

He describes the very considerable range of mollusc life which can be found around our shores and also adds a chapter on barnacles which, in spite of their shelly exteriors, are in fact crustaceans.

His main account is written in non-technical language and should enable the amateur to identify a great number of seaside molluscs. For those who wish to go one step further there is an appendix on the scientific classification of molluscs. We have got beyond the stage when the naturalists and the lady of leisure were content to collect and perhaps polish dead sea shells and it is refreshing to see that Mr. Street gives much information on the very varied ways in which our living seashore molluscs feed and reproduce.

H. G. V.

BIRD PORTRAITS IN COLOR. Two hundred and ninety-five North American species. Minneapolis, 1960 (University of Minnesota Press. Oxford University Press, London). £2 8s.

This is in effect an album of ninety-two colour plates, with a page of explanatory text opposite each; otherwise there are only an introduction and an index. The plates are superb—accurate illustrations of considerable decorative quality, excellently reproduced in seven-colour lithography. The 295 figured species are representative of the avifauna of temperate North America east of the Rocky Mountains and excluding birds purely of the Atlantic seaboard. The plates were in fact originally used as illustrations to the *Birds of Minnesota* by T. S. Roberts, published in two volumes in 1932. They were used in the present form in 1934 and 1936, but all these works have for long been out of print. The text is by the author of the original work, with revision by later hands. The artists are Allan Brooks, G. M. Sutton, W. A. Weber, F. L. Jaquees, W. J. Breckenridge and (in one instance) Louis Aggasiz Fuertes. The whole provides a very attractive introduction to the bird-life of much of the United States and Canada.

L. T.

WILDLIFE IN AMERICA. By PETER MATTHIESSEN. Andre Deutsch. 36s.

It is in some ways a pity that this book has been called *Wildlife in America*. That is certainly its subject but it does not suggest fully its real importance for it is, in fact, an historical survey of the white man's tragic influence on wild life in America