

BOOK REVIEW

Naturalized Mammals

Naturalized mammals of the world. Sir Christopher Lever. Longman 1985; 487 pp.; index ISBN 0-582-46056-5.

During the progress of civilization, man has changed and modified nature. Many species have become extinct or domesticated while others have expanded their range and distribution. In the book "Naturalized mammals of the world" Sir Christopher Lever has collected all information about exotic mammal species which live wild outside their natural range, or about domestic animals which have reverted back to the wild. The author presents information concerning when, where, why, and for what reason various alien mammals now living in the wild, were introduced. In reference to particular species answers are given as to the effects and potential effects resulting from such naturalization.

The book is a lengthy source of information. It contains maps of both natural and naturalized distribution, and consists of 5 basic parts. In the preface the terminology and methodology is reviewed. The introduction discusses the reasons why species were introduced (with examples), and gives 7 recommendations for introducing animals (or plants) to a new environment. In the taxonomic part the author presents sketches about 66 species belonging to 9 families. The criteria for inclusion of a species is that it should have been imported from its natural range to a new region either deliberately or accidentally by man. Further it should currently be established in the wild in a self-maintaining and self-perpetuating population unaffected antropogenically. In general, only species which have become successfully naturalized were included.

The description of each species include its natural occurrence (usually with a map) and naturalized distribution (also with a map) and historical data of naturalization within each country. Very often a precise history of each naturalized species within each particular country is given, beginning with the British Isles (if a species was naturalized there) and followed by the other countries. Besides the history, the author indicates the population numbers and some information relating to the ecology of the species (food, predation, competition) in its present condition (ecosystem). The description presents further information for example, about the profits yielded from shot animals, the damage caused by certain species, and the attempts by man to regulate those species which have become a pest.

Information about naturalized species in Poland was sometimes incomplete. For example the description of occurrence of the North American mink (*Mustela vison*) in Poland is the lacking. In relation to species such as the Sika deer and muflon in Poland the author only made reference to the maps without an adequate description concerning the history of these naturalized species even though this information is present in Polish literature. Also data concerning first records of the muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) in Poland were incorrect, and the author only refers to the 'old' German town names. A rather important paper on changes in the range of the Raccoon dog in Poland (by E. Nowak and Z. Pielowski, Acta theriol. 9: 81 - 110, 1964) is not referred to.

At the end of some of the sketches a short description is given of some allied, related or associated species of the same genus, that were naturalized quite recently, followed by bibliographical notes.

The Appendix consists of two tables. The first concerns the data about exotic ungulates established in enclosures in the states of New Mexico and Texas. The second table refers to all countries where naturalized mammals exist, and lists the species with a minimal amount of information regarding their natural range, and the reasons for their introduction. These tables are recapitulations and useful elements of the book, though, in the last table there is again no data about the North American mink, or incomplete data on the naturalized Sika deer and muflon in Poland. The book is highly complemented for its extensive bibliography and index of vertebrate species.

The book is a valuable source of information on naturalized mammals of the world. It is very interesting and useful for professional and amateur mammalogists. As the book reflects the large scale changes in the mammal fauna, due to man's activities, it provides a good basis for people interested in nature conservation.

Andrzej ZALEWSKI, Mammal Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences, 17-230 Białowieża, Poland