

ed overview tables and maps very useful (e.g. islands where the world's endemic seabirds are found).

Seabird dispersal and migration is covered in informative detail (e.g., for phalaropes, jaegers, Bonaparte's and Sabine's gulls). Regarding telemetry (a big topic in seabird research these days), resource selection and biomass/prey models, this book is a disappointment. Also no work is presented that involves Geographic Information Systems (GIS) or online mapping initiatives. The book presents monogamy and seabird mating systems, but lacks the exciting findings on Extra-pair Copulations (EPCs), as well as on Stable Isotopes (e.g., Canadian flagship work by K. Hobson) and on the Wilson's Storm Petrel (probably the most abundant bird in the world). The author is also plain wrong in his statement that our ability to predict hot-spots for seabirds would be poor (accuracies of over 80% are reported in the literature). But he is absolutely right that many pelagic seabird colony, survey and distribution data are still unpublished and not publicly available, blocking progress on the world's seabird research and management (examples are found for the Arctic, Antarctic, Indian Ocean, with BirdLife International and many of the surveys involving funding from the U.S. National Science Foundation, ICES and PICES for instance).

Being a naturalist and a modern scientist can mix, beyond log-transformed linear regressions. And so, it's too bad that the demography chapter ends with literature of the late 1980s (whereas a real explosion has happened in this discipline in the last two decades making for a main scheme in colony-based seabird research and management). One should always be doubtful when facts in biology get presented as "it makes sense that" (as done in this book).

Another serious omission is that Gaston does not make reference to another major reference on seabirds by Schreiber and Burger (2002), nor to the extensive works by Nettleship or Montevecchi (or the classic papers on smell by Newell). Since the author is being an international editor for seabird journals, one won-

ders why that is? Citation biases are definitely not professional. The tragedy here is for Canada and its seabirds that the Gaston style equals more or less the CWS style (instead of for instance, Anderson et al. 2003).

Compared to other disciplines, it is striking that so little real progress has been made on seabirds and their habitats and management ("Seabird ecology does not provide many Eureka! moments"), when considering the chronic oil-spill situation in our oceans, overfishing in Newfoundland and elsewhere, and that 17 out of the 19 albatross species are basically of major conservation concern (two species occur in Canadian waters). Considering the impacts of climate change, the times for story telling and of a science that "objectively" gets removed from adaptive management is probably over, certainly for seabirds in the Arctic (a topic Gaston is an expert in) and where we are facing a warming of 8 degrees Celsius.

Overall, we are left here with a nice Gaston-style publication and his views as a self-defined CWS naturalist, but naturalists of this world do cover much more ground and are usually rather concerned about sustainability. A more serious book about seabirds and their habitat, management and conservation — beyond just interesting stories and facts — still awaits to be written so that Canada can be proud again of its traditionally well-balanced values, (governmental) research and an ocean science that truly achieves, long-term.

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BOTANY

Monograph on Bamboo in China

By Yi Tongpei, Shi Junyi, Ma Lisha, Wang Haitao and Yang Lin. Science Press, Beijing, China. 2008. 766 pages, 480.00 CNY Cloth.

In phytotaxonomy, bamboo are monocotyledon woody perennial evergreens (except for some temperate species) plants in the family Gramineae (or Poaceae), subfamily Bambusoideae, tribe Bambuseae. According to the statistics, worldwide totalling more than 70 genera and 1200 species of bamboo covers a total area of about 22 million hm². Bamboo is distributed between the Tropic of Capricorn and the Tropic of Cancer, covering the tropical, subtropical and warm

temperate areas. China, especially the southern part of China, is located in the central distribution area of bamboo. Bamboo in China has 39 genera and 509 species, which is 36% and 39% of the total number of genera and species of bamboo in the world, respectively. Bamboo area in China is about five million hm², which is 4% of the total area of forest in China, and 25% of the total bamboo area in the world.

Early in the period of Yangshao and Hemudu Cultures, about 6000-7000 years ago, the Chinese began to use bamboo in their daily lives and production activities. In China, bamboo has been extensively used in

many aspects, such as source material for clothing, food, housing and transportation. Before the invention of paper-making technique in the ninth century, many important Chinese ancient books, such as the books of Confucius, were all written on bamboo slips. In a sense, bamboo has become a carrier of Chinese civilization. It might be said that if the discovery and use of corn created the splendid Indian culture and history, the use of bamboo created the prosperous civilization and history of China.

