

account of how an amateur entomologist can catch, breed and study a variety of insects, but the emphasis is firmly on the butterflies, with moths a poor second, and although the photographs illustrate a number of other insects they are treated very superficially. The book is quite fun to read and will give naturalists a number of useful tips. There are chapters on conservation and on how to attract butterflies to the garden, but the chapters on insect classification and insect structure are very inaccurate and often quite misleading.

G. C. VARLEY

Brief Reviews

Wild Beauty, by Kailish Sankhala (National Book Trust, India, A-5 Green Park, New Delhi 16, Rs. 15.50) consists largely of the author's splendid photographs, mainly of large mammals, some in colour. The tiger features conspicuously as would be expected from the able Director of Project Tiger. The text gives a knowledgeable survey of the wildlife of the national parks and sanctuaries.

From *A Bevy of Beasts* via *A Lush of Lions*, *A Triumph of Tigers*, a *Plash of Polars*, and so on, to a *Superiority of Camels*, Gerald Durrell continues his inimitable merry accounts of life with animals in *Beasts in my Belfry* (Collins, £2.00), this time in his early days as student keeper at Whipsnade. The episodes are recounted with his usual gusto and light-hearted humour, but always with the underlying seriousness and understanding of one whose life is devoted to animals and their conservation.

There is a short account of Estonian wildlife reserves and sanctuaries in *The Country and the People*, by Dr J. Eilart, Chairman of the Nature Conservation Centre, Tartu State University, published in an English translation and illustrated in colour; Eesti Raamat, Tallinn, 1973.

Volume 8 of *The Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan*, Warblers to Redstarts, by Salim Ali and S. Dillon Ripley (Oxford UP, £8.00), has been published and will be reviewed with the final volumes when they appear.

Pedigree: essays on the etymology of words from nature, by Stephen Potter and Laurens Sargent, is an odd book to find in the *New Naturalist* (Collins, £3.15). This is harking back to the Victorian naturalists with a vengeance. A splendid bedside book, brainchild of the late senior author, and dedicated to his co-brain-parent, the late James Fisher. But you will find no entries for conservation, preservation or protection, nor even for nature reserve. Horrid modern Latinisms all!

A rather severe looking booklet from the Smithsonian on the *Evolution of the Rails of the South Atlantic Islands*, by Storrs L. Olson (Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology, no. 152, 70 cents) tells a good deal about the processes of extinction in these birds, so vulnerable to the deforestation of small oceanic islands. And one of these, the Tristan moorhen, has recently been rediscovered.

Common Birds of Cyprus, by J. M. E. Took (Pinkhill Books, Pinkhill Lodge, Eynsham, Oxford, £1.37) will be a great help to birdwatching visitors and Servicemen in the island. Unlike other books on the subject, it is pocket-sized and has all its 86 species illustrated in colour.

Birds of North America, by Bertel Bruun (Hamlyn, £1.75), is an attractive picture book with many photographs, 37 of them in colour, and a short and informative text based on habitat.