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An Illustrated Guide to Endangered or Threatened Species in Kansas.

Joseph T. Collins, Suzanne L. Collins, Jerry Horak, Dan Mulhern, William Busby, Craig C. Freeman, and Gary Wallace. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1995. vii+140 pp. Maps, photos, and index. \$12.95 paper (ISBN 0-7006-0726-9).

This is a handsome little volume offering information on the status and biology of all of the sixty species of Kansas plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates listed by the state or by federal statutes as threatened or endangered. The book begins with a one-page introduction stating the authors' goal of producing a single volume to provide ready access to information on all legally designated protected species in Kansas. In this the authors are successful. The introduction is followed by a brief history of how a species comes to be considered either threatened or endangered, as well as a complete list of all Kansas species so classified by both federal and state agencies. All other Kansas species considered in need of conservation (a designation that indicates less risk of extirpation than those considered threatened or endangered) are also listed. Some of these may be more

imperiled in other states than they are in Kansas, and it is helpful to have them listed here. Knowledge of the status of a species across a wider geographic range than that delimited by the boundaries of a single state can be particularly useful for conservation biologists in neighboring states who might need to coordinate efforts across state lines to save a species. Only one species listed in this volume, the Lake Scott Riffle Beetle, is endemic to Kansas. Its loss there would mean its loss to the world. All other species occur in other states, or even other countries (e.g., the Bald Eagle), so the battle to conserve such species will be fought in many regions.

Each account begins with a beautiful full-color photograph of the species. Common and scientific names are given, as well as the organism's status on both federal and state lists of threatened and endangered species. This is followed by a detailed description of the species, information on its size, descriptions of habitat throughout its geographic range and critical habitats in Kansas, information on reproduction and diet, and a state map (with counties) indicating distribution (filled dots signifying where the species has been recorded since 1965; open dots for records predating 1965). Possible threats to the species are also given. All this is presented in a succinct, though not telegraphic, manner.

This book sets a high standard for guides of this genre: it is well organized, easy to use, and attractive—no expense having been spared on paper quality or photography. Would that every state had such a superlative guide to its endangered and threatened biota. **Michael A. Mares**, *Director, Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, University of Oklahoma*.