

In the last six chapters he reviews the probable changes in the habitat and status of raptors over the last 3000 years: foods, breeding habits, the problems they have to cope with—often the result of some beastliness by man—and finally conservation. He points out that only in the so-called developed countries does the dislike of raptors degenerate into a systematic campaign of eradication, 'and nowhere do the narrow sectional interests arrogate to themselves to break the law more than in Britain'. Furthermore, the reports of this type of law-breaking more often than not involve gamekeepers employed by some 'very eminent persons indeed'. He emphasises the need for better law enforcement and for public observation hides at the most commonly robbed eagle and kite nests. Finally there are two invaluable appendices, summarising the mass of information on food and what is known about breeding biology.

Apart from a few minor contradictions, this is an excellent and valuable book, with 40 black and white photographs and a number of explicit line drawings by Heinzel.

PETER CONDER

**Monkeys without Tails, by John Napier. BBC, £5.25.**

This expanded and updated version of the author's Royal Institution Lectures for young people, televised by the BBC in 1970/71, is a lively and interesting account of the basic principles of evolution with special emphasis on two of the tail-less 'monkeys', the chimpanzee and man.

Professor Napier sets the scene by taking the reader on an imaginary tour of a Primate Zoo, from which we learn that there are 186 different species and about 523 subspecies or races. This is followed by a chapter on evolutionary principles such as variation and natural selection. Illustrating natural selection in action in a behavioural context, there is an interesting account of the potato-washing and wheat-washing activities of the Japanese macaque monkeys of Koshima, which will surely please those who believe that evolution proceeds through females and not males, for in these monkeys the new habits were introduced by a juvenile female and spread to its mother and other females in the group; the adult males do not take any part and 'appear to form a conservative cadre sitting on the sidelines bristling with disapproval at the permissiveness of the females and the younger generation.'

Perhaps the most valuable part of the book is the section on the evolution of the mammals and the emergence of the primates—surprisingly early, although they then showed none of the arboreal characters by which we recognise the order today. In discussing the differences between the gorilla and present-day chimpanzees Professor Napier follows the Dutch zoologist Adriaan Kortlandt in believing that the chimpanzee's aggressive behaviour when faced with predators like leopards, their use of natural objects as tools and their two-footed walk are possibly the result of living in the past in more open savanna country, until the coming of early man, with his clubs and spears, forced them into the forest where they are now found.

The book is well illustrated in colour and black-and-white, and the authoritative text is leavened with wit.

JOHN CLEGG

**Jungle Journeys in Ceylon, by Iris Darnton. Galaxy Books, Lavenham, Suffolk, £4.80.**

When I first went out to Ceylon, the people of the hinterland were some of the most delightful one could hope to meet, living at a speed which must have changed little since Biblical times, their villages set in idyllic surroundings amidst the forests and hills. Iris Darnton describes these lovely places, especially the village tanks around which the life of the village is centred, although she does not give any intimate description of the people's daily lives and beliefs; but the language problem makes it difficult to break down their natural shyness. Tropical jungles are profound places,