

Biology of martens, sables and fishers

Martens, Sables, and Fishers. Biology and conservation. Ed. S. W. Buskirk, A. S. Harestad, M. G. Raphael, and R. A. Powell. Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London, 1994, 484 pp. ISBN 0-8014-2894-7.

New methods in ecology open the opportunity to answer more and more questions but still we know little about some genera. Representatives of the genus *Martes* belong to this kind of animals; it contains one of the shyest, and most difficult to study animals. Although the literature on these animals is quite large, it includes predominantly short notes about the food, home range and natural history. The book tries to summarize our knowledge about the martens, sables and fishers. Fifty seven authors contributed to this volume, presenting 30 both review and original papers. The part about marten begins with "Introduction to genus *Martes*" by S. W. Buskirk, who gave a short review about the phylogeny, morphology, ecology and biogeography of marten species of the World. The book consists of 7 chapters, each with 2-7 papers. Besides the reviews papers such as: "Reproduction in *Martes*" (R. A. Mead) or "Structure and spacing of *Martes* population" (R. A. Powell), the book contains the original papers e.g. "Habitat use and spatial organization by the stone marten" (M. Herrmann) or "The effect of trapping on a newly exploited American marten population" (C. Fortin and M. Cantin). Interesting methodological articles can be found in chapter III (Management and population). One of them described the age and sex determination (K. G. Poole *et al.*), another one reviewed the techniques of monitoring of marten population (M. Raphael). Among 30 papers in this book, 3 were about all *Martes* species, only 4 were about two European marten species (pine and stone marten), 2 about sable and 1 about Tsushima marten (*Martes melampus tsuensis*). The remained articles were about the American marten and fisher. Literature, with about 1070 citations, and useful index complete the book.

Biologists who are interested in genus *Martes* should not overlook this book. I hope this volume would be the first book of the series about the martens. The 2nd symposium on the Biology and Management of Martens and Fishers would be a good occasion to publish the next book about these interesting animals.

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