

development taking into account the ecological, economic and social effects. As a win-win deal, it will make barren hills green while bringing benefits to farmers. With ample supplies of grain and other agricultural products, China is currently in a good position to accelerate the project, and the rural households, subsidized with free grain, seeds and seedlings as well as cash for living expenses, were enthusiastic to participate in the project.

Practices in recent years have proved that the project of returning farmland to forest or grassland has played active roles in ecological, economic and social aspects both locally and national wide. Therefore, to summarize the theoretical basis and practical modes of returning farmland to forest or grassland in time seems to be very necessary. The publication of the book *Theoretical basis and practical modes of returning farmland to forest or grassland* exactly meets such demands.

The book started from the systematically elucidation of the history of returning farmland to forest or grassland, then discussed the concept, theoretical basis and technical modes of such ecological engineering in detail. The main contents are as follows: Chapter 1, review on the history of returning farmland to forest; Chapter 2, degraded ecosystems of steep slope farmland; Chapter 3, theoretical basis for returning farmland to forest; Chapter 4, industrial modes and techno-

logical modes for returning farmland to forest; Chapter 5, the vegetation structure and yield characteristics of the forest-grass complex modes; Chapter 6, fine root characteristics of the forest-grass complex modes; Chapter 7, species diversity of the forest-grass complex ecosystem; Chapter 8, soil amelioration and nutrient management of the forest-grass complex modes; Chapter 9, soil and water ecology and conservation in the forest-grass complex modes; Chapter 10, economic effects of the forest-grass complex modes; Chapter 11, theoretical basis and methods for sustainable development of the forest system returned from farmland; Chapter 12, sustainable management strategies of the forest system returned from farmland.

This book would become a good reference for the persons who are engaged in restoration ecology or ecological engineering, forestry, agriculture and environmental science, etc, as well as teachers and students who major in the relevant fields, or any other persons who are interested in this field.

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## NEW TITLES

Prepared by Roy John

† Available for review \* Assigned

Currency Codes – CAD Canadian Dollars, USD U.S. Dollars, EUR Euros, AUD Australian Dollars.

## ZOOLOGY

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\* **Amphibian Ecology and Conservation: a Handbook of Techniques (Techniques in Ecology & Conservation).** Edited by C. Kenneth Dodd Jr. 2009. Oxford University Press, 70 Wynford Drive, Don Mills, Ontario M3C 1J9. 584 pages. 32 GBP, Paper.

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\* **Birds of Eastern North America and Birds of Western North America.** By Paul Sterry and Brian E. Small. 2009. Princeton University Press, 41 William Street, Princeton, New Jersey 08540. 335 and 416 pages. 18.95 USD. Paper.

\* **Corvus – A Life With Birds.** By E. Woolfson. 2009. House of Anansi Press Inc., 110 Spadina Avenue, Suite 801, Toronto, Ontario M5K 2K4. 337 pages, 17.95 CAD, Paper.

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