

tals." Scattered throughout these chapters, there also are important messages regarding conservation approaches and philosophy. In Chapter 23, dealing with island biogeography and the patterns of distribution of birds in Australasia, the author makes the point that conservation-oriented management must be directed at the entire landscape, not just the reserves. In various chapters, there are interesting thoughts on the selection of conservation reserves through the use of genetic characteristics of target populations, and the value of corridors to the movement of organisms across the landscape.

A Wildlife Guide to Chile

By S. Chester. 2008. Princeton University Press 41 William Street, Princeton, New Jersey, 08540-5237 USA. 392 pages, 19.95 USD Paper.

This is a compact guide with a wide coverage. Not only does it cover birds and mammals, but includes reptiles, amphibians, butterflies, moths, marine life and flora. In addition there are descriptions of the Chilean landscape and a where-to-watch section. While it does not cover all wildlife, it does portray those you are likely to see in a typical trip. You get all this for less than 20 USD - a real bargain.

I was puzzled by the illustrations until I read they were a composite of scanned photos using Adobe Photoshop and a Cintiq monitor. The result is a photograph-like illustration arranged in the same format as a painted version. This works very well as the depictions are clear without the spurious shadows and odd shading that often plague pure photographs. This manipulation has allowed the author to show creatures at different angles, highlighting special field marks.

The sections covering birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians follow the usual field guide format. The names are given in English, Spanish and Latin, with a listing of other names where appropriate. There follows a description of the key characteristics. This is essential as not all plumages are illustrated. So you have to read to know that a female Vermillion Flycatcher is radically different from the male. There are no range maps, but ranges are written and you need to refer to the country maps at the front of the book.

The plants are presented somewhat differently. The author has them organised into eight zones and she describes and illustrates a dozen or so key species in each zone. Some, like *Opuntia*, are presented at the genus level only. In total the book covers less than 100 species or about 2% of Chile's plants. For example, there are three orchids out of the fifty species listed for Chile.

Similarly, about one third of the frogs and only four snakes are illustrated. This is not as Spartan as it

There is so much of interest and value in this book that it is difficult to summarize all of it. Suffice to say that this book contains a great deal of detail, presented in an interesting way, and that anyone interested in the evolution and biogeography of vertebrates in Australasia, or in evolution generally, will find something of value to them in this book. I recommend it highly.

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sounds. On a typical trip I usually see a few of the commonest species of frogs and I average seeing one snake for every 10 days in the field. Similar comments can be made about the butterflies and moths.

The author has added numerous sections on basic natural history [e.g. Life of a frog or butterfly] throughout the text. While these are informative and fun, I am not sure they should be in a guide. Typically you want to compromise between expanding coverage and reducing weight. Also they tend to be rather curt and overly definitive. For example, the short explanation on the characteristics of butterflies and moths says moths fly by night. Most, but not all do.

The regional coverage includes mainland Chile and Easter Island, Desventuradas Islands, Juan Fernandez Archipelago and the Chilean Antarctic Territory. The text includes location, a little history, a physical description and coverage of the key species [especially endemics]. In particular there is a short, but interesting, coverage of Antarctica.

I believe this would be very useful as a guide in the field. The coverage is good for mammals and birds and is adequate for plants and the other animals. The illustrations show the key characteristics as well as any other method. Take, for example, the three stocky skuas, Chilean, Brown and South Polar; the text and plates do as good a job as can be expected on these difficult species. While it does not contain as many juvenile, female and flight illustrations for the small birds as Jaramillo's book [*Birds of Chile*. By A. Jamarillo. 2003. Princeton University Press, New Jersey], for the other sections it is really good. The large birds, such as albatrosses, hawks, and shorebirds are typically shown in flight. I would prefer to have depictions of, say, female siskins so I would take this and Jamarillo's book on any trip to Chile. For the Chilean Territories, however, this guide is a must.

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