



EUROPEAN BEAVER—the first cub to be bred in a British zoo—at the Norfolk Wildlife Park

Short Reviews

Tony Soper's definition of *Beachcombing* (David & Charles, £1.75) includes tracks in the sand—fox, otter, natterjack toad, adder, etc., usefully illustrated by Robert Gillmor—seal pups (to be left alone), seaweeds (more useful drawings), seal tags and bird rings (and what to do with them), and concludes with appendices on wreck law and a useful key to the identification of British whales and dolphins. 'Horrors' of the beach include oil, quicksands, the lesser weever fish (poisonous) and jellyfish.

Animal Migration by Tony Morrison (Hamlyn, 50p) is a useful paperback survey of the whole subject with profuse colour illustrations by Pat Oxenham. Aimed at the American as well as the British market, some of the captions are less informative than they might be, e.g. the oldsquaw which is a winter visitor to North America is also the long-tailed duck that is a winter visitor to Britain. And why are shelducks only identified as 'ducks'?

The new revised edition of *The Observer's Book of Wild Animals*, a neat little pocket book by Maurice Burton DSc (Warne, 45p) describes 69 species of British mammals, reptiles and amphibians with 74 photographic illustrations (29 in colour) and is quite remarkable value at 45p. In the same series *The Observer's Book of Sea Fishes* by T. B. Bagelal describes 215 species and illustrates 139 (32 in colour).

The Pocket Edition of the *Oxford Book of Birds*, by Bruce Campbell (OUP, £1.35) is really pocket-sized ($6\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ ins), but the small type, although clear, is rather taxing. Confined to British birds, 320 species are illustrated in colour. The original edition was reviewed in *Oryx*, April 1965.

An Eye for a Bird, Eric Hosking's chatty, readable and enjoyable autobiography is now published in paperback, (Arrow Books, £1.75).