of feral cats to native wildlife and the complications of controlling their spread into natural habitats.

Background references listed at the end of each chapter provide a solid bibliographic foundation for anyone pursuing future research on terrestrial vertebrates currently posing significant invasive species threats in the U.S. The balance of general principles of invasive species biology and ecology, detailed information on economics and government regulations of introduced species, and comprehensive coverage of pertinent examples makes the book a highly useful and important resource for addressing the issue of invasive species anywhere.

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NEOTROPICAL BIOGEOGRAPHY: REGIONALIZATION AND EVOLUTION. *CRC Biogeography Series.*

By Juan J. Morrone. Boca Raton (Florida): CRC Press (Taylor & Francis Group). $99.95. xxix + 282 p.; ill.; index. ISBN: 978-1-138-03248-4. 2017.

This richly illustrated and well-organized book provides a thorough overview of biogeographic research in the Neotropics—the tropical belt that stretches from Argentina to Mexico, including the Caribbean. This region is home to the highest biological diversity on Earth, and similarly holds an exceptional number of diverse and largely unique biotas. Think of lush rainforests, seasonally dry savannas, mountain ecosystems, semideserts, and everything in between: the Neotropics have it all.

Following the first definition of the Neotropical region 160 years ago by British naturalist Philip Sclater, there has been a long and productive history of attempts to understand how Neotropical biodiversity is organized at various spatial scales. *Neotropical Biogeography* summarizes that history and further provides personal reflections and opinions developed during Morrone's productive career studying Neotropical biodiversity.

The author begins with a theoretical framework for his concepts of evolutionary biogeography, bioregionalization, and area nomenclature. His overall focus is on finding and describing biogeographic patterns. Range evolution by vicariance (assumed as default) and dispersal are mentioned, but the roles of speciation and extinction—the two other processes affecting changes in biodiversity—are regrettably not discussed.

It is worth acknowledging that Morrone's approach to biogeographical analyses is nonstandard in the field. There are avid practitioners of cladistic biogeography and track analyses, but these are outnumbered by those (including myself) who consider the use of parametric and maximum likelihood approaches as more biologically realistic.

Subsequently, the author provides an excellent and comprehensive review of the progress in Neotropical regionalization, from the early days to recent developments. This account also showcases the instability of regionalizations depending on authority. Given the increasing interest in data-driven approaches to bioregionalization, I wonder though whether new classifications will be just as ever-changing as those based on expert opinion.

The cornerstone of this book is that each Neotropical region is summarized in detail, consistently enumerating aspects such the endemic and characteristic taxa, and describing their overall vegetation. For someone interested in a specific portion of the Neotropics, it is a compelling departure point for further reading. However, as Morrone notes, many regions remain poorly studied, so readers might need to take some sections with a pinch of salt.

Finally, the author airs a polite grievance on the discrepancy between all of the biogeographic work being done for individual taxa on one hand, and the lack of cross-taxonomic syntheses on the other. I agree with him. But I would argue that in addition to refining general classifications, we should also start asking more fundamental questions about bioregionalization. To what extent can we borrow and enforce a taxonomic system (e.g., hierarchical nestedness and "valid names") onto biotas? Can we expect congruent patterns across organisms of vastly different biology? How does our fragmentary knowledge of tropical diversity—clouded by biases and gaps—affect our understanding on the largest units of nature?

It is my hope that this book will not only become a standard reference in Neotropical biogeography, but will also entice a new generation of biogeographers to look more rigorously for patterns, and then take substantial steps in trying to understand them.

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HANDBOOK OF AUSTRALASIAN BIOGEOGRAPHY. *CRC Biogeography Series.*

Edited By Malte C. Ebach. Boca Raton (Florida): CRC Press (Taylor & Francis Group). $76.96. x + 375 p. + 16 pl.; ill.; index. ISBN: 9781482236361 (hc); 9781315373096 (eb). 2017.

The preface acknowledges that this volume was "borne out of frustration at the lack of a single reference work that covers the entire Australasian biogeography taxon by taxon" (p. vii). It is also underpinned by a continued search for an overarching theory to explain the biodiverse and endemic Australian biota, which accounts for an estimated 8.6%