

Mathematics is subsequently provided to discuss issues arising from these four issues. Many of the algorithms developed and discussed are based on various forms of the transition probability matrix, so some experience with them and other forms of probability analysis will assist the reader in understanding the formulations. To understand the essays in depth and to gain a total appreciation of the authors' approach, the reader would do well to have some training in mathematics, particularly calculus and mathematical statistics. Aside from this pitfall, the authors do include a generous introduction to each essay and they present strong concluding remarks to provide a framework for applying each theory.

This book is not for everyone, but for those who desire to help develop the theoretical basis for rangeland management, the book is necessary. Although the book uses short-duration grazing systems as the model system, other patterns of grazing can be derived from the information provided by the authors. The science of range management is constantly changing. For continued progress to be made in range management, the traditional ecological model must be enhanced. As a science, we need to consider the theoretical expression of our work. We must move beyond measuring and reporting to analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of our research and ultimately to the development of a theory for range management. Dr. Batabyal has hit on a potential stepping stone to developing such a theoretical basis for range management.—*Dr. Jon D. Hanson*, USDA-ARS, Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory, Mandan, ND.

**The Exotic Amphibians and Reptiles of Florida.** By Walter E. Meshaka, Jr., Brian P. Butterfield, and J. Brian Hauge. 2004. Krieger Publishing Co., Malabar, FL. 155 p. US\$38.50 hardbound. ISBN 1-57524-042-4.

Finding native Floridians is not always easy, but spotting aliens and transplants, particularly amphibian and reptilian ones, will be much easier with *The Exotic Reptiles and Amphibians of Florida*, a recent book that examines some cold-blooded fauna of the sunshine state. Florida, the authors note, has more species of exotic amphibians and reptiles than any other state.

Examination of the bibliography at the end of the text reveals that the authors have a history of collaborative research on Florida reptiles and amphibians, even though none appears to have a current research position in Florida. Collectively, the authors appear to have considerable experience with Florida's reptiles and amphibians.

Following a brief introduction that left me wanting more background, ecological perspective, or even history, the individual species accounts begin with the order *Anura*, the frogs and toads, and proceed by order through the turtles, lizards, snakes, and crocodilians. Nineteen species of uncertain status in Florida are included in a section following the crocodilians. Treatments of individual species, listed by scientific name, contain subsection headings that include the common name, other common names, description, body size, similar species, history of introduction and current distribution, habitats and habits, reproduction, diet, and predators. Each species description contains a photograph, ranging in quality from fair to excellent. A 5-page afterword by the senior author examines the human role in colonization of species in Florida. A glossary and appendices of 1) taxonomic units in alphabetical order, and 2) scientific and common names of species mentioned, complete the text. An extensive list of references is included.

*The Exotic Amphibians and Reptiles of Florida*, like so much of the work of the exotic species it describes, is a work in progress. The attractive, effective maps show reported sightings of individual species by county, and some of these maps of sightings may well be out of date by now, or may quickly become outdated. Within species descriptions, the subsections describing predators of the exotics rarely offer any reported predation, even though *something* must surely feed on some of these species. Many of the subheading descriptions within the species descriptions rely on anecdotal reportage, single case studies, or isolated research studies for their content. Certainly much about these exotics remains to be learned, especially within the context of their new environs in Florida. Just as certainly, the entire subject covered in the book is highly dynamic at this time.

Students, researchers, and ecologically oriented buffs will appreciate *The Exotic Amphibians and Reptiles of Florida*. The book is directed at the Florida scene, but many of the species are familiar exotics throughout wide areas of the subtropics and tropics. The species descriptions and supporting sections that frame them are free of much of the hostile, pejorative language of invasion biology, a fact that makes for reading that is more informative than subjective. Although some activists concerned with economically damaging exotic species might disparage the book on this issue, the authors are effective and commendable in maintaining ecologically objective language in a hazardous, emotional landscape. The product is an attractive, effective addition to Krieger's growing library of works on the ecology of Florida and the Southeastern U.S.—*David L. Scarnecchia*, Washington State University, Pullman, WA.