Book Review · Buchbesprechung ■ Livre nouveau

His Serene Highness Prince Rainier III of Monaco and G.H. Bourne (eds.) Primate Conservation Academic Press, New York 1977 XVIII + 658 pp.; US \$ 39.50/E 28.05 ISBN 0-12-576150-3

It can be argued that any information on the biology and natural history of an animal may prove relevant to its conservation. This seems to have been the attitude of the editors, so that the 17 chapters in Primate Conservation vary greatly in the degree to which they deal directly with issues of conservation. Doyle and Bearder pay lip service to conservation in a short introduction and in their final paragraph, but their chapter is basically a review of their studies of the ecology of Galago in South Africa. Kalter's chapter on 'the baboon' seems to be a testimonial for the usefulness of savannah baboons in medical research. The only rationale for its inclusion in this book seems to be that greater use of baboons in medical research could reduce the numbers of the more endangered species of primates used in research. In contrast, the other authors focus directly on issues and problems of conservation, as well as summarizing much biological information about their animals.

The highly endangered species are well represented by chapters on the aye-aye by Petter, the lion tamarins by Coimbra-Filho and Mittermeier, the lion-tailed monkey by Green and Minkowski, and gorillas by Goodall and Groves. The New World monkeys are also represented by two chapters by Mittermeier and his colleagues, one on the yellow-tailed woolly monkey and the other more generally on the Brazilian Amazon. Fontaine and Du Mond's chapter on the red ouakari focuses primarily on the maintenance and breeding of captive animals. Among the Old World monkeys, four chapters focus on macaques. Dittus presents the case for the toque monkey, Deag for the Barbary macaque, Green and Minkowski for the lion tail, and Southwick and Siddiqi for rhesus. Dunbar discusses the status of gelada baboons. Three chapters treat the colobines: Oates' chapter on the guereza, Oppenheimer's on the Hanuman langur, and Lippold's on the douc langur. The final two chapters are on gibbons, by Chivers, and on gorillas, by Goodall and Groves. They are followed by two useful indices, one by subject, the other being taxonomic.

It is time for conservation to become more scientific, utilizing techniques and testing hypotheses from fields like wildlife management, island biogeography, and population genetics. This volume includes several sections which contribute to this trend, such as Green's discussion of interbreeding, local extinctions, and biogeography and Dittus's treatment of population dynamics. An experimental design seems almost premeditated in Deag's review of the captive breeding success of *Macaca sylvanus* in large and small colonies, and in Southwick's analysis of the survival of rhesus monkey troops under different conditions in India. They show that these natural or unplanned experiments can be very informative.

The economic and political aspects of conservation are frequently treated in these papers. Of course there are many recommendations for reserves, but there are also justifica-

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tions for these reserves in economic terms of tourism, watershed protection, and forest resources. There are discussions of how to keep the monkeys out of the gardens as well as how to keep people out of the forest reserves. Nevertheless, one must still ask if primatologists are merely presiding over and documenting the demise of the rest of the order Primates. It is distressing to read Olivers' estimate that gibbon populations may be reduced by 96% in the next two decades, to review Goodall's judgments of areas in which gorillas are already extinct, and to examine Southwick's data showing a 50% reduction in the rhesus population of Aligarh between 1961 and 1975. Yet there is evidence in these chapters of the dedication of primatologists, as in Lippold's apology for not making night observations because her study site in Viet Nam was a major infiltration route for enemy forces. And there is evidence that their dedication and persistence have influenced the opinions and actions of local people and officials in diverse countries. Many of the chapters refer to information and advice given to government officials and of actions taken because of these recommendations. The progress is small compared with the rate of destruction of tropical forests and the magnitude of the basic problems of man's increasing population and his desire for forest products. But it is progress and it is significant. This volume not only documents some of the progress being made in conservation, it also charts diverse strategies for future efforts. It is thus a very important volume, because from this progress and these strategies there is gradually emerging the assurance that there will be a science of primatology in the 21st century.

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