Reviews

The Review Section of E&A consists of three parts. The first is made up of brief reviews of books and articles (and perhaps films etc.) which are concerned in some way with the rights and wrongs of human treatment of non-human animals. These reviews will be both critical and reportive—primarily reportive in the case of most scientific and historical material, and increasingly critical as the material is more argumentative and philosophical. The second part of this Section is entitled 'Second Opinions' and contains second (and usually dissenting) reviews of works reviewed in the first part in earlier numbers of E&A. After a review appears in E&A (and after the 'second opinion' if one appears within the next two numbers) the Editor will invite the author of the original work to submit a brief rejoinder to the review(s). Rejoinders received will appear in the third part of the Review Section. Members of the SSEA who wish to submit reviews (first or second), or recommend works for review, should contact the Editor.

Books


Lewis Regenstein is an officer of the Fund for Animals and has been especially active in the legislative arena. This book is chock full of facts and figures concerning hunters, whalers, annual kill totals, endangered species, etc. Regenstein provides details of the Endangered Species Act of 1969 and of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, and he offers sensible criticisms of them. There are also chapters devoted individually to wolves, wild horses, grizzlies, prairie dogs, and kangaroos, outlining their life styles and the continuing struggles they have to survive—struggles mainly caused by humans threatening to drive them to extinction. The book also contains much information about the roles different organizations have played in the effort to save ocean mammals.

Although the book is heavy with the history of legislation concerning hunting and fishing, it does not quite live up to the promise of its title since it does not give us the hoped-for insider's look at lobbying and the political battles which brought about this or that piece of legislation. Rather, it looks mainly to the finished pieces of legislation and examines them.

The book has no philosophic pretensions but it ought to be read by those philosophers who want a better knowledge of the status of legislation and a more detailed knowledge of the actual treatment of animals about whose rights or interests they are debating.

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