Primates in Fragments: Complexity and Resilience
Laura K. Marsh & Colin A. Chapman (editors)
£117 (Hardback), £93.50 (eBook)
ISBN: 9781461488385 / 9781461488392
http://www.springer.com

Forest primates are ideal for illustrating the principles of conservation biogeography in fragmented landscapes: they have large bodies and ranges and are sensitive to patch size and matrix quality, while also behaviourally labile and capable of adapting to changing conditions. They are frequently at risk of local or global extinction, and a high profile allows them to act as flagship or indicator species. In this book, the editors have brought together a wide range of studies from throughout the tropics. Many derive general lessons, making this a useful source of case studies regardless of taxonomic focus—along with solemn warnings for those regions where fragmentation continues.

Temporal Dynamics and Ecological Process
Colleen K. Kelly, Michael G. Bowler & Gordon A. Fox
£60 (Hardback)
ISBN: 9780521198639
http://www.cambridge.org

Many investigations have tackled the question of how species coexist in space, but the importance of temporal heterogeneity is less often addressed, even though a strong body of theory exists to demonstrate that such mechanisms can enable the persistence of similar species through storage effects. A dense volume that deserves to be read by anyone with an interest in the fundamental principles underlying the assembly of natural systems, this book combines mathematical theory and simulations with evidence from the field. Overall it forms a powerful reminder that studies based on snapshots—regardless of scale—are likely to miss important elements.

Wetlands and Lakes of the World
Devashish Kar
£153 (Hardback), £122 (eBook)
ISBN: 9788132210221 / 9788132210238
http://www.springer.com

Freshwater habitats cover only a fraction of global surface area but their importance greatly outweighs their extent. Capturing the entire field of limnology in a single volume is a brave endeavour, and this sprawling tome has perhaps taken on too much. Around 50% introductory textbook, it encompasses lake and wetland classification, biogeochemistry, physical features, characteristic biota, palaeolimnology, conservation and management. The remaining half comprises short descriptions of a selection of lakes and wetlands around the world. Too large and costly for a student text, yet with insufficient coverage to act as an atlas, it also lacks a truly comparative synthesis.

Vascular Plants of Afghanistan: An Augmented Checklist
Siegmar-W. Breckle, Ian C. Hedge & M. Daud Rafiqpoor
2013, Scienta Bonnensis, 598 pp.
Price on request (Hardback)
ISBN: 9783940766649
http://www.scienta-bonnensis.com

A companion to the same authors’ 2010 field guide, this bilingual (English and Dari) text documents for the first time all known plant species within Afghanistan, almost 5,000 of them, of which 25% are endemic. Each has a distribution map at the regional scale, combined with notes on altitudinal range, making this a mine of valuable data. Plant biogeographers will be excited by the collision of the Irano-Turanian, Sino-Japanese and Saharo-Sindian floristic elements. Introductory chapters cover the country’s geology, climate, environment and vegetation. There is no longer any excuse for treating this as a dark area on the world map.
Urban Ecology: Science of Cities
Richard T. T. Forman
£75 (Hardback), £35 (Paperback)
ISBN: 9781107007000 / 9780521188241
http://www.cambridge.com

As urbanization proceeds, growth of cities has been matched by an increased interest in cities as habitats. This comprehensive review incorporates examples from around the world, taking a value-neutral approach to their composition, drawing attention to how natural systems operate differently in areas of high human population density, and documenting how species integrate with the additional structures we provide as the ultimate ecosystem engineers. While seldom making explicit reference to biogeography, its principles underlie much of the content, and careful readers will spot the emergence of many processes better known from more pristine environments, albeit presented in an applied context.

Markus Eichhorn
University of Nottingham, UK

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