

than trying to get at the long dead carcass of a buffalo. Only twelve pages later some that were trying to raid the larder were spared "as hyenas do a useful scavenging job".

The introducer also likens "Okavango" to the works of the early explorers. Overlooking the fact that these men *walked* through unmapped country and did not travel in amphibious vehicles, there are a few valid comparisons. The old story of the crocodile's hinged upper jaw is reborn here. What a pity the author did not examine the skulls of any of the crocodiles that were shot during her travels. She would have seen that the skull is constructed in the same way as that of any other vertebrate! And, like the Africa of the old explorers, it is a continent inhabited by two kinds of people or rather, "people" and "natives". To the reviewer, who spent many years in a self-governing African country, continual and unnecessary repetition of the word "native" is distasteful.

In several cases a new and curious classification of the animal kingdom is implied. A fish (barbel) is promoted to a "mud-loving lung-amphibian" and crocodiles are apparently fish masquerading as reptiles, for "the ears were cleverly concealed gills"!

J. I. M.

WILDLIFE IN BRITAIN. By RICHARD FITTER. Penguin Books. 7s. 6d.

This is an introduction to the study of natural history for the enquirer who wants some general knowledge of the British countryside. It starts with the physical setting and shows how Great Britain's geology and climate have given these islands an unequalled diversity of habitats. There are examples, with good illustrations, of many kinds of plants and animals and, at the end of each chapter, a good list of books for further reading.

Included in the chapter "Conservation in Britain" is a map showing nature reserves and refuges and research stations throughout the country, with their headquarters. A valuable appendix gives a list of Natural History Societies which are members of the Council for Nature.

The author rightly condemns those photographers who think a successful picture more important than the welfare of their subjects. It would be well if this precept were followed in cinematography especially in films of African wild life. Perhaps he is sometimes a little too optimistic about about what may be quickly discovered in country walks and even in other ways—if mealworms were as easily and quickly bred as he describes, they would not cost 2s. 6d. an ounce in pet shops—but these are small criticisms and the book can be warmly recommended for its excellent value. Moreover it is inexpensive.

C. L. B.

THE GOSHAWK. By T. H. WHITE. Penguin Modern Classics, 1963. 3s.

When this book was first published in 1951 by Jonathan Cape it was received with great acclaim in literary circles. Selected chapters were even broadcast on the B.B.C.'s Third Programme.

Few would disagree that as a writer T. H. White deserves the highest praise; it is as a falconer that he comes to grief. Early in the first chapter he admits to the possession of three textbooks on falconry, one modern, one Victorian and one Stuart. But he does not explain that his training methods are based on the instructions of these writers, nor does he give any reason for this divergence. Critical falconers will find themselves at variance with

his training methods and many of his opinions. Finally they will wring their hands when they read how he lost his hawk after tying it to its bowperch with six yards of fishing line. The line broke and the goshawk is presumed to have perished hanging upside down by its jesses in a tree.

It would be a pity if this book were to be used as a primer by an unsuspecting beginner.

M. H. W.

ANIMAL NAVIGATION. By J. D. CARTHY. George Allen and Unwin. 6s.

This is an account for the general reader of such diverse topics as bat "sonar", pigeon homing, the dances of bees, the return to the breeding grounds of eels and salmon, the planarian method of finding food, and many other examples of the infinite variety of ways in which animals find their way around. Past and current theories of the physical principles underlying each animal feat, and the experiments by which the theories have been tested, are lucidly explained. Although specialists in the individual fields might detect simplifications here and there, the book, which was first published in 1956, remains an excellent and very readable introduction to this side of zoology. In this, the new paperback edition, which has been revised to take account of more recent work, the general layout remains the same, but the photographs have been omitted.

C. J. P.

DIE WIRBELTIERE DES KAMERUNGBIRGES (VERTEBRATE FAUNA OF CAMEROON MOUNTAIN). With particular reference to its division into altitude zones. By Professor MARTIN EISENTRAUT. Published by Paul Parey: Hamburg and Berlin). 68 DM.

Having organized three scientific expeditions to the Cameroon Mountain—in 1938, 1954, and 1957–8—the author has made a special study of its fauna, and in this book has brought together both his own work and also all other collecting done in that area over a century of exploration.

Except for the fishes, of which very few were taken, he gives a full list of all vertebrates known to occur in the region and, in the case of the mammals, he includes much detailed information and tables of measurements which will be most useful for any comparative study.

The last section of the book is perhaps its most interesting, for he analyses the Cameroon material to show both the stratification of species on a mountain—the highest in West Africa—and also to introduce a discussion of montane fauna in Africa generally. It is very fully documented and indexed, and will be most valuable to zoologists working in West Africa to-day, where many gaps still remain even in comparatively well-known groups of animals.

G. C.