

Arctic. The book and its arguments rely quite heavily on quotes from correspondence, memos and reports (and Duffy has been able to find some pearls), most of them being from travellers, government employees, and observers of the arctic situation at the time. This reliance, coupled with an apparent lack of direct experience in the North, makes for somewhat questionable arguments at times, but overall the book makes very interesting reading.

Duffy traces the increasingly complicated web of government involvement in the North, with all its complications and difficulties. It started with concerns about Inuit health and the treatment of the native people by traders; it evolved, as time went by and consciousness grew in southern Canada, into concerns about and programs to do with housing, employment, education, economic development, political involvement. It is easy to criticise in hindsight, but Duffy's book also cannot help but illustrate how unprepared Canada was when it came to administering the North; ignorance may not be an excuse, but it was certainly a factor. The documents referred to show that, no matter how well-meaning the government's actions, there was no understanding of the quagmire which would be entered upon with the first attempts at social intervention. The progression of these documents, and Duffy's implied rationale, also show how policies required to solve one problem at one time may be counter-productive for other problems and other times.

The book comes at an interesting time. Recent elections for the Inuit Tapirisat stirred the communities so little that many did not bother to set up polling stations. The great strides in Inuit political involvement may not yet be what Duffy claims. As well, a current furore centres on a report claiming that the educational system has failed here, because it has not adequately taught both traditional skills and the three Rs. That echoes the theme from *The road to Nunavut*, but one is left wondering if it is truly possible to have all things, as Duffy seems to want — protection of traditional ways as well as full participation in the modern economy and Canadian society. With the benefits of each option, come some inevitable trade-offs. *The road to Nunavut* is nonetheless a very interesting history, and will doubtless be a source of fuel for the discussions and debates during long winter nights to come. (Heather Myers, Pond Inlet, NWT, Canada.)

REMOTE SENSING

DIGITAL IMAGE PROCESSING IN REMOTE SENSING. Muller, J.-P. (editor). 1988. London, Taylor and Francis. 275 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-85066-314-8. £38.00, US\$84.00.

This attractively-produced book arose from a workshop held in 1984 at University College London, under the sponsorship of IBM and of the Remote Sensing Society. It contains seven chapters from speakers at that meeting, and several chapters contributed by other experts in the field. Digital image processing is a general term describ-

ing a range of computing techniques for the extraction of information from the raw data yielded by any electronic imaging system. It is thus of importance to anyone who uses remotely sensed data, whether or not he actually manipulates them himself on an image-processing system. The intention of the book, which it largely meets, is to provide an introduction to how these manipulations are performed, and what kind of results may be achieved. The 'how' covers both equipment and algorithms; the 'what', although largely devoted to fairly theoretical considerations, includes by way of practical example entire chapters on oceanographical and astronomical imaging.

This book is not a collection of programming recipes, and it is unnecessary to be a computing expert to make use of it. Many of the chapters are in the nature of reviews, or at least contain significant components of this kind, and the lists of references are extensive. It does, unfortunately, contain the jargon and inelegant constructions to which computer experts habituate themselves, but which seem so strange to the rest of us. It also suffers from the lack of coherence which is difficult to avoid in books with one author (or more) per chapter, although this is to some extent mitigated by the editor's introductory chapter. The typesetting is excellent, as one would expect in this age of sophisticated 'desktop publishing', although the gremlins still manage to attack here and there. The book, then, will be of interest to anyone who works with digital images, although the largest readership will, I imagine, be amongst those whose business it is to construct efficient methods for the analysis of those images. (Gareth Rees, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

GREENPEACE IN ANTARCTICA

ICEBOUND: THE GREENPEACE EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA. Knight, Stephen. 1988. Auckland, Century Hutchinson Group. 126 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 1-86941-020-3. NZ\$24.95

This account of the 1987 Greenpeace Expedition to Antarctica, to establish a quasi-permanent base on Ross Island close to Scott Base (New Zealand), McMurdo (USA) and Captain Scott's memorial hut, is written by a New Zealand journalist recruited in Auckland to join the Greenpeace team. A bright red sticker on the front cover of the book declares this is the first independent account of the expedition. This distinguishes it, and perhaps distances it, from John May's recent *Greenpeace book of Antarctica: a new view of the seventh continent*, reviewed in the September 1988 issue of *Polar Record*.

