

encountered, invariably try to get away as quickly as possible", I think all those who know Assam jungles will agree with him, *and then he contradicts it all* when he says: "leopards and wild boar invariably attack if near enough to man" (p. 42), and "elephants, especially cows with young, would attack immediately" (p. 39). In each case unprovoked animals are clearly implied and both are, in my experience, untrue.

Though I disagree with much that he says about the habits of tiger, leopard, pig, wild dog and, above all, elephant and python, space forbids further examples. By exaggerating the numbers, and often the aggressiveness, of animals and the ease with which the "expert tracker" can approach and watch them without their knowing it, he paints Assam jungles as fascinating yet terrifying places where one carries one's life in one's hand. Those who know how sharp tigers' ears and eyes are, can read on page 165 how, without being spotted, he was able to climb a tree with binoculars and a camera within 40 feet of four tigers.

Throughout the book the author gives us his views on trophy-hunting and killing for sport. He also discusses tsetse-control and how to improve Masai grazing. However much one may agree with him on some or all of these points, I think many will find tedious the constant repetition of phrases such as "senseless destruction" or "so-called sportsmen", for I doubt if a dictatorial style really helps any cause.

E. O. S.

MERKMALEN DER WILDEBENDEN SÄUGETIERE MITTELEUROPAS. By G. GAFFRY. Leipzig: Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft Geest & Portig K.G., 1961. DM. 23.

This extremely useful reference book by a well-known German mammalogist deals with eighty-eight species of wild mammals to be found in Central Europe. The exact limits of what constitutes Central Europe are not defined, but it is clear from the context that the British Isles, Scandinavia, France, and the Iberian Peninsula are excluded.

However, the majority of the species included are known from most or all of these territories, so that the work makes a most handy tool for workers on European mammals in general.

After short introductory chapters defining what is a mammal, with succinct data on the structure and physiology of mammals, and a statement on their origin, a systematic list is given of the eighty-eight forms included.

The main part of the work (180 pp.) deals with each species seriatim, with common and scientific name, general and special features in its structure and appearance, distribution, measurements and biological data. Each section is illustrated with clear line-drawings depicting special features, cranial and dental characters, etc., enabling the reader to identify any wild mammal he is likely to meet. All the data seems to be accurate and account is taken of ranges in individual variation.

Particularly valuable are the appendices in which the data are presented in tabular fashion rendering them easy of reference. There are included tabular presentations of such matters as ecological zoning, distribution,

data on reproductive and developmental phenomena, times of oestrous, hibernation, mensurational data, and dental formulae. There is a good index.

The work is thoroughly to be recommended for quickly ascertaining information concerning any species included in the area.

W. C. O. H.

SHORTER NOTICES

REPORT OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1961. H.M. Stationery Office, London. 8s. 6d.

We last published a list of British nature reserves in May, 1961, under "Editorial Notes". The present column now seems more suitable.

Eight National Nature Reserves were declared during the period of this Report, making a total of ninety-two, covering 290 sq. miles. Appendix II of the Report gives the names of all these, their area, restrictions to access (if any), and the name of the warden. Similar information is given about Local Nature Reserves and Forest Nature Reserves, and about the two Wildfowl Refuges, Humber and Southport.

Other work of the Conservancy is of course covered—for example: risks to wild life through toxic chemicals used in agriculture; fires on forests, heaths, and moors; research on fauna; international activities.

This Report is an essential for all who are interested in nature conservation in Britain.

THE WILD RESOURCES OF EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA. By Dr. E. B. WORTHINGTON. H.M. Stationery Office, London. 2s. 6d.

The author is Deputy Director-General (Scientific) of the Nature Conservancy, and this is his report on a visit to East and Central Africa which he undertook for the British and Territorial Governments in 1960. It is divided into ten short sections, one of which, "Conservancy through wise use", together with another "Research" give the theme of the whole report. A by-product of these, as it were, are the hippopotamus cropping scheme in Uganda and the Galana river area elephant cropping scheme in Kenya. The Serengeti is concisely dealt with and reasons given for its satisfactory future, provided certain factors are given full weight. The difficult but all-important problem of influencing African opinion is touched upon. The Report ends with a Summary and Recommendations.

BULLETIN OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

We welcome the quarterly *Bulletin* of IUCN in its new and attractive form. An especially useful feature is the inclusion with each number of a