

trivial anecdote and superficial comment. The substance of the narrative varies from the shallow: "The British Government use the survey [BAS] to fly the flag and help validate the British presence"; to the banal: "Irmi is sitting against one of the red formica tables in the mess, her long legs splayed out in front of her. Every so often she flicks back her thick brown hair from her eyes. She is aware that environmental issues are inextricably connected to politics"; and to the absurd: "The jellyfish must be mating at this time of the year — their gonads are huge. She [a Greenpeace scientist] was particularly pleased because it would help make her scientific project 'look good', thereby enabling Greenpeace to fulfil the criteria for becoming a full member of the Antarctic Treaty." The book might be read as popular journalism, particularly for the accounts of the acrimony generated against Greenpeace by the officials of the American, New Zealand, and French bases, but as a serious contribution to polar literature there is very little in it to recommend. (Peter Speak, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

WHALES AND DOLPHINS

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF WHALES AND DOLPHINS. Evans, P. G. 1987. Bromley, Christopher Helm. 343 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7470-0800-0. £13.95.

There is no current shortage of books on cetaceans; any new one will have to justify its place on the shelf. Is this just another aimed at cashing-in on world concern and catching a rising market?

I think not. As tenth in the Christopher Helm Mammal Series it comes from a good stable; Ernest Neal selects his authors with care. Peter Evans is an enthusiast — the enthusiast who runs the cetacean group of the UK Mammal Society and seems to spend much of his spare time watching cetaceans at sea. There is nothing revolutionary in his presentation; like others before him he introduces the order, discusses their evolution, classification, systematics, zoogeography, distribution, food and feeding, social organization and behaviour, life histories, and past and present relationships with man. But he writes with enthusiasm and care, packs a deal of information into his pages, scans the literature thoroughly and rounds off with a comprehensive bibliography. Modestly priced, this is a book to recommend to students, naturalists and anyone with a general interest in whales and dolphins; it is one of two sea mammals book that will travel with me when I next go to sea. (Bernard Stonehouse, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER).

FALKLAND ISLANDS BIRDS

GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. Woods, R. W. 1988. Oswestry, Anthony Nelson. 256 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-904614-22-0. £14.95.

Robin Woods served for seven years as a meteorologist on the Falkland Islands. This book, like its predecessor *The*

Birds of the Falkland Islands (1975), is a result of his spare-time studies there. Altogether a more compact and professional book, it reflects a more detailed knowledge of the species, their origins (mostly in South America) and their ecology. The writing is sharper, the maps are better, the coloured illustrations by Franklin Coombs are of high standard, and the price is sensible. I do not know a better book on the birds of the Falkland Islands, and I recommend this to anyone who needs an avian guidebook for that windy birdwatchers' paradise. But this has good information about the islands themselves and is an attractive book in its own right, meriting a much wider readership. (Bernard Stonehouse, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

BRIEF REVIEWS

LITTLE PENGUIN: FAIRY PENGUINS IN AUSTRALIA. Stahel, C. and Gales, R. 1987. Kensington NSW, New South Wales University Press. 117 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-86840-290-7.

An attractive paper-back on the little blue or fairy penguins of Australia and New Zealand, based on the authors' original research and the work of other, mainly amateur, groups in southern Australia. Illustrated with black and white photographs and with drawings by Jane Burrell, it includes a package of information about other species of penguins, but is most valuable in summarizing work on a complex of species little known outside Australasia.

ABORIGINAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM. Canadian Arctic Resources Committee 1988. Ottawa, CARC. 168 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-919996-53-3.

The edited papers of a national conference held in Ottawa on 9–10 June 1987. The opening address, 'Reflections on constitutional reform in Canada 1979–87' is followed by sections on accomplishments and failures of the aboriginal constitutional reform process, aboriginal self-government and Canadian public opinion, aboriginal rights and Canada's future political agenda, Nunavut and the national interest, financing and implementing aboriginal self-government, aboriginal self-government and the land claims process, and five appendices on aspects of self-government.

POLAR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION: 10th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE OF ACUNS. Adams, P. and Duerden, F. (editors). 1988. Ottawa, ACUNS. 230 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-921-421-03-6.

A volume celebrating the meeting in Toronto, on 30 April to 2 May 1987, of the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies. Papers cover applications of information technology in the Arctic, grouped under sections headed technology and the north, polar science, information and the north, ACUNS-related activities, and the proceedings are followed by annual reports and other information. This volume is thus both a record of the conference and a useful summary of the Association and the achievements of its first decade.