

Book Reviews

PREHISTORIC LIFEWAYS IN THE GREAT BASIN WETLANDS: BIOARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONSTRUCTION AND INTERPRETATION. Edited by Brian E. Hemphill and Clark Spencer Larsen. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press. 1999. 394 pp. ISBN 0-87480-603-8. \$45.00 (cloth).

Until recently, bioarchaeological research in the American Great Basin has been hampered by the lack of well-documented human skeletal remains. However, during the 1980s, flooding in the Great Basin resulted in soil erosion and exposure of numerous human burials as water levels retreated. The availability of these new human remains and the fear of losing them to collectors and destructive taphonomic processes encouraged federal, state, and tribal authorities to oversee their collection and analysis. As a result, the number of Great Basin skeletal remains available to researchers nearly doubled in the Great Lakes (Utah), Stillwater Marsh (Nevada), and Malheur Lake (Oregon) regions, and *Prehistoric Lifeways in the Great Basin Wetlands* is the collective result of bioarchaeological analyses on these newly uncovered human burials.

Prehistoric Lifeways in the Great Basin Wetlands is a collection of research papers presented in a symposium at the 1994 meeting of the Society for American Archaeology by archaeologists and physical anthropologists working independently in the Great Salt Lake, Stillwater Marsh, and Malheur Lake regions. Chapters in this book examine the origins, biological history, diet, general health, and adaptive strategies of the prehistoric peoples from these three regions of the Great Basin, and a common theme in most chapters is how these prehistoric peoples utilized the wetlands. As R.L. Bettinger put it in his summary chapter, the research focuses on “Who were they?”, “What did they eat?”, and “Do marshes bring happiness?” (p. 321).

The book begins with a Foreword by David Hurst Thomas, followed by 15 chapters divided into six parts. The first section (chapters 1–2) contains an introduction to the volume by B.E. Hemphill and C.S. Larsen, and a discussion of repatriation issues by S.R. Simms and A.W. Raymond. The second part (chapters 3–6) covers the bioarchaeology of the Great Salt Lake region, and the third (chapters 7–10) deals with the Stillwater Marsh area. These latter two parts are generally organized into four chapters: 1) archaeological overview, 2) dietary reconstruction, 3) population history, and 4) osteological indicators of stress. The Malheur Lake region is discussed in the fourth subdivision (chapters 11–13).

This also begins with an archaeological overview, followed by an assessment of osteological stress indicators, but does not include chapters on diet or population history. Instead, B.E. Hemphill compares the mobility patterns of inhabitants of the Malheur Lake region to those of the Stillwater Marsh and Georgia coast. The fifth part of the book consists of a single chapter by C.B. Ruff, who addresses activity patterns as reconstructed from long bone cross-sectional geometry. In the final section, R.L. Bettinger presents a discussion of the bioarchaeological research and an overview of the lifeways of the prehistoric peoples who inhabited the Great Basin wetlands.

As anyone who studies archaeologically derived human remains from North America knows, scientific goals can often be in direct conflict with those of American Indians. In the first part of the book, S.R. Simms and A.W. Raymond discuss the issues surrounding the reburial of human remains from the Great Basin, and the difficulties and rewards anthropologists encounter when working with federal, state, and Native American authorities on issues regarding human remains and archaeological artifacts. In this chapter, Simms and Raymond strongly and splendidly argue that no one has the right to own the past, but rather we are obligated to hold the remains in guardianship. The authors contend that the fallacy of reburial laws such as NAGPRA are they have the “underlying assumption that archaeological human remains are ‘property’” (p. 17) and “if we simply rebury without study, and with no provision for access to those remains in the future, we have succumbed to ownership” (p. 19). Simms and Raymond pronounce that reburial issues should be handled at a local level among interested parties.

S.R. Simms, R.L. Kelly, and A.C. Oetting provide archaeological overviews for the Great Salt Lake region, Stillwater Marsh, and Malheur Lake region, respectively. All three authors address in some depth the adaptive strategies and mobility patterns of the Great Basin populations.

Two chapters explore the diet of Great Basin wetland inhabitants, using stable isotopes. J.B. Coltrain and T.W. Stafford show that in the Great Salt Lakes region, dietary diversity decreased significantly after AD 1150 as the Fremont peoples abandoned agricultural practices and concentrated on foraging. There may have also been sex differences in diet prior to AD 1150, with males consuming more varieties of foods. By reconstructing the diet of peoples in the Stillwater Marsh area, M.J. Schoeninger was able to demonstrate that the marsh provided adequate food supplies, and the increased population density in the Carson Desert was not due to people following the spread of piñon.

