

SHORTER NOTICES

CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN MODERN AFRICAN STATES. Report of a Symposium organized by CCTA and IUCN and held under the auspices of FAO and UNESCO at Arusha, Tanganyika, September, 1961.

IUCN new series No. 1, published in Morges, Switzerland, 1963. \$5. Post free.

The Arusha Conference was convened in an urgent endeavour to make adequate provision for the more effective management of wild life in Africa. Delegates attended from Africa (principally), Great Britain, Europe and America, and included the representatives of certain influential world organizations, but there is no list of delegates in the report. The Conference achievements can be best judged by the changing attitude—for the better—on the part of African governments towards the wild creatures which hitherto had not been regarded as an asset of importance. Mid-conference tours to a couple of “game” areas, suffering from an exceptionally protracted period of drought, illustrated on the spot some of the hazards which bedevil satisfactory conservation. The manifesto of the Government of Tanganyika, the host country, is a veritable charter for the welfare of its wild life and constitutes a challenge which has been swiftly accepted by other African territories. Although it would be folly to suggest that the well-being of the wild animals of Africa is thereby assured, there are good reasons for regarding the future with hope.

This 367 page document, concerned mainly with the “Conference Papers” and “Discussions”, and which has some excellent illustrations, is well-worth careful study, and particularly the “Recommendations”.

IX BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BIRD PRESERVATION. Published by the International Council for Bird Preservation. 15s.

We welcome in its attractive new cover the IX Bulletin of ICBP. This issue includes articles on the Founder President of ICBP, Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, on oil pollution of the sea, on the effect of pesticides on bird life, on birds in danger of extinction, on problems and opportunities in bird preservation and on international co-operation in the preservation of natural resources. Reports of recent ICBP conferences, reports from the National Sections of ICBP and the International Wildfowl Bureau's report for 1961–62 are given. There are illustrations of eighteen national birds with the reasons for their adoption by various countries. The choosing of a national bird was advocated at the XII conference of the ICBP at Tokyo in 1960 to bring the intrinsic value of birds to the attention of the general public.