

standard of colour work is needed if subsequent volumes are to merit the high cost asked for this first contribution in an otherwise admirable project.

BRIAN BAKER

White Gold: the story of African ivory, by Derek Wilson and Peter Ayers. Heinemann, £4.50.

My main criticism of this book is its sub-title. If you go to it with an interest in ivory and current poaching problems it will probably disappoint you; but I can thoroughly recommend it as the story of the ivory hunters. I found the chapter concerning the activities of the infamous Arab slave and ivory trader, Tippu Tip, particularly absorbing, and it is obvious that the nineteenth and early twentieth century is the period which interested the authors most. This was the hey-day of the 'big white hunters', and extensive well-chosen first-hand and contemporary quotations add considerably to the book's usefulness as a work of reference. Unfortunately recent developments are dealt with rather briefly and simplistically.

Two serious faults in a book of this nature are that it lacks an index (no doubt due to penny-pinching by the publishers), and the authors do not give sources for much of the information. I would like to know the source of 'Tanzania sends almost her whole domestic production (of ivory) to the People's Republic of China . . .' Statements of this kind need to be backed up with the source; if there is none, it should be made clear that it is hearsay. Nevertheless, I would recommend *White Gold* to anyone with the remotest interest in the future or history of Africa's elephants.

JOHN A. BURTON

The Order of Wolves, by Richard Fiennes. Hamish Hamilton, £5.25.

Most of the large carnivores hold an ambivalent place in human esteem – admired for their beauty and strength on the one hand, feared as predators and destroyers of stock on the other. Attitudes to wolves are further complicated by their role as the ancestors of domestic dogs, which might appear to give dog-owners a head start in understanding their ways; but the advantage, alas, is often negated by a hopelessly canicentric attitude to the natural world. This volume avoids the worst excesses of this approach and provides a popular account of many aspects of the lives of wolves, with a wealth of illustrations. Most chapters, however, go off on so many irrelevant tangents that one begins to despair of getting any solid information, and even the tangential information is of very dubious validity – the taiga forest is said to support susliks, marmots, rats, moles and polecats, none of which are characteristic of taiga; the classical confusion between European and American 'elk' is perpetuated; the South American maned wolf is described as a 'forest wolf' – in fact it lives on the pampas – and as a close relative of the northern wolf when in fact these are amongst the most dissimilar species in the dog family.

There is a need for good comprehensive popular accounts of species such as the wolf, which has been the subject of so many excellent specialised studies, but this is not such an account. Conservationists will for example find no useful information on present distribution or status. There are several first hand accounts of wolves that combine accurate observation and sound interpretation with a good exciting read, such as *The Wolf* by L. D. Mech (Natural History Press, New York, 1970). One of the best popular accounts remains the chapter on the wolf in *Wild Dogs of the World* by Lois E. Bueler (Constable, 1974).

G. B. CORBET

Wildlife Utilization and Game Ranching (IUCN Occasional Paper No. 17, \$4), by Dr Sue Lee Mossman and Dr Archie S. Mossman, describes the authors' return visit to southern African wildlife ranches where they once worked, reporting on progress, explaining the need for such projects and advising on wild-animal farming.