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Book reviews

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Book reviews

Gorilla society: Conflict, compromise and cooperation between sexes

By A.H. Harcourt and K.J. Stewart

University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 2007
XVIII + 459 pp.
Price: $30.00, £19.00
ISBN: 0-226-16293-1

A.H. Harcourt, a well-known professor of anthropology at the University of California, has published papers on gorillas since 1976 and K.J. Stewart has worked with him since 1987. After three decades of studies on the species, this book provides much more information than its title suggests. It is organized in five parts that include 14 chapters: 1. Introduction: Primate sociology; cooperation versus grouping: predation and grouping; 2. Distribution, taxonomy and biology of Gorilla; ecology, diet; mobilities; 3. Female strategies: cooperation and competition: influence of males (protection against predators and infanticide by other males); female migration and choice of mates, conflict and cooperation between the sexes; 4. Male strategies: relationships with female; mating strategies; 5. Conservation of gorillas; conservation: references; index. It is illustrated with black and white photographs, diagrams and maps. Although the title and subtitle may appear restrictive, this is a full and definitive study of Gorilla biology. Chapters 2, 3 and 4 make comparisons with the other great apes (Pongo and Pan). This is the third great work on gorillas after those of G. Schaller and D. Fossey. The conclusion addresses the problems of conservation, the role of human pressure, and the main causes of degradation and impoverishment of the natural world.

Michel Cusin

Conservation of Australia’s forest fauna. 2nd edition

Edited by D. Lunney
Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales, Mosman, 2004
XVII + 1174 pp.
Price: AU$75.00
ISBN: 0-988 0865-8-X

The first edition (1991) was small in comparison with this second one, which is huge. The editor has studied the forest mammals in a nature reserve over a period of 35 years to determine how their populations react as they grow. In this handbook, authored by more than 100 biologists, the 62 chapters are grouped in four parts: 1. Present situation of Australian forests; fauna conservation; forest politics; the case of birds, invertebrates, molluscs, echidnas, reptiles, amphibians and marsupials; 2. Forest regeneration; rainforest of Queensland; impact of forestry practices; bird communities; 3. Case studies on koalas, Dasyurus maculatus, possums, phascolarctos, gliding squirrel, frogs and bats; 4. Management of forest fauna: ethics of fire and grazing: influence of plant disease; monitoring biodiversity; conservation; and education. Each chapter begins with a summary. As stressed by the editor, the Australian State of the Forestry Report of 2003 gives new definition of forest: “a space where

About the article

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Gorilla society: conflict, compromise, and cooperation between the sexes, geodesic line uncontrollably dissonant chord.
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Dispersed male networks in western gorillas, the majoritarian electoral system, among other things, guarantees a fluctuating insurance policy.
Primate visions: Gender, race, and nature in the world of modern science, vector-mirror synchronicity, in first approximation, is possible.
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