

hunting, and the zoos' role in conservation. Clive Roots is rightly in favour of careful exploitation of wildlife resources and argues for well organised hunting and less humbug and hypocrisy: 2½ million deer are killed annually in the United States and this is a sustainable yield! Nothing, it seems, speaks louder than money, and animal populations that can be sustained for profit become an asset. He cites examples, including the Uganda Wildlife Development Company which raises revenue from shooting and photo safaris, which is then ploughed back to improve the game. Tribesmen, once poachers, now gamekeepers, thus have a vested interest in maintaining their new-found source of revenue. So too with leopards; these can also be maintained and cropped for their skins in areas where game management or farming is practised. The profit margin on their pelts would exceed that on the meat they consume (why not ranch them like mink, one might add!).

But how will the overpopulated, technologically backward, under-nourished Asian and African countries react in the 21st century to having large areas of land managed for wildlife? Will game farming ever be productive enough to keep pace with the demand for food in those countries where it could be practised? Clive Roots has dealt well with the immediate future; it is a pity he did not look even deeper into his crystal ball. I, for one, would have hoped that he would not have been too disappointed with the view.

JOHN SPARKS

The World of the Jaguar, 45s; The World of the Giant Panda, 36s,
both by **Richard Perry**. David and Charles.

Antelopes, by Rennie Bere; Bears, by Richard Perry; Eagles, by Leslie Brown; Gorillas, by Colin P. Groves. Barker, 25s each.

The jaguar, a handsome 'spotted cat', whose skin is coveted by the luxury trade, has disappeared from vast regions where it was once abundant and its numbers are steadily decreasing; but it is not as yet seriously endangered. Richard Perry's book is a well illustrated medley of fact and fiction, folklore and legend, supported by lengthy quotations from the published writings of travellers and explorers, and embellished with horri-fying tales of the perils of the Amazonian forest. His book on the giant panda, particularly beautifully illustrated, is an important documentary which records in detail the little that is known of the mode of life of the fabulous 'white bear' or *beishung* of Western China. Most heartening is the suggestion that as many as two thousand still survive in the elevated bamboo forests not readily accessible to man. The bibliography, incorporating a host of minor references, is of especial value.

The other four titles are from 'The World of Animals' series, each superbly illustrated with 16 pages of colour and 60 of black and white photographs, each in its own way a text book in miniature. All four refer to the past abundance of the various species under discussion and the increasing threat to their well being; all offer advice for their future welfare. The text is strictly limited, and much space has been wasted in its style of presentation. *Antelopes* is a term, without scientific basis, covering a diversity of ungulates, varying in size from the massive, bovine-like eland to the diminutive dik-dik—no bigger than a hare. To obviate the limitations imposed a systematic list of the 85 antelope species includes short descriptive notes on colour, size, weight, distribution, and type and length of horns—useful for identification. *Bears*, comprising seven species and many races, deals with habitat, food, predation, hibernation and family

life, as well as discussing their enemies and their relations with man. The author is inclined to overstress that bears are not generally the dangerously aggressive villains as popularly portrayed; personal experience of the sloth bear in India indicates this is not a matter for complacency. Leslie Brown, who has for decades indulged in intimate study of the fierce, magnificent eagles, mainly in Kenya and Scotland, provides entertaining, informative reading about these 'powerful, rapacious, diurnal birds of prey'. African eagles figure extensively in the illustrations. *Gorillas* constitutes an intriguing analysis of where these huge apes are found, how they live and grow up, and their attitude towards man. The alleged ferocity of the gorilla is properly debunked and its natural benign temperament, for which the reviewer can vouch from first hand experience, emphasised: enthralling, lucid and informative.

C. R. S. PITMAN

Aldabra Alone, by Tony Beamish. Allen & Unwin, 50s.

This is a narrative of the author's visit, early in 1967, to a truly unique atoll—many of its animals and plants are found on Aldabra alone; a description of the island and its wildlife gradually unfolds. With a few companions, Tony Beamish was able to make a circuit of the island, partly on land and in places with difficulty over honeycombed and spiky coral, partly by boat on the central lagoon when the tide permitted, and partly by sea outside the fringing reef. A dated itinerary would have usefully supplemented the sketch-map; and an index to the scattered mentions of species would have helped. The Indian Ocean giant tortoise has here its last natural home, but exists in prodigious numbers. The special birds, notably unafraid of man, include the flightless white-throated rail, the Aldabra brush-warbler and the Aldabra drongo; and there are large colonies of some of the pantropical seabirds. Interwoven is another narrative, that of the battle that was being successfully waged thousands of miles away to save this unspoilt paradise and scientific treasure-house from being wrecked for ever by myopic military vandals.

To those, like the reviewer, who have no more than set foot on the island, and briefly sailed its interior lagoon (and by mischance the surrounding sea!) in a rubber dinghy, this account fills many gaps. To those who have not even had that experience, it must surely conjure up a vivid picture of a strange place, full of bright beauty and fascinating interest. The fine colour plates, from photographs by the author and others, greatly assist. Sir Julian Huxley contributes a foreword, and Dr W. R. P. Bourne an appendix on the birds.

LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON

The Wild Mammals of Malaya, by Lord Medway. Oxford University Press, £6 5s.

Mammals in Hawaii, by P. Quentin Tomich. Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu, \$5.00.

One could hardly find two more dissimilar mammalian faunas than those of Malaya and Hawaii—the former with 200 species of land mammals, all but one or two indigenous, the latter with probably only one land mammal that might have reached the islands by its own efforts, an American bat.

Lord Medway's volume is unique and valuable on several counts. It provides a concise account of distribution, identification characters, habits and life-history of all species, large and small, in the Malayan