

detail, about one wild species. Amongst an astonishing diversity of subjects are – behaviour, captivity, distribution and description; enemies and food; history, habits, hunting and heraldry; man-eating and mythology; photography, superstitions and weapons. Eight appendices provide additional information, some seemingly superfluous, especially the lengthy dissertation on hunting with a pistol or hand-gun. What could have been a valuable text book has become tedious reading by the far too frequent resort to speculation and conjecture, as well as much unnecessary explanation; inevitably it is repetitive. Those familiar with the leopard in Africa and India may not accept some of the claims and theories. There are numerous spelling mistakes and some careless inaccuracies, for instance ‘French Guinea’ on p. 65 should be ‘French Guiana’, and ‘Carl Aberley’ on p. 197 (index ref. p. 196) should be ‘Carl Akeley’. It is well illustrated, and particularly useful in the Index is the ‘Leopard or Panther’ section with its 179 specific items.

In conclusion, it seems appropriate – in view of his admitted ‘rebellion’ – to reproduce from a title page the author’s quote from Kipling, perhaps recorded with his tongue in his cheek – ‘What is this new folly, little dreamer of dreams.’

C. R. S. PITMAN

Birds and Wild Africa, by William Condry. Collins, 30s.

The author spent five months travelling in the country near the border of Zambia and Tanzania. The area holds a wide variety of habitats, from the low-flying Rukwa Valley only 2500 feet above sea-level, through *Brachystegia* woodland at mid-levels to highlands rising to over 8000 feet. He was able to draw on the experience of two well-known local naturalists, and it is evident from the bibliography that he has read widely. The result, written with a general ecological approach, makes excellent light reading. The final chapter deserves special attention. Stress is laid on the vastness, by European standards, of African relict wilderness areas which yet hang in a precarious balance – ‘it only wants a few hostile decisions and, with the aid of modern science and technology, all could be irredeemably altered in a very few years’. Tribute is paid to the tsetse fly, which has prevented huge areas being taken over by domestic cattle. The author expresses his doubts about game management methods, even conservationists being ingenious at inventing excuses why they should interfere with nature. He fears that those in charge of wildlife areas may rush headlong into crash solutions of pressing problems, whereas it is only by careful study that satisfactory ways of coping with the problems of a reserve can become known. There are 30 photographs, all by the author, mostly of birds, a few of insects and plants.

C. W. BENSON

The Last of the Wild, by Eugen Schuhmacher. Collins, £4 4s.

In 1959 the author embarked on a seven-year wildlife photography tour of every continent, including Antarctica, and a number of islands, including New Guinea, Galapagos, and Spitzbergen, with the aim of ‘arousing the interest of people of every nationality in the need for conservation measures’. This book, together with a film, is the result; and pretty stupendous it is. The photographs, $8\frac{1}{2} \times 10$ ” all in full colour, are superb, many of them of the popular and well-known species – leopards, bears, flamingos, African elephants (three) lions (three) emperor penguins (three), but with a fair proportion too of the rare and the endangered – whooping cranes, leathery turtle, nyala, vicuña, and (triumph indeed) Javan rhino. This fell to the camera of his patient co-photographer (surprisingly not mentioned on the title page), Helmut Barth, who after two weeks’ searching the Ujung Kulon reserve – a ‘fabulously beautiful wilderness of rain forest’ –