The first four chapters are concerned with the discovery of Antarctica, the Antarctic Treaty, and the aims of Greenpeace as an environmental pressure group. Not until Ch 5 do we read that MV *Greenpeace* is leaving Christchurch sailing south for Ross Island, and then the narrative is as much concerned with personalities as it is with policies. The story is told rather in the manner of a child's composition, jumping from paragraph to paragraph with

trivial anecdote and superficial comment. The substance of the narrative varies from the shallow: "The British Government use the survey [BAS] to fly the flag and help validate the British presence"; to the banal: "Irmi is sitting against one of the red formica tables in the mess, her long legs splayed out in front of her. Every so often she flicks back her thick brown hair from her eyes. She is aware that environmental issues are inextricably connected to politics"; and to the absurd: "The jellyfish must be mating at this time of the year — their gonads are huge. She [a Greenpeace scientist] was particularly pleased because it would help make her scientific project 'look good', thereby enabling Greenpeace to fulfil the criteria for becoming a full member of the Antarctic Treaty." The book might be read as popular journalism, particularly for the accounts of the acrimony generated against Greenpeace by the officials of the American, New Zealand, and French bases, but as a serious contribution to polar literature there is very little in it to recommend. (Peter Speak, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

WHALES AND DOLPHINS

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF WHALES AND DOLPHINS. Evans, P. G. 1987. Bromley, Christopher Helm. 343 p, illustrated, hard cover. ISBN 0-7470-0800-0. £13.95.

There is no current shortage of books on cetaceans; any new one will have to justify its place on the shelf. Is this just another aimed at cashing-in on world concern and catching a rising market?

I think not. As tenth in the Christopher Helm Mammal Series it comes from a good stable; Ernest Neal selects his authors with care. Peter Evans is an enthusiast — the enthusiast who runs the cetacean group of the UK Mammal Society and seems to spend much of his spare time watching cetaceans at sea. There is nothing revolutionary in his presentation; like others before him he introduces the order, discusses their evolution, classification, systematics, zoogeography, distribution, food and feeding, social organization and behaviour, life histories, and past and present relationships with man. But he writes with enthusiasm and care, packs a deal of information into his pages, scans the literature thoroughly and rounds off with a comprehensive bibliography. Modestly priced, this is a book to recommend to students, naturalists and anyone with a general interest in whales and dolphins; it is one of two sea mammals book that will travel with me when I next go to sea. (Bernard Stonehouse, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER).

FALKLAND ISLANDS BIRDS

GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. Woods, R. W. 1988. Oswestry, Anthony Nelson. 256 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-904614-22-0. £14.95.

Robin Woods served for seven years as a meteorologist on the Falkland Islands. This book, like its predecessor *The*

Birds of the Falkland Islands (1975), is a result of his spare-time studies there. Altogether a more compact and professional book, it reflects a more detailed knowledge of the species, their origins (mostly in South America) and their ecology. The writing is sharper, the maps are better, the coloured illustrations by Franklin Coombs are of high standard, and the price is sensible. I do not know a better book on the birds of the Falkland Islands, and I recommend this to anyone who needs an avian guidebook for that windy birdwatchers' paradise. But this has good information about the islands themselves and is an attractive book in its own right, meriting a much wider readership. (Bernard Stonehouse, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1ER.)

BRIEF REVIEWS

LITTLE PENGUIN: FAIRY PENGUINS IN AUSTRALIA. Stahel, C. and Gales, R. 1987. Kensington NSW, New South Wales University Press. 117 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-86840-290-7.

An attractive paper-back on the little blue or fairy penguins of Australia and New Zealand, based on the authors' original research and the work of other, mainly amateur, groups in southern Australia. Illustrated with black and white photographs and with drawings by Jane Burrell, it includes a package of information about other species of penguins, but is most valuable in summarizing work on a complex of species little known outside Australasia.

ABORIGINAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM. Canadian Arctic Resources Committee 1988. Ottawa, CARC. 168 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-919996-53-3.

The edited papers of a national conference held in Ottawa on 9–10 June 1987. The opening address, 'Reflections on constitutional reform in Canada 1979–87' is followed by sections on accomplishments and failures of the aboriginal constitutional reform process, aboriginal self-government and Canadian public opinion, aboriginal rights and Canada's future political agenda, Nunavut and the national interest, financing and implementing aboriginal self-government, aboriginal self-government and the land claims process, and five appendices on aspects of self-government.

POLAR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION: 10th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE OF ACUNS. Adams, P. and Duerden, F. (editors). 1988. Ottawa, ACUNS. 230 p, illustrated, soft cover. ISBN 0-921-421-03-6.

A volume celebrating the meeting in Toronto, on 30 April to 2 May 1987, of the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies. Papers cover applications of information technology in the Arctic, grouped under sections headed technology and the north, polar science, information and the north, ACUNS-related activities, and the proceedings are followed by annual reports and other information. This volume is thus both a record of the conference and a useful summary of the Association and the achievements of its first decade.