

obviously concluded before the disease had covered the country, and there is an excellent bibliography. It is interesting to note that Australian scientists think 5–10 years will see the end of myxomatosis as an effective means of biological control.

J. K. STANFORD.

NATURECRAFT IN AUSTRALIA. Edited by THISTLE Y. HARRIS.
Angus and Robertson. £A.1 5s.

This is a very elementary account of the Australian landscape and its wildlife and it is edited by a person with a very real sympathy for her subject. The book begins with a brief consideration of geology, followed by chapters on “ animals without backbones ”, land vertebrates, animals of the sea-shore, bush plants and how plants are distributed. The three final chapters are concerned with constellations (easily seen throughout the year in the clear Australian atmosphere), camping techniques and nature conservation. The book is illustrated by excellent sketches and numerous small photographs.

The many who have admired Miss Harris's *Wild Flowers of Australia* may be disappointed in the present book. The subject that she has been set to cover is so vast that there is an inevitable failure really to get to grips with any single aspect in the 240-odd pages at her disposal.

A. J. M.

SHORTER NOTICES

THE KENYA WILD LIFE SOCIETY. P.O. Box 20110, Nairobi.
1st Annual Report, 2s. 6d. (3s. postage paid).

The Kenya Wild Life Society has existed only a year but has already gained more than 1,300 supporters. At its birth three main problems called for its immediate attention and the society very wisely restricted its efforts to them: Poaching, Amboseli, the Serengeti National Park.

The report tells how these problems, particularly poaching, have been tackled. It includes the Governor's exemplary directive to all Administrative Officers, on their duty to enforce the animal protection and national park ordinances. A vivid description of the cruelty and waste of poaching for gain is given; it will enlighten any reader who fears that “ game preservation ” may be unjustly depriving the African of meat. And, as the report says, it is paradoxical to realize that land

in some other parts of Kenya is so grossly overstocked that domestic animals could easily provide the hunting tribes with all their meat, if only a proper system of marketing could be enforced.

There are other very interesting sections and throughout the whole there shines the light of a change of public and government attitude towards the wild life of Kenya. If this new spirit lives, it must surely spread, and then our present deadly fear of the annihilation of the wild fauna of Africa will prove groundless.

THE STARFISH, No. 9. July, 1956. Association of School Natural History Societies, 18 East Drive, Carshalton, Surrey. 2s.

The ninth issue of this journal includes, besides the usual reports of the activities of member schools, two botanical and two zoological essays. Michael D. Ward, of Ilford County High School, describes a piece of field research on the feeding ecology of the common redstart, which shows that the hen has different feeding habits from the cock. D. E. Pressland, of Bishop's Stortford College, discusses some experiments he undertook on the vertical zonation of butterflies on Reigate Hill, Surrey. Some kinds of butterfly, if displaced, immediately flew back to where they had come from. Others did not.

THE SOCIETY'S BUSINESS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Offices of the Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, N.W. 1, on Tuesday, 16th April, 1957, at 5.0 p.m.

The Marquess of Willingdon, President, in the Chair.

Tea will be served in the Fellows' Restaurant at 4.15 p.m.
Price 1s.

AGENDA

- (1) Reading and confirmation of the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
- (2) Presentation of the Auditors' Report.
- (3) Discussion of the Auditors' Report.
- (4) Presentation of the Council's Annual Report.
- (5) Discussion of the Council's Annual Report.
- (6) Election of Officers of the Society.
- (7) Election of members to fill vacancies on the Council.