

standing. He describes nature as so complex and ever changing that it is impossible to understand it completely, and that we will need input from many avenues of thought and experience to find solutions that will lead to an environment that sustains a livable planet for future generations.

Other works have tackled philosophical discourse about nature and the environment, most notably in *Rethinking Nature: Essays in Environmental Philosophy* (B V Foltz and R Frodeman. 2004. Bloomington (IN): Indiana University Press). What sets Hull's work apart is that he has pulled these ideas together into a concise and readable book. It is a welcome addition to the literature on environmental discourse.

MELINDA K HAYES, *Specialized Libraries & Archival Collections, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California*

APPLYING NATURE'S DESIGN: CORRIDORS AS A STRATEGY FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION. *Issues, Cases, and Methods in Biodiversity Conservation.*

By Anthony B Anderson and Clinton N Jenkins. New York: Columbia University Press. \$74.50 (hardcover); \$34.50 (paper). x + 231 p; ill.; index. ISBN: 0-231-13410-X (hc); 0-231-13411-8 (pb). 2006.

The reason for this book is past and present natural area fragmentation. Currently, over much of the globe, natural areas occur in a matrix of human-dominated landscapes, rather than the reverse. Using this theme, the authors newly define and assess an array of corridors that do, or could, connect patches of nature in the rapidly developing matrix of human enterprises. Although conservation practice might see this network corridor system as helpful to the natural dispersal of populations of plant and animal species—an underpinning of the evolutionary process—such corridors can also aid in the spread of diseases and noxious pest species. Nonetheless, on balance, corridors are viewed positively. The authors have provided an excellent overview of corridor concepts and objectives. They also spend several pages on the politics of implementation, that is, putting the theory based on nature into practice in a world with borders and diverse bureaucratic systems. A final chapter includes eight case studies from temperate and tropical landscapes, each with very different governance. These case studies demonstrate well the pros and cons of corridor establishment and how each required the cooperation of very diverse players both locally and at higher government levels. Such support is crucial because corridors are complex and long-term initiatives.

This small volume is packed with ideas, concepts,

and references. It should be on the bookshelves of conservationists, as well as the diverse players who have the political power to bring about long-term species and ecosystem protection.

TERRY L ERWIN, *Entomology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC*

WHY CONSERVATION IS FAILING AND HOW IT CAN REGAIN GROUND.

By Eric T Freyfogle. New Haven (Connecticut): Yale University Press. \$35.00. vii + 302 p; index. ISBN: 0-300-11040-5. 2006.

If you are looking for a book on conservation that uses variations of the words "academy," "intellectual," or "scholar" on nearly every page, this is the volume for you. Alternatively, if you are an activist, you may not have time for this book.

Freyfogle is not interested in a broad audience. He admits this in the introduction, in a passage that says as much about the quality of his writing as it does about the quality of his intended audience: "Why write a book on a topic that few people are likely to read? Serious conservation volumes rarely draw sizeable audiences. This one will likely fare little better, deliberately small though it is. But audiences are as important for their quality as well as their size. A few thousand readers—indeed, even a few hundred, seriously engaged—are enough to change the tenor of the cause, to infuse it with new ways to think and talk" (p 13).

This volume includes an introduction, six chapters, and an annotated bibliography. One of the book's main messages, emphasized in Chapters 1 and 6, is that conservationists lack an overall goal. As a result, actions of organizations like the Nature Conservancy are piecemeal. The second chapter categorizes "scholarly types": "libertarians, simple fixers . . . , dispute resolvers, progressive reformers, and land community advocates" (p 55). The author's sympathies lie with the fifth group. The third chapter—The Lure of the Garden—critically compares and judges the work of Michael Pollan and Aldo Leopold: Pollan, an advocate of tamed, private gardens = "bad"; Leopold, an advocate of wildness, community-oriented gardens = "good." Chapters 4 and 5 deal with sustainability and land use.

The most worthwhile part of the book is Conservation's Central Readings: A Bibliographic Essay (36 pages), which highlights a dozen authors ranging from Edward Abbey, Wendell Berry, and Aldo Leopold to Rachel Carson, David Orr, and David Quammen.

MARTY CONDON, *Biology, Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa*