

small indeed. His advice on general management is sound, and anyone thinking of starting a waterfowl collection would do well to read and digest its contents thoroughly. Many people want to have a few ornamental ducks on their garden pond, and so many start without any idea of the problems likely to be encountered. Richard Martin has gone a long way to pointing out the many pitfalls. I particularly like the way the wildfowl have been divided into tribes to make it easier for the beginner to understand. The appendix contains much useful information all of which is extremely practical; it should always be readily available for reference, particularly during the breeding season. The excellent colour photographs add to the beauty of this book. As a wildfowl breeder of some years standing, I would thoroughly recommend it, not only to those just about to start on this fascinating hobby but also to those experts who can always improve their knowledge from the experience of others.

CHRISTOPHER MARLER

The 14 national parks in Yugoslavia (one of which is not accepted in the UN List) are well on the way to protecting all types of landscape in the country, according to T. Wojterski in a paper on the parks published by the Polish journal *Ochrona Przyrody* Annual No. 36 (Krakow, 1971), with a substantial English summary. Each park is described with a map, but the summary makes no mention of any wildlife. Because the parks have to be self-supporting, they suffer from timber cutting and grazing and also from what the author refers to as the 'violent development' of mass tourism.

*Skaftafell: Thingvellir* by Birgir Kjaran (Bokantgafan orn og orlygur H. F., Reykjavik, xx) is a short general account, in four languages (Icelandic, Danish, English and German) of Iceland's two national parks, the first established in 1967 with the aid of the World Wildlife Fund, the second believed to be the assembly site of Europe's first parliament. The colour photographs of the dramatic landscapes are outstandingly good.

A useful, well produced and illustrated paperback *Guide to Malawi's National Parks and Game Reserves* by G. D. Hayes (Government Printer, Zomba, £1) includes, as well as an account of the reserves, their history etc., 70 pages of descriptions of the mammals, with good drawings, and of their tracks, also illustrated.

### Brief Reviews

In the third edition of *Environmental Conservation* (John Wiley, Chichester, £4.50, paperback £3), Raymond F. Dasmann, now Senior Ecologist at the IUCN has added new material at the end to update it and also broaden its scope, which in the original is primarily concerned with North America, but the basic survey remains valid and the urgency for getting it across even greater. In a new preface he writes that if he were to sum up the environmental situation in the 1970s in one sentence it would be, 'The problems of the human environment are far worse than any of us fully understands.' He adds, 'There are few grounds for optimism but there is cause for hope if public awareness can be translated into effective action.'

The new edition of *A Guide to Mexican Mammals and Reptiles* by N. Pelham Wright, an Englishman who lives in Mexico, is a neat pocket ( $6\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$  ins) paperback, with perfect illustrations, some in colour, published by Mexico City Museums at US \$2.00.