

LIBRARY JOURNAL.

Strawn, Martha. *Alligators, Prehistoric Presence in the American Landscape.*

Johns Hopkins. Apr. 1997. c.240p. photos. index. ISBN 0-8018-5289-7. \$39.95.

NAT HIST

Living in the wild in several Southern coastal states, with its largest populations in Florida and Louisiana, the alligator seems to hold a grip on the American psyche far stronger than its numbers and geographic range would suggest. The centerpiece of photographer and art professor Strawn's tribute to this fascinating wetlands reptile consists of 160 color photos. These are interwoven with the author's text, along with three essays contributed by an anthropologist, an ecologist, and an alligator hunter. By no means an exhaustive study, Strawn's very readable and attractive book touches on history, ecology, management, economics, folklore, and, most of all, the evolving alligator-human relationship. Highly recommended for public and academic libraries. Libraries collecting in this area should also consider Vaughn L. Glasgow's *A Social History of the American Alligator* (LJ 9/1/91).—William H. Wiese, Iowa State Univ. Lib., Ames