

Reports and Journals

Advisory Committee: Animals (Restriction of Importation) Act 1964, Summary of Statistics, 1966. HMSO, 3s.

Last year the United Kingdom imported 23 marsupials, 28,488 monkeys, 52 apes, one rhinoceros, 320,573 tortoises and 4,255 iguanid lizards, according to this report. This represented fewer of all groups than in 1965. The great bulk of the marsupials and apes were imported for exhibition at zoos or the establishment of captive breeding colonies; of monkeys for scientific research; and of tortoises and lizards, together with a substantial minority of the monkeys, for resale as pets. That we have these figures annually is one of the benefits we derive from the Animals (Restriction of Importation) Act 1964, which was an almost single-handed achievement of Lt. Col. C. L. Boyle, who strove for it for four years when he was Hon. Secretary of the Fauna Preservation Society. Perusal of the report makes one wonder whether it is really necessary for all those monkeys to be used in scientific research – 60,000 monkeys in two years – and even more whether it is really necessary to import more than 650,000 tortoises over a period of two years, almost all of which quickly die. Is not the possession of a pet tortoise for a few weeks one of the freedoms the British public might legitimately be asked to forgo in the interests of wildlife conservation?

The International Zoo Yearbook, Volume 7, edited by Caroline Jarvis. Zoological Society of London, £6 6s.

This invaluable reference book, well presented and profusely illustrated, has an especially large section this year on captive breeding. This includes details of an interesting co-operative effort by five zoos in Japan to breed the rare Japanese serow; 19 animals were captured and distributed among the five, and there is an account of the births of two young. A small section on conservation includes the studbooks, or an account of the status, of four endangered species: Przewalski horse, Père David's deer, European bison and the white-tailed gnu (black wildebeest). Other sections cover penguins in captivity; zoo architecture and construction; education; and husbandry and research; and the reference section includes a census of rare animals in captivity, in the hope that zoos will draw up a "co-ordinated, international breeding policy for rare animals".

East African Wildlife Journal, Volume 4. E. African Wildlife Society, Nairobi. US\$5.

The case for including game farming in all tsetse control schemes and land use plans, especially on marginal lands, is argued in a paper by Frank L. Lambrecht. P. J. Jarman writes on the status and behaviour of the dugong from facts elicited mainly as a result of questioning fishermen in the Lamu inland sea and Kiunga areas of Kenya, among the few areas where dugongs are still plentiful. Other papers give the results of studies on the giraffe in Nairobi National Park (J. B. Foster), impala (R. Schenkel), black rhino (J. Goddard) and elephants (R. M. Laws and R. V. Short).

National Parks of Japan is a beautifully produced illustrated 38-page booklet with descriptions of each of the 23 national parks and an account of their history and administration, but scarcely a mention of wildlife. (National Parks Bureau, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Tokyo.)