

other key specifying personnel whose sphere of purchasing influence may involve new applications of commercial oceanological equipment. Water authorities, marine conservationists and anti-pollution bodies are other new key targets.

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BOOK REVIEWS

Sand Dunes and Their Management, edited by J.P. Doody, 1985, Nature Conservancy Council Focus on Nature Conservation No. 13, Peterborough, 262 p. £9.50, ISBN 0-86139-324-4.

This report is a collection of eighteen papers resulting from a meeting arranged under the auspices of the United Kingdom Nature Conservancy Council Coastal Habitat Network. The contributors are about equally represented by Nature Conservancy staff members and university scientists. The focus is on issues of concern to the Nature Conservancy, and emphasis is placed on the need to retain or enhance the species richness of plant and animal life of coastal dune reserves, while accommodating use for recreation and grazing. The report is of value for the information provided on the location of the dune fields in the United Kingdom, descriptions of the vegetation, and identification of the issues confronting managers of dune reserves.

The report is organized into four sections: geomorphology, general conservation, plant communities, and management. Topics covered include: the role of sand dunes in coast protection; the role of government; supply of sediment to the dunes; locations and descriptions of sand dune reserves; surveys of dune vegetation and habitats; changes to the dunes through time; problems of afforestation, vegetation invasion, grazing animals, and recreation; the ecological relevance of dune water and nutrients; and methods of controlling rabbit grazing and shrub invasion.

The papers vary considerably in quality and usefulness. Some papers are reports of original research documented with field data and existing

literature; some papers are re-statements of existing documents; other papers are brief statements of problems in various dune reserves without supporting information.

Many of the papers are reports of work in progress. As is often the case in a conference proceedings, the papers are of as much value as a source of contacts for further information as for substantive findings.

Readers who are not familiar with Great Britain would probably want more background information on the dune reserves. There are few descriptions of the geomorphology of the dunes. The lack of adequate maps in several papers will frustrate the reader who wants to know where the dunes are located or to understand the significance of site and situation to the characteristics of the dunes.

The report will be of primary interest to managers of dune reserves. Scientists involved in basic research may find little that is new in this volume because most of the scientific findings have already been presented in publications like the *Journal of Ecology* and Ranwell's classic monograph. The principal value of the document relates to the concerns of managers for the biota of the dune systems. The significance of animal grazing to the vigor and diversity of the dune vegetation is well covered as are problems associated with scrub/woodland invasion of dune slacks. Managers facing similar problems will value the perspective they gain from the papers in this volume.

Karl F. Nordstrom
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ, USA