

remains of bats, sabretooth tiger, panther, wolf, horse, deer, bison and voles. The third fauna is an accumulation of rodent remains, originating from the regurgitated food pellets of a predatory bird, probably an owl. This fauna is dominated by the remains of voles, with a few shrews and moles. Each fauna is considered to have lived in a temperate period of the Pleistocene Ice Age. The best correlations appear to be with the Cromerian Interglacial of the Middle Pleistocene, a stage known from faunas on the Norfolk coast (Westbury Fauna 1) and with a temperate stage between the Cromerian and the Hoxnian (Westbury Fauna 2 & 3).

The Westbury site has yielded the richest carnivore and rodent assemblage of any Pleistocene site in Britain, and the list includes eight species new to Britain. The sediments of the Westbury Fauna 2 have flints which may have been worked by man; if so they represent the earliest evidence of man in the British Isles. This monograph is a major contribution to the history of British Pleistocene mammal faunas and the Society may feel proud to be associated with the work.

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PLEISTOCENE VERTEBRATES IN THE BRITISH ISLES,

by A. J. STUART

Longman, 1982, 212 pages, £16.50.

The scientific study of Pleistocene vertebrates dates back to the first half of the last century. Since then hundreds of sites have been excavated and millions of fossil teeth and bones recovered. An up-to-date review of the current state of knowledge was greatly needed, since the numerous changes in zoological nomenclature and the publication of results from many poorly excavated deposits, has made the vast literature virtually incomprehensible to all but the specialist. Anthony Stuart's book provides a timely, concise and well written summary of the stratified, British Pleistocene vertebrates, for he ignores most of the material from unstratified deposits.

After a brief introduction, the second chapter on the Pleistocene of the British Isles clearly describes the British Quaternary sequence and provides a framework within which the vertebrate remains can be interpreted. It should also allow readers with only a rudimentary knowledge of the Quaternary to make use of this book.

Chapters on Taxonomy and Identification, Taphonomy and Palaeoecology describe the methods and problems of identifying and interpreting Pleistocene vertebrate assemblages. The discussion of the new but important subject of Taphonomy is particularly illuminating since little useful palaeoenvironmental or ecological information can be gleaned from any fossiliferous deposit unless the bias introduced by the process of fossilization is understood. It is, however, unfortunate that no reference is made to the careful taphonomic work of Korth (1979) on microvertebrate assemblages, or to the life long work of Brain (e.g. 1981) on cave assemblages. Stuart's ideas on palaeoecology are well considered, avoiding the naive view that climate directly limits the

distribution of organisms, but rather emphasising that it acts indirectly by conferring a strong competitive disadvantage in the face of better adapted animals. This truism has unfortunately been ignored by many Quaternary researchers.

Chapters 6, 7, 8 and 9 deal fairly comprehensively with the Pleistocene history of the British vertebrate fauna in the space of 70 pages. Unfortunately they are interpreted with strict adherence to the Quaternary framework as proposed by the Geological Society, with no space being devoted to the continuing debate about the possibility of more than one Post Hoxnian interglacial e.g. Sutcliffe (1975, 1976), Mayhew (1976), Turner (1981 A & B), Stringer and Currant (1981), and Shotton (1983). The fact that Stuart wrote this book in 1980 precludes any reference to Yalden's (1982) recent summary of the Flandrian faunal history.

The last two chapters on Man and Evolution are not up to the high standards of the rest of the book, but this is entirely due to the impossibility of dealing adequately with these vast subjects in eighteen pages. Readers interested in Palaeolithic man would be advised to look at Roe (1981) or Wymer (1983), and those interested in the evolutionary debates on Punctuated Equilibrium, Neotony and Allometry should refer to the work of Gould (e.g. 1974, 1977).

The publishers Longman deserve congratulations for producing a well edited and reasonably priced book, considering it contains 163 illustrations, many of them good quality black and white photographs.

In conclusion, this well written and informative book can be highly recommended to anyone with an interest in Pleistocene vertebrates. It will undoubtedly become a standard text for many years to come.

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THE CAVE HUNTERS

Biographical sketches of the lives of Sir William Boyd Dawkins (1837-1929) and Dr. J. Wilfred Jackson (1880-1978)

Edited by M. J. BISHOP. Published by the Derbyshire Museum Service, March 1982, 48 pages, £1.50.

This publication was produced to accompany an exhibition that has been running for the last year and a half at the Buxton Museum, Derbyshire but it stands on its own as a very useful work for anyone interested in the history of Cave Archaeology. Buxton Museum (whose curator is presently M. J. Bishop) was chosen by Boyd Dawkins as the repository of his library and papers. These were given on his death in 1929, and when Wilfred Jackson died in 1978 at the age of 98 his papers were added to the collection which make it, almost certainly, the most important cave archaeology collection in the country.

Bishop by republishing the biographical sketch of Boyd Dawkins (with a few small additions) that Wilfred Jackson wrote for *The Journal of Cave Science* in 1966 and adding to it his own short biography of Wilfred Jackson, that he has produced from Jackson's notes and papers and with the help of Jackson's daughter, has produced a very interesting book which gives a good insight into two very different characters who both shared the same interest spanning the period from 1859 when Boyd Dawkins started work on Hyaena Den (Wookey Hole) whilst still an undergraduate at Oxford, to Jackson's death in 1978. (Tratman last wrote to Jackson in 1976 regarding Rhinoceros hole).

The two bibliographies appended are of great use but represent only a glimpse of the archive that there is at Buxton, and it is hoped that more publications will follow of the manuscript material at the museum and a catalogue of the collection much of which is of great interest to the caving world.

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