

too, perhaps, are the figures of 18 introduced species included in the following 150 pages devoted to illustrations of 75 species, although ten genera recorded for the state are omitted.

Each species is contained in one opening; common and scientific names, drawings of hair types found on the rump and photomicrographs selected to show sections, parts of whole mounts and scale patterns are included to show 'the most diagnostic characters'. They serve also to underline the difficulties, not least of which are the numerous types of hairs to be found on one animal and the variations in pattern along a single hair. Even with their years of experience the authors find it difficult to distinguish between some genera, and distinctions between species are usually even more subtle. A key to instant, indisputable identification of pelts and parts used in manufactured goods is what taxonomists, conservationists and customs officials alike hope for; unhappily it is not yet available.

J. M. INGLES

Ornithology from Aristotle to the Present, by **Erwin Stresemann**. Harvard University Press, £11.00.

Erwin Stresemann (1889–1972) was himself a world-leader in ornithology and wrote with great authority. This book was published in German in 1951 and has now been well translated into English by H. J. and C. Epstein and edited by G. W. Cottrell. The author's distinguished disciple, Ernst Mayr of Harvard, contributes a foreword and a valuable epilogue entitled 'Materials for a history of American ornithology' (up to date).

It is a very readable book, full of fascinating information about people and ideas. The first chapter leads us from classical times to the Renaissance. Aristotle, who was born in 384 B.C., laid the foundations of scientific ornithology, but strangely mixed his facts with fanciful notions taken at secondhand. His authority for the view that the detailed study of birds was a worthy occupation for the philosophic mind was cited as justification for the studies in the Middle Ages of such natural scientists as the Emperor Frederick II, Belon, Gesner and Aldrovandi. A stimulus to exotic ornithology was given by travellers returning from America; when Columbus made his ceremonial entry into Barcelona in 1493 he astonished the onlookers by parading 'molti papagalli' (parrots). And two domesticated species of American Indian origin, the turkey and the Muscovy duck, were introduced into Europe.

Chapters 3–15 constitute Part Two under the general heading of 'The development of systematics and the study of evolution'. Here, among many others, we read of Willughby and Ray, of Linnaeus and his opponent Buffon; and of the formal systematists in their last stand against the theory of evolution. The final six chapters constitute Part Three, under the heading 'The development of biology', and include one on the reform of the theory of behaviour.

The book is enriched by scholarship and enlivened by wit. The author's sympathies are shown by the remark in his preface that 'ornithology has ever required the service not only of the intellect, but of the heart'.

A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON

The Seas, by **F. S. Russell** and **C. M. Yonge**. Warne, £6.95.

It is a pleasure to welcome the fourth edition 'completely revised, extended and reset' of this classic that was first published nearly fifty years ago. Much has been learnt about the seas and the life in them during those five decades, and the authors have brought their text up to date to include the essence of the new knowledge. The format, larger than in previous editions, gives greater scope for the plates,

24 of black-and-white photographs, and an equal number beautifully printed in colour.

The general plan of the book remains the same as before: to set forth our knowledge of the seas and of marine biology and how it is gained, but new chapters have been added on sensory perception in marine animals, and on the influence of man on marine life. The chapters on shellfish culture and useful products from the sea have been combined into one dealing with Marine Exploitation and Cultivation, a subject of rapidly growing importance as new sources of food and other products are increasingly exploited with ever more sophisticated methods and gear. This is in addition to the chapters on Sea Fisheries and Fisheries Research.

Even the fairest face may bear some pimples; this book is no exception. It is more than a slip to refer to the baleen plates of whalebone whales as 'teeth', notwithstanding that the nature of them has been explained: 'With such teeth the whale obviously. . . cannot bite or chew'. Furthermore, bonemell is made from whales' bones not from whalebone. It is surprising also to find men who have worked so long in the west country mis-spelling the name of the quoin, or smaller scallop, which is correctly pronounced but not spelt 'queen'.

But nit-picking cannot dim the value of this splendid book which looks all set for another half century of useful and successful life. L. HARRISON MATTHEWS

Brief Reviews

Ten national parks are covered in *Parcs d'Europe* by Jacqueline Henricot (Art, Vie, Esprit, Bruxelles), each with a short descriptive text accompanied by maps and good photographs. The parks include three in France, two in Spain, one each in the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany, one joint Belgian and German, and one British, the Peak District, which does not conform to the IUCN National Park standard (no national park in England does). As Jean-Paul Harroy puts it in his introduction: 'Seuls sur la Planète, les Anglais s'amuseent – il n'y a pas d'autre mot – à appeler parc national un parc naturel'.

'Even lions and leopards have been known to eat rats and mice, and they form the principal diet of most of the small carnivorous species', writes Reay H. N. Smithers in the introduction to his small *Guide to the Rats and Mice of Rhodesia*, published by the National Museums and Monuments of Rhodesia. A description of each species is accompanied by a map and one of R. A. R. Black's attractive colour drawings.

Half *The World's Cats* Vol 3 No 1 – the proceedings of a symposium in April 1974 – edited by Randall L. Eaton (University of Washington, Seattle, \$4.25) is devoted to the puma or cougar – its status and management in British Columbia, Washington and California. Part 2 has three main papers: Norman Myers on leopard and cheetah in Africa; John Visser on the smaller cats of southern Africa, and Carl Koford on the economic values and future prospects of Latin American cats.

The Natural Environment Research Council marked its 10th anniversary last year with a beautifully produced 'review of progress', illustrated (in colour). *Land, Air and Sea*, by Angela Croome, selects (there are only 50 pages) topics as diverse as the health of the land at home and the Antarctic Survey to illustrate the Council's activities.

A Bibliography of the Bustards is a first working draft by M. C. Downes, lately of the Wildlife Branch, Department of Agriculture, Konedobu, Papua New Guinea, who appeals for notifications of any authors or items not included. The final version will obviously be of the highest importance for all otidologists (bustard specialists) as well as for serious ornithological generalists.