The Giant Pandas of Wolong.

Since its discovery in 1869, the giant panda has remained an enigma to scientists. With striking black-and-white coloration, dextrous thumb-like sesamoid, peculiar herbivorous diet (uncommon for a member of the order Carnivora), behavioral habits restrictively bound by the unpredictable flowering cycles of bamboo, and obscure evolutionary history and taxonomic status, the giant panda has been the source of many biologists' longtime ambitions. For example, Dwight D. Davis in 1964 used the giant panda for his classic treatise on evolutionary comparative morphology and, more recently, Stephen Jay Gould and Steven Stanley have formulated revisionary models for evolutionary change using the panda as a test case. All of these discussions, however, have developed despite any real information on how the giant panda lives in nature. Because of improving Chinese-American relations, George Schaller was invited in 1980 to head the first scientific expedition to the mountain gorilla, tiger, African lion, and Himalayan ungulates, are crowning examples of how to do good ethology and animal ecology. The Giant Pandas of Wolong is a significant departure from his previous books as it emphasizes physiology and nutrition, undoubtedly because these areas present immediate problems for the giant panda's future. Behavioral information is frequently presented in general form, based on descriptions of only six animals, and some behaviors, especially reproductive patterns, are mainly described from observations on captive animals. Clearly, Schaller and his Chinese colleagues faced tremendous physical difficulties in tracking a large, skittish, and potentially dangerous animal at high altitudes through thick bamboo forest. Nevertheless, I would have been more comfortable if some of the singularly adaptive explanations were presented with alternative explanations or, at the very least, were placed within shortcomings of the data at hand. For example, in explaining the unusual coloration of the giant panda, the authors assert, "Striking colors send complex signals to other members of a species, and it is in this context that the adaptive value of the pelage must lie" (p. 163). With virtually no behavioral information supporting this hypothesis, other explanations concerning phylogeny, crypticity, or thermoregulation should have been elaborated. In general, though, this may be asking too much of the first and only expedition to have truly "seen" the giant panda. This book is certainly satisfying.
in providing a broad summary of what the panda is actually doing in nature and, perhaps more importantly, will allow future generations of biologists to test their pet theories against the solid information resulting from this study.

John L. Gittleman, National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC

The Gray Whale: Eschrichtius robustus.

This well-organized book brings together much of what is known about gray whales in 25 chapters written by a total of 38 investigators. It is divided into four broad categories: evolution, fossils, and subfossil remains (2 chapters); historical relationships and exploitation (6 chapters); demography, distribution, and migration (9 chapters); and biology and behavior (8 chapters).

The final section gives excellent up-to-date information on the gray whale fossil record and on the now-extinct Atlantic gray whale. The section on exploitation explores early Japanese whaling, whaling by aboriginal cultures of the north Pacific, early Yankee whaling, and the activities of modern commercial pelagic whaling vessels. The third section describes the seasonal abundance of gray whales in the Bering Sea, the lagoons of Baja California, and at several points of the migration route in between. The final section describes some aspects of feeding ecology, selected biological notes gleaned from recent Russian whaling activities, acoustic behavior of gray whales in a calving lagoon and in the arctic, and dive and movement pattern information obtained from the most successful radio-tracking of whales accomplished to date.

Although quite a few researchers have looked especially at occurrence and migration patterns of gray whales in the past dozen years, very little detailed work has actually been done on descriptive behavior of the species, and virtually nothing is known about social organization. Because of the dearth of such information, discussions of social ecology and interindividual interactions of gray whales are almost totally lacking in this book. Gray whales occur close to shore in nearly all parts of their range, and dedicated field biologists could study details of behavior during long field stays. Humpback whales and right whales recently received such detailed attention, and I hope that in the near future, studies of gray whales will progress in similar fashion.

Bernd Wörns, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, Moss Landing, California


The 90 papers presented here are grouped into four categories: (1) biochemistry of cytochrome p-450 and organic compound biotransformations, (2) biochemistry and biological significance of metal-binding proteins, (3) biochemistry, physiology and bioassay, and (4) immunology and pathology. The papers range in length from two-page extended abstracts to full manuscripts. With very few exceptions, the work reported in this volume reflects the sophistication gained in pollution research since the Stockholm Conference on the World Environment in 1972. In fact, most of this volume could not have been written five years ago.

The majority of the papers dealing with specific pollutants are on the toxic metals (copper, cadmium, lead, and mercury) and the polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons; only a few papers deal with the chlorinated hydrocarbons. More than half the papers are on some aspect of the biochemistry of cytochrome p-450. In fact, both the symposium and this volume serve as a focal point for clarifying the nomenclature and method of reporting the apparent nature of an isolated form of p-450.

I recommend this volume to workers in the field of pollution research despite the high price. The papers are well written and are profusely referenced and reflect some of the best work done to date on organism responses to common environmental pollutants.

George R. Harvey, Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratories, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Miami, Florida

Edited by A. Pequeux, R. Gilles and L. Bolis; Series Editors: Richard T. Barber et al. Springer-Verlag, Ber-
The Giant Pandas of Wolong. by George B. Schaller and Hu Jinchu and Pan Wenshi and Zhu Jing. University of Chicago Press, 298 pp., $25.00. Many animals, including Jesse James, Alexander the Great, and the giant panda, must, Janus-like, show two faces to the world—one required by legend, the other given by nature. The hortatory faces are, in sequence, honest (in the largest sense), virtuous, and cuddly; the natural visages tend to thievery, rapacity, and ennui. George B. Schaller, from Wildlife Conservation International, arrived in December 1980 to work with a Chinese team headed by Hu Jinchu of Nanchong Normal College. This book summarizes the joint work that continues today. Since this book is about the second panda, it will rarely delight and charm. The giant panda, past and present (Physical characteristics; The panda in ancient Chinese history; The panda in modern history; Past and present distribution; Current status) -- Wolong and its pandas (The Wolong Natural reserve; The Choushuigou study area) -- Feeding strategy (Food habits; Feeding behavior; Food selection; Food and water intake; Panda nutrition; Effects of pandas on bamboo) -- Movement. patterns (Home range; Daily movements) -- Activity cycles (Individual differences in activity; Factors influencing activity; Time of day; Restless behavior) -- Behavioral time bud +298. Price $25.00 George B. Schaller, Hu Jinchu, Pan Wenshi, Zhu Jing., The Giant Pandas of Wolong (1985) University of Chicago Press, Chicago xix. Save to Library. Download. All the species are eaten by giant panda (Ailuropoda melanoleuca). The culms contained phenolic acids and flavonoids in small concentrations, except for F. robusta, which did not contain flavonoids in detectable amounts. The species differed from each other in their phenolic composition. The Giant Pandas of Wolong by George B. Schaller, Hu Jinchu, Pan Wenshi, Zhu Jing and a great selection of related books, art and collectibles available now at AbeBooks.com. The Giant Pandas of Wolong. You Searched For: Title: the giant pandas of wolong. Edit Your Search. Results (1 - 30) of 39. The Giant Pandas of Wolong: ISBN 9780226736433 (978-0-226-73643-3) Hardcover, University of Chicago Press, 1985. Founded in 1997, BookFinder.com has become a leading book price comparison site: Find and compare hundreds of millions of new books, used books, rare books and out of print books from over 100,000 booksellers and 60+ websites worldwide. Coauthors & Alternates. Zhu Jing.