

# Book reviews

which to a limited extent it does, along with missed opportunities, inaccuracies and contradictions. For example, considering parr (a conspicuously marked juvenile stage of *Salmo* species) we are not informed about the likely and interesting biological significance of the sexually precocious male parr. Comment on the statement that dense populations retain the juvenile parr would have been beneficial. Not constructive are descriptions of parr markings as 'territorial' on one page and 'being typical of species that live in fast water' on another.

Conservation is mentioned but with the strong implication that these species should be conserved for the sport angler. This attitude appears in such phrases as 'unspoilt fly-only salmon rivers' and population densities are described as 'rod-hour effort'. It is possible for the altruistic conservationist and the angler to work together but only if the survival of the fishes and their environment is the genuine common aim.

The colour illustrations are adequate, although the scales are represented by intersecting diagonal straight lines. Each page has a small line sketch at the side, the purpose of which eludes me. Why, for example, should a small sketch of the nase (a cyprinid fish—*Chondrostoma nasus*) appear, without explanation, on p. 105?

Potentially interesting points are not capitalized on. Mention is made of giant trout in the Caspian Sea; I can find no reference to these in Berg's monumental work on the fishes of the USSR and would have appreciated details.

Finally, although I had already decided not to recommend this book, my resolution was firm by p. 116 where I read 'All species can be kept in aquaria' and among other horrors 'char are easily tamed'. I still do not know why this book was

written and I still cannot think of anyone who would benefit from reading it.

Dr Keith Banister, Banstead, Surrey

## The Fishes of Arkansas

Henry W. Robinson and Thomas M. Buchanan

University of Arkansas Press, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 72701 USA, 536 pp., HB £40.00, SB £24.00

This is an excellent book. Many years ago (especially during the 1950s) American states started publishing works on their own ichthyofauna. A formative star was Trautmann's *Fishes of Ohio* (1957). This work follows that scholarly and useful format.

The book starts with a general geographical review of Arkansas and a history of ichthyology in that state. No punches are pulled, accidental chemical spills are mapped as are the sites of the nation's most hazardous wastes. Significantly, perhaps, these sections are followed by a list of the threatened, locally extirpated and extinct species in the state.

The bulk of the book is a detailed account of all the species of the state. Initially, the families are keyed out and each family has a key to the species contained therein. For each species an account is provided with a description, distinguishing features, habitat and biology data, usually a coloured picture and a map of pre- and post-1960 distribution.

If there is a criticism, it is that some of the distribution maps are too small. I have not yet found the solid triangle representing pre-1960 distribution on the distribution map of *Noturus flavus* (p. 305). That is my only complaint.

To finish, is an appendix containing hints on identification, a species list and a glossary. The bibliography is extensive. All in all, this is

a splendid book and a superb example of how state-wide faunal studies should be conducted.

Dr Keith Banister, Banstead, Surrey

## The Shamba Raiders: Memories of a Game Warden

Bruce Kinloch

Ashford Press Publishing, 1988, 405 pp., £15.95

*The Shamba Raiders*, Bruce Kinloch's memoirs of his work as a game warden in Uganda and Tanganyika (Tanzania), was first published in 1972.

The triviality of a charging buffalo, not of course trivial for the person charged, is dealt with in the same fine detail as the description of the really important decisions that were taken during the period of Bruce Kinloch's sojourn with the Game Department. The background to the realization of the need for National Parks in Uganda and the development of Murchison Falls and Queen Elizabeth National Parks are carefully described. Their early development, with an eye to the tourist and therefore their economic contribution to a developing nation, not only established these two parks, but paved the way for the Kidepo Valley National Park and Lake Mburu National Park, which were to come much later.

The presumption that 'nature would take care of herself' was identified as unsound in Uganda. Research in Uganda Parks by Fulbright Scholars from the USA recognized the need to manage if the diversity of the wildlife was to be maintained, in areas, which although large, were fast becoming islands in a sea of human development. The formation of the Nuffield Unit of Tropical Animal Ecology to be succeeded at independence by the Uganda Institute of Ecology, which still exists today, is described. The trustees of the