

tropic regions. These strategies could, if implemented, have far-reaching effects, not only for parrots, but for the survival of many other species.

It is usually invidious to pick out particular papers, but Robert Ridgley's 151 pages on the current distribution and status of mainland neotropical parrots is a most important document. It is based on data gathered over six years, including an immense amount of field work. He summarizes for each species information on range, habitat and status. His conclusions are sane, liberal and practical, and should be read by all those concerned with parrot conservation.

There are a number of relatively minor criticisms: the next meeting of the group is to be in 1984 not 1974, p xiii; Scott or Scoot? pp 397, 400; references in text but not listed, or vice versa, e.g. pp 171, 198. I am not sure of the relevance of a paper on feeding apparatus, or on a captive-bred *Amazona* hybrid and its offspring, within the general theme of the book. A major fault is the lack of an index.

Overall though this is an admirable and timely book, and ICBP are to be congratulated on making it their first technical publication. It is a really excellent harbinger of what I hope will be a long and useful series.

P.J.S. OLNEY

Available from Roger Pasquier, ICBP President's Office (Room MNH-336), Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560, USA.

Wildlife and Nature Photography, by Michael Freeman. Croom Helm. London, £13.95.

At first glance this seems just another book on wildlife photography although a little more lavish than most. Closer inspection reveals it is much more than that. The book is divided into seven sections. The first, a short introduction, is followed by a concise yet thorough description of types of equipment with useful and constructive charts showing suitability for various subjects. This is followed by an excellent section on fieldwork describing stalking, types and the construction of hides, and close-up techniques. This particular section is very thorough and contains a host of sensible hints and tips of how to get the best when photographing wildlife, with a particular emphasis on the need for understanding and care. The next two sections could conceivably have been put together as one, dealing as they do with the environment and special locations. These primarily deal with technique, specialized equipment, and how to care for it whilst on location. The penultimate section is on studio photography. Again this is particularly thorough and extremely useful – an area of natural history photography not often covered in books of this type. The last section is a brief gazetteer, giving a small list of places known for their wealth of photographic opportunities. Full of good quality colour and black and white photographs, supplemented by sensible, and I thought, particularly instructive black and white line drawings. One of the best books on this subject I have seen.

TIM PARMENTER

Seaweeds and their Uses, by U.J. and D.J. Chapman. Chapman and Hall, London and New York, £17.50.

To most people the study of seaweeds (marine algae) is a relatively esoteric subject with little significance to the world at large. When I answer this by pointing out that every day, every person in the British Isles uses a substance or product derived from seaweed, there is considerable surprise. Casual perusal of this book will confirm this.