
The Life of Vertebrates. *J. Z. Young.* Oxford University Press, London. First edition, 1950. xv+767 pp. \$8.50.

The main theme of this book appears to be basically that of vertebrate evolution. Each major vertebrate class is treated in order with special consideration to structural developments which resulted in the ancestral and extant forms, as well as those structures which were to lead ultimately to still higher groups. In so far as space and information permit, pertinent ecological information is introduced in an interesting and informative manner. More than a quarter of the text deals with the orders of Mammals and their lives of evolution and structural specialization.

To date, this represents the finest book of its kind since "Parker and Haswell." As yet no American equivalent in the field of Vertebrate Zoology and Morphology, either as a readable text-reference or as a source of widely diversified information concerning this important group of animals has appeared. The text material is both informative and understandable, and in addition very well illustrated. The evolution charts which cover each group, except for the birds, are as clear as the concise classification for each group.

This book would serve exceptionally well as a text for a real course in Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy (not for a pre-medical course), Vertebrate Zoology, and for an introductory course in Vertebrate Palaeontology. In addition, it will constitute an important adjunct to readings in Mammalogy, and could be used as a text in such a course along with supplemental readings.

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