

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

ever since he started moving in. It would appear that this is the first such detailed survey to be published, at any rate in popular form.

The author is concerned with the whole of the vertebrate fauna, though he inevitably finds most of his material among the birds and mammals, for these are the groups which have always attracted most attention and, therefore, legislation; he deals with this in an appendix, listing chronologically all measures affecting North American wild life between 1616 and 1922, the first of them being issued by the Government of Bermuda to protect the cahow and the green turtle. Other appendices list all rare, threatened and extinct vertebrates and provide a very adequate bibliography. There are some photographs, but many more charming drawings by Bob Hines which make the book not only very readable but also attractive.

It is commended by a number of internationally known naturalists, including Roger Tory Peterson who suggests that the education of anyone at all interested in wild life would not be complete without it. It is certainly a book which should be handed to all politicians inclined to regard wild life conservation as either unimportant or the concern only of sportsmen. I would like to see a copy presented to all senior politicians in the African colonies recently made self-governing or about to become so. It contains many warnings, but it also shows what can be and has been done when the danger is realized.

G. C.

THE GHOST OF NORTH AMERICA. The Story of the Eastern Panther. By BRUCE S. WRIGHT. Vantage Press. New York, Washington, Hollywood, 1959. \$8.50.

More than 200 years ago when the first settlers arrived on the west slopes of the eastern mountains of North America, they found the panther—also known as cougar, puma or mountain lion—present everywhere. These immigrants, in order to get rid of the resident Indians, who would have to move or starve, wantonly destroyed the abundant game, thereby depriving the panther of its main food supply. The killing off of the game brought this predator into conflict with the colonists whose domestic stock was then its best food source. As a result, relentless war was declared on the panther, and during the 110 years' period 1800–1910 it was gradually exterminated—or so it was believed—throughout its range. Thanks to fifteen years' research by Bruce S. Wright, the Director of the North-Eastern Wild Life Station (of the Wild