Molecular data are examined by D.H. O'Rourke et al. for the Great Salt Lake region and by F.A. Kaestle et al. for the Stillwater Marsh. O'Rourke et al. investigated temporal trends in the distribution of mitochondrial DNA markers and concluded that the data best support "a polymorphic and continuous population base occupying much of the eastern margin of the prehistoric Great Salt Lake" (p. 95). Kaestle et al., on the other hand, use mitochondrial haplotype groups and albumin allele frequencies to test the Numic expansion hypothesis, which contends that Numic-speaking peoples spread into the eastern Great Basin after 650 BP. They conclude that the Stillwater Marsh population is probably not ancestral to the Numic-speaking peoples who inhabited the Great Basin at contact, but may be ancestral to Northern Hokan or California Penutian.

Osteological indicators of stress are examined by J.R. Bright and C.J. Loveland for the Great Salt Lake wetlands and by Larsen and Hutchison for the Stillwater sample in order to gain an understanding of the general health and lifestyle of the prehistoric Great Basin peoples. In general, it appears that the Great Basin peoples were extremely healthy but led laborious lives. Bright and Loveland attribute the overall health of the Great Salt Lake populations to an adaptive strategy that shifted back and forth from foraging to agriculture.

Osteological evidence of activity behavior is directly investigated by Hemphill using osteoarthritis prevalence, and by Ruff using long bone cross-sectional geometry. Most interesting to me is Ruff's conclusion "that geographical terrain is the most

critical factor determining relative structural strength of the lower limb" (p. 320). Ruff bases this conclusion on a comparison of the mountainous groups (i.e., Great Basin and Pecos) to the Georgia coast and Great Plains groups. Mountainous groups differ significantly from groups in the other regions, but Georgia coast and Great Plains groups do not differ significantly.

I commend Hemphill and Larsen for bringing together this volume. *Prehistoric Lifeways in the Great Basin Wetlands* is definitely a welcome and needed addition to the Great Basin prehistory literature. This volume does what it set out to do, and that is to show the diversity of Great Basin adaptations and how effectively the prehistoric inhabitants utilized the wetland environment. The chapters in this volume are a little repetitious and do not cover the complete range of bioarchaeological analyses, but they clearly demonstrate how important it is to conduct bioarchaeological analyses if we truly want to understand the lifeways of prehistoric peoples. I recommend that any professional anthropologists interested in the Great Basin buy this book and urge their library to buy it so that it is available to students.

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CHIMPANZEE AND RED COLOBUS. THE ECOLOGY OF PREDATOR AND PREY. By Craig B. Stanford. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. 1998. 296 pp. ISBN 0-674-00722-0. \$20.00 (paper).

Few topics generate more debate than the role predation plays in the evolution of primate social evolution and behavior. While some argue that predation represents a major selective factor, others minimize its impact. The paucity of direct observations of predatory events in the wild fuels this debate, but arises naturally because kills are made infrequently by shy and difficult-to-observe predators. Given these circumstances, studies of predators themselves rather than their primate prey have provided the best information on predation. Field observations of primates who prey on others have been especially illuminating in this regard. In *Chimpanzee and Red Colobus*, Craig Stanford takes advantage of the long-term field research on chimpanzee predators conducted at the Gombe National Park by Jane Goodall and colleagues. He combines these observations with data on red colobus prey

recorded during 21 months of study over 5 years. The result is a comprehensive picture of predation in a wild population of primates.

The first chapter outlines the three major questions addressed in this book. How do red colobus respond to chimpanzee predation? Does chimpanzee predation have a measurable impact on red colobus populations? What factors influence chimpanzee hunting? Chapters 2, 3, and 5 supply the necessary background to investigate these questions by reviewing the Gombe study site, field methods, and the behavior of chimpanzees and red colobus monkeys. Chapter 4, "Chimpanzees as Predators," provides descriptive data on chimpanzee predation, including prey choice, hunting success, and temporal variation in hunting. Here we learn that the Gombe chimpanzees prey selectively on the young of red colobus. Adult males are responsible for most kills. Chimpanzees are extraordinarily successful predators, making captures in over half of all hunting attempts. Although chimpanzees typically hunt in groups, there is considerable interindividual variation in hunting success: some males are quite successful, while others are not. Hunts do not occur