

BOOK REVIEW

Amazon—the Flooded Forest. Michale Goulding. London: BBC Books, and New York: Sterling Publishing Co. (387 Park Avenue, South, New York, NY 10016), 1989. Pp. 208. \$24.95 U.S. (15.00 pounds sterling). ISBN 0-8069-7476-1.

Written by a young man with 12 years of experience in fieldwork in the Amazon, including studies in 25 rivers, this book must be recommended to all who have no first-hand knowledge of the region but who are desirous of learning about it without the usual fanfare that encumbers much of the popular and semipopular literature that is flooding our markets today. In addition to being aimed at the educated popular market, there is much in the book that will be of interest to scientifically oriented students, scholars, and even seasoned scientists.

The book is divided into 10 chapters: (1) Time on the Amazon; (2) Floods; (3) Flight in the Forest; (4) Feet in the Forest; (5) Rafts of Life; (6) Lakes; (7) Pyramids of Predation; (8) Beaches and Banks, (9) Lower Amazon; and (10) Frightened Forest. There is an adequate dictionary.

If I were to choose a most important of the ten excellent chapters, it would be Chapter 10. Although small in number of pages, it presents one of the most potent considerations and practically stated discussions of the rampant destruction of rain forests that I have seen in a long time, mainly because it sets the picture against biological and geological backgrounds.

Would that we could have more such intuitiveness and practical books on the great region of the Amazon.

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