

The World of the Grizzly Bear, by **W. J. Schoonmaker**. Lippincott, \$5.95.

The grizzly bear *Ursus arctos horribilis* is a beast on which superlatives can easily be lavished. It is one of the largest land carnivores, certainly the most powerful land mammal in North America, and probably the most feared. The author has summarised lucidly what there is to know about North American brown bears—following their life cycle, describing their breeding customs, den making behaviour and eating habits—grizzlies are tremendous diggers and will root out ground squirrels. But the two chapters about the relationship of these mammals to man will interest ORYX readers especially. Before the Wild West was opened up there were perhaps one and a half million grizzlies ambling over the countryside; years of relentless persecution, trapping, and habitat destruction has reduced the number to the present 856 or so south of the Canadian border. There are plenty of historical quotations and some are as fascinating as they are unedifying. Today perhaps more grizzlies live in Alaska than anywhere else and the author points out that even these bears are being threatened by the present exploitation of this wilderness. Unfortunately, these ‘harmless, peaceful giants’ are potentially dangerous robbers, as is shown by the occasional ‘attacks’ on people, usually by grizzlies that have learned to live off our garbage dumps.

This book is well worth reading for the insight it gives into the natural history of the grizzly bear, and will doubtless lead conservationists to ponder upon the fact that it is easier for us to come to terms with avocets than bears!

JOHN SPARKS

Window on to Wilderness, by **Anthony Cullen**. East African Publishing House, Nairobi, 42s (East Africa), 48s (UK), \$6 (USA).

Rowland Ward's Records of Big Game, 13th edition, edited by **Gerald A. Best** and **François Edmond-Blanc**, £15.

For many decades East African game departments and latterly the more recently created national parks organisations, have kept records that provide a wealth of priceless information on almost every conceivable aspect of wild animal behaviour and mode of life, and resident national parks wardens are now able to collect all manner of information on a day-to-day basis. Anthony Cullen has availed himself admirably of the manifold opportunities offered by these records, as well as his own and other expert observations, to present a wide range of authentic incidents which otherwise might never have had the publicity they deserved. The author has indeed done a great service towards the promotion of the interests of Africa's and the world's wildlife not only by his many hundreds of quotes but also by his carefully considered analysis of the subject matter, amplified by his skilful portrayal of the way in which the denizens of the wild live. A most enjoyable book.

It may seem strange that the FPS should notice a publication devoted to the spoils of the chase, even though their acquisition might be strictly selective and the quarry numerous. Viewing and photography are now so simple, and wildlife stocks decreasing so disastrously, that conservationists generally, and rightly, frown on sport killing. But the book can be recommended, despite its informative tally of exceptional trophies, as an excellent identification guide. Its initial 175 pages provide comprehensive, illustrated (head and horns) descriptions of most of the African ungulates and larger felines, their behaviour, habitat and distribution.

C. R. S. PITMAN