

some of his study animals. Ecological factors considered include not only climate, flora and territory and the inter-relationship of the animals, but what is of far greater importance in the Indian context, the impact of man.

Descriptions of the study areas precede the discussion on the problems of 33 wild mammals in coming, or failing to come, to terms with their shrinking and ravaged habitats. Some, like the lion-tailed monkey, tiger, wild buffalo, blackbuck and barasingha, have suffered grievously; a few like elephant and chital have adapted bravely. But it could be that the worst is still to come. There are extended sections on elephant and gaur, on which Krishnan's knowledge in peninsular India is unrivalled. He concludes inescapably that the effect of human disturbance on the wildlife and plants today has been overwhelming, but, sadly, is still the least appreciated major factor in conservation in India.

I had read the reports as they had been published; reading them again the integrity of the research and of the presentation of results made as deep an impression as before.

B. SESHADRI

The Handbook of British Mammals, 2nd edition, edited by **G. B. Corbet** and **H. N. Southern**. Blackwell Scientific Publications, for the Mammal Society, £9.75.

The first edition of this Handbook in 1964 so stimulated the study of our mammalian fauna during the next twelve years that the accumulated information makes the second edition more than twice as large. The original Part I on the biology of British mammals has been condensed to a chapter on the Study of British Mammals 1964–1976, in order to make room for the enormously expanded systematic accounts. The editors have enlisted a team of specialists to deal with the groups and species they have made their special study, and the result is a handbook unsurpassed in quality by any other covering a similar area.

Information about each species is set out on a standard plan so that reference to any point required is easily found. All the excellent photographs and drawings are selected to show important points in identification, structure or behaviour, not just as ornamental embellishments, and there is a distribution map for each species, except for the Cetacea. The text is well documented with references to original sources listed in voluminous bibliographies, and there is a full index as well as a short glossary of words not found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary.

It might be thought that a handbook of this nature would be useful for reference but too formalised for straightforward perusal. On the contrary, the systematic accounts, in addition to the introductory chapter, make fascinating reading for any naturalist. The editors, contributors, and publishers are to be congratulated on producing a splendid book that will remain a standard for many years.

L. HARRISON MATTHEWS

The Savage Paradise: the Predators of Serengeti, by **Hugo van Lawick**. Collins, £15.

This is a wonderful book, concerned mainly with portraying the predators of the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater in their favoured habitats. The author has worked as a wildlife photographer in this region over a period of 15 years, and is widely known for the skill and sensitivity with which he uses his camera. Years and years of sitting quietly watching animals all day long have given him an extensive knowledge of their behaviour, what the pattern is and what follows in sequence; he has developed a strong and almost intuitive sense of what will happen next. This faculty of anticipation and timing is one reason why his animal pictures are outstanding, as demonstrated by the 150 in this book, almost all in colour, which represent the pick of goodness knows how many taken over the years.

In planning the book, Collins clearly rose to the challenge and set out to provide a setting worthy of the pictures: fine thick paper, ultra-large pages, excellent colour