

authority on its subject till the end of the century. It does, of course, cover vultures, buzzards and harriers, as well as hawks, eagles and falcons, in fact the whole order *Falconiformes*. Twenty chapters in volume I deal with all aspects of the biology of the diurnal birds of prey, as well as their human relationships and the remainder of its 1000 pages treat the individual species in systematic order. Under each species there are sections on range, description, field characters, voice, general habits, food and breeding habits. There are nearly a hundred useful maps, a bibliography and an index (this, however, in type so small that many older readers will hardly ever use it), and the whole is embellished with a superb set of illustrations in colour and monochrome from a cohort of the world's leading bird artists: Roger Tory Peterson, J. C. Harrison, Chloe Talbot Kelly, Don Eckelberry, Guy Coheleach, A. E. Gilbert, D. M. Henry and Lloyd Sandford. What a pity the publishers did not see fit to acknowledge them on the title page.

The text by two acknowledged authorities is first-class, and unlike some other recent bird books, almost impossible to fault on factual accuracy. The sections on field characters are particularly valuable, and, while it would need a wheelbarrow to take the book into the field, I can imagine many people copying the relevant sections to take on visits to strange countries. The book is in fact so good that it makes one yearn for similar volumes on other large groups of birds – offhand I can only think of the waterfowl (ducks, geese etc) and pheasants as having been so handsomely treated.

RICHARD FITTER

Making Friends with Animals by Eric Worrell. Angus and Robertson, 42s.

Wildlife Tame but Free by H. G. Hurrell. David and Charles, 42s.

Eric Worrell runs the Australian Reptile Park at Gosford, New South Wales, where he also keeps one of the largest collections of native animals in Australia. He has acquired a reputation for his skill in looking after young or injured mammals and birds, and this book of 80 pages is a pictorial record of his pets, together with a selection of photographs from other collections in Australia and New Zealand; the letterpress is minimal, anecdotal, often anthropomorphic, and appears to be aimed at children. The author states that habitat destruction, widespread use of poisonous and chemical sprays, organised hunting for profit, and wholesale slaughter of wild creatures for sport have diminished most Australian fauna to a level verging on extinction, and for this reason native animals cannot legally be confined as domestic pets. The logic behind such nonsensical legislation, which appears to ignore all the main causes of destruction, is beyond this reviewer, but if this book arouses any interest in the future of Australia's diminishing wildlife within that continent it will not have been written in vain.

H. G. Hurrell, already well known as a naturalist, reminisces about the various wild creatures he has kept, ranging from otters, foxes and pine martens to hawks and ravens. Many of his pets have been given controlled liberty, that is to say they have been released before feeding and trained to return for their food. The isolated position of the author's house on the edge of Dartmoor and the time at his disposal made such experiments practicable, but it is a pity he does not stress the dangers inherent in allowing any wild creature freedom once it has lost its fear of human beings. The charm of this book lies in its sincerity and in the original observations and refreshing ideas of the author who is an amateur naturalist in the finest sense of the phrase. The publishers could surely have put a little more quality into their production at the price.

PHILIP WAYRE