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reflects on the interpretation and robustness of the original estimates in the face of methodological limitations and emerging innovations that make more realistic models a practical possibility. The pragmatic outcome of this deliberation is that several of the limitations are likely to have compensatory influences on the estimates and that all the approaches applied to date produce extinction estimates of a similar order of magnitude. As one of those contributing to development and application of more realistic and complex mechanistic models of species climate response, primarily to inform strategies for management and adaptation, I found these arguments lucid and persuasive.

There are many thought-provoking contributions among the chapters that make up the body of this book. McMenamin and Hannah's chapter on the first land extinctions attributed to climate change offers a critical appraisal of the controversy surrounding extinctions of tropical montane amphibians. It elucidates competing cause-effect models based on spatiotemporal-epidemic spread (independent of climate) and more complex disease-thermal-optimum mechanisms that involve climate-induced changes in susceptibility to disease, as well as reduced opportunities for behavioral thermoregulation. Hughes's chapter develops the focus on mechanisms further by delving into the far-reaching threats of climate change to species interactions. Like several other chapters in this book, it provides a highly accessible entry into a broader and more detailed literature.

In the concluding chapter, Hannah turns the attention to *how* a million species could be saved. Although this is an appropriate coda, the minimal attention given to this topic overall is conspicuous, given expectations generated by the book's title. Nevertheless, *Saving a Million Species* presents an excellent assembly of current knowledge needed to assess risks, an essential requisite for planning effective action on climate change.

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OUR DYING PLANET: AN ECOLOGIST'S VIEW OF THE CRISIS WE FACE.

By Peter F. Sale. Berkeley (California): University of California Press. \$34.95. xii + 339 p.; ill.; index. ISBN: 978-0-520-26756-5. 2011.

The title tells all: humans are heedlessly destroying the planet and the author, an ecologist, assesses the facts and offers a prognosis. Since Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* demonstrated the popular effectiveness of global ecological crisis narratives, there have been many books such as this. So the central question is, what does this volume add to the global eco-crisis literature?

The book certainly has merits. The prose and storytelling are engaging and flow well, many complex concepts are well explained, and the author is a world-class expert in coral reef ecology with a long career face to face with his subject. The content in areas relating to marine ecology, perhaps three-quarters of the book, is both scientifically illuminating and filled with interesting personal stories that only an expert in this area could know. If this volume was retitled and refocused to *Our Dying Corals* or *Our Dying Oceans*, I would recommend it without reservation. However, in moving beyond reef decline, ocean acidification, and overfishing—all justifiably described as global ecological crises and well covered here—it stretches to portray a global ecological crisis across the terrestrial realm consisting primarily of deforestation (a crisis?) and the human failure to understand the fragility of ecosystems, and in its proposed solutions—regulating population and reducing fossil fuels. In these areas, the book seems fairly brief and shallow, with little new to say.

For undergraduates and others interested in a marine ecologist's perspective on global ecological crises—and three-quarters of Earth's surface is indeed marine—this volume is both instructive and intriguing in that the author views all ecology through a marine lens, e.g., “spatial patchiness is perhaps best exemplified by pointing to open ocean pelagic systems” (p. 187). For those interested in moving beyond ecological crisis narratives and toward a more long-term view of humans as stewards of the biosphere in the Anthropocene, other books have more to offer.

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PALEONTOLOGY

RIDDLE OF THE FEATHERED DRAGONS: HIDDEN BIRDS OF CHINA.

By Alan Feduccia. New Haven (Connecticut): Yale University Press. \$55.00. x + 358 p.; ill.; index. ISBN: 978-0-300-16435-0. 2012.

This volume proposes an alternative hypothesis of the ancestry of birds, whose actual origins are said to be outside of Dinosauria. The author argues that the most bird-like “dinosaurs” are, in fact, true birds (not dinosaurs) that are secondarily flightless, providing the subtitle of the book. The context of this work is twofold: throughout his career, Feduccia has rejected the theropod identity of