

Reports & Journals

In 1967 the closure of the WAC Bennett Dam on the Peace River in Canada completely altered the ecology of the vast area of the Peace-Athabasca Delta (see *Oryx*, May 1971). A preliminary account of the Canadian Wildlife Service's field studies on plant succession in the dried-out areas is published as *Evaluation of Ecological Effects of recent low water levels in the Peace-Athabasca Delta*, by Hermann J. Dirschl, Occasional Paper No 13. The area of nine delta lakes has already shrunk from 638 to 456 square miles, a reduction of 28 per cent; the reduction is 55 per cent if the largest, Lake Claire, is omitted, and the dried-up areas are being converted to willow or Phragmites thickets and reedgrass meadows, with inevitable effects on the food of the wood bison and the breeding habitats of waterfowl.

Crocodiles, by H.B. Cott and A.C. Pooley (IUCN Supplementary Paper No 33) is the country-by-country account of their status in Africa, presented to the IUCN's first working meeting of crocodile specialists in March 1971. The proceedings of the same meeting, No 32 in the same series, also entitled *Crocodiles*, include papers on Australia, Papua and New Guinea, Malaysia, countries in South and Central America, and the American alligator, and also on two working crocodile farms – one in South Africa and one in Thailand – which the Group decided to endorse as recognised IUCN breeding stations. The discussion on hunting bans suggested that no one solution can be applied in all species, and that where one might be saved from extinction by a hunting ban another could only be saved by efficient utilisation. Each publication costs \$2.

A most useful summary of background information about three small birds, one of which, the red-billed quelea, is perhaps the most serious avian pest in the world today, is to be found in *Tropical Pest Bulletin 1, Illustrated Descriptions, Distribution Maps and Bibliography of the Species of Quelea (Weaver-birds: Ploceidae)*, by Joyce I. Magor and P. Ward. Centre for Overseas Pest Research, College House, Wrights Lane, London, W8 5SJ, £1.

FRAME (Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments) has published a revised edition of its pamphlet, *Alternatives to Laboratory Animals*, describing scientific techniques. The lack of resources to develop alternative techniques after they have passed the research stage is a major impediment to their application. (Address: 312a Worple Road, London SW20 8QU).

The *Annual Report* of the British Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation for 1971 deals mainly with the protection of birds of prey, oil pollution of the sea, the Seychelles, and the results of the world conference in 1970. (ICBP, British Museum, Natural History, London SW7, 25p).

A most valuable summary of how biological control can be integrated into existing chemical methods to produce the ecologically most satisfactory means of dealing with farm and garden pests, is given in *Integrated Control of Pests in Farm and Garden*, by S.P. Simmonds, a supplement to the *Journal of the Devon Trust for Nature Conservation* (2 Pennsylvania Road, Exeter, EX4 6BQ, 20p). Every conservationist who has a garden or a farm should read it and make his neighbours read it.