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# BOOK REVIEW

## THE ELEPHANT IN SRI LANKA

by Jayantha Jayewardene

Reviewed by John Eisenberg, Katharine Ordway Professor of Ecosystems Conservation, University of Florida

This is a very interesting summary of the natural history of the elephant in Sri Lanka. It is a fine mix of early historical literature and modern findings. Especially useful is the chapter concerning the domestication of elephants and their use and integration with the human culture of the island.

Chapter 5, "Concerning the Elephant in the Wild", is a wonderful historical summary, which includes valuable data on early distribution, movements, and the present situation. Especially useful to wildlife managers and those individuals responsible for the management of elephant populations in the modern world, are chapters 6, 7 and 8.

Conflicts between elephant and man are age-old, and the author puts the problem into perspective, but then goes on to discuss the attempted solutions as developed in Sri Lanka. Naturally, attempts at management involve both successes and failures. I

consider an honest discussion of all aspects of the problem to be refreshing and useful, even when efforts have failed. The inclusion of a discussion concerning the Mahaweli project and the attempt to construct elephant corridors is of great value.

The final chapter assessing the future of the Ceylon elephant is excellent. I found the appendices to be useful.

There are many, many workers in the area of wildlife management confronted with the problems that large mammals present to human populations, who will find this honest account extremely valuable.

Mr. Jayantha Jayewardene is to be congratulated for presenting a very fair account of the attempts to preserve the wild elephant populations in Sri Lanka. He certainly does not avoid tough questions and his honesty is commendable.