

the aesthetics and economic potential of wildlife; and recognition of the need for sound wildlife policy and administration.

His empirical acumen is counterbalanced by a deep and abiding respect for the integrity of the natural environment, the celebrated "land ethic" which suffuses his writings and shapes his perspective. *Game Management* still provides a unique and unsurpassed historical overview of the evolution of wildlife management and the conservation ideal, from scriptural passages in Deuteronomy 22:6 to the author's own thoughtful insights on "man's proper relation to the fruitfulness of the earth".

In the author's own words, *Game Management* aspired to a three-fold function: "First, to serve as a text for those practicing game management or studying it as a profession. Second, to interpret for the thinking sportsman or nature-lover the significance of some of the things he sees while afield with gun or glass, or does in his capacity as a voting conservationist. Third, to explain to the

naturalist, biologist, agricultural expert, and forester how his own science relates to game management, and how his practices condition its application to the land."

That Leopold has succeeded in his goals, there is little doubt; the esteem in which his writings are held today is an eloquent testimonial to the depth and substance of his philosophy. The re-issue of this classic text, with corrections made from Leopold's personally annotated copy and a new foreword by Laurence R. Jahn, provides an opportunity for all readers to experience the practical legacy left behind by this visionary conservationist.

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Eric Hosking's *Birds of Prey of the World*

By Eric Hosking, David Hosking, and Jim Flegg. 1988. Stephen Greene Press (distributed by Penguin, New York). 176 pp., illus. price not given.

If one had to classify *Eric Hosking's Birds of Prey of the World*, somewhere between a coffee table book and a reference text would be just about right. There is no question that Eric Hosking is one of the world's top bird photographers and it readily shows in his latest volume on what I suspect is his favourite group of birds.

With just the odd exception, virtually all of the photographs are refreshingly new. In fact, some of the species have seldom, if ever, appeared in previous books. I was surprised that during the globe-trotting efforts of Eric and David Hosking to obtain their portraits, Bald Eagles in North America proved elusive. Perhaps trips to the east or west coast of Canada or for that matter, Alaska, where these birds are quite populous, were not possible.

As a final remark on the photographs, I did like their layout on the pages with smaller photos inset into larger ones and with the borders or background removed on others. My only criticism is an occasional repetition of similar pictures, e.g., the female hen harriers on pages 64 and 65.

As for the written information in the book, the Hoskings make it quite clear in the preface that they "are not authors" and that they "owe a great debt to Dr. Jim Flegg for writing such a responsible text". Essentially, the book offers seven chapters including an introduction to

raptors, a description of their physical adaptations and the hunting skills derived from them, a section oddly entitled "Birds of Prey the World Over", portraits of some of the members of the different families of birds of prey, separate discussions are provided of conservation, falconry, and, finally, a complete list of all the species in the world and their distribution. Added onto the portrait chapter in peculiar fashion (perhaps due to an abundance of good photos of these birds) is a special section on Australian birds of prey. Some suggested supplemental texts and a much appreciated index round things out.

Overall, the text is a little sparse, but this may be a function of the objectives of the Hoskings in producing the book. There is a nice balance of information though, with much of the material being up-to-date for 1987. The lengthy treatments of some species, e.g. sparrowhawk, reflect the availability of information on them.

In terms of conservation, more information on the success of captive breeding and release programs, as well as the mushrooming interest in raptor rehabilitation and public education could have been addressed. Even a list of important centres focusing on raptors in the various countries would have been welcomed.

The information on longevity on page 15 was quite misleading. Flegg gives the impression that even wild raptors are quite long-lived, when in fact, the average lifespan for the tiny American kestrel, as an example, has been shown by banding studies to

be roughly two years. I cannot agree that *Falco sparverius* is "undistinguishable" from *F. tinnunculus*, having worked with both species in captivity.

While there were very few typographical or spelling errors, one could take issue with Flegg's use of outdated names, e.g. monkey-eating eagle is now Philippine Eagle.

