

mid 1960s, much of the whaling technique and many of the personnel remained little changed also.

The separate accounts of the biology of blue, fin, humpback, sei and sperm whales are generally up-to-date, but it is unfortunate that the final chapter on whale numbers, while giving a brief outline of the theory on which current stock assessments are based, does not include any more recent population estimates for the different species than those produced by the special Committee of Three Scientists for the International Whaling Commission in 1963.

There is an appendix of scientific names, an occasionally unreliable reference list and a detailed index. The book is illustrated with diagrams and photographs.

Dr Scheffer's story follows a sperm whale calf from birth through its first year of life in the North Pacific ocean. The fictional episodes alternate with extensive 'information' passages which provide a factual background to the story and are themselves supported by notes on sources. There is also a select annotated list of seven sperm whaling classics, both factual and fictional. 'Little Calf' is however no rival for 'Moby Dick'.

S.G. BROWN

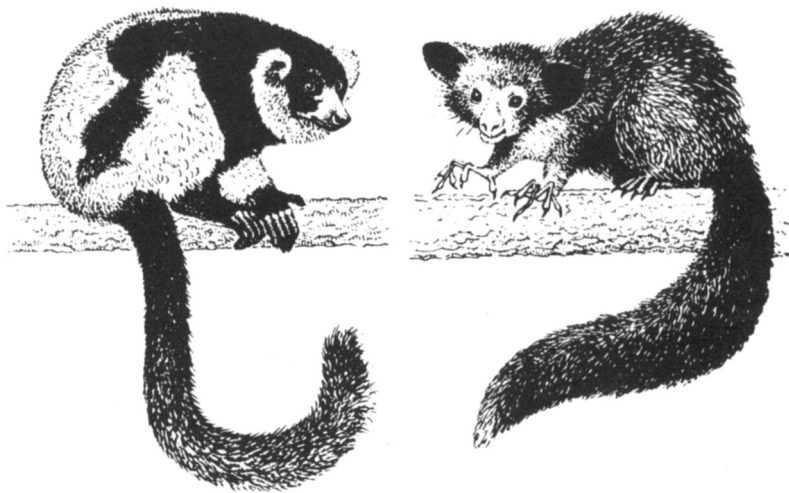
Hawaiian Land Mammals, by Raymond J. Kramer. Tuttle, Rutland, Vt, \$12.50.

Wild Animals in New Zealand, by A.L. Poole and others. Reed, Wellington, £2.75

A book on the mammals of Hawaii written in the early 18th century, before the arrival of Captain Cook, would have been a slim volume indeed. So equally would one on the mammals of New Zealand. For almost all the wild animals of both archipelagos are the descendants of mammals accidentally or deliberately released by man. The native mammal fauna of Hawaii consists only of a bat and a seal, that of New Zealand only of two bats and two seals. Yet even apart from such escaped domestic animals as feral dogs, cats, horses, donkeys, cattle, sheep and goats, Hawaii now has a dozen wild mammals and New Zealand a score or more.

Hawaii's selection, described most thoroughly and interestingly by Mr. Kramer, includes the brush-tailed rock wallaby (a Red Data Book animal in its native Australia), the small Indian mongoose and the axis deer, not to mention a group inadvisedly imported in recent years by the Hawaii State Division of Fish and Game, such as the black-tailed deer, the pronghorn antelope and the mouflon. Some of the imported mammals have done fearful damage to the native vegetation, and have even succeeded in wiping out native animals dependent on that vegetation. For instance overgrazing by rabbits on Laysan Island caused the extinction of an endemic rail, warbler and honeycreeper. The rabbits even succeeded in driving out a fellow interloper, the guinea pig. The whole book is a salutary demonstration of the irresponsibility and folly of introducing alien animals, especially on islands. Would that it could be taken to heart by the many American and Russian zoologists who are today light-heartedly introducing all kinds of strange animals in their respective countries.

The New Zealand book is a less polished piece of work, but has the advantage of excellent photographs by J.H. Johns instead of rather indifferently reproduced black and white illustrations by Khan Pannell.



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