**Song of the Dodo: Island Biogeography in an Age of Extinctions.** David Quammen. 1997. Simon & Schuster, New York, NY. 702 pp. $17, paperback. ISBN 0684827123. A timely series of essays on the unravelling of ecosystems throughout the world, emphasizing that long-term prospects of survival for species in supposedly well-planned preserves is questionable at best, given what we know about island ecosystems. An elegant plea that we make a more serious effort to consider what to do about the global catastrophic losses of biodiversity. As the author says, “life is a gauntlet of uncertainties” and if the population size of a species is too low, that population is likely to become extinct. Mesmerizing.


**The River Book.** James Grant MacBroom. 1998. Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Hartford, CN. 241 pp. $39.95, hardcover. ISBN 094208506X. An exceptional book that is at the same time inspirational for the average citizen, as well as for teachers, students, and even those with advanced interests in natural history. Will do much to promote the wise management of rivers, by making citizens aware of what rivers are and what they can be. Other states would be well advised to consider the potential of similar publications to promote greater interest in their own conservation efforts. A remarkable achievement in terms of overall presentation and level of information provided in an interesting and usable form.


**A Weaver’s Garden: Growing Plants for Natural Dyes and Fibers.** Rita Buchanan. 1999. Dover Publications, Mineola, NY. 228 pp. $8.95, paperback. ISBN 0486407128. Provides sufficient details for avid dyers and weavers who have scholarly interests in their craft. Discusses the historical uses of plants as dye sources, fibre sources, soap plants for cleaning textiles, plants used for fragrance, plants used for making textile tools, and even how to create a source garden for dye plants. Goes into significant detail for each species featured. A surprisingly readable book that provides a wealth of both background and practical information for practitioners. Takes a worldwide perspective. Well-done.