

**NEWS AND OPINION**

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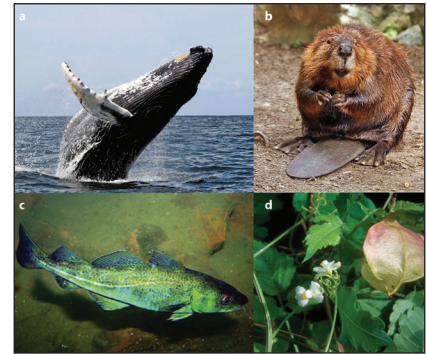
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*Cover: This experimental burn was set in the forests of the southeastern Amazon near the town of Canarana, Mato Grosso state, Brazil. The experiment is the largest and longest-running burn experiment in the Amazon. It aims to see how increasing fires are changing forest dynamics in the southeastern Amazon, where the agricultural frontier is leaving drier forest edges that are more prone to catch fire from ignitions that escape from intentional land use and management fires. The experimental burns set by the researchers move slowly and at low intensities in the forest interior, but they can still have damaging effects on trees that are not adapted to fire, particularly when drought and fire coincide. These effects are described in an article in this issue by Jennifer K. Balch and her colleagues. The article is part of a Special Section on Tropical Forest Responses to Large-Scale Experiments. Photograph: Jennifer K. Balch.*

## DEPARTMENTS

- FORUM  
**932 The Importance of Surprising Results and Best Practices in Historical Ecology**  
*Loren McClenachan, Andrew B. Cooper, Matthew G. McKenzie, and Joshua A. Drew*



*Species for which surprising historical data altered the conservation outcome: Humpback whale, North American beaver, Atlantic cod, and balloon wine. An article on the importance of surprising results, by Loren McClenachan and colleagues, appears in this issue. Photographs: Wikicommons*

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BOOK REVIEWS

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*by Richard C. Francis*  
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- 941 *Animal Social Networks***  
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- 942 *Private Doubt, Public Dilemma*** *by Keith Thomson*  
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### Coming next month

Functional Flows in Modified Riverscapes: Hydrographs, Habitats and Opportunities  
 Common and Species-Specific Roles of Oviductal Proteins in Mammalian Fertilization and Embryo Development  
 Ecological Networks in Stored Grain: Key Postharvest Nodes for Emerging Pests, Pathogens, and Mycotoxins  
 The Living Dead: Time to Integrate Scavenging into Ecological Teaching  
 Where Tree Planting and Forest Expansion Are Bad for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services  
 Fall Focus on Books