

BIODIVERSITY AND COMPLEX webs of interactions are commonly discussed in ecological circles; however, Peter Kareiva points out in three articles of the September 1994 issue of *Ecology* (Special Feature, *Ecology* 75 (6), 1994, pp. 1527-1559) that this is not the focus of recent ecological research. Kareiva reviewed every paper published in the journal between January 1981 and December 1990 and found that greater than 60% of the papers dealt with at most two species and a single pairwise interaction. Reductionist ecologists have been so focused on simple experiments that they have developed new terms to describe more complex situations, such as higher order interactions. Kareiva expresses concern that interaction modifications (direct interaction of two species altered by the presence of a third) are often not considered in much of the ecological research dealing with higher order interactions. Ecologists have tended to write papers that marvel at the discovery of these interactions, neglecting the effects of these interactions on the interpretation of results.

...

The presence of introduced fish populations may substantially alter the community structure of native species within a body of water and complicates fisheries management. The widespread management practice of fish stocking has also added considerable confusion in regard to the distribution of native fish populations. Consequently, a basic question that NPS biologists often need to address is the native status of fish populations.

Similar questions are being asked about the status of lakes in Canadian national parks. A recent study by S. Lamontagne and D.W. Schindler (*Canadian Journal*

of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences 51(6), 1994, pp. 1,376-1,383) determined the historical status of several lake fish populations in Jasper National Park by interpreting the abundance of subfossil remains of *Chaoborus spp.* (a diptera) from sediment cores. *Chaoborus* species are sensitive to the presence of planktivorous fish, with the largest of the species, *Chaoborus americanus*, being the most vulnerable and rapidly extirpated when fish are present. Another related study by B. Miskimmim and D.W. Schindler (*Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 51 (4), 1994, pp. 923-932) used sediment cores to reconstruct a 50-year record of the invertebrate community structure in three lake basins. This study was done to assess the invertebrate community response to past toxaphene treatments and subsequent trout stocking.

...

Do lists of endangered, threatened, and sensitive species compiled by federal and state wildlife agencies accurately reflect known or suspected population declines? Using federal and state lists of endangered or sensitive species, Jonathan Atwood, in his article, "Endangered small landbirds of the western United States" (published in *A Century of Avifaunal Change in Western North America. Studies In Avian Biology No. 15*, J.R. Jehl, Jr., and N.K. Johnson editors), compared these lists with the results of three recent monitoring studies assessing regional trends in western bird populations.

Of the 135 species of small western landbirds currently indicated as needing conservation concern, 78 (58%) occur either peripherally in the West or as peripheral populations in those states where they appear on official lists. Of the remaining species, none exhibited declining popula-

tion trends that were detected by two or more of the monitoring studies. Additionally, the monitoring studies identified 27 species of landbirds that are absent from federal or state lists of species of conservation concern. Six of these species (band-tailed pigeon, olive-sided flycatcher, Swainson's thrush, Wilson's warbler, chipping sparrow, and black-throated sparrow) were found to be declining by at least two monitoring sources. Though some differences in Atwood's analysis may be trivial, merely reflecting limitations in population monitoring techniques, clearly they do not explain the failure of government agencies to incorporate results of recent scientific findings into their listing process.

In conclusion, Atwood notes, "inconsistent and poorly defined terminology, failure to systematically incorporate current scientific data, and overemphasis on protection of peripheral populations that show no evidence of widespread declines have created a vague and confusing system that has minimal value to scientists or conservationists." Increasing threats to bird populations make it imperative that we improve the processes used to identify species in need of special conservation.

...

The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and the American Ornithologists Union have combined their resources to begin publishing an encyclopedic reference series featuring accounts of the biology of each of the 700+ species of birds known to breed in North America. *The Birds of North America* summarizes what is known or unknown about the biology and status of each North American bird. The standard profile format emphasizes key aspects of ecology and conservation. Each profile, authored by a rec-

ognized expert or team of experts, includes information on distribution, population status and trends, habitat needs, and management recommendations. An excellent bibliography is also included with each account. To date, approximately 80 species accounts have been published and the editors plan to publish an additional 80 accounts per year over the next eight years. Each account costs approximately \$7. If you have planned a project that involves specific species, this is an excellent starting point from which to gain reference material. For more information call 1-800-345-8112.

...

A new quarterly journal, *Urban Ecosystems*, will be launched at the Seventh National Urban Forestry Conference to be held in September 1995 in New York City. The journal will foster the application of ecosystem science principles to understanding the dynamics of urban systems, and link urban ecosystem science and urban ecosystem management. The journal will primarily contain peer-reviewed investigations of the function and dynamics of urban ecosystems. A significant portion of the journal will also discuss management and policy implications of the articles and offer dialogue between urban ecosystem scientists and managers. The journal will include an editor's summary, invited commentaries from urban ecosystem managers, and a letters section. For more information, write to the Urban Forestry Department, American Forests, P.O. Box 2000, Washington, D.C. 20013. §

Contributors included Reed Glesne and Bob Kuntz of North Cascades National Park.