Finally, I cannot comprehend why owls (see discussion on page 10) are not regarded as "birds of prey" or for that matter, "raptors". Flegg is not the

first author to claim this, but the reasoning, if any, makes little sense to me.

Overall, I found this book to be informative and most certainly, pleasing to the eye. It is definitely a big step up from a coffee table book and worthy of inclusion in any birdlover's library.

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L'exploitation commerciale des poissons-appâts (ménés) dans la région de Montréal

Par Jean-René Mongeau. 1985. Rapport technique du Ministère du Loisir, de la Chasse et de la Pêche no. 06-37. Gouvernement du Québec, Montréal. XIII + 139 pp., 32 figs. Gratuit.

Ce rapport technique est le résultat d'une enquête menée auprès de 96 pêcheurs commerciaux de poissons-appâts de la région de Montréal durant l'hiver 1979-80 à l'occasion du renouvellement de leurs permis d'exploitation. L'étude se divise en sept chapitres. Le premier chapitre présente le sujet tandis que les six autres chapitres traitent de: i) la réglementation de l'exploitation des poissons-appâts; ii) des méthodes d'opération des pêcheurs, c'est-à-dire la capture, le transport, et la conservation des poissons vivants; iii) de la démographie des détenteurs de permis; iv) des quantités de ménés exploitées annuellement; v) des sites de pêche et des espèces capturées, et finalement; vi) des problèmes associés à cette pêcherie. Le but de cette étude était de rassembler les renseignements pertinents à l'élaboration d'une politique de gestion de cette pêcherie.

Les lecteurs seront certainement surpris d'apprendre que la pêcherie des poissons-appâts dans la région de Montréal s'élève à près de 100 tonnes métriques annuellement pour une valeur de plus d'un million de dollars. Sept espèces comptent

pour plus de 90% de cette récolte (le Méné jaune, *Notemigonus crysoleucas*; le Méné d'argent, *Hybognathus nuchalis*; le Méné émeraude, *Notropis atherinoides*; le Queue à tache noire, *N. hudsonius*; le Méné à nageoires rouges, *N. cornutus*; le Meunier noir, *Catostomus commersoni*; et le Mulet à cornes, *Semotilus atromaculatus*). Il est à noter que Mongeau emploie méné au sens large du terme, c'est-à-dire petit poisson, et non dans son usage restrictif qui s'applique aux membres de la famille Cyprinidae exclusivement. De plus, on apprend que les poissons-appâts valent en moyenne 12 fois plus le kilo que les poissons d'importance commerciale tels l'Anguille d'Amérique, la Barbotte brune, l'Esturgeon jaune, et la Perchaude.

Cette étude intéressera principalement les gestionnaires des pêcheries, mais aussi tout ichtyologue, naturaliste, ou pêcheur à la ligne qui désire en connaître davantage sur les aspects économiques de l'exploitation commerciale de ces poissons qu'on appelle communément ménés.

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Extinct Birds

By Errol Fuller. 1987. Facts on File, New York. 256 pp., illus. U.S. \$35 (no Canadian rights).

Since 1600, at least 75 individual species of avifauna have become extinct on this planet. Not since Walter Rothschild's pioneer book carrying the same title, *Extinct Birds* (1907. Hutchinson: London), has there been such a detailed and comprehensive book on extinct birds.

Errol Fuller has spent many years accumulating information that has slowly shaped this most fascinating book. Discussed in it are all of the species of birds that have vanished since the start of the fifteenth century. Extinct subspecies, rare and

endangered species, as well as obscure and hypothetical species are all discussed in this book, making it a very complete reference.

All of the species are discussed in great detail, from the mysterious Tahitian Red-billed Rail, *Rallus pacificus*, known from only a single painting, to the well known and well documented Passenger Pigeon, *Ectopistes migratorius*. These surprisingly intriguing accounts vary in length, depending on the amount of information known. They cover the history of the bird since its discovery by man, as well as its life history, when obtainable, frequently taken from the notes and



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