

Book Review

The Naturalists' Directory and Almanac (International), World Natural History Publications; x+310 pp; 1978. 43rd Edition. World Natural History Publications, 1330 Dillon Heights Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21228, USA. \$12.95.

A directory of about 3700 naturalists, both amateur and professional, this volume aims "to further international exchange of natural history specimens and information." The core of the directory is an alphabetical listing of naturalists with addresses and interest statements. These names are indexed in three ways: (1) geographically by country and city, (2) by special interest index search number, and (3) when applicable, by the particular taxa they are willing to identify for others.

The special interest search number system is designed to allow easy location of persons with a given interest, and the system seems to work. A search number is composed of four index numbers: 1. The subject of interest (taxonomic or other). 2. The geographical interest index (with categories from worldwide to parts of countries). 3. The general interest index (i.e. systematics, ecology, physiology, pest control, etc.). 4. The mode of interest index (i.e. collect, exchange, buy, identify, research, and combinations of these and others). Lists of these index numbers are given from which a search number can be easily compiled.

In addition to the directory, this volume also includes "The Naturalists' Almanac", which includes several other lists and short essays on natural history subjects. The geographically arranged lists of museums, zoological and botanical gardens, and natural history publications, are useful. Another list makes a valuable start on a compilation of field stations and preserved areas; one hopes this can be expanded in future editions. The final list presents the compiler's selection of the "100 most useful and best books on natural history", organized by subject. The book list will be most helpful to librarians as well as naturalists.

The natural history essays fall into two categories: the "Nature Fact File" and longer photo-essays. The "Nature Fact File" consists of eleven short essays on such subjects as butterfly life cycles, spiders as human food, and whale slaughter. The photo-essays treat green lacewings, aquatic insects in a stock tank, insect pheromones, bark beetles, and cicadas. All are written in a nontechnical style to appeal to the amateur naturalist and seem much more appropriate to a natural history magazine. The *Naturalists' Directory* would probably fulfill its purpose better by concentrating on the listings, which are of much greater use than the essays.

Many naturalists can benefit from the editor's comments on postal services (including proper address formats) and guidelines for requesting identification services. The volume includes a history of the *Naturalists' Directory* and a chronology of editions. Classified and display advertisements for natural history objects, supplies, and books are included also.

The *Naturalists' Directory* is a useful book. Naturalists can help increase the utility of future editions by submitting their new and revised listings for inclusion to: World Natural History Publications, Editorial Office, P. O. Box 505, Kinderhook, New York 12106, USA. As evidence of the fact that many naturalists have not included themselves, the Entomological Society of America had over 7000 members in 1978, compared to the 3700 listed in this volume.

Editor's Note: Perhaps the space used for essays in the current edition could better be allocated to conservation information. While the directory no doubt serves conservation as a medium for dialogue, its attention to issues of diversity preservation is minimal. One would like to see a cautionary word about the exchange of specimens, pertaining to rare and endangered species.

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