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be wholly representative, with a backup collection in reserve against extinction in the wild. It is also critical to reintroduce these *ex situ* garden collections in order to restore wild populations. The book traces the work produced in these gardens, including field inventories of remaining populations, taxonomic collections of seeds, seed vault storage, and the process of reintroduction and restoration. The book further suggests that the work of gardens will need to shift from its present historical emphasis to one of conservation, as the environment and our global climate continue to grow as causes of greater concern.

Botanical gardeners tend to think of themselves as conservationists of plant species, but they also implement activities that can be seen as harmful; namely, the introduction of invasive plant species that can reduce diversity in natural areas and, perhaps even more importantly, that can introduce pest insects and diseases that decimate native plants in the wild. Oldfield mentions several gardens that are active in collecting plants from all over the world and then growing them at their institutions, either as specimen plants or in habitat settings. She reviews some historical work of collectors—for instance, Wilson's collection of honeysuckle species in Asia—but without noting that many of these collections are invasive species.

Invasive species are listed several times in this book as a threat to native wild plants, but the historical and potential role of botanical gardens regarding this ongoing problem is not described. The botanical garden community has responded, however, with such efforts as the drafting of codes of conduct. The purpose of gardens (often in the developed world) to explore distant places (often those in the developing world) and bring plants back for cultivation is, hopefully, changing in a way that will lessen the risk of new pest species. However, the book's omission of the contribution that botanical gardens have made to the problem of invasive species, as well as to other environmental concerns (e.g., water overuse, herbicides and pesticides, dependence on fossil fuels for garden equipment), leaves an incomplete picture of these institutions in today's context of environmental awareness.

Botanic Gardens succeeds in its purpose of underscoring the vital role that botanical gardens are beginning to play in global conservation of biodiversity. Oldfield inspires her readers with her choices of specific examples of gardens and plants, and she also brings a personal perspective to the book by telling the stories of the individual gardeners carrying out this work. As the environmental crisis continues to unfold, the book assures us that scores of plants, found in either living or seed collections, already have been saved from extinction after vanishing from the wild.

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Babel's Dawn: A Natural History of the Origins of Speech. Edmund Blair Bolles. Counterpoint Press, 2011. 224 pp. $24.00 (ISBN 9781582436418 cloth).

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The Dolphin in the Mirror: Exploring Dolphin Minds and Saving Dolphin Lives. Diana Reiss. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2011. 288 pp., illus. $27.00 (ISBN 9780547445724 cloth).

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Wicked Environmental Problems: Managing Uncertainty and Conflict. Peter J. Balint, Ronald E. Stewart, Anand Desai, and Lawrence C. Walters. Island Press, 2011. 272 pp., illus. $40.00 (ISBN 9781597264754 paper).

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