

Book reviews

at the end. The final chapters look at Orkney man, both ancient and modern, Orkney naturalists, conservation and the future.

The book is illustrated with 20 fine colour plates and 113 black-and-white photographs and drawings. Much of the scientific fact is presented in 25 tables and 21 appendices of detailed lists of species. A full bibliography is included.

All in all, this is an excellent book of high scientific standard, and is good value for money. Required reading for naturalists interested in Orkney and a really valuable companion to any visitor to the islands. I'm sure it will enhance many a journey.
Roy Dennis, Highlands Officer of the Royal Society for Protection of Birds, Inverness, UK.

Insects, birds and mammals: some recent fieldguides and handbooks

A Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Britain, Europe and North Africa

J. d'Aguilar, J.-L. Dommangeat and R. Prechat
Collins, 1986, 336 pp, HB £14.95

A handbook as well as a fieldguide, it is probably not very helpful to the absolute novice, but is essential reference for the rapidly increasing number of dragonfly-watchers. Keys, drawings, photographs and detailed descriptions are combined to make collecting obsolete.

A Field Guide to the Caterpillars of Butterflies and Moths in Britain and Europe

D. J. Carter and B. Hargreaves
Collins, 1986. 296 pp, HB £9.95

The problem of where to begin in identifying lepidopteran larvae has been partially solved by placing almost as much emphasis on the food plant as on the caterpillar itself. It is certainly up to the standard expected of a Collins Guide, with 500 caterpillars, food plants, and 300 adults illustrated.

Shore Birds: An Identification Guide to the Waders of the World

Peter Hayman, John Marchant and Tony Prater
Croom Helm, Beckenham, Kent, 1986. 412 pp, HB £19.95

A 'tour-de-force', which should enable most
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waders in most parts of the world to be identified. The precision of Peter Hayman's technique is ideal for waders, and the comprehensive descriptions and maps are presented clearly and lucidly. Remarkable value, and complements Croom Helm's earlier *Seabirds*. Perhaps in the second edition endangered species could be given some sort of marker to extend its usefulness out of the field into the library? Conservation begins with identification—perhaps identification could end with conservation!

The Mammals of Britain and Europe

Anders Bjarwall and Staffan Ullstrom
Croom Helm Ltd, 1986, HB £15.95

A reasonably priced general handbook with attractive illustrations. However, despite its title, more could have been done to anglicize the Swedish original; for instance, no mention is made of *Crocidura* shrews occurring in the British Isles, or the pelage differences of Irish hares.

Some of the information is also out of date—for instance the Bavarian pine vole may well be extinct, and the house mice are now generally regarded as having more than one species in Europe.

However, overall it is an attractive, useful book, with distribution maps.

John A. Burton

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