



RUFFED LEMUR and AYE-AYE, two very rare Madagascar lemurs reproduced from *The Living World of Animals* reviewed below

However, the facts are all there in the text marshalled by A.L. Poole: seven introduced species of deer alone, half a dozen wallabies, including the rock-wallaby again, and another Red Book species, *Macropus parma*, not to mention two opossums, tahr and chamois.

RICHARD FITTER

**The Living World of Animals**, Reader's Digest Association in conjunction with WWF, £6.30.

Produced with much thought and lavishly illustrated with beautiful and often imaginative photographs in colour, this large (12½ x 9½ in) book, with 428 pages, is a delight to look at, while the text, written by experts in the different fields, is full of information about animals and their ecology.

The contents are divided into three parts. The first and longest is concerned with animals in different natural environments, terrestrial and aquatic; of the former those on grasslands and tropical forests are particularly interesting, showing the great diversity of animal life there; in the extreme environments of mountain and deserts, the many ingenious adaptations are well brought out, and the sections on aquatic habitats are written with great insight. This approach is most fruitful and much needed when natural environments are dwindling so rapidly, for to gain a true understanding of an animal species one must consider it from an ecological standpoint.

Part Two covers animal behaviour and man's relationships with animals, and includes a thorough survey of animal evolution, and, like Part III, on classification, conveys vast amounts of information in very condensed form; it will give the enthusiastic reader a well-balanced idea of the animal kingdom, past and present.

At once both educative and appealing, this book will be enjoyed by many, and also provide invaluable background information for the conservationist who must be aware of the complexity of the habitats he seeks to save.

R.F. MORRIS