

tions on separate, unnumbered plates make the book valuable even to those who are interested in Ancient Egypt's fauna but read no German. The text itself, authoritative as it is, does make for heavy and dry reading. The book is clearly arranged, but an index would have done no harm! Historians of science may miss chapters on the history of Egyptian zoology or archaeozoology, but zoologists, Egyptologists and art historians should not be disappointed.

H. REICHENBACH

DiSILVESTRO, R. L. *The African elephant. Twilight in Eden*. (A National Audubon Society Book). John Wiley & Sons Inc., New York: 1991. Pp xviii, 206; illustrated. Price: £ 19.95. ISBN: 0-471-53207-X.

This is one of those coffee-table books where one is first captured by the glossy pictures and only on second thought considers the text. The photographs have the expected high standard. It seems that almost all were taken in the Amboseli National Park, a few in the Maasai Mara Game Reserve, both in Kenya, even though the book pretends to discuss the elephant in Africa as a whole. The text gives some idea of the research which is presently in progress (mainly in Kenya?) about the social behaviour of the elephant and about conservation efforts. The book is easy to read, and the information is presented in a balanced manner. One may wonder who it is really intended for, as the same facts are found in many other easily accessible books.

When it comes to the elephant in history, there is nothing exciting. There are some words about the elephant's use by the Romans, about Jumbo in London Zoo (1865-1881) who was shipped to the United States to be exhibited by P. T. Barnum, and about some of the early explorers. The story of the elephant in Africa starts with Burchell and W. C. Harris travelling in the early nineteenth century and forgets about all those travellers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries who recorded the elephant's existence at least in the southern parts of Africa.

This book can be recommended only to those who want to enjoy nice photographs; for details about the elephant's behaviour or history, other works are easily available.

L. C. ROOKMAKER

LOCKLEY, R. *Birds and islands. Travels in wild places*. H. F. & G. Witherby Ltd., London: 1991. Pp 237; illustrated. Price: £ 15.99. ISBN: 0-85493-196-1.

Ronald Lockley is a nesophile—a collector of islands—and the more remote the better. This book provides an account of his experiences from the Eskimo islands of the Bering Straits to the Antarctic islands of the Weddell Sea with many in between. He is a competent naturalist and gives brief accounts of the wildlife in these places but perhaps of greater interest is his description of the inhabitants with whom he appears to have a knack of establishing cordial relations. The book has been attractively illustrated with drawings by Noel Cusa.

Although intended as light reading, the book leaves the reader with a feeling of sadness for life styles lost by the corruption of 'civilisation' and the catalogue of exploitation of wildlife and the destruction of habitat which the author encounters even in these far corners of the earth. His descriptions of the trials and tribulations of the early explorers contrast with the ease of his own travels and warn of the potentially damaging effect of tourism on the environment.

Anyone seeking material to illustrate the threat to the world's fauna and flora by mankind will find abundant examples. Occasional glimpses of attempts to rectify the situation as for example by the reintroduction of the Ne-Ne goose to Hawaii, thanks to the intervention of Peter Scott, hold out some hope for the future. By highlighting the need for greater effort to protect the environment and preserve endangered species this book may serve a useful purpose.

J. CHALMERS

CHAPMAN, A. *Bird-life of the Borders. Records of wild sport and natural history on moorland and sea*. (Spredde Northern Classics; facsimile of 1889 edition.) The Spredde Press, Stocksfield, Northumberland: 1990. Pp [10], v-xii, 286; illustrated. Price: £ 9.95 (paperback). ISBN: 1-871739-1-X.

Abel Chapman (1851-1927), naturalist, writer, hunter and no mean artist, is still a legend in Northumberland and should be so further afield. This, his first book, already shows all the facets of his character and strength, but a re-issue of the second (1907) edition might have been more useful for most readers; this one was written before he had had the benefit of his long residence on the North Tyne, and so further and richer observations. About half the book concerns wildfowling and fishing and the pursuit of grouse; most of the first seventeen chapters treat Northumbrian birds, especially the upland birds, with his characteristic lucidity, insight, concern and care. He is as careful of his 'facts' as he can be, but some are now in dispute and on the whole, of course, much of the information is sadly out of date. Sadly, for the changes are largely down to wholesale 'development' of so much upland for commercial forestry, some 'reclamation' for agriculture, much drainage, regulation of rivers, Kilder Water . . . so that special habitats and their species are much reduced and in some cases gone.