

Many mammals, particularly the Capybara, Paca and Tapir, are hunted for food, but there seems to be no undue reduction in their numbers. Capuchin and Squirrel Monkeys are plentiful, although many are captured to sell as pets. Red Howlers are numerous in the remote forests. Ocelot and Margay are common, but it is not easy to determine the status of the Jaguar; jaguars are, of course, killed near the cattle ranches, and I can offer no opinion on the position of the interesting form of Black Jaguar which occurs in the savannah and broken forest districts.

The Bush Dog, or Karisisi is often regarded as extremely rare, but I think this is incorrect. Inquiries I made revealed quite a number of reliable records of the species, both from Government officials and from natives. The Tayra, too, is not rare, and in the Colony it bears the odd name of Haka Tiger.

Mr. Durrell tells me that he found the police were strict in enforcing the bird protection laws in the Suddie and Pomerocoon areas. In places, however, the young of wading birds, including Scarlet Ibis, are taken for food. Many parrots and macaws are taken for caging, and in Georgetown no action appears to be taken in numerous cases where these birds (and small r species such as finches and tanagers) are openly shown as pets and exhibited in markets for sale.

Anacondas are common, often finding their way into the irrigation channels between the sugar plantations. That most handsome snake, the Emerald Tree Boa, is probably common enough in the forests. I received three specimens, and two were on exhibition at the Zoo in Georgetown. Guiana is a paradise for anyone interested in frogs and toads. Two fascinating species, examples of which I sent to London Zoo, are the Pied Poison Frog (*Dendrobates leucomelas*) and the Reticulated Frog (*Antelopus flavescens*), both from the Pakaraima Mountains; both species are handsomely patterned in jet black and bright yellow. The Giant Marine Toad (*Bufo marinus*) is very common, and its vocal efforts at dusk resemble very closely the purring of a motor-cycle engine.

REVIEWS

SELADANG AND ELEPHANT

BIG GAME OF MALAYA. By E. C. FOENANDER. Batchworth Press. 21s.

This is a book of natural history and hunting stories. Half is given to *Bos gaurus*, the Gaur or Seladang, and nearly all the remaining pages to the Indian Elephant. The tapir, and

the two species of rhinoceros which live or used to live in Malaya, are just touched upon. Surely Mr. Foenander is optimistic in giving the present distribution of *Rhinoceros sondaicus*, the Javan Rhinoceros, as Lower Burma, Siam, Indo-China, Malaya and Java, and his argument that where rhinoceroses cannot be properly protected, permission to shoot should not be withheld, is difficult to accept.

There is much good natural history, much that shows intimate knowledge of seladang and elephant, the jungles they inhabit and the people who live there with them. It is very interesting to learn of the close relationship between the seladang and sakai, the jungle people who, by their shifting cultivation, make the stretches of open country where the grass, essential for the seladang, can grow. The vegetation also is adequately named and well described; one does not feel that the animals are living in a mass of homogeneous greenery.

Unfortunately the author is not content with natural history where he is at his best. Even making allowance for the interval of the war there seems little justification for filling two whole chapters with reprints of his own hunting stories published in 1938 and 1939. There is also far too much old material from the pen and camera of the late Mr. Theodore Hubback, although it is fully and even lavishly acknowledged. The maps are good, the photographs, generally speaking, poor.

C. L. B.

ROYAL NATIONAL PARKS OF KENYA. REPORT, 1946-1950

This is no mere report, it is also a fascinating description of the National Parks of Kenya and a moving plea for their extension.

We are shown conclusively that there can be no complacency about the wild life situation in Kenya to-day nor in the outlook for to-morrow. Only in national parks is there any certainty of permanent wild life conservation. In Kenya there are six national parks but only Nairobi and Tsavo are important sanctuaries for the larger animals. Nairobi, though unique for its animal display, is small. Of Tsavo the Trustees, looking to the future, say "only here will there be any reasonable chance of preserving an adequate number of wild animals, unless marked changes of policy can be achieved in regard to game preservation within the national reserves". There is the crux of the matter, forthrightly stated and convincingly proved. In the reserves the demands of man override the requirements of