



Once plentiful in New South Wales *Onychogalea fraenata* has not been seen for 30 years, having been hunted by man, preyed on by introduced species, such as fox, and forced to compete with rabbits and domestic stock for its grazing. *Reproduced from the colour reproduction of Gould's painting in the book reviewed here.*

Though the plates are inevitably reduced from the size of the original folio edition, the reproductions are excellent, even to the faithful traces of 'foxing'. Oddly enough it is this last detail that seems to underline the evocative atmosphere of Gould's work and the magic of the outback in his day.

KEITH SHACKLETON

Sea Turtles: and the Turtle Industry of the West Indies, Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, revised edition by **Thomas P. Rebel**. University of Miami Press, Florida, \$10.00.

The seven species of marine turtle spread through the world's oceans in the tropical and sub-tropical belts are all in varying degrees threatened with extinction over the next few decades. This book comes, therefore, at an opportune time. It is a new, much enlarged version of the out-of-print earlier classic (1949) by Robert M. Ingle and F. G. Walton Smith, both now elder statesmen of American marine biology. The much extended revision, widening geographically as well as up-dating the old text, makes a timely handbook which will surely not be surpassed or equalled until Dr Peter Pritchard completes his awaited monograph on the marine turtles.

The first half ranges world-wide, covering taxonomy, descriptions for each species (illuminated by Dr L. D. Brongersma's fine drawings), habitats and distributions, growth and age data, food and predation, breeding, migration and physiology. The second half deals first with fishing methods, farming, turtle products (pp. 95-109), still on an international basis but with some large areal inadequacies. An important end chapter here deals with 'Value and Administration of the Fishery' (pp. 110-138), now suddenly, confusingly, limited to only the West Atlantic region as indicated in the subtitle. There is nothing here about the great turtle industries of Pacific Meso-America, Indo-Malaysia, Australia, the Middle East, or East and South Africa with the Western Indian oceanic islands. This part requires broadening to relate to the rest of the volume—and it is, conservationally, much the most significant chapter.

To wind up there is a short 'Discussion and Recommendation' (pp. 139-142), similarly too narrow for a world view as well as already overtaken

by events. The rapid rise of commercial exploitation, including the massive Mariculture enterprise in the Caymans, is posing fast, new challenges to the established thinking of those genuinely concerned with turtle survival. Fundamental questions have to be re-examined and settled with regard to the growth of new markets for turtle products (and new products too) in the balance of wild breeding stocks. These problems have already outstripped Dr Rebel's revision. It is hoped that a specialist working group will very soon face up to the whole new 'ball game' in an IUCN-sponsored conference; and then, as a continuation, in a face-to-face confrontation with Mariculture and other profit-orientated concerns.

Finally, this pleasantly printed and arranged book contains a superbly full, annotated 100-page bibliography, complete and much the best yet in this field, valuable to conservationist, student and specialist alike. The book is worth \$10 for that alone. And it is urgent that many more conservationists wake up to the *world* turtle problem forthwith. Since I reported the Morges conference of 1969 ('A Turtle Tragedy', *Oryx*, X, 2:112-115) much research and little conservation have ensued. NONE of the action points there listed have been effectively implemented, even on a regional, let alone international, basis.

TOM HARRISON

The Capture and Care of Wild Animals, edited by E. Young. Human and Rousseau, Cape Town, R7.50 (£5.50 including postage).

Despite the somewhat all-embracing title, this work covers a limited field. It is a technical handbook on capture methods and some aspects of the care of some South African mammals, but it is the first book of its type. It is certainly not a beginner's guide to capture, and it amply illustrates that the successful use of drugs depends on a sound knowledge of animal physiology and medicine. Much of the technical information is available elsewhere but has not been collated before in one volume. The quality and accuracy of the content is somewhat variable.

Harthoorn's review of the available drugs and their properties is particularly well presented and comprehensive, and the chapters by him and Pienaar on herbivore capture are as up-to-date as possible. Buys on the dangers of immobilising drugs to the user, and Basson and Hoffmeyr on causes of mortality following capture are also particularly useful. Young's excellent contribution on the special care of the newly captured animal again highlights why this is not a job for amateurs; his chapter on the general care and nutrition of wild animals in captivity underlines the basic approach to the subject, but some of the data given are likely to be confusing. For example, on the same page (138), two different dose-rates for vitamin A are given for cheetah, one almost certainly too low (5000 i.u. per day), and the other so high (20 million i.u. per day) that it would also probably produce problems. The reference for the latter is in fact misquoted. Hirst's chapter on transportation is generally sound but it would have been better to suggest that the handler uses a crate which is say one and a quarter times the length, height and width of the particular animal to be transported rather than dogmatically state the dimensions for each species. The heights given for kudu and eland would, for example, be too small for adults with horns. The crates described for cats and illustrated for cheetahs would seem to be most unsuitable, lacking as they do the privacy and darkness which such an animal requires during transit after recent capture.

The book is well indexed and most chapters are supported by a comprehensive bibliography. Despite its shortcomings, it is the most compre-