The Rise of Placental Mammals: Origins and Relationships of the Major Extant Clades. Kenneth D. Rose and J. David Archibald. 2005. The John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD. 259 pp. $95, hardcover. ISBN 080188022X. Presenting the evolutionary history of placental mammals, the authors include recent evidence and theories that represent the majority and many minority views. The text is based on a symposium on placental evolution held at the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology in 2002. The first chapter addresses the major interests of George Gaylord Simpson, a pioneer in the field, followed by several chapters that examine evolution from an anatomical and a molecular viewpoint. Eleven chapters, organized by order as defined by molecular evidence, examine the evolution of the extinct and extant members of the various clades. Many black and white photographs, figures, and tables enhance the text. Each chapter is individually referenced, and an index of taxa and terms is provided. C.R.

Marine Conservation Biology: The Science of Maintaining the Sea’s Biodiversity. Elliot A. Norse and Larry B. Crowder (Eds.). With a foreword by Michael E. Soulé. 2005. Island Press, Washington, DC. 470 pp. $49.95, softcover. ISBN 1559636629. This text provides a broad conceptual and scientific framework for discussing and examining issues pertaining to the conservation of marine resources. It is part of a larger effort, aptly named as mission-oriented scholarship, that seeks to provide scientific knowledge for conservation efforts, and it is motivated by the awareness that many marine animals and ecosystems are threatened by human activity. The book is divided into five sections, each with several chapters by marine scientists discussing topics pertaining to basic concepts of marine populations, marine biological diversity, the threats posed by fisheries, management of marine reserves and ecosystems, and sociological and legal issues. With a focus that includes solutions as well as problems, this book is a timely and valuable reference for students, scientists, and conservationists. S.E.