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books noted with interest

Primates in Fragments: Complexity and Resilience

Laura K. Marsh & Colin A. Chapman (editors)
2013, Springer, 537 pp.
£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.

Wetlands and Lakes of the World

Devashish Kar
2013, Springer, 687 pp.
£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.

Temporal Dynamics and Ecological Process

Colleen K. Kelly, Michael G. Bowler & Gordon A. Fox
2014, Cambridge University Press, 333 pp.
£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.

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

2014, Cambridge University Press, 474 pp.

£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.

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Editorial policy for book reviews

Frontiers of Biogeography will publish in-depth reviews of recently published books (typically less than one year old) on biogeography or of interest to biogeographers, alongside a 'Noted with Interest' section providing brief details of new publications. Authors, editors or third parties are invited to suggest books for review to the Book Review Editor, Dr Markus Eichhorn, School of Biology, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, United Kingdom; telephone ++44 (0)115 951 3214; e-mail markus.eichhorn@nottingham.ac.uk. We welcome offers to review books for *Frontiers of Biogeography*, but will not accept an offer to review a specific book. Anyone wishing to review books should send a brief *curriculum vitae*, description of competencies, and a statement of reviewing interests to the Book Review Editor. Reviews should be in an essay style, expressing an opinion about the value of the book, its focus and breadth, setting it in the context of recent developments within the field of study. Textbook reviews should consider their utility as resources for teaching and learning. Avoid describing the book chapter by chapter or listing typographical errors. The length should normally be 1000 words (1500 words for joint reviews of related texts) including a maximum 10 references. Authors may suggest a short heading for the review, followed by the title of the book(s), the authors/editors, publisher, publication date, price, hbk/pbk, pages, ISBN and website (where available). Figures or tables will not ordinarily be included. Authors of reviews must verify that they have not offered (and will not offer) a review of the same book to another journal, and must declare any potential conflict of interest that might interfere with their objectivity. This may form a basis for editorial decisions and such disclosures may be published. Book reviews will usually go through a light editorial review, though in some circumstances also will be considered by one or more referees.