

**Ecological Animal Geography.** *Second edition* by W. C. Allee and Karl P. Schmidt, New York, John Wiley and Sons Inc., London, Chapman and Hall, Limited, Copyright by the University of Chicago, 1951; pp. i-xiii, 1-715, 142 figs. \$9.50.

When the late Richard Hesse, Professor of Zoology of the University of Berlin, produced his "Tiergeographie auf oekologischer Grundlage" in 1924 he said in his original preface "Ecological animal geography is a young science . . . . . I hope that this treatment will stimulate further expeditionary researches in this field. We have had an oversupply of travel which yielded animal pelts and alcoholic material; we need rather observations on the relations between animals and their environment".

The first translation and extension of the work was done by Allee and Schmidt in 1937. Even by this time it was possible to add considerably to the literature references and to revise sections of the text in the light of new information and of conditions on the North American Continent. Dr. Hesse approved of the revisions and additions.

After an additional fourteen years Allee and Schmidt have brought out a second edition of the work, still more comprehensive both in treatment of material and in review of pertinent literature.

The second edition contains the same arrangements of 4 parts and 28 chapters as the first and a good idea of the scope of the book is given by a brief review of the parts.

PART 1. The "Ecological Foundations of Zoogeography", in which are traced the relations of the subject, the effects of environmental selection, the factors influencing distribution of animals, including barriers to, and means of, dispersal, historical zoogeography, the effects of geographic isolation and extent of range and the meaning of biotopes and biocoenoses.

PART 2. "The Distribution of Marine Animals", in which are reviewed the physical and chemical conditions of the oceans in relation to animal life, the biotic divisions and the animal communities of the sea and the geographic divisions of the animal communities.

PART 3. "The Distribution of Animals in Inland Waters, a Phase of Limnology", which discusses the environmental factors in inland waters and the nature of animal communities in all types of inland waters.

PART 4. "The Distribution of Land Animals". In this part are discussed the ecological factors connected with terrestrial life in communities ranging through forest, grassland, desert, swamp, shore, alpine, polar, island and subterranean. The final chapter on "The Effect of Man on the Distribution of Other Animals" brings out some of the more important areas of impact of human ecology on animal ecology. Most of these, unfortunately, act to the detriment of animal species and their habitats through unwise use of natural resources and through increase in pollution and other detrimental factors related to increasing human population. The creation of great national parks to preserve unchanged natural areas in various countries is mentioned at the end of the chapter as a hopeful note.

The second edition has been expanded from the 597 pages of text in the first edition to 674 pages, with similar type size and general format. The illustrative material is generally unchanged from the first edition, the original 135 figures having been increased to 142. The book is attractively printed in clear, easily-read type and is largely free from typographical errors.

Dr. Hesse's hope that his 1924 work would stimulate further researches in the field has been fulfilled, as is indicated in the wealth of information published since that time. The chapter-end bibliographies of the first edition have been much revised and are now listed in complete form and in alphabetical order by author, which is a great improvement over the abbreviated, non-alphabetical arrangement of references used in edition one. The total number of references, varying from 17 to 161 per chapter, has been increased from 1390 to 1461 through the addition of new material up to and including 1950 and the replacement of some of the older references. This replacement has not been allowed to interfere with the retention, for special values, of many of the older references.

The first edition of the book has served as a valuable text and source in zoogeography since its issue and the second edition now provides a more valuable and up-to-date treatment of this expanding and increasingly important phase of biology. — VICTOR E. F. SOLMAN.





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