

BOOK REVIEW

SMUGGLED : THE UNDERGROUND TRADE IN AUSTRALIA'S WILDLIFE (1993)

WRITTEN BY : RAYMOND HOSER
PUBLISHED BY : APOLLO BOOKS
ISBN 0 947068 18X (PAPERBACK)
PRICE : \$21.45 (Including postage)

If you have ever been interested in finding out more about the illegal trade in wildlife this book is definitely for you. The author provides a concise history of wildlife smuggling over the last 20 years. He names the people who, at one time or another, have contributed - either directly or indirectly - to the trade in wildlife and shows the connection with other countries. Also included are some details on smuggling rackets in other countries, especially the trade in wildlife products (skins, folk medicines, ivory, etc). He concludes with some suggestions which he believes may offer hope for conserving wildlife. He argues for the legalisation of trade in wildlife on the grounds that prices would drop and that the trade could be regulated by a permit system.

The N.S.W. National Parks and Wildlife Service attempted to ban this book in May 1993, however, the N.S.W. Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Chris Hartcher, publicly ordered that the ban be lifted (ABC 7.30 Report, 29th June, 1993).

This book is an excellent read for anyone wanting to learn about the negative effects of smuggling, the level of corruption in high places or simply in the animals themselves. Whether or not you agree with Hoser's final argument, that wildlife trade should be legalised, this book provides a wealth of information and is written in an easy going style. I personally could not put the book down once I had started - a brilliant piece of investigative journalism and a book that I highly recommend to our members

Heathclyff The Australian Wildlife Protection Council