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Review of *The Swift Fox: Ecology and Conservation of Swift Foxes in a Changing World* edited by Marsha A. Sovada and Ludwig Carbyn

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The Swift Fox: Ecology and Conservation of Swift Foxes in a Changing World. Edited by Marsha A. Sovada and Ludwig Carbyn. Regina, Saskatchewan: Canadian Plains Research Center, 2003. viii + 250 pp. Photographs, maps, tables, illustrations, references, index. \$34.95 paper.

Swift foxes historically occurred throughout the short and mixed-grass prairies of the Great Plains. In February 1992, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was petitioned by a private citizen to list the swift fox as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. The USFWS concluded that listing of the swift fox was warranted but precluded because of higher listing priorities. In 2002, the USFWS removed the swift fox from candidate status.

While never listed as endangered, the petition prompted action by state fish and wildlife agencies within the swift fox's range to form the Swift Fox Conservation Team (SFCT) and undoubtedly was responsible for increased funding for swift fox research. The wealth of information contained in this edited collection of papers is indicative of the tremendous improvement in our knowledge of the ecology and conservation of swift foxes since the early 1990s.

Organized into five sections—Setting the Stage, Distribution and Population Shifts, Censusing and Techniques, Population Ecology, and Taxonomy/

Physiology/Disease—the book's articles provide a thorough history of swift fox conservation efforts from petition to removal from candidate status and highlight the formation and work of the SFCT.

While no edited collection of papers can cover every topic of interest or focus on every region within a species's geographic range, this book comes close. I was especially impressed with the thoroughness of the articles' literature citations: few papers on swift foxes escaped inclusion. Several review articles broaden the volume's scope and contribute to its usefulness.

Overall, *The Swift Fox* clearly illustrates what appears to be a conservation success story that can serve as a blueprint for the conservation of other species. It will be a valued addition to the library of biologists in the Great Plains and others interested in conservation biology or candid conservation. **Raymond S. Matlack**, *Department of Life, Earth, and Environmental Sciences, West Texas A&M University*.