

unpalatable and are related species which gain mutual benefit from the colouring, and Batesian mimicry where the mimicker is without special protection such as unpalatability but so closely resembles other unrelated types which have these attributes that it, too, secures relative safety. They stress that coloration, ecology and behaviour are inextricably bound together and the survival value of animal colours lies in the way they adapt species for life in a particular environment and in their relationships with other animals. The final section is a brief account of the ways man himself uses colour in disguise and adornment.

The lavish illustrations from colour photographs, mostly taken in the field, and many by the authors, surely provide the best collection of photographs on the subject that has yet appeared in Britain. A bibliography, glossary and full index complete a splendid and handsome volume that gives a concise, easily understood account of a fascinating topic.

JOHN CLEGG

The Cairngorms: their natural history and scenery, by Desmond Nethersole-Thompson and Adam Watson. Collins, £3.50.

The Coastline of Scotland, by J. A. Steers. Cambridge UP, £10.50.

In any short list of the most interesting regions of the British Isles for the naturalist, the Cairngorms would be found jostling with the Norfolk Broads and Connemara for a high place. Except perhaps for north-west Sutherland, it is the largest tract of high-level wilderness we have. And for all round interest, it would probably head the lists of most naturalists for north of the Border. There is something for everybody, and as the number of co-authors indicates, this book is very much a team effort, despite being assigned to the two principal authors. The essay on vegetation by Derek Ratcliffe I found particularly fascinating, but when a region also includes among its specialities red deer, wild cat, crested tit, osprey, dotterel and snow bunting, one is faced with an embarrassment of riches. Nor is the interest by any means confined to the plants and the higher vertebrates. Geology, physiography, soils, climate, invertebrates and Gaelic place names are all discussed by the appropriate specialist. This is a book both to read for pleasure and to put in the car or rucksack for your next visit—yes, miraculously it is actually of a size and weight that do not make it too great a burden to carry in the field.

The same could almost be said for the slightly larger and heavier work by Professor Steers, which complements, though not on the same detailed scale, his magisterial survey of the coastline of England and Wales. It is not surprising that he could not traverse in such detail—though he has actually done it twice—a coastline more than twice as long (if the islands are included) as that of Britain's southern half. But it is invaluable now to have this companion volume to augment one's pleasure on visiting the coast in Scotland, by adding to one's understanding of the geology and physiography. Because the task is so forbidding, it will be many years before anybody else tackles it all in more detail.

RICHARD FITTER

Land Above the Clouds, by Tony Morrison. Deutsch, £3.95

This 'survival special' on South American wildlife is the harvest of a series of expeditions in the Andes ranging from the Caribbean to the Magellan Straits. The title suggests a book dealing only with the Andean highlands, but Mr Morrison does not accept this self-imposed limitation and wanders freely down to the Pacific shores and into the Amazonian jungle. This has