

developers, government bureaucrats and private landowners whose lives are affected by this species. And interested they should be: the book provides not only an overview of what is currently known about the ecology and natural history of red-cockaded woodpeckers, but also an extensive discussion of southeastern pine forests, the scientific bases for specific management recommendations, and the shortcomings and strengths of current efforts to protect and conserve this species. Anyone involved in trying to disentangle the complex issues of red-cockaded woodpecker conservation and policy need look no further for a definitive place to start.

There is much here for academic audiences, however, particularly those interested in the interface between ecology, behaviour, conservation and politics, and if this doesn't include you, it probably should. What is involved in translating ecological research into management guidelines? What does it take to implement a recovery programme? What can you tell private landowners who have red-cockaded woodpeckers on their property about the options available to them? This book is an excellent source of information not only about red-cockaded woodpeckers but also for understanding how management and conservation of nongame wildlife species takes place in this country.

It is nice to fantasize that, as a nation, we should protect a species like red-cockaded woodpeckers because, well, why exactly? Because they might provide a cure for cancer? Because they potentially offer unique insights into human behaviour? Because they eat a lot of insects? Because they're cute? Because birders like to get them on their life lists and ornithologists like to study them?

No. Red-cockaded woodpeckers are unlikely to cure cancer, there will always be blackbirds to study, and if an insect is not eaten by a red-cockaded woodpecker, it will probably be eaten by something else. In reality, the reason for protecting red-cockaded woodpeckers is largely emotional: to avoid that empty, sinking feeling that we feel every time public policy is directed against the protection of wildlands and wildlife in favour of selfish economic gain.

Unfortunately, not everyone feels that way, which means that ultimately conservation is political. It also makes it a challenge as to how we as scientists can help slow the degradation of wild areas and the extinction of species, especially given the constantly shifting modern political landscape. Conner et al. have succeeded in producing a monograph that melds science and policy in a way that will help everyone, graduate students and nonacademics alike, understand the biology of red-cockaded woodpeckers and navigate the political landscape in which they are enmeshed without getting bogged down in jargon or fancy statistics. It is an approach that others studying similarly threatened species should carefully consider.

We all hope that the red-cockaded woodpecker will live long and prosper. This monograph, more than anything else currently available, will help make it so.

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Significant Others: The Ape-Human Continuum and the Quest for Human Nature. By CRAIG STANFORD. Oxford: Basic Books (2001). Pp. 236. Price £19.99.

Why should serious students of primate or animal behaviour read a popular book on the evolution of human nature from its ape ancestry? Possibly because this book is both eminently readable and highly informative. Craig Stanford has done more than simply trot out (and comment on) the tried and tested theories of primate behaviour and evolutionary psychology. He has structured this tightly written book to capture and hold the interested reader, and it is loaded with an insight derived from over 20 years of personal research on primates and a deep understanding of human evolution. Stanford appears to be one of a small group of researchers whose interests and expertise range across topics as diverse as foraging strategies, sexual tactics, stone tool technology, brain evolution and, above all, the role of meat eating in human evolution. This latter emphasis is hardly surprising, given that Stanford is one of the few primate researchers who has explored predation strategies from the perspectives of both predators (chimpanzees) and prey (red colobus monkeys).

Stanford starts with the reasonable premise that an understanding of the behaviour of apes may shed some light on the behaviour of humans, but he makes the reader fully aware of the limitations of this approach. Indeed one of the strengths of this book is that humans are not simply apes writ cognitively large, but each group has specialized in its own way over the course of an independent evolutionary history. Stanford's capacity to apply basic principles of evolutionary biology allows him to 'compare and contrast' the diversity of ape behaviour with that of humans to highlight processes and outcomes. It is on this basis that he takes to task many of the current myths and muddles in scenarios of human evolution.

He introduces the book with five key myths about the nature of human nature. In Myth 1 'the clumsy biped', he presents new information on the capacity for chimpanzees and bonobos to use bipedal locomotion as an effective adaptation to foraging in trees. This should indeed require a rethink of the terrestrial origins hypothesis for bipedalism. This argument is expanded in Myth 2 'the savannah model', while the issue of hunting versus scavenging is tackled in Myth 3. A detailed exploration of hunting in apes and humans is then presented in the main body of the book, and he links general foraging and specialized meat eating to the use of meat in social exchange and as fuel for brain expansion. Myth 4 'promiscuous males, monogamous females' outlines the key differences between the sexes in reproductive strategies, and again this is expanded upon in the main text. As he notes 'like female primates of all sorts, women have reproductive and political agendas as strong as men's'. And the details of both sexes' agendas, conflicts of interest and cooperative tactics are explored from the perspective of signalling, male and female choice, power and infanticide (THE current hot topic!).

The final myth takes the eminently reasonable position that the 'package' of human behavioural and physical adaptations should be unpicked bit by bit,

Walter Marvin Koenig (/ˈkɒnɪɡ/; born September 14, 1936) is an American actor, writer, teacher, and director known for his roles as Pavel Chekov in *Star Trek* and Alfred Bester in *Babylon 5*. He wrote the script for the 2008 science fiction legal thriller *InAlienable*. Koenig was born in Chicago, Illinois, the son of businessman Isadore Koenig and his wife Sarah (née Strauss). They moved to Manhattan when Walter was a child, where he went to school. Koenig's parents were Russian Jewish immigrants from Walter D Koenig. About publications (44) network. Publications 44. Publications by authors named "Walter D Koenig". Are you Walter D Koenig? Register this Author. 44Publications.Â Sahas Barve Walter D Koenig Joseph Haydock Eric L Walters. Am Nat 2019 Jun 17;193(6):830-840. Epub 2019 Apr 17.