

Bergen meeting few people had realised that there existed a large and complex industry dependent on marine mammals but causing the deaths of few of them. This 'low-consumption use' as it was called, ranged from the organisation of cruises to watch them, to the publishing of books about them, and generates a turnover of the order of hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

Future plans for the management of marine mammals will need to take account of findings such as these. The bodies that control the exploitation of marine mammals have not in recent years lacked good scientific advice. It remains to be seen to what extent they will benefit from the findings of the Bergen Consultation. In the meantime those interested in conservation should read *Mammals in the Seas*. They will find much food for thought.

NIGEL BONNER

**Carnivores of Europe**, by **Robert Burton**. Batsford, £8.50.

**The Mammals of Surinam**, by **A. M. Husson**. Brill, Leiden, 225 guilders.

The individual species of carnivore have received a great deal of attention from zoologists in recent years, spurred on by the development of techniques, such as radio-tracking, that help to overcome the enormous obstacles in studying elusive, nocturnal animals with large home ranges and often very low population densities. Robert Burton's compilation brings together a great deal of information on the lives of European carnivores, drawn from old and recent sources. Each species is dealt with separately, including a distribution map, and all but three are illustrated by either a colour or monochrome photograph. While the literature on recent British work has been well covered, the accounts of those species that are confined to the continent depend upon what must be a very small selection of the available literature and not always the most recent. It is especially disappointing that almost no mention is made of present status in the accounts of individual species, although a few grains of information can be gleaned from the short final chapter on 'The fate of the carnivores'. Although introductions such as the raccoon are included, the information is badly out of date — the map for raccoon shows them in a small area in West Germany such as was occupied perhaps in the 1940s. Today the raccoon is almost ubiquitous in West and East Germany and is rapidly invading adjoining countries. On the other hand neither the account of the otter nor the map give any hint of its current rarity, although it gets a brief mention as 'endangered' in the final chapter.

In contrast, 'Mammals of Surinam' is a world away in style as well as location. It is a detailed descriptive monograph covering all species known from Surinam, based primarily upon the unique collections of the Leiden Museum. Since Surinam was one of the first parts of South America to be explored by European zoologists, many South American species were first described from there. This historical aspect is very fully dealt with by Dr Husson and the results will form a valuable basis for future work on the taxonomy of South American mammals. The book is profusely illustrated with drawings and photographs of whole animals and of skulls (to the extent that much of the detailed verbal description is superfluous), and there are keys for the identification of all species. This is in fact the only comprehensive monograph on the mammals of any South American country to be published for many years and as such will be useful far beyond the limited bounds of Surinam. It is therefore frustrating that information on life-history, ecology etc. is almost confined to a few anecdotal facts and no attempt has been made to summarise the relevant literature from outside Surinam. But that is perhaps hoping for too much. As it is, it is a fitting monument to Dr Husson's persistence in the face of failing health and to the support of his colleagues in Leiden who have ensured its completion and publication.

GORDON B. CORBET