In traditional Chinese culture, the straight lines, nodes, hardness and hollow structure of bamboo symbolize the resilience, integrity, unselfishness, resoluteness, honorability, chastity, tenacity, mettle, longevity, condescension, abstention, truth, happiness and so on. Besides being a symbol of virtue, bamboo is endowed with soul and emotion. Chinese not only like the practical uses, but also the spirit of bamboo. Bamboo is sometimes regarded as an indispensable part of daily life by Chinese; this was expressed in the poem of a famous Chinese poet Su Shi in the Song Dynasty, that "I prefer to eat a meal without meat, not to have a home without bamboo." Bamboo is rich in cultural connotations and has influenced and promoted the formation of the sense of aesthetics and ethics of Chinese people, as well as the development of Chinese literature, painting, arts and crafts, garden art, religious culture, folk-custom and music culture (bamboo is an important material for making musical instruments in China). Because bamboo possesses uniquely beautiful and elegant stance as well as the abundant spiritual symbolization, from ancient times, bamboo as a important garden plant has been using widely in landscape design in China. Bamboo, pine and plum are regarded as three best friends or auspicious plants in winter. Additionally including chrysanthemum, they are called the four gentlemen of plant kingdom.

Although the bamboo resource is abundant and the history of use of bamboo is long enough in China, a comprehensive book dealing with Chinese bamboo resource has been rare. The book *Monograph on Bamboo in China* written by Yi et al., comprehensively re-

flected the latest research results on bamboo resource in China.

The book contains large numbers of Chinese species and a small number of introduced bamboo species, totalling 43 genera, 707 species, 52 varieties and 98 variants in Bambusoideae, among which there are more than 1910 pieces of color photos attached to 440 species, 36 varieties, 68 variants and 4 hybrids. Some of these photos were taken in many botanical gardens and bamboo gardens in China, and most of the others were taken in the natural sites where the model specimens originally grew. The morphological characteristics, origin, habitat and elevation of distribution of each species are described in detail. Abundant first-hand information is included in the book. Many data in the book were published for the first time, for example, the photos of more than 300 bamboo species (including the varieties and variants) in their original sites, and the photos of some single-species genera of bamboo. In the book, an elaborate identification key containing all bamboo species in 34 genera except for the species in the single-species genera and there is a map of the distribution of cold-resistant bamboo species. Furthermore, the book collected and listed almost all the original literature published about the newly found bamboo species after around 1996.

The book is well structured, and with few errors. The book has a strong scientific and practical values. Its publication will promote the research, exploitation, protection and management of the bamboo resource in China. This book can serve as a reference for persons who engage in phytotaxonomy, agriculture, forestry or other related fields, or the persons who are interested in bamboo.

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ENVIRONMENT

Tree of Rivers: The Story of the Amazon

By J. Hemming. 2008. Thames & Hudson Inc., 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10110 USA. 368 pages. 39.95 USD.

The environmental history of the Amazon has a new amazing book, and any naturalist interested in natural world heritages really wants to read it: it represents environmental history *par excellence*.

Most people don't appreciate that the Amazon River provides the cradle for our current western world's industrialization, and that we owe it. Holland's Golden Age, for instance was caused, in part, by sugar from

Brazil. Portugal's period of great wealth 1750s onwards was due to the inflow of gold discovered in Brazil (Minhas Gerais). And 1850 started "the world's greatest boom based on a living plant product", rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*) and Castilla trees. It was exploited and its use intensified by T. Hancock (father of the international rubber industry), Dunlop, MacIntosh, Firestone, Goodyear (famous for inventing vulcanization), Michelin (France) and Ford (also known for its rubber plantations). A reference to a similar situation in Congo and the Belgium king is made, too. Further,

Erratum The Canadian Field-Naturalist 126(4)

In response to the review of *Contributions to the History of Herpetology*. CFN 126(3): 344-345, the book's editor Kraig Adler pointed out (personal communication to FRC 12 May 2013): "Only one small correction. Mrs. Martof used a kitchen knife, not a gun. She told the police she slipped while cutting some pizza. But Bernie was stabbed up under his rib cage several times!"

Erratum The Canadian Field-Naturalist

It has come to our attention that sections of many of the book reviews by Li Dezhi and Qin Aili were copied from sources without attribution. The journal and the authors apologize for this oversight.