

be considered, enjoyed and lamented as phenomena which have existed but sometimes passed us by.

I enjoyed reading about present and past giant trees and was entertained different times looking for interesting facts and diagrams. It is not a book to be read at one sitting, even though short, because the tree species stand alone and reading several is like reading a list which can go on too long. A short reading of one or two tree descriptions at each visit is sufficient with another few minutes reading the next descriptions at

another time. Soon the book becomes a reference for tree species and musings of how much we have missed and what we might visit. I have shown it to my students and they spent time with it as a picture and description book to browse and marvel. Al Carder has given us a little gem of knowledge and history for entertainment based on good science and research.

JIM O'NEILL

28718 Five Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan, 48154 USA

## ENVIRONMENT

### **Fire and Avian Ecology in North America – Studies in Avian Biology Number 30**

Edited by Victoria A. Saab and Hugh D.W. Powell. 2005. Cooper Ornithological Society. 193 pages.

This technical work is a collection of 11 papers, ten of which address the role and effect of fire in one or more ecosystems (e.g., Boreal Forest, Oak Woodlands, Interior Chaparral); the first chapter is a cogent summary of the ten others.

The chapters more or less follow a logical pattern in their layout. Each paper shows a map of the distribution of the habitat(s) discussed, and normally one or two other figures. A table of pertinent literature is presented in each chapter, which also includes responses to fire of a number of bird species. The papers describe historic fire regimes, including the use of fire by aboriginals, as well as the effect of fire suppression on

birds (and by default, the plants making up the habitat for them); sections on conservation strategies, including the use of prescribed burns and withholding of fire suppression end each chapter.

The only irritant to me was lumping all the references at the end of the book; normally, each paper should be concluded with its own collection of references. Should someone want to photocopy one chapter, they would have to photocopy the entire compilation of references, instead of just the pertinent ones. None-the-less, it is a solid work.

RANDY LAUFF

St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia B2G 2W5 Canada

### **Fisheries Assessment and Management in Data-Limited Situations**

Edited by G. H. Kruse, V. F. Gallucci, D. E. Hay, R. I. Perry, R. M. Peterman, T. C. Shirley, P. D. Spencer, B. Wilson, and, D. Woodby. 2005. Alaska Sea Grant, Fairbanks, Alaska. Publication Number: AK-SG-05-02. 958 pages. Price: \$50.00 US, ISBN: 156612-093-4.

Maintaining sustainable fisheries resources requires the combined efforts of scientists, fisheries managers and policy makers. Balancing fisheries growth and conservation is a difficult task, particularly in situations where available information is limited. Data-limited fisheries are often plagued by a lack of long-term data on the basic biology, ecology and productivity of the species that are relevant to these resources. A number of successful fisheries have been developed by combining a scientific background with robust policy management to successfully develop sustainable fisheries, even in situations where data is limited. However, newly developing and small-scale fisheries often operate without sufficient data to develop production models, assessment techniques and sustainable management strategies.

To address these challenges, a symposium entitled "Assessment and Management of New and Developed Fisheries in Data-limited Situations" was held in Anchorage, Alaska, in 2003. The purpose of this symposium was to share knowledge, research and manage-

ment strategies for newly developing and small-scale fisheries by bringing together fisheries scientists, managers and policy makers from all over the world. The result is a proceedings book titled "Fisheries Assessment and Management in Data-limited Situations." Specifically, this book is a collection of forty-six peer-reviewed research papers that provide case studies and management considerations for fisheries with limited data. The book is divided into seven sections: (1) case studies of fishery failures and successes; (2) indicators of stock health and productivity from limited sampling programs; (3) involvement of fishermen and use of local knowledge; (4) multi-species and ecosystem indicators and models; (5) precautionary management approaches; (6) stock assessment models; and (7) stock assessment surveys and applications. The first two sections focus on science-based assessments of fishery case studies while the final five sections identify and discuss management and assessment strategies. Throughout many of the case studies in this book, several key management themes emerge that are highly relevant to fisheries managers in data-limited situations.

Section one provides insight into the failures and successes of the world's fisheries. Several case studies on a variety of species are described, and management implications are discussed. A key paper in this sec-