New Books from Smithsonian Institution Press

**Great Apes and Humans: The Ethics of Coexistence**, edited by Benjamin B. Beck, Tara S. Stoinski, *et al.*, foreword by Jane Goodall, is the first book to present a spectrum of viewpoints on human responsibilities toward great apes. A variety of field biologists, academic scientists, zoo professionals, psychologists, sociologists, ethicists, and legal scholars consider apes in both the wild and captivity. They present sobering statistics on the declining numbers of wild apes, specifically discussing the decimation of great ape populations due to wild game consumption. They explore the role of apes in the educational mission of zoos as well as the need for sanctuaries for wild ape orphans and former research subjects. After examining the social division between apes and humans from the historical, evolutionary, and cognitive perspectives, they conclude by reviewing the current moral and legal status of great apes as well as how apes’ cognitive skills inform these issues. Published by the Smithsonian Institution Press, Tel: 1-800-782-4612. Available in hardcover: ISBN 1-56098-969-6, $34.95. 4 b&w illustrations, 5 tables. 384 pp.

**North American Tree Squirrels**, by Michael A. Steele and John L. Koprowski, illuminates the everyday lives of gray and fox squirrels, the two most dominant types of tree squirrels in the eastern United States. The authors detail the behavior, reproduction, diet, physiology, and habitat use of these engaging rodents, as well as their complex interdependent relationships with seed-producing trees. Published by the Smithsonian Institution Press, Tel: 1-800-782-4612. Available in hardcover: ISBN 1-56098-986-6, $24.95. 22 b&w photographs, 5 line illustrations. 224 pp.

**Platypus: The Extraordinary Story of How a Curious Creature Baffled the World**, by Ann Moyal, tells the spirited story of how this secretive little animal became a key player in the great theoretical and philosophical debates that ushered in a new era of biological research. Using the evolution of species classification as a framework, Moyal recounts how the leading zoologists and comparative anatomists of Britain and Europe fiercely debated what kind of animal the platypus was and how it reproduced. Published by the Smithsonian Institution Press, Tel: 1-800-782-4612. Available in hardcover: ISBN 1-56098-977-7, $21.95. 8 color, 28 b&w illustrations. 240 pp.

Originally published in Spanish in 1994, **Ecology of the Marine Fishes of Cuba**, edited by Rodolfo Claro, Kenyon Lindeman, and Lynne R. Parenti, has been completely updated and revised for this English edition. The book collects and expands on the findings of more than 20 years of work by an international team of ichthyologists and marine biologists studying the coastal fishes and habitats of Cuba. In chapters arranged topically, the thirteen contributors detail the physical characteristics of the Cuban coast; document the physiology, behavior, reproduction, feeding patterns, and growth patterns of the regions fishes; and survey Cuba’s fisheries management programs. Published by the Smithsonian Institution Press, Tel: 1-800-782-4612. Available in hardcover: ISBN 1-56098-985-8, $55.00. 83 b&w drawings, 31 b&w photographs, 38 tables. 208 pp.
Information Highway Hi-Lites

The Wildlife Interest Group of the American Society of International Law has a searchable bibliography [http://eelink.net/~asilwildlife/bib.shtml] on the Impacts of Climate Change on flora and fauna species, ecosystems and agricultural resources. Since the release of the last incarnation, 340 citations have been added to the bibliography. The bibliography now has more than 3,300 citations, encompassing peer reviewed and gray literature, including hundreds of online resources. Suggestions for corrections or additions to the site is encouraged and appreciated. Viewers can also join an announcement list to receive notifications of updates to this resource and others on the site.

Native Plants Online [http://wildflower.avatartech.com/Plants_Online/index2.html] is the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center’s national portal for native plant information. This online resource is packed with free native plant information, such as an online database of more than 1,000 native plant species, a national directory of more than 2,000 landscapers with experience using native plants, a national directory of native plant and seed suppliers, and downloadable fact sheets from the Wildflower Center’s Clearinghouse. These fact sheets include regional recommended species lists, native plant bibliographies, and native plant organizations lists. The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center seeks to inspire people of all ages to reconnect themselves to the land by providing them with the tools and resources they need to understand their ecological heritage, become better ecological citizens, and secure a sound ecological future.

Carnivore Conservation [http://www.carnivore conservation.org] provides information on carnivore ecology and conservation. News headlines are updated daily, and information on forthcoming meetings and job opportunities are provided. An extensive database of carnivore literature is also available. Searching for links on carnivores is easy as most sections are separated into the cat, canid, bear, and mustelid families. Subscribers to the Carnivore Discussion List receive weekly news in digest form.

Current Literature


Fishpool, L.D.C. 2001. The Important Bird Areas in Africa


The Biological Conservation Newsletter is a monthly publication provided free of charge. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, contact Dr. Gary Krupnick at: Department of Systematic Biology - Botany, MRC-166, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560-0166, or by e-mail: krupnick.gary@nmnh.si.edu. You may also subscribe to receive e-mail notification when new issues are posted to the web. Send an e-mail message to listserv@sivm.si.edu containing only the following text: “SUBSCRIBE BCN FIRSTNAME LASTNAME”. For more information, go to the web page http://www.mnh.si.edu/botany/bcn.

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