

communication, breeding and reproduction, enemies and relationships with humans. Most species are each granted a chapter, but in some cases a group of related species (such as muntjacs, huemuels or brocket deer) is combined into a single section. The text is informative and well-structured and, most of all, accompanied by nearly 150 brilliant photographs depicting the various species in every season and activity. Being an American, Rue focuses on North American species, in particular white-tailed deer and wapiti which are described in more detail than the other species, but this does by no means devalue the book. While the text is not primarily scientific and will thus certainly not serve as a “reference work for years to come” (as boldly claimed on the back cover), it will be useful and delighting for amateurs and experts alike.

There are some minor mistakes such as an incomplete distribution map for moose (denying Poland and the Czech Republic their populations) and the consistent

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misspelling of the Père (not Peré!) David’s deer, and the transformation of length and weight units (inches to mm and pounds to kg) is sometimes wrong or inconsistently carried out, but the most curious “shortcoming” of this book is the strange omission of the Eld’s deer or thamin (*Cervus eldii*). This species is neither detailedly covered nor mentioned in the species list or the index. In fact, it is – without explanation – not mentioned at all, leaving the reader with the suspicion that the author has simply forgotten to include it.

The book closes with a glossary, a short bibliography and an index, and in spite of the minor blemishes mentioned above it is highly recommended to anyone interested in deer and/or superb wildlife photography.

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Krystufek, B.; Flajsman, B.; Griffiths, H.I. (eds.): Living with Bears. A Large European Carnivore in a Shrinking World. Ecological Forum LDS, Ljubljana, Slovenia (2003). 368pp., figures, tables, maps and numerous colour photographs, hardcover £35.50, ca. €53, ISBN-10: 961-90522-4-2

This multi-author volume is a highly welcome treatise on the issue of large carnivores in Europe and their inevitable conflict with the human population. As evident from the title, the main focus is on the brown bear, but some of the chapters not only cover bears but also wolves and lynx. The book is divided into four parts: (1) general, (2) large carnivore–human interactions, (3) case studies and (4) management. The first part comprises only one chapter on the Pleistocene history of the brown bear. The second part contains five chapters dealing with neanderthal–cave bear relationships (!) and relationships between carnivores and humans in Slovenia, the Alps and the Dinaric Mountains. In the six chapters of the third part country-specific case studies are presented for Slovenia, Croatia, the southern Balkans, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Finally, in the last part four chapters are devoted to the development and presentation of monitoring and conservation and management strategies in Slovenia, and a detailed account is given on the translocation of Slovenian bears into the Adamello Brenta Natural Park in Italy.

Although not evident from the title, by far the greatest part of this book is about Slovenia, and regrettably,

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Romania – which, apart from Russia, harbours the largest population of brown bears in Europe – is completely neglected. Nonetheless, the book offers a highly informative and readable synopsis of many facets of the multitudinous problems faced by bears and humans living in sympatry. Two chapters I found particularly interesting were the ones on the human–bear conflict in Slovenia in 1999–2000 and on public opinion about large carnivores in the Alps and the Dinaric Mountains. The former detailedly dissects the much more political than scientific background of an incident of issuing an exceptional permit for the killing of a bear and its sometimes hysterical coverage by the media – at one time a bear was seriously accused of having attacked a school bus! The latter presents the results of polls and interviews with respect to the acceptance of bears, wolves and lynx in France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Croatia and Slovenia.

The text is accompanied by beautiful and sometimes historical photographs throughout, and many figures nicely illustrate the quantitative data presented. In spite of its limited geographical scope, the book is without a doubt essential reading for conservationists, wildlife managers and game biologists dealing with predators in human-dominated landscapes.

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