

“ churned eddies and bubbles of broken air as it rose in a grand sweep ”.

It may be that this leaning towards ornate writing has affected not only the author's literary style but has left its mark on his method of dealing with zoological facts. The book is one in which no Australian can take pride and on which no zoologist may place any reliance.

F. WOOD JONES.

RECORDS OF PARROTS BRED IN CAPTIVITY. By A. A. PRESTWICH.

Published by Arthur A. Prestwich, Chelmsford Road, Southgate, London, N. 14. 35s.

Mr. A. A. Prestwich's very thorough and carefully compiled book, *Records of Parrots Bred in Captivity*, is primarily of interest to aviculturists. It is, however, not without importance to those who are concerned with fauna preservation, as it indicates very plainly how many parrot-like birds could be saved from extinction by breeding in captivity if conditions in their natural habitat became so unfavourable that they were no longer able to survive there. At one time it was feared that the lovely little Australian turquoise grass parrakeet and the splendid grass parrakeet were on the verge of extinction, if not actually extinct, and that Bourke's parrakeet was also exceedingly rare. Fortunately, however, this estimate of the birds' status has proved to be unduly pessimistic, but even if it had been fully justified, all three species just mentioned are now so well established in captivity, either in their own country or in other parts of the world, as to be independent of the need of any introduction of wild blood. There is not the slightest doubt that if American aviculturists had been alive to their opportunity, the Carolina conure could have been preserved.

BEDFORD.

DIE WILD KATZEN DER ALTEN WELT (Eine Übersicht über die Untergattung *Felis*). By Dr. M. HALTENORTH. (*The Wild Cats of the Old World*—a Review of the sub-genus *Felis*.)

Published, 1953, by Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft, Leipzig.

This is a detailed monograph on the sub-genus *Felis* as recognized by the author, of which he considers one species—*F. silvestris*—to contain most of the wild cats found in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Dr. Haltenorth has reviewed every form with great care, under the main headings, synonyms, type locality, characteristics, and distribution. He unites under *F. silvestris* all forms previously considered to belong to the