

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, bonemeal 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 quill, 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'amuse - il n'y a pas d'autre mot - à appeler parc national un parc naturel'.

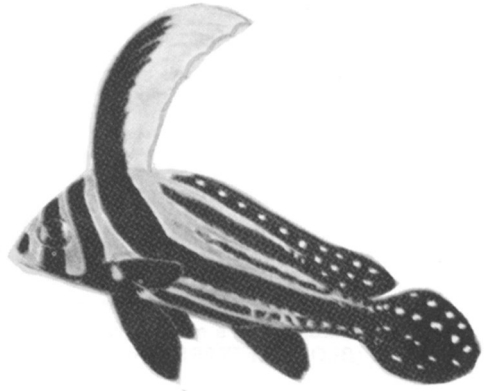
'Even lions and leopards have been known to eat rats and mice, and they form the principal diet of most of the small carnivorous species', writes Reay H. N. Smithers in the introduction to his small *Guide to the Rats and Mice of Rhodesia*, published by the National Museums and Monuments of Rhodesia. 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.

The SPOTTED DRUM *Equetus punctatus*, one of the 180 coral reef fishes painted in colour by Peter Scott in the *Underwater Fishwatchers' Guide to West Atlantic Coral Reefs*, with text by Charles C. G. Chaplin. Printed on plastic this very practical identification guide can be used underwater. Obtainable from Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, Glos., £3.50 plus 18p postage.



*Natural History Book Reviews* is a useful (especially to schools) new periodical (how frequent is not stated) devoted primarily to reviews of natural history books coded for their elementary, intermediate or specialised appeal. (Richmond Publishing Co., Orchard Rd, Richmond, Surrey, £6.50 p.a.).

*Conservation Problems in the Field of Herpetology* by Silvio Bruno, published by Cucucci Editore Bari, part of the proceedings of an Italian National Symposium on nature conservation held at Bari University in 1973, gives a comprehensive and up-to-date review (in Italian) of the plight of Europe's reptiles and amphibians.

In *The Wandering Tattler* (Hutchinson, £3.95) Elizabeth Forster, an avid and indefatigable bird-watcher, describes her travels in Brazil, Fiji, Cambodia, India ('four tigers! in two days!') and many others, and back home to Norfolk and 'an ecstatic cat!'

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