

## Reports and Journals

The *Mammal Review* Vol. 10, Nos 1 & 2, publishes the proceedings of the Mammal Society's 1977 Conference. In a paper on Antarctic fur seals *Arctocephalus gazella* at South Georgia, one of the two major breeding sites for the species, M.R. Payne of the British Antarctic Survey says that numbers have increased over the past 40 years at an unprecedented rate for pinnipeds and are now too high for direct counts to be reliable. South Georgia was one of the breeding places where the fur seal was almost exterminated in the 19th century fur-seal exploitation. In a paper on Conservation versus Commercial Exploitation of Seals with special reference to the harp seal, Colin Platt refers to the effect of commercial sealing on the three migratory herds—White Sea, Jan Mayen and Labrador—which dropped from some 10 million animals (5 million of them in Labrador) to 1¼ million by 1960. In 1975 aerial surveys indicated under 790,000 in the Labrador herd, but most serious from the conservation point of view is the fact that industry and natural wastage account for almost the whole of annual herd replacements. Other papers include Pollutants and Seals, by Dr A.V. Holden, Status of Seals in Ireland by F.A. O'Gorman, and Common Seals in the Wash by R.W. Vaughan.

Papers on wildlife in southern India's Nilgiri Hills and on the history and current activities of the Nilgiri Wildlife Association are presented in the Association's centenary souvenir *Nilgiri Wild Life Association Centenary 1877-1977* (NWLA, Ootacamund, Tamil Nadu, India; 90pp; 75 pence including surface postage). Authors include Dr Salim Ali, H. L. Townsend, E.R.C. Davidar, Priya Davidar, J.C. Kala, B.N.S. Deo, P. Padmanabhan, R. Radcliffe and Dr. J. Joseph.

A 251-page manual, *Teaching Conservation in Developing Nations*, is published jointly by the US Peace Corps and the National Audubon Society (order from the National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022, USA; \$1.50). It is a lesson book and guide for teachers, with ideas for projects, exhibits, exams, field activities and experiments, simple and clear illustrations, and an appendix with a country-by-country list of the Third World's endangered animals.

The results of a survey of Australia's salt-water crocodile *Crocodylus porosus*, reduced in both size and population by the skin trade, in the estuaries of the Lawley, Mitchell, Roe-Hunter and Prince Regent Rivers, are published in *The Status of the Salt-Water Crocodile in Some River Systems of the North-West, Kimberley, Western Australia* by H. Messel, A. A. Burbidge, A. G. Wells and W. J. Green (Report No. 24, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, 108 Adelaide Terrace, Perth; 50 pp; free). The researchers spotted 463, including 109 hatchlings, and estimate a total non-hatching population of 697 in the four rivers.

Papers from a 1977 Oxford conference are collected in *Birds of Prey Management Techniques*, edited by T. A. Greer, published by the British Falconers' Club (obtainable from G. Wakley, Department of Botany, South Parks Road, Oxford; 159pp; £3, £3.50 outside UK). Topics include population dynamics, habitat management, reducing mortality in the wild, increasing productivity, and captive breeding and release.

*Los Parques Nacionales de Costa Rica* (Servicio de Parques Nacionales, Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, San José, Costa Rica; 8pp; free; in Spanish) describes each of Costa Rica's nine national parks and one nature reserve and the islands of Guayabo, Negritos and Isla de los Pajaros, all biological reserves, beautifully illustrated with colour photographs of wildlife and habitat.

*The Conservation of Bees and Wasps* (NCC, 19/20 Belgrave Square, London SW1 8PY; 13pp; free), by George Else, John Felton and Alan Stubbs, explains the value of Britain's 469 species of aculeates and tells how farmers, naturalists and Government policy-makers can help preserve them.