

could not survive in Britain. No doubt there are species in other groups which share these particular thermal needs.

The Future

It is difficult to be optimistic on the fate of these habitats in Britain. Dunes have suffered from holiday activities and many, for example in north Wales, have been almost entirely lost. Many slacks (freshwater dune pools) have vanished because of drainage schemes. Heaths have suffered enormously from building development, agricultural reclamation, afforestation and fires; only a small fraction remain unscathed. The shift to arable farming has resulted in the loss of large areas of marsh dykes, either directly or due to pesticides; the Fenland ditches provide an example of such devastation over a very large area. It is still not too late to conserve extensive samples of these habitats, with their associated fauna, but such action must come soon and the fundamental importance of 'hot' habitats to British wildlife diversity must be recognised.

References

1. BEEBEE, T.J.C. and BEEBEE, M.L. 1977. A quantitative study of natterjack toad *Bufo calamita* metamorphosis. *Brit. J. Herpetol.* In press.

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Reports and Journals

The 13th *Annual Report* of the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust includes an article by the Hon. Director, Gerald Durrell, on his trip to Mauritius, as a result of which the Jersey Zoo is now breeding two Round Island skinks, Gunther's gecko and the Rodrigues fruit bat, and one by Jeremy Mallinson, Zoological Director, on the pygmy hog *Sus salvanius* also being bred at Jersey.

The Effects of Fire on the Ecology of the Boreal Forest, with particular reference to the Canadian North, by John P. Kelsall, E. S. Telfer and Thomas D. Wright, Occasional Paper No 32 of the Canadian Wildlife Service, reviews the literature and concludes that fire is a long standing and the most important ecological factor in this type of forest, which is a fire-dependent ecosystem, and that the wildlife and vegetation have evolved and adapted to fire.

As part of its 1976–77 Wetlands Campaign, the Council of Europe has published a set of seven papers ranging from general discussion on the value of wetlands to specific, practical advice on conserving them. They average about 200 words. Free of both charge (and copyright) from European Information Centre for Nature Conservation, Council of Europe, B.P. 431, 67006 Strasbourg, Cedex, France.

Park and reserve boundaries are more often drawn for political or economic than for scientific reasons. *Proceedings of a Regional Meeting on the Creation of a Co-ordinated System of National Parks and Reserves in Eastern Africa*, Serengeti National Park, Tanzania, October 1974 (IUCN New Series Supplementary Paper No. 45) suggests changes that can bring closer alignment.

Ökologie und Verhalten des Banteng (Bos javanicus) in Java (Vol. 10, Mammalia Depicta, Paul Parey, Hamburg) is Ulrich Halder's report of his 17-month field study in Ujung Kulon and Baluran reserves, written in German with English and French summaries. Hunting and habitat destruction are threatening the banteng's survival, and he urges the need of an efficient guard system in the Baluran reserve and limited tourism to get money for management.