

the buffalo's throat to be slit in the midst of the fight, or being deliberately estranged and yet remaining a link, or introducing her cubs to mankind and passing on so much of her trust. Countless people have fostered young wild animals less successfully. They at least should have an inkling of the outstanding blend of devotion and affection which enabled the Elsa story, the book, the film, the legend, to become a part of history.

ANTHONY SMITH.

**A Continent for Science: The Antarctic Adventure**, by **Richard S. Lewis**. Secker & Warburg, 48s.

Of all the continents Antarctica is much the poorest in living creatures; it has also the most indestructible and inhospitable landscape, and the smallest and most disciplined human population. Conservationists, therefore, have not been much concerned with it except for certain fringing areas used by marine-based colonies of seals and of birds, especially penguins, which have long been a familiar symbol of the Antarctic. Richard Lewis, an American science writer, has produced in this book of high-quality journalism an excellent, well-informed and thoughtful account of the present state of knowledge resulting from the immense recent research effort lavished on that continent. Whether the priority accorded to this vast international research expenditure has been justified, and how much might have been done with funds of this magnitude on areas of more direct interest to more people are matters of opinion on which there has been surprisingly little discussion, perhaps because nearly everyone well informed about the programme has some personal interest in its continuance, and because the real costs tend to be wrapped up with military budgets. In any case it is an impressive and well-managed enterprise, and other natural scientists have commented that a high proportion of the truly experimental research is biological, even though biology is a very junior partner here.

Unfortunately in terms of conservation this book is almost a dead loss. References to the history of sealing and whaling are brief and superficial, and only the foreword by Dr T. O. Jones of the US National Science Foundation contains in a couple of short sentences a reference to the recent Agreed Measures on Conservation adopted by the twelve Antarctic powers in pursuance of the Antarctic Treaty of 1961.\* As Dr Jones justly says: "They are unusual because this may be the first time in history that man has ever seriously attempted any steps in conservation before it is too late." No doubt the book was written before these measures were promulgated, but their omission is regrettable, since they are of intrinsic interest to many readers although few yet know about them. Moreover, they work.

E. M. NICHOLSON.

\* See ORYX, April, 1966.

**The Appalachians**, by **Maurice Brooks**. Houghton Mifflin, \$6.95.

To the European naturalist visiting them for the first time the smooth rounded appearance of the Appalachians may come as something of a surprise, for the name has suggested to him a range of snow-covered peaks. But they are none the less interesting for being unexpectedly accessible, and include such famous sites as Hawk Mountain, where bird watchers gather in the autumn from far afield to see the remarkable southward migration of raptors. This fine survey by the Professor of Wildlife Management at West Virginia University is the first in a new series, "The Naturalists' America", edited by Roger Tory Peterson of the United States and Jack Livingston of Canada, which is intended to parallel the "New Naturalist" in Britain.

The Appalachians are one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world, the 500-million-year-old, worn-down stumps of what may once have been a majestic range of peaks stretching from the St. Lawrence southwards into Georgia. In at least two places, the White Mountains of New Hampshire and the Great Smokies of Tennessee, they do look like the popular conception of mountains; in between their summits are more modest. Their natural history has three special features: a remarkable variety of deciduous trees, of salamanders and of wood warblers (the North American family Parulidae). This book should interest even those who do not know, and have no prospect of visiting the Appalachians.

RICHARD FITTER.

**Origins of American Conservation**, by **Henry Clepper**. Ronald Press, New York, \$4.50.

This is another of the modest books of reference edited by Henry Clepper for the Natural Resources Council of America. One could say there is nothing new in this book, but there is no other publication which has gathered together the inspiring collection to be found here. Twelve authors have written essays on the origins of American conservation in the several fields of wildlife, forests, soil, fisheries, water, range, national parks, wilderness and scenery. Throughout we see, in a country where exploitation of a bountiful heritage of natural resources has been of the greediest and most squandering, that a few men of good will and great courage and persistence have managed to turn the public attitude towards conservation. Marsh, Olmsted, Muir, Roosevelt, Pinchot, Mather and some brave politicians who acted like statesmen: it is an amazing story which we in Britain should know and understand better. Individualistic and anti-social efforts to grab what is left are not yet dead, but the public and official attitude is firm. Each of the fields of natural resources mentioned above had its own battles to fight, but the tendency now is to see how closely the fields are related, and conservation effort today is closely co-ordinated.

F. FRASER DARLING.

**Tomorrow's Countryside : The Road to the Seventies**, by **Garth Christian**. John Murray, 35s.

The future of our countryside, as HRH the Duke of Edinburgh says in his foreword to this book, is one of the most urgent and difficult problems that must be faced to-day. Conservation has moved far away from the ideas of forty years ago, when the CPRE and the first of the county naturalists' trusts were formed and country-lovers were primarily concerned with preserving attractive scenery and protecting rare plants, butterflies and birds. To-day conservation is more an attitude of mind that sees man's very survival as dependent on the wisdom and restraint with which he uses the earth's natural biological resources to provide a suitable habitat for himself.

Yet the old meaning is still widely prevalent, and Mr Christian sees the source of the trouble as the fragmentation of modern life, whereby various interests remain indifferent to important national issues considered to be outside their own province. The tragedy is, as he says, that "to a hard-working clerk at County Hall, nature conservation may appear to be no more than the hobby or pastime of a minority, like basketball or bowls."

This book should be compulsory reading for all such hard-working clerks and for everyone who cares or should care for the countryside and, indeed, man's survival. It presents an impressive amount of factual information, in a pleasing style, about all the pressures on the land of Britain resulting from the increasing size and prosperity of the population and the development of science and technology in agriculture, industry and transport. There is an outstanding series of apposite photographs, a comprehensive bibliography and an excellent index.