

Brief Reviews

THREE national parks in Swedish Lapland, two of which have received the Council of Europe's diploma, are described in an excellent small paperback by Kai Curry-Lindahl: *Sarek, Stora Sjöfallet, Padleanta* (Rabén & Sjögren, kr. 9·50). The three parks, all well north of the Arctic Circle, are contiguous, and between them cover an area of over 2000 square miles, including some of the wildest and remotest country in Europe – in Sarek there are 19 peaks above 6000 feet – where the brown bear and the wolverine, the lynx and the Arctic fox, the moose and the otter (almost extinct in the rest of Sweden) still survive in some numbers. In 130 pages the author covers the geology and the vegetation zones, deals in turn with the plants, mammals and numerous birds of the regions, and ends with an account of some of the more interesting and attractive areas. Pleasantly written and well illustrated with many good black and white photographs, maps, species lists and a bibliography, it is most useful and readable.

The Turtle, a Natural History of Sea Turtles by Archie Carr, (Cassell, 42s) is the British edition of *So Excellent a Fish*, reviewed in ORYX, December 1967, by Tom Harrisson, who described the author as 'the world's master turtler' and the book as both scientific and popular and 'essential to the understanding of this top priority in wildlife conservation'.

Portrait of a Wilderness by Guy Mountfort. (David and Charles, 105s) is a new edition of a now famous book – the account of the author's three expeditions to the Coto Doñana, which led to its becoming one of the finest nature reserves in all Europe. A new preface brings this splendidly illustrated story up to date.

The new edition of Maurice Burton's readable *Wild Animals of the British Isles* (Warne, 40s) covering mammals, reptiles and amphibians, both native and feral, incorporates the results of much recent research and is well illustrated with photographs, in both colour and black and white, and text drawings.

Where to Watch Birds by John Gooders (Deutsch, 30s), is an excellent account of bird watching localities in Great Britain, with considerable details of what can be seen at each, and how to get there.

Guide to the Check Sheets for IBP Areas, by G. F. Peterken (15s), and *Handbook to the Conservation Section of the International Biological Programme*, by E. M. Nicholson (12s), are IBP Handbooks Nos 4 and 5, published by Blackwell Scientific Publications of Oxford. They are important tools for those who are taking part in the varied IBP research programmes; No. 4 includes a classification of vegetation for general purposes by F. R. Fosberg of the Smithsonian, and a classification of soils, by D. F. Ball of the British Nature Conservancy.

The World Directory of National Science Policy-making Bodies, one of Unesco's invaluable reference publications, now appears in a revised and enlarged edition in four volumes. Those for Europe and North America (Vol. I, 65s), Asia and Oceania (Vol. 2, 39s) and Latin America (Vol. 3, 39s) are already issued, with Vol. 4 (Africa and the Arab States) to follow. For the United Kingdom the bodies with a biological and conservation reference are the Agricultural Research Council, the Committee on Manpower Resources for Science and Technology, the Council for Scientific Policy, the Medical Research Council, the Natural Environment Research Council, the Royal Society and Science Research Council.