

how these transformations relate to animal extinctions and explosions.

Shugart introduces each concept with an animal story that sets the stage for an intelligent and entertaining journey through a mélange of natural and human history. Did you know that the word “penguin” comes from two Welsh words? *Pen* is the Welsh word for head and *gwyn* is Welsh for white. Penguins do not have white heads, but were actually named for the great, guano-whitened headlands on an island near Newfoundland (Funk Island). The birds of interest, however, were not penguins as we know them from the Antarctic region, but actually auks, of which the now extinct Great Auk was the one most familiar to the sailors of the day. The Great Auks were named penguins long before European mariners misnamed the similar looking but unrelated penguins of the southern and Antarctic waters. Being from Newfoundland, I found this little tidbit delightful. This is typical of the manner in which Shugart expertly weaves natural and human history into an attractive and colourful mosaic.

The packrat and its middens introduce the reader to the world of paleoecology, of the archival nature of tree rings, ice cores, and pollen deposits that reveals a dynamic and ever-changing earth. The African grassland Red-billed Quail, apparently the most common bird on earth, initiates the reader to a marvelous treatment of bird migration that is sobered by an account of the extinction of the once numerous Passenger Pigeon. Shugart’s account of the Wolf (*Canis lupus*) introduces us to the domesticated wolf or dog (*Canis domesticus*) and the history of animal domestication by our ancestors. To see how humans have radically

altered natural landscapes without metal or modern devices, one has only to turn to the domesticated grazers.

If you are looking for support of notions such as “the balance of nature” or “unspoiled, pristine wilderness” you will be disappointed. Shugart explicitly eschews such notions. His objective is to “provide an alternative view, to give insights into the dynamically changing nature of ecosystems and the implications of this dynamism for our stewardship of the planet” (page 2). According to Shugart, the only constant in nature is change. For him, planetary management or stewardship is the human vocation; a vocation that is defined, not by hubris, but rather by an acknowledgement of the long and continuing history of human alteration of planetary ecosystems, and the need for intentional and responsible human action. It is within this paradigm that we must understand the myriad of conservation and ethical challenges that face us.

This work will pique the interest of all naturalists. Shugart’s writing is far from being pedantic or stogy. He writes with passion, charm and clarity about a subject that has no doubt become a vocation. A wealth of original ecological research is synthesized in a delightfully accessible manner that relates to our proverbial interest in the wax and wane of animal species. Why are some species abundant and others rare? Why does one species respond positively to human influence, while other species meet extirpation or extinction? The detailed and helpful notes serve well the interested reader who wishes to pursue further research.

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## Zoology

**Amphibians and Reptiles of the Bay Islands, and Cayos Cochinos, Honduras.** By J. McCranie, L. Wilson and G. Köhler. 2005 Bibliomania! P.O. Box 58355, Salt Lake City, Utah 84158. 224 pages. U.S. \$29.95 Cloth.

**Amphibians and Reptiles: Status and Conservation in Florida.** 2005. By W. Menhaka and K. Babbitt. P.O. Box 9542, Melbourne, Florida USA. 32902-9542. 334 pages. U.S. \$66.50.

**Bird Coloration – Volume 1.** By G. Hill and McGraw. 2005. Harvard University Press, 100 Maple Ridge Drive, Cumberland Rhode Island 02864-1769. 544 pages. U.S. \$95.

\* **Birds of New Brunswick: An Annotated list. (Oiseaux du Nouveau-Brunswick: une liste commentée.)** By David Christie et al. 2005. New Brunswick Museum, Monograph No. 10, 277 Douglas Avenue, Saint John, New Brunswick E2K 1E5. 84 pages. not illustrated, no price available.

**Birds of Ontario: Habitat Requirements, Limiting Factors and Status (Nonpasserines, Waterfowl through Cranes).** By. A. Sandilands. 2005. UBC Press, 2029 West Mall, Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1Z2. 366 pages. \$95.

**Birds of Two Worlds – The Ecology and Evolution of Migration.** Edited by Russell Greenberg and Peter P. Marra. The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2715 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218-4363. £15.50 Cloth.

\* **Blue Grouse – their Biology and Natural History.** By F. Zwickel and J. Bendall. 2005. NRC Research Press, M-55, National Research Council, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R6. 284 pages. \$69.95 Paper.

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**Dragonflies of Sussex.** By T. A. Belden et al. 2004. NHBS Ltd., 2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon, Great Britain TQ9 5XN. £7.95 Paper.

**Duikers of Africa: Masters of the African Forest Floor – A Study of Duikers – People – Hunting and Bushmeat.** By Vivian J Wilson. 2005. NHBS Ltd., 2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon, Great Britain TQ9 5XN £125 Cloth.

**Florida Butterfly Caterpillars and Their Host Plants.** By M. Minno, J. Butler and D. Hall. 2005. University Press of Florida, 15 NW 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Gainesville, Florida 32611. 352 pages. US\$34.95.

\* **The Natural History of Bermuda.** By M. Thomas. 2005. The Bermuda Zoological Society P.O. Box FL 145 Flatts, Florida BX Bermuda. NPA.

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**Walker's Carnivores of the World.** By Ronald M. Nowak. 2005. The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2715 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218-4363. £15.50 Paper.

## Botany

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**Trees – National Champions.** By R. Conover. 2005. The MIT Press, Five Cambridge Center, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142-1493, USA. 144 pages. US\$39.95.

**The Vascular Plant Red Data List for Great Britain – Species Status 7.** Edited by C. M. Cheffings and L. Farrell softcover. 2005. NHBS Ltd., 2-3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon, Great Britain TQ9 5XN. £15 Paper or as a download see – <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3354>.

## Environment

† **Survival by Hunting – Prehistoric Human Predations and Animal Prey.** By G. Frison. 2005. University of California Press, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, California 94704-1012.

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**Beyond Conservation – A Wildland Strategy.** By Peter Taylor. 2005. Earthscan / James & James, 8-12 Camden High Street, London NW1 0JH, UK. £59.99 Cloth.

\* **Manly Hardy (1832-1910): The Life and Writing of a Maine Fur-Buyer, Hunter, and Naturalist.** By William B. Krohn. 2005. Maine Folklife Center, 5773 So. Stevens Hall, University of Maine, Orono, Maine 04469. 343 pages. US \$24.95. Hardcover. US\$19.95. Paper.

**Marine Conservation Biology – The Science of Maintaining the Sea's Biodiversity.** By Elliot A. Nourse and Larry B. Crowder. 2005. Island Press, 1718 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 300, Washington DC, 20009. £33.50 Cloth.

**Ocean and Coastal Conservation Guide 2005-2006 – The Blue Movement Directory.** By David Helvarg. 2005. Island Press, 1718 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 300, Washington DC, 20009. £18.50 Paper.

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