

as above, *Nephtys*, and the correct one of *Nephtys* in the space of a few pages.

CHRIS TYDEMAN

**The Trees of Britain and Northern Europe**, by Alan Mitchell and John Wilkinson. Collins Pocket Guides, £6.95 hardback, £3.95 paperback.

Alan Mitchell has been described as 'the great tree connoisseur of our generation; the Evelyn, the Gilpin or the Elwes of the mid-20th century'. Certainly his other excellent work on trees, the Collins *Field Guide to the Trees of Britain and Northern Europe* which appeared in 1974, has become almost a 'standard work'. The new *Pocket Guide* has the same dimensions as the *Field Guide* but is in other respects quite different. It is clear, concise, and only marginally less comprehensive, covering over 600 species and varieties. But from its key to its overall presentation it is written in a more 'popular' style, clearly aimed at the enthusiastic beginner rather than the committed amateur. The whole book is in colour so that illustrations appear against the species descriptions – an improvement on the *Field Guide* – but the illustrations are less clear, and the descriptions shorter, more 'chatty' and without the systematic detail of its more scholarly sire.

The appeal of the new *Pocket Guide* is that – especially for the beginner – it is simple, accessible, and easy to use.

RICHARD CLARKE

**The Oxford Book of Insects**, by John Burton. Oxford University Press, pocket edition, £2.50 paperback.

Many readers of *Oryx* interested in British natural history will need no introduction to the *Oxford Book of Insects* and will welcome the new pocket edition – identical in all respects except size and soft cover. Inevitably the selection of about 800 of a possible 20,000 species is somewhat arbitrary. Thus almost all the British butterflies are shown, but only some 10 per cent of the more than 2000 moths. Nevertheless, enough examples are given to enable the user to recognize insect groups and there is a fair chance that any common specimen will be found illustrated. The plates and adjacent text will be sufficient to whet the appetite of even those for whom all insects are merely 'creepy crawlies'. Above all, the *Pocket Guide* is exactly what it says – small enough to slip into the pocket on a Sunday walk and, a small investment which will yield an immense return in interest, enjoyment, and awareness of what for many nature lovers is an 'unknown world'.

RICHARD CLARKE

**The Falcons of the World**, by Tom J. Cade (Collins, £15) deals only with the genus *Falco*, which includes such well known birds as the peregrine, gyrfalcon, kestrel and kestrel. The author is an expert on the peregrine, and accompanies R. David Digby's fine paintings with an excellent and comprehensive account of the natural history of each species.

**Aves Brasilieras**, Vol. 1, by Johan Dalgas Frisch (Editora Dalgas-Ecoltec Ltda, Rua de Consolacao 3095, CEP 01416, Sao Paulo SP, Brazil, \$29.95), when