

author and date of the scientific name is always in parentheses (here and in the Classification of Sharks). The authors (or text editor?) seem not to be aware that parentheses are only used when the species is placed in a genus other than the one it was originally described under. The text comprises the Family to which the shark or ray belongs, Range, Habitat, Size, and Habits. All parts of the book are richly illustrated with colour photographs, over 450 in all.

Despite the comments above, this book is a good general introduction to sharks and rays. It is lavishly illustrated, as all such books must be, of a convenient size, and with a reasonable price.

Literature Cited

Gilhen, John, and Brian W. Coad. 1991. The bluntnose sixgill shark *Hexanchus griseus* (Bonnaterre, 1788), new to the fish fauna of Atlantic Canada. Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science, 39 (1989): 75-77.

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In Search of the Golden Frog

By Martha Crump. 2002. University of Chicago Press, 5801 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637 USA. xiv + 298

military, industrialists and rioting natives that disrupt her life.

As I started to read this book I became very disconcerted. In the past few years I have looked for amphibians and reptiles in tropical jungles on many occasions. My success rate is very low. The author travels to the same locations in South America and immediately starts finding many individuals of multiple species. My estimation of my frog finding prowess dropped page by page. By the time the author reaches the 1990s, however, her success rate has plummeted. By 1996 she says "we hug and screech with excitement" on finding one frog. I realize that my lack of success is due less to my incompetence than to the rapid loss of frogs in my lifetime. This is even more depressing. When I go to Monteverde next spring I have little hope of seeing the fabulous Golden Frog. On 7 April 1987 this author saw "over one hundred dazzling bright golden toads" at one small pool at Monteverde.

The author also deserves another accolade for, while she is pursuing her scientific research, she is also being a parent to two children. I was delighted with the way she involved them in her work and gave them opportunities to broaden their knowledge. This may have made her life harder and certainly caused her concerns, but I am sure these children will benefit.

So if you want to find out about the life of a field

pages, Cloth US\$27.

Any young person thinking of taking a degree in one of the biological sciences, particularly if they plan to become a field biologist, should read this book. The author, currently Adjunct Professor of Biology at Northern Arizona University, chronicles her life from her postgraduate work in 1968 through various projects to 1998. The book concentrates on the field programs that are the real love of Professor Crump's life. Her main interests are reptiles and amphibians, but her passion is frogs.

Taking advantage of an opportunity offered by her discerning professor, she joins a team going to the Amazon section of Ecuador. From this exposure which reinforces her desire to work in the field, she returns repeatedly to work in South America. Her narrative includes her excitement at being a scientist and making discoveries to contribute to her profession. She also chronicles some of the problems she encounters. These do not include frightening encounters with large or dangerous animals. The hazards fall into two categories. The small pests, mosquitoes, chiggers, chigoes, bot flies and ants, causes plenty of discomfort. But it is the large pest, humans, that causes the greatest levels of concern. She notes the ordinary people are by and large, friendly and helpful. It is the bandits, police,

researcher read this entertaining book. Follow the trials of first reaching the field locations using often unreliable local transport. Join in meals that are good, bad, or bizarre. Meet local people, many of whom care greatly about their environment. Find out how a scientist collects data and uses it to create a new understanding of our planet.

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