

The author has been careful to describe his working methods in great detail. This information should be of great value to others.

Numerous recent studies have proved the great value of the reptilian ear as an object of study for investigation of the vertebrate auditory system. Wever's

compendium will serve as a valuable and necessary reference and source book for future investigations. **Malcolm R. Miller**

Malcolm R. Miller is Professor in the Department of Anatomy, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco, California.

African mammalogy

Ecology of African Mammals. By M.J. Delany and D.C.D. Happold. Pp. 434. (Longman: London and New York, 1979.) £25.

THIS book, the third contribution to Longman's Tropical Ecology Series covers Africa south of the Sahara. All aspects of the ecology of African mammals, both large and small, are considered resulting in a big book full of concentrated information. The tendency to categorise the text into sections and sub-sections does not make for easy reading but the approach will no doubt be appreciated by students wishing to note essential points. The book is divided into four parts and consists of thirteen chapters. The first part gives a comprehensive account of African mammals in an historical setting and the second concerns the biotic zones dealing in turn with rain forests, savannas, arid zones and mountains. The third part considers life histories, behavioural ecology, physiology and population dynamics; and the fourth section, consisting of only one chapter, examines the interactions between mammals and man.

The book, which is extremely well illustrated, covers the ground admirably and the authors have made a very thorough job of their survey of the literature. They have tried to give a balanced account,

which is not an easy task considering that the coverage of the field by research workers is far from even. On the whole, they have selected wisely and have not been biased by their own particular research interests, which are mainly in small mammals. Their account of the large mammals, being essentially a literature review, inevitably lacks something of the critical insight which an active worker in the field would provide. A few of the examples could have been better chosen, for example Rwenzori National Park (p. 113) is not very representative of its region in terms of the number of large mammal species in view of the fact that six more ungulate species occur in a game reserve less than 100 km to the east. It is also unfortunate that the work of Dasmann and Mossman, now some 20 years old, should be quoted in support of game ranching because the yields proposed were hopelessly optimistic and could not have been sustained for long.

There are few errors in this excellent book and none of great significance. It will prove extremely useful as a university text particularly in Africa but also in Europe and America for, given the rich mammalian fauna of Africa, it can serve as a general textbook of mammalogy. Research workers will also find it of value as a reference book. **S.K. Eltringham**

S.K. Eltringham, formerly Chief Research Officer of the Uganda National Parks, is now Lecturer in Applied Biology at the University of Cambridge, UK.

Modern ionospheric physics

Ionospheric Techniques and Phenomena. By A. Giraud and M. Petit. Pp. 264. (D. Reidel: Dordrecht, The Netherlands, Boston and London, 1978.) Dfl.85; \$38.

IONOSPHERIC physics has rapidly evolved after the International Geophysical Year (1957-58), from the old days during which traditional ionospheric sounders were the main tool, to the new era during which a number of new powerful tools have been introduced to measure basic ionospheric quantities. As one of those who is aware of such progress and yet has difficulty in catching up on modern literature as a non-specialist in this particular field, I am delighted to have this book. It presents an overall view of the new ionospheric

physics. In particular, the ionosphere is properly and accurately recognized as an integral part of the solar-terrestrial system. In this sense, I feel that the title *Modern Ionospheric Physics* would have been more appropriate.

The book provides a well-balanced presentation of the subject, and will serve as a good textbook for a graduate level course in aeronomy as well as an important reference book for ionospheric physicists and magnetospheric physicists. The book will familiarise readers with all modern techniques in investigating the ionosphere, equipping them well in interpreting data taken from such techniques and also in understanding very recent and future articles in this particular field.

Syun-Ichi Akasofu

Syun-Ichi Akasofu is Professor of Geophysics at the Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska.

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