

RETURN TO THE WILD. By NORMAN CARR. Collins. 21s.

This is the most delightful and interesting of the many books written lately about wild life and it is illustrated with quite wonderful photographs.

It is the story of two orphaned hand-reared lion cubs and the four years of their lives spent with the author, first in the Kafue National Park and subsequently in the Luangwa Valley, both in Northern Rhodesia.

Lord Dalhousie says in the foreword, "I have never before read a book in which all the characters were known to me personally." I, too, have had this privilege for Norman Carr, Game Rangers Johnny Uys and Barry Shenton, Game Guards Tutu and Nelson, as well as the "heroes" of the story, Big Boy and Little Boy, are all friends of mine.

When I visited Norman and his two lions in the lovely Luangwa Valley last September, Big Boy and Little Boy, at four years of age, were completely free and doing their own killing, but were still the same charming companions to us all. A great dignity had taken the place of baby gambolling and pranks.

This is an authentic tale and everyone who reads it will feel that he or she is making a "ulendo" in the real Africa accompanied by an expert.

E. J. C.

ANIMAL HORMONES. Part 1—Kinetic and Metabolic Hormones. By P. M. JENKIN. Pergamon Press, 1962. 45s.

This book considers hormones with the same type of action in a variety of unrelated animals, so that similarities of action, chemical constitution, type of source, means of control, and differences in speed of action or other detail can be emphasized. After an introductory chapter recapitulating the discovery of the hormones and defining them, their various kinds, and actions, the author deals first with the sources of the kinetic and metabolic hormones. Chapters on the kinetic hormones controlling muscles and pigmentary effectors follow, and the book concludes with a chapter on the metabolic hormones. In each kinetic chapter care is taken to make the nature of the effector and its action clear, and in the metabolic chapter an outline is given of the basic physiology so that the action of the hormones is understood.

Dr. Jenkin has given a very clear account of her subject, and presents it in an interesting and logical way that will engage the attention of students by its comparative survey of the sources and actions of hormones in the vertebrates and invertebrates. The book is well indexed, and contains a glossary and full bibliography. It will be of great value to students and biologists specializing in other fields, but I think that only those members of the Fauna Preservation Society who happen to be professional zoologists will be able to read or comprehend it.

L. H. M.

THE WILD MAMMALS OF UGANDA. EAST AFRICAN NATURAL HISTORY SERIES. By R. M. BERE. Longmans, 1962. 9s. 6d.

This is the first of a new series of Longmans' popular and handy natural history books which appeared originally in South Africa and more recently in West Africa. The stout cover is particularly useful for a book which will be in constant use. The illustrations are wonderfully lifelike and the artist, Ruth Yudelowitz, is to be congratulated on their general excellence, especially when dealing with such a diversity of subjects. But it is a pity that

the drawing of the Black-backed Jackal should be so unrepresentative as it tends to spoil what otherwise is a series of well-nigh perfect pictures. A relative scale with each drawing would have been helpful. One wonders why it was necessary to illustrate the Rock-Jumper (*Petrodromus*) which does not occur in Uganda.

Written mainly for the African people, the author loses no opportunity of emphasizing the importance and urgency of effective wild life conservation, at the same time soundly condemning the prevalent senseless destruction which results from ignorance and indifference. In simple style and not overburdened with technical detail, the book's aim is to provide a general guide to the mammals of Uganda, especially the more obvious so-called game animals; it is not intended to provide a complete list of the country's mammals. Nevertheless both the Giant Fruit Bat, *Hypsignathus monstrosus*, which seasonally is widely distributed in the Lake Victoria and western regions and which cannot be overlooked on account of its size and exasperating call, and the distinctive and well-known Short-snouted Elephant Shrew, *Nasilio brachyrhynchus*, of the Ankola and Masaka grasslands, might have been included. Further, for the student and others whom it is desired especially to interest, accuracy should have been scrupulously observed. The statement that *Chlorotalpa stuhlmanni* is the "only golden mole found in Uganda" ignores the fact that *Chlorotalpa fosteri* is found commonly on Mount Elgon. *Potamogale velox*, the Great Water Shrew, has never been recorded from the Ruwenzori Mountains, where it is the Lesser Water Shrew, *Micropotamogale ruwenzorii*, which occurs. The Uganda tree pangolin is *Manis tricuspis*, not *Unomans longicaudata*. Also, the genus of the Bunyono rabbit is *Poelagus*, not *Pronolagus* (which is a rock hare). The expert will notice other inaccuracies.

Also avoidable are spelling errors such as "Morisson-Scott" for Morrison-Scott; "*Rhinolphus*" for *Rhinolophus*; "*Tophazous*" for *Taphazous*; "*Poacilogale*" for *Poecilogale*; "bush-tailed" for brush-tailed, and "*sylvicutrix*" for *sylvicultrix* (but now replaced by *sylvicultor*).

Apart from these imperfections which inevitably detract from its value, one is full of praise for the endeavour to describe in readily readable language Uganda's wild mammals. A chapter is devoted to each order represented; there are also a graphic appeal for better and more imaginative wild life conservation, some entertaining folk-lore tales, and a valuable list of vernacular names. The book should serve its purpose as an introduction to the serious study of natural history.

C. R. S. P.

LET'S VISIT THE KRUGER PARK. By R. BIGALKE. Afrikaanse Pers-Boekhandel, Johannesburg and Capetown, 1962. Rands 5 (= 50s.).

This imposing, informative, but expensive publication (8½ in. by 11 in.) sets out to describe the wild life and more conspicuous flora of the Kruger National Park—some 7,340 square miles in extent, with a length of 250 miles from north to south. But it is not only written to attract the tourist, for the author stresses how imperative it is to decide now to preserve nature's priceless heritage, the wild life, which he has to admit is still threatened with extinction. What he writes must convince everyone but the bigot and extremist that no effort should be spared to ensure the survival of the Kruger Park and to perpetuate what it contains. Whether this can be successfully accomplished in view of the powerfully hostile elements at work only time will show.