

Birdwatching locations are introduced, but not discussed in detail. Economic efficiency is re-iterated throughout the report and is the primary focus of sections regarding obstacles and opportunities. A particular strength of the report lies in identifying and discussing some of the obstacles. These are varied and include discussions about limited quality accommodation in regional areas and the unpredictability of the climate. I would have liked to have seen more detail in the effects on conservation section, particularly on approaching and disturbing

nesting birds. Nevertheless, the section is informative despite its brevity. Pertinent and concise recommendations for industry, government action, and research complete the report.

The strength of this report lies in its detailed approach to characterization of birdwatchers and the ways they are likely to interact with the market. In addition, it presents thoughtful overviews regarding constraints and challenges. Overall, it is well researched and relevant to the tourism industry.

Introductory Ecology

Peter Cotgreave and Irwin Forseth, 2002
Blackwell Science, Oxford
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DR PETER COTGREAVE completed a PhD in ecology at the Zoology Department of the University of Oxford. Irwin Forseth is a plant physiological ecologist, teaching plant ecology and introductory biology at the University of Maryland since 1982. Cotgreave and Forseth have come together to write their first text: *Introductory Ecology*. The authors believe that many students attain qualifications in science without a basic understanding of the importance of ecology. The authors' aim is to provide a straightforward text that can be used by students receiving only minimal exposure to ecology.

The book contains 14 chapters covering the various areas of ecology that are considered standard fare in an introductory text. Chapters 1 to 3 cover the fundamentals of the diversity of life, global ecological theories such as biomes and the nature of experiments and interpreting ecological information. Chapters 4 and 5 discuss interactions of organisms with abiotic factors; for example, climatic process and climate-organism interactions and interactions between organisms and the physical environment.

Chapters 6 to 10 deal with organisms and their interactions with the biotic environment. Population models dealing with reproductive rate, carrying capacity and intraspecific competition are discussed (Chapter 6), as well as population demography and life history (Chapter 7) and competition between different species and its effect on structuring communities (Chapter 8). Chapter 9 looks at a range of interactions other than competition, such as predation, herbivory and parasitism. Chapter 10 describes how ecologists view and study interactions and the movement of organic resources.

The authors spend considerable effort in Chapter 10 discussing the nature of interactions. They describe how one type of interaction may have different consequences and how different interactions can have the same consequence. It appears that the inclusion of this chapter may have been an effort to introduce a selling point, by distinguishing this text from others. Unfortunately, the authors have not made it clear why this topic is important and the complexity of the chapter only serves to confuse the reader.

Chapters 11 to 13 cover community ecology, ecosystem ecology and larger scale patterns such as succession, equilibrium, resilience and resistance. The last chapter explains additional ecological patterns such as species richness, abundance and diversity.

The chapters flow easily in a logical sequence, with helpful summary sections. The somewhat chatty but informative introductions describe what the reader should understand from previous chapters and how that information will help them in the following chapter.

There is a figure, table or box on almost every page and the presentation of the text is pleasing and easy to read. The use of various shades of purple as the only colour has given the text a stylish appearance. The text includes simple examples of ecological models with easy to follow language used to describe the models (e.g., Chapter 9, page 149 presents a clear model of predation systems).

Cotgreave and Forseth have produced a useable and attractive ecology text that covers the main ecological disciplines with an equal coverage of plant and animal interactions. This text is presented in a simple style and covers the necessary basics of ecology adequately. For those using this book in conjunction with lectures, it would be a useful acquisition. However, on its own, some concepts may leave the reader none the wiser.