

ARCTIC ANIMALS AND THEIR ADAPTATIONS TO LIFE ON THE EDGE. By ARNOLDUS SCHYTTE BLIX. Trondheim, Norway: Tapir Academic Press, 2005. ISBN 82-519-2050-7. 296 p., maps, b&w and colour illus., bib., appendices, index. Hardbound. NOK 395.

The author's goal was to produce an introductory overview of the Arctic region and its animals, since such a text was lacking during his 25 years of teaching the subject. I shared this goal, and looked forward to finding a useful text for undergraduate students in my University of the Arctic courses.

Chapters cover the Arctic region, late Cenozoic glaciations, marine invertebrates and fish, marine mammals, land invertebrates, freshwater communities, amphibians and reptiles (a one-page chapter noting the lack of these in the Arctic), terrestrial birds and mammals, summer migrants to the Arctic, and physiological adaptations. An appendix offers an outline classification of animals.

The introductory chapter rather gallops through the physical and ecological characteristics of the Arctic region, giving the basics and including some good illustrations. It will be useful for teaching purposes, but will require additional explanation for undergraduates. The chapter defers to other "excellent" textbooks on the subject, but gives no references. This happens again in the chapter on birds.

The author's real interest is evident in the last chapter on physiological adaptations—fully twice as long as most of the other chapters and very detailed. There is some fascinating information in this chapter, but it would, I suspect, be more suitable for more senior undergraduate science students, given its level of detail and technical terminology (on p. 226, for instance, brown adipose fat is "characterized by multilocular distribution of its triglyceride" and has "an alternative mechanism for dissipating the proton electrochemical gradient").

The book is rich in illustrations, many of them very good. Sometimes, however, these are not well linked to the text, nor explained in much detail. Editing is needed to correct many typographical or usage mistakes, to ensure for instance that map labels and numbers match the text, or that units and terms are defined. Several chapters end suddenly, with no wrap-up or connection to the larger theme of the book or to the following chapter. The final chapter, for example, ends with a paragraph about light adaptation by Svalbard ptarmigan, which are contrasted to the Emperor penguin.

The book, and its emphasis on the last chapter, clearly draw on Blix's lengthy research career, and he writes in a personable style, tossing in the occasional humorous quip or story. However, the majority of references, even in the major chapter on physiological adaptations, are from before the mid-1980s. He fails to mention some other key introductory texts on Arctic ecology, such as those by S.B. Young (1989), B. Sage (1986), E.C. Pielou (1994), or B. Stonehouse (1989).

In summary, I was disappointed. My first-year Northern Studies students, tasked with reading the book as well, gave it a cool reception.

REFERENCES

- PIELOU, E.C. 1994. A naturalist's guide to the Arctic. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
 SAGE, B.L. 1986. The Arctic and its wildlife. New York: Facts on File Publications.
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 YOUNG, S.B. 1989. To the Arctic: An introduction to the far northern world. New York: Wiley.

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CIRCUMPOLAR LIVES AND LIVELIHOOD: A COMPARATIVE ETHNOARCHAEOLOGY OF GENDER AND SUBSISTENCE. Edited by ROBERT JARVENPA and HETTY JO BRUMBACH. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2006. ISBN 978-0-8032-2606-7. xii + 330 p., maps, b&w illus., index. Hardbound. US\$55.00.

In this tightly conceived volume, editors Robert Jarvenpa (a cultural anthropologist) and Hetty Jo Brumbach (an archaeologist) integrate four ethnoarchaeological studies of the gendered subsistence landscape of some of the world's best-known circumpolar foragers: Chipewyan, Khanty, Sámi, and Inupiaq. Their explicit goal, clearly explained in the Introduction, is to articulate a "gendered ecology" or context-specific typology linking sexual divisions of labor to their visible signatures, which is summarized in Table 10.2 (p. 312–313). Because each case study carefully adheres to Spector's "task differentiation analysis" framework (Conkey and Spector, 1984; Spector, 1991), the results are uniformly comparable. The format of each case study is the same, consisting of two complementary chapters. The first chapter presents a fine-tuned ethnography that pays special attention to the interrelationship of gender roles, intra- and inter-site landscape use, the *chaîne opératoire* of core subsistence practices, and associated material culture. The second chapter undertakes a detailed task differentiation analysis, which characterizes 1) the social unit, 2) task setting, 3) task time, and 4) characteristic material culture and architectural features of at least two interrelated subsistence activities. The second chapter always concludes with some "Archaeological Implications." The editors do a fantastic job of maintaining