

overcome – and the book is by no means overpriced compared with most bird books as lavishly illustrated as this – and also the problem of how to use it in the desert, it will become the ornithological bible for many future bird-watching visitors to Arabia.

RICHARD FITTER

**Butterfly Watching by Paul Whalley.** Severn House, £7.95.

This book provides a refreshing approach to capture the interest of both young and old in our butterfly fauna. Throughout, it opens up avenues for the enquiring mind. The author traces man's interest in butterflies, their position in the animal kingdom, classification and nomenclature, characteristics of individual families, their life history, habitats and behaviour. Assuming little or no knowledge his emphasis is on amateur observation and he looks at Britain's species in the context of the European butterfly fauna.

The differences in the habits and times of appearance of the British populations of the limited number of species found in Britain is not always clear. For example, the text refers to a spring brood of silver-washed fritillaries (which in Britain have only a summer brood). The caption to the excellent photograph of the Apollo butterfly, the only non-British species photographed, describes it as 'very rare in Britain', and for some species the times of appearance are more akin to those experienced on the continent. But the few inaccuracies should not diminish the value of the book, which is not a field guide. The later part deals with practical field observation and has a few pages, by Heather Angel, on butterfly photography. The chapter on conservation is realistic also.

Heather Angel's photographs of butterflies in their natural setting are excellent, as are Richard Lewington's drawings, which are realistic both for size and identification. Not every species is illustrated. The appendices include a checklist of both trivial and scientific names, food plants mentioned in the text (unfortunately without a cross-reference), a few useful addresses for major societies and recording schemes, further reading and projects for study (cross-referenced to the text). In short, a worthy and stimulating book for the lay person.

ALAN KENNARD

**International Zoo Yearbook, Vol.20,** edited by **P.J.S. Olney.** Zoological Society of London, £21 hardback, £18 paperback.

**Whipsnade, Captive Breeding for Survival,** by **Elsbeth Huxley.** Collins, £8.95.

**Wildlife Conservation and the Modern Zoo,** by **Gordon Woodroffe.** Saiga Books, £8.50.

*The International Zoo Yearbook* has been an invaluable guide for everyone interested in zoo conservation of species, and Volume 20 contains the Proceedings of the Third World Conference on the Breeding of Endangered Species in Captivity which was co-sponsored by the Zoological Society of San Diego and the Fauna Preservation Society (as it was then known). The most notable aspect of the Conference was that it did not merely consider the difficulties and opportunities for reproducing various species, but addressed itself to some of the real problems surrounding the relatively new role of zoos as a major conservation force. Papers centred on such topics as how to maintain sufficiently large populations of adequate genetic diversity. Thoughtful papers on demographic management and the deleterious effects of inbreeding were followed by others on the establishment of breeding consortia, inter-zoo co-operation, and one by Thomas E. Lovejoy posing the question – 'Which species will zoos have the facility to save and which must be condemned to oblivion?' Finally in a brilliant paper, William G. Conway, General Director of the New York Zoological Society, placed in perspective the tasks ahead and compared the magnitude of our aspirations with the