

Ecology and Management of Animal Resources, Ecologie de la zone de l'Aéroport International de Montréal

J.R. Bider, E. Thompson, and R.W. Stewart. 1976. Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal, Montréal. 246 pp. \$12.

As a title, *Ecology and Management of Animal Resources* is very misleading. It tends to suggest the book is a text on wildlife management which it definitely is not. The subtitle, *Ecologie de la Zone de l'Aéroport International de Montréal*, clarifies the book's topic somewhat, but not entirely. Basically this book is one in a series of reports all of which are concerned with the Mirabel airport project.

The authors define their objective as "to supply data useful to a broad range of resource developers, including park naturalists as well as architects and land use planners." They define their approach as analytical and intended to "1) qualitatively and quantitatively describe the biotic community; 2) develop a scale of values of parameters which could be used to describe the biotic richness of areas within the community; 3) provide information at the species level." Unfortunately two of the three steps in their approach are not satisfactorily met.

The method of data collection for this study was the sand transect technique developed by the senior author (Bider 1968) and designed to measure animal activity. By the authors' own admission, the technique alone does not provide quantitative data ("Using the sand transect technique we measure the activity of the total population in space and time to be able to predict when, where, and relatively how many sightings might be made regardless of the numbers per unit area"). In

the section of the text referring to individual animal species the lack of quantitative data is very apparent and a major weakness of the study. Perhaps trapping could have provided some better information on animal numbers.

The sections dealing with birds are very weak. Granted, the authors state that this is a topic of another separate study; however, they did not indicate in the book's title that this work had been excluded.

Reading through the text one wonders what effort was made to determine how representative the selected site was of the overall area. The authors clearly state "the procedure was to pick out small areas which contained all the major soil types found on the entire airport site and as many vegetation units as possible" and that "the results were used to synthesize a global view of animal activity on the entire expropriated territory." Are we to presume that extrapolation was a straight arithmetic proportion of area sampled versus area expropriated?

Generally speaking if one is looking for a text on animal ecology this book is not recommended. For consultants interested in seeing another approach to animal inventory, the book may be of some interest.

References Cited

- Bider, J.R. 1968. Animal activity in uncontrolled terrestrial communities as determined by a sand transect technique. *Ecological Monographs* 38: 269-308.

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BOTANY

The Vascular Plants of South Dakota

By Theodore van Bruggen. 1976. Iowa State University Press, Ames. 538 pp. Paper \$7.95.

Prior to the publication of this book, students interested in the plants of South Dakota had to "make do" with floras of adjacent regions. Now it is possible to identify the 1585 species known from this state, using a single volume.

The book is organized in the fashion of a continuous dichotomous key in which the end of each dichotomy is an expanded species description together with habitat, general locations within the state, flowering time, common names, and necessary synonymy. Students will find the short introduction

which outlines the glacial history, geology, physiography, and climate most helpful in understanding the relationships of the flora of this very varied land. The text has been typewritten and has a ragged right-hand margin, two factors which give the volume a somewhat unfinished look, but this does not detract from its usefulness. There are no distribution maps or illustrations, features which might be considered for a future edition.

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