



BOOK REVIEW

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Special Publication No. 3, Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases, is being compiled under the direction of Dr. George Anastos and Miss Mildred A. Doss of the University of Maryland and will probably be published in 1973.

Special Publication No. 4, a bibliography on Piroplasmosis, is in the early stages of preparation. Any suggestions on format or content will be welcomed, as would any personal bibliographies or available reprints. Please contact: Martha L. Walker, Index-Catalogue of Medical and Veterinary Zoology, National Animal Parasite Laboratory, Veterinary Sciences Research Division, Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland 20705.

Book Review

Respiration and Circulation is a new edition of the Biological Handbooks series, compiled and edited by P. L. Altman and D. S. Dittmer, published in 1971 by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, Bethesda, Maryland. A \$30.00 goldmine of informative tables, charts, graphs and nomograms, all well referenced, the 930 page book demands shelf space in offices and laboratories of all workers engaged in respiration and circulation research.

The physiological data in the handbook are most complete with regard to man. Data from common domesticated species and laboratory animals are also abundant. Less well represented is the rest of the animal kingdom. This reflects the limited knowledge available about life forms which have not been considered economically important or worthy of extensive investigation, and which have not enjoyed the advantages of the wildlife epithet until the recent surge of concern over things like food chains, food shortages, pollution and ecology.

Even those species more traditionally regarded as wildlife are not well represented in the book. Thus, one can find normal values for heart rate, blood pressure and respiratory rate of the barnyard goose, *Anser sp.*, but not of the wild Canada Goose. Information on respiratory and circulatory variables of domestic dogs and cats is plentiful in the handbook, but little or no information is available on wolves, foxes or mountain lions. A few measurements from zoo specimens are present in some of the tables, but these tables also contain many boxes without entries for several physiologic variables.

For wildlife researchers, *Respiration and Circulation* has a dual value. The book provides range-finding assistance as to measurements which might be expected for physiologic variables in a wild species, based upon the wealth of data presented for man and domestic animals. In addition, the paucity of circulatory and respiratory data for most wildlife forms serves to indicate what research needs to be done in various species. In this regard, the handbook may well become as famous for what it does not contain as it will for its real contents. In this light, Altman and Dittmer's excellent handbook is highly recommended to readers of the Journal of Wildlife Diseases.

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