

Prairie Endangered Species Workshop Proceedings

One-third of all the rare, threatened, and endangered species in Canada were once regular inhabitants of the prairie grasslands. Ploughing of native prairie for agriculture has virtually eliminated the grassland habitat on which these species depend. With this background, a three day workshop was held at the Provincial Museum of Alberta, Edmonton in January 1986 by the Federation of Alberta Naturalists. During the 32 sessions, 90 speakers from 30 organizations discussed the conservation and management needs of endangered prairie habitats and wildlife. Proceedings from the workshop are now available.

The Proceedings include 83 papers on endangered habitats and most threatened and endangered wildlife in the 3 prairie provinces. The papers on habitat confirmed that over 75% of all prairie habitats have been ploughed, grazed or urbanized. Over 95% of mixed grass prairie has been irreparably disturbed. The papers on individual species discussed the status of each species, its current management, the need for a recovery plan, and future conservation needs. A number of low profile species such as the bull trout, leopard frog, and a variety of insects and plants were included in an effort to stimulate more conservation activity.

To order copies of the proceedings of the Workshop on the Endangered Species in the Prairie Provinces, Occasional Paper No. 9 (1987) of Provincial Museum of Alberta send \$10 per copy to Edmonton Natural History Club, Box 1582, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2N9, Canada.

Bøker Books

NEW BOOK ON REINDEER

Reindeer on South Georgia: The ecology of an introduced population

N. Leader-Williams.

Cambridge University Press (Studies in Polar Biology) 1988, 319p.

ISBN 0 521 24271 1 (£20, US\$ 49).

The introduction earlier this century of Norwegian reindeer to the sub-antarctic island of South Georgia provided scientists with the unusual opportunity of studying the interaction between a large arctic herbivore and a southern ecosystem that had not previously been exposed to grazing by mammals.

This book synthesises the results of many years of research into this fascinating ecological situation. Dr. Leader-Williams develops observations into two main themes. First, a comparative study of the biology and ecology of a deer that occurs in a wide variety of Arctic habitats. Secondly, an investigation into the ways in which an introduced population adapts to a new environment, its relevance to the population ecology of mammals and to the conservation of southern island ecosystems. In doing this, he discusses many topics including reproductive biology, feeding ecology, growth, mortality and population dynamics.

Part I Reindeer in the Arctic and Antarctic

- 1 Reindeer and caribou: taxonomy, habitats and ecology
 - Taxonomy and relationships with other deer
 - Habitats and ecology
 - Relationships with man
- 2 The introduction of mammals into new environments
 - The irruption of introduced ungulates
 - Introductions of reindeer
 - Introductions to southern islands
- 3 South Georgia: the island and its reindeer
 - Environment and natural history
 - History and introduction of animals
 - The study
 - Status of reindeer during the study

Part II Biology of reindeer

- 4 Reproduction
 - The breeding season
 - Pregnancy rates and reproductive changes in the female
 - Reproductive changes in the male
 - The antler cycle

- 5 Food habits
 - Forage available during snow-free periods
 - Effects of snow on the use of plant communities
 - Seasonal changes in diet
 - Nutritional limitations
 - Feeding ecology at high latitudes
- 6 Growth and body condition
 - Antler growth
 - Skeletal growth
 - Body and organ growth
 - Body condition
 - Growth, seasonality and sexual dimorphism
- 7 Causes of mortality
 - Patterns of mortality
 - Rates and causes of mortality
 - Parasitism
 - Dental disease
 - Mortality: the effects of ecology and sexual dimorphism
- Part III Ecology of an introduction
- 8 Irruptions of reindeer
 - Introduced reindeer on islands
 - Increase and attainment of peak numbers
 - Decline from peak numbers
 - Irruptions in natural populations
- 9 Impact of reindeer on vegetation
 - Extent of overgrazing
 - A long-term exclusion experiment
 - Irruptions and overgrazing
- 10 Introduced mammals on southern islands
 - Islands and introductions
 - Establishment of an introduction
 - Effects on native biotas

Part IV Overview

A review of this book will be published in the next issue of Rangifer.

Ny bok om villrein i trykken

Eigil Reimers har skrevet boken **Villreinens verden** som utgis på Aschehougs Forlag. Eigil Reimers, kjent villreinforsker, har her samlet all sin viten om reinen, dens biologi, adferd, jakt og fangst. Den omhandler også forholdet mellom villreinen og mennesket. Boken er gjennomillustrert av noen av våre beste dyrefotografer. Nærmere anmeldelse kommer i neste nummer av Rangifer.