

BOOK REVIEWS:

FUR ANIMALS OF THE MIDWEST

Midwest Furbearer Management. Glen C. Sanderson, editor. 1982. North Central Section, Central Mountains and Plains Section, and Kansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society. 195 pages. \$7.00 (paper; available from Ken Reynolds, Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area, Edinburgh, IN 46124).

The thrust of the symposium proceedings is a review of the state of the art in furbearer management. In this regard the proceedings do an excellent job for the midwestern area and elsewhere as well. Each paper in the proceedings is a valuable contribution to a particular subject. Included in the proceedings are a paper offering a perspective on furbearer management, and others dealing with density estimation, population modeling, assessment of productivity, use of harvest information, population dynamics, rabies in red fox, reintroductions of selected species, the public and the furbearer resource, the fur market, a history of furbearer management, and a specific history of population changes of one species (the red fox) in the midwest. Not every aspect of furbearers or furbearer management has been addressed, of course, but this was not the intended purpose. The proceedings identify and examine a number of important topics of management interest to laymen and professionals alike, and do so in a manner that should be easily understood by almost everyone with an interest in furbearers.

Review papers such as these are often difficult to write even for individuals familiar with the topic covered. Many long and arduous hours of collecting information from widely diverse and often unfamiliar sources are required to assemble a finished product that accurately portrays the state of the art on the topic. In this effort the contributing authors have done a commendable job. One can examine the literature cited section of each paper for additional or highly detailed information on the various aspects of furbearer management discussed.

The authors of the papers merit some comment as well, for their efforts are reflected in the quality of the proceedings. I know a number of them personally, and I am acquainted with the quality of work of several others. As far as I am concerned these authors represent some of the best professional talent that is available anywhere today in furbearer management and research.

All in all I think the symposium proceedings provide considerable information on furbearers and furbearer management, and they should be useful for anyone interested in furbearers regardless of their specialty or level of interest.

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