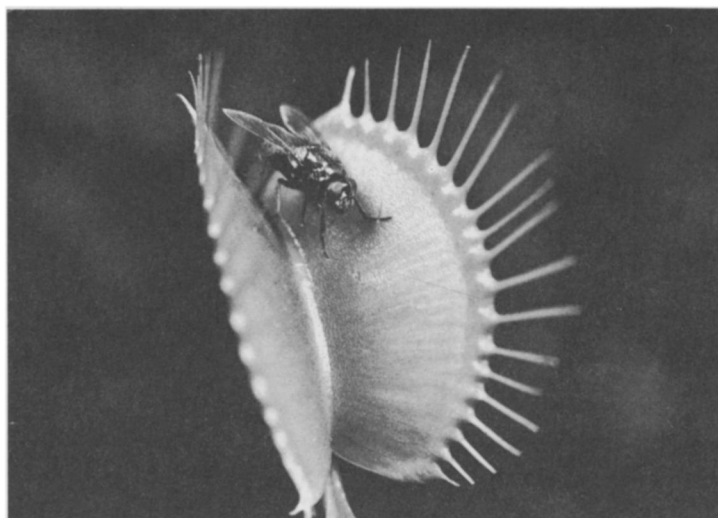
The film tries to emphasize the "natural" environment despite the fact that an unnatural, human-manipulated environment is actually in existence. The filmstrip narration and support materials both recognize that the American bison is no longer a threatened animal, a recognition that is long overdue. The lamentation concerning the survival of prairie dog towns does not mention that some of these populations may constitute a reservoir of bubonic plague, which, without continual monitoring and surveillance, could represent a devastating threat to the human population.

Although the material is recommended for grades 5 through 12, actual use with elementary students suggests the vocabulary level is too high and that presentation moves too rapidly for fifth and sixth graders. The filmstrip is more appropriate for science and social studies classes in the upper grades. Adult groups would also find the film interesting and thought-provoking.

Included in the filmstrip package is a teacher's guide containing a frame-

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by-frame script of the photographs and the narration. The guide also provides suggestions for follow-up activities after the filmstrip is shown. The two issues of *National Wildlife* that accompany the filmstrips are in color, well printed, and contain articles written by various authors about animals and birds that have faced or are facing problems in survival. The filmstrip, cassette, teacher's guide, and two color publications come packaged in a sturdy cardboard mailing container which can be reused or used for storage of the material. The bibliography is limited, but adequate.

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COMMUNITIES OF LIVING THINGS. 1975. Arthur Barr Productions, Inc., P.O. Box 5667, Pasadena, Calif. 91107. 16-mm color-sound film. 15 min. Purchase \$180.

The film concentrates on the six major land biomes of North America: tropical forest, deciduous forest, des-

ert, grassland, coniferous forest, and tundra. Each biome is presented separately, and the physical and biotic features that differentiate it from other biomes are shown. The film emphasizes the differences in climate, shelter, food, and living space that characterize the divergent habitats of land plants and animals. The influence of altitude upon biome communities is stressed.

Although the concept of energy flow is illustrated for each biome, it is not well developed in the film. The impression given early in the film that each biome has a distinct border is corrected only toward the end when a brief mention is given to the blending of adjacent biomes. The film also fails to point out that the same biome types occur in other parts of the world than just North America.

The producer intends the film for use in grades 4 through 12. Abstract concepts such as energy flow, adaptation, and evolution make the film more appropriate for high school biology, perhaps as a review of certain ecological concepts. High school students can discuss, for example, how ecosystem structure relates to energy flow.

The information presented in the film is accurate; the photography is very good and illustrates varieties of organisms from each biome. There are several scenes with only background music that allow students to view the beauty of nature. The film is very similar to other films about the distribution of living things in North America.

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ONE SPECIES AMONG MANY. 1975. Centron Educational Films (1621 W. 9 St., Lawrence, Kans. 66044). 16-mm color-sound film. 17 min. Purchase \$275.

The film explores the relationship between body structures and behavior. It looks at ways in which animals interact with the physical environment, with other species, and with members of their own species. The film provides an overview of the body structures of various animals and their behaviors, with the main focus on human beings. Bipedal stance, "free" hands with opposable