fire on the western forests of the United States is also very good, but contains but four short paragraphs on Alaskan forests. The chapter on forest and savanna ecosystems of Sub-Saharan Africa covers too large an area to provide a balanced coverage in respect to the other chapters of the book.

The book contains few printing errors with the exception of the misspelling of the name of the late R. J. Hartesveldt. The illustrations and graphics are well done. Both the subject and author indexes are extensive and comprehensive.

The overall value of the book is outstanding. It is a long-awaited monograph useful to anyone interested in the subject of fire ecology. The price of the book is comparable to other books of similar nature but I cannot help but wish that it could be lower, as this is one of those books most environmental scientists and land managers should own and read.

HOWARD S. SHELLHAMMER, *Biological Sciences, San José State University*

THERMAL ECOLOGY. *Proceedings of a Symposium Held at Augusta, Georgia, May 3–5, 1973. Sponsored by Savannah River Ecology Laboratory, University of Georgia; Savannah River Laboratory, E. I. DuPont de Nemours; Savannah River Operations Office, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.*

Edited by J. Whitfield Gibbons and Rebecca R. Sharitz. U. S. Atomic Energy Commission Technical Information Center, Oak Ridge, Tennessee. $13.60 (paper). xvi + 670 p.; ill.; index. 1974.

This addition to the A. E. C. Symposium Series, dedicated to Eugene P. Odum, is a compilation of 52 papers presented at the Thermal Ecology Symposium on May 3–5, 1973, in Augusta, Georgia. Of primary concern to this assemblage of investigators was the ecological impact of the heated effluents of a growing number of electrical generating plants. The majority of papers presented studies involving heated effluents, and therefore the proceedings are germane to considerations of the location and design of future power plants.

This symposium reflects the diversity of problems associated with thermal addition to aquatic and marine environments, and will be of interest to limnologists, community ecologists, physiologists, and evolutionary biologists. Most papers present new data, and although the quality varies somewhat, there are many substantial contributions. Some of the topics treated in this volume are the synergistic effects of pollutants and temperature, gas bubble disease in fishes, protein polymorphisms, behavioral responses to temperature variation, the effects of temperature stress upon community structure, diversity, and productivity, and evaluation, with the use of models, of the impact of a power generating station.

A collection of papers focusing on one topic is valuable both as a bibliographical source and as a source for the formulation of generalizations. Several generalizations fall out of this symposium:

(1) Changes in temperature and depth can cause supersaturation of nitrogen in water, resulting in the formation of gas bubbles in the circulatory systems of fishes; (2) temperatures artificially elevated above the normal annual maximum temperature increase plant and phytoplankton metabolism, depress photosynthesis, and enhance turnover rates; (3) environments heated above their normal annual maximum temperatures exhibit lower species diversity and evenness.

Papers are conveniently presented in thematic categories, and a list of the addresses of the participants is provided.

JEFFRY B. MITTON, *Environmental, Population, and Organismic Biology, University of Colorado*

NATURAL RESOURCES OF HUMID TROPICAL ASIA. *Natural Resources Research, Volume XII.*

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris. $39.60. 456 p.; ill.; no index. 1974.

This is a useful book; every tropical bureaucrat should have one. Not surprisingly for a source book produced by UNESCO, it could aptly be subtitled "The capitalist investor's introduction to tropical Asia." The emphasis is on telling us what the weather and geography are like, what and where the natural resources are, to what degree they have been or are being harvested, and where further harvesting is likely or will yield a high profit. This largely economic bias is watered with a weak and idealistic chapter on conservation that never gets down to the nitty-gritty of particular problems at particular sites. In fact, if there is any one major way that future compendia of this sort could be improved, it would be to eliminate about 80 per cent of the prose, make it primarily tabular in nature, and devote text only to discussions of specific problems or systems (such as Tranter's fine discussion of marine biology and Gourou's interesting discussions of tropical Asian deltas and man's interactions with the wet season). For those with personal knowledge of particular tropical Asian agroecosystems, the book is too vague to be of use in comparing one's home ground with unvisited areas. For those with no familiarity with tropical Asia, it is too rich in platitudinous restatement of the obvious (at least 50 pages of text are devoted to descriptions of useful maps and tables published in the individual chapters) and lacks focus on archetypical or broadly representative systems. The bibliographies will be generally quite useful (though Pfeffer's on fauna inexplicably contains only five entries) and at least half of the 19 chapters should have been reduced to annotated bibliographies.

DANIEL H. JANZEN, *Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan*