

“ churned eddies and bubbles of broken air as it rose in a grand sweep ”.

It may be that this leaning towards ornate writing has affected not only the author's literary style but has left its mark on his method of dealing with zoological facts. The book is one in which no Australian can take pride and on which no zoologist may place any reliance.

F. WOOD JONES.

RECORDS OF PARROTS BRED IN CAPTIVITY. By A. A. PRESTWICH.

Published by Arthur A. Prestwich, Chelmsford Road, Southgate, London, N. 14. 35s.

Mr. A. A. Prestwich's very thorough and carefully compiled book, *Records of Parrots Bred in Captivity*, is primarily of interest to aviculturists. It is, however, not without importance to those who are concerned with fauna preservation, as it indicates very plainly how many parrot-like birds could be saved from extinction by breeding in captivity if conditions in their natural habitat became so unfavourable that they were no longer able to survive there. At one time it was feared that the lovely little Australian turquoise grass parrakeet and the splendid grass parrakeet were on the verge of extinction, if not actually extinct, and that Bourke's parrakeet was also exceedingly rare. Fortunately, however, this estimate of the birds' status has proved to be unduly pessimistic, but even if it had been fully justified, all three species just mentioned are now so well established in captivity, either in their own country or in other parts of the world, as to be independent of the need of any introduction of wild blood. There is not the slightest doubt that if American aviculturists had been alive to their opportunity, the Carolina conure could have been preserved.

BEDFORD.

DIE WILD KATZEN DER ALTEN WELT (Eine Übersicht über die Untergattung *Felis*). By Dr. M. HALTENORTH. (*The Wild Cats of the Old World—a Review of the sub-genus Felis.*)

Published, 1953, by Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft, Leipzig.

This is a detailed monograph on the sub-genus *Felis* as recognized by the author, of which he considers one species—*F. silvestris*—to contain most of the wild cats found in Europe, Asia, and Africa. Dr. Haltenorth has reviewed every form with great care, under the main headings, synonyms, type locality, characteristics, and distribution. He unites under *F. silvestris* all forms previously considered to belong to the

species *silvestris*, *lybica*, and *ornata*, a total of forty described forms, and recognizes only twenty-one valid sub-species.

It is almost entirely a systematic work and it is of little interest to the general naturalist, but this work is a notable addition to the literature on the *Felidae*, to which Mr. Pocock, formerly Superintendent of the London Zoo, had contributed so much. The book contains a great deal of tabulated material and an extremely comprehensive bibliography; there are many photographs, the great majority of them being of museum skins, together with some pictures of the typical savage-looking wild cats in captivity.

G. S. C.

SHORTER NOTICES

SOUTH AFRICAN EDEN. By Lieut.-Colonel J. STEVENSON-HAMILTON. Cassell and Co. 25s.

The first edition of this fine book was reviewed in the *Society's Journal* of May, 1937. We welcome this new edition with its added chapter, which brings up to date the history of the Kruger National Park.

The book is also the modestly told story of the life work of a most remarkable man.

BULLETIN VI OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR BIRD PRESERVATION. Obtainable from the Secretary, I.C.B.P., British Museum (Natural History), London, S.W. 7, or from the F.P.S. Office.

This book gives the reports of twenty-three national sections of the Committee, also a summary of the work of the European Continental Section and of the Pan-American Section. These reports and the great quantity of other information given in the *Bulletin*, indicate the amount of work now being done for wild bird preservation.

The whole of the subject-matter is in four languages—English, French, German, and Spanish.

C. L. B.

SÄUGETIERKUNDLICHE MITTEILUNGEN. Franckh'sche Verlangshandlung W. Keller & Co., Stuttgart. 4.50 D.M.

Before the war the principal European periodical devoted to mammalogy was the *Zeitschrift für Säugetierkunde*, published in Berlin by the German Society for Mammalogy. During the war this publication lapsed and has not yet been revived.