

SHORTER NOTICES

MAMMALS OF NORTHERN RHODESIA. By W. F. H. ANSELL. The Government Printer, Box 136. Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia. 12s. 6d.

This valuable addition to the text-books on the vertebrate fauna of Southern Africa is by an authority on Central African mammals.

The Systematic List has been compiled with commendable thoroughness and care, and is comprehensive without being unwieldy. It includes notes on—distribution, habitat, habits, diet and breeding; an indication of size; popular and native names; and useful keys to assist in identification. It is preceded by an informative introduction; topographical, zoogeographical and ecological notes; and brief regional definitions. There is a synopsis of “rejected” species and the reasons therefore; and also a list of “possible” additions, with appropriate explanation. As is customary in publications of this nature, there is a “Gazetteer of Localities”, and a list of “References”. There are 17 distribution maps of species, and a very clear map of the territory inside the back cover. Seven beautiful coloured plates, depicting 19 species, are the work of Pierre Dandelot (of Paris), the well-known mammal artist.

This is a reference work which can be highly recommended, especially to students of African mammals.

ECOLOGICAL STUDIES OF MAMMALS, BIRDS, REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS IN THE EASTERN BELGIAN CONGO. By KAI CURRY-LINDAHL. Royal Museum of Central Africa: Tervuren, Belgium. 200 Belgian francs.

Part I of Dr. Curry-Lindahl's interesting and well-illustrated reports upon his expeditions to the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi was published in 1956. It dealt with mammals, reptiles and amphibians. We now welcome Part II dealing with birds, and look forward to the General Account which is promised us when Part III is published.

A STUDY OF THE GAME OF THE SERENGETI PLAINS. By M. and B. GRZIMEK.

This paper is the scientific counterpart of *Serengeti Shall Not Die*, which was reviewed in the last *Oryx*. It deals in part with methods of capturing ungulates and with their subsequent marking, but is mainly concerned with the migrations of the plains animals as seen in the years of observation. It suggests

a relation between these and the differential distribution of the species of food-plants that the animals were found to prefer, this in turn depending on variations in the composition of the soil. The movements of the animals inhabiting the Ngorongoro Crater, in the Special Conservation Area, are separately discussed.

Dr. Bernhard Grzimek has most kindly agreed to send free copies of this paper to any of our members who ask for them, as long as his stock lasts. Apply : Dr. Bernhard Grzimek, Zoo Direktor, Frankfurt am Main, Am Schützenbrunnen 16, Germany.

THE INTERNATIONAL ZOO YEARBOOK, Volume I. The Zoological Society of London, £2.

This new Annual is essential for everybody interested in zoos and their inmates. After an introduction by Sir Solly Zuckerman, there are three sections : I, Apes in Captivity ; II, New Developments in the Zoo World—divided into *Publicity, Architecture, Public Services, Stock, Animal Welfare* and *Zoological Research* ; III, Reference Section.

The following are examples of the great number of interesting article and