

Book reviews

been lacking since, until now, apart from Hudson's own writings and several collections of his letters, there have only been short biographies and two bibliographies. Few of these even mention his strangely Victorian love affair with Linda Gardiner, assistant secretary of the RSPB. However, Hudson still deserves a biography written for the general reader, by someone who would do for Hudson what Alan Moorhead did for Darwin and the Nile explorers, and what William Gaunt did for art history. Hudson was one of the pioneers of modern conservation. His name is known to most conservationists, who may also have read *Hampshire Days* and one or two other of his books. But Hudson the passionate crusader is largely forgotten.

John A. Burton

Also received

The following books have also been received and are held in the ffPS office for reference:

The Fall of the Wild, the Rise of the Zoo Robert Bendiner Dutton, 1982, \$15.50

The Fall of the Wild and the Rise of the Zoo is not recommended. Reading it in the ffPS Office in London Zoo, I not unnaturally first turned to look up Arabian oryx, and found that the account managed to omit any mention of the Fauna Preservation Society as we were then. The book is rife with errors. The literature concerning conservation and zoos has not been enriched by the publication of this book.

The Wild Mammals of North America Joseph A. Chapman and George A. Feldhamer (Editors) John Hopkins University Press, 1982, £37.50 (US\$65.00)

Nearly 1150 pages of closely written text, this is a massive compilation, each section written by acknowledged experts. It provides a useful, up-to-date, and detailed account of most species or groups of species, and the only major criticism concerns the species included in the book. Although it looks comprehensive, as the preface explains it only deals with '... 57 of the economi-
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cally important mammalian species or species complexes'. Consequently, many of the species such as shrews, most bats and many other small mammals are omitted. Certainly this should be in the library of anyone interested in the exploitation or conservation of North American fauna. At £37 it is a bargain (3.2p or 5.6 cents per page!) and I recommend that authors and organisations used to publishers who consistently produce books at prices largely outside the reach of the individual scientist, take note.

The Cotingas: bellbirds, umbrellabirds and their allies in tropical America

David Snow
Oxford University Press/British Museum
(Natural History), £30.00

Written by a long-standing member of the ffPS, although primarily a comprehensive monograph of an interesting group of tropical birds, it is a book of considerable interest to conservationists. The cotingas include several endangered species and the fate of many of these is closely tied to that of the ever diminishing forests of South America. The introductory chapter on their distributional history and their probable areas of origin (Pleistocene refugia) is of particular interest.

All 65 species are illustrated—surprisingly—for the first time in a single book. Detailed distribution maps are a particularly useful feature for those concerned with developing conservation priorities in South American forests.

This book is available from ffPS at £31, inclusive of postage and packing.

Handbook of the Birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

Volume 3: Waders to Gulls
Stanley Cramp (Chief Editor)
Oxford University Press, 1983, £49.50

The book's 913 pages give full descriptions of 112 species: field characters, habitat, distribution, mortality, longevity, population, social patterns and behaviour, breeding, food, voice, plumage, moults, measurements, weights, structure and geographical variation. Each species is illustrated by a colour plate showing the full range of normal plumage together with distance flight views and,

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