

The East Yorkshire Bat Group has already reached out the neighbouring bat groups in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire (York and Harrogate). We have had successful joint meetings and received much appreciated support for the aforementioned "Open Evenings".

Tony Lane

BOOK REVIEWS

'The Natural History of Seals' by W. Nigel Bonner
Christopher Helm Mammal Series (in association with The
Mammal Society) 1989. 212pp. £14.95

This accessible and attractively illustrated work is required reading for anyone with an interest, whether professional or amateur, in seals. Its author is President of The Mammal Society and former head of both the N.E.R.C. Seals Research Unit and the Life Sciences division of the British Antarctic Survey 1986 - 1988.

Nine chapters cover various aspects of seal biology, including feeding, locomotion, breeding and growth, social organization, interactions with man and conservation.

Chapter five, entitled 'Diversity, classification and origin of seals' contains brief accounts of the biology of each of the 18 species of true seals (Pinnipedia), including drawings and distribution maps. In addition to the many diagrams and line drawings scattered throughout the text, there are a series of 20 beautiful colour plates, many from photographs taken by the author.

A fascinating and delightful book.

Ed

'Mice of The British Isles' by Michael Leach
Shire Natural History Series 1990 £1.95.

This is another excellent book from the Shire Natural History stable and covers our four mouse representatives in the sub-family Murinae. After a brief introduction, chapters on identification, food, breeding, behaviour and ecology are each further divided into four sections dealing with the house mouse, field mouse, yellow-necked mouse and harvest mouse respectively. Attention is drawn to similarities and contrasts between the species and this helps to provide an overall feel for the different niches exploited. It is amazing how much high-quality information is packed into just 24 pages, not to mention the 22 beautiful photographs (18 in colour) taken by the author and four line drawings as well.

I have one or two minor gripes. The wood mouse skull (p.2) is awfully mis-proportioned - if it is an accurate drawing from life, I pity the poor mouse! Scale lines against skeletal diagrams would also be helpful; the side view (not a cross section) of the upper incisors of house and harvest mice (p.4) might give the impression that they are the same size. Finally, the distribution of the four species described in the text would have been much better conveyed in maps. As I have said, these are minor criticisms and the author and Shire Publications are to be congratulated on a superb product.

This book and a full catalogue of other publications can be obtained directly from Shire Publications Ltd., Cromwell House, Church Street, Princes Risborough, Aylesbury, Bucks HP17 9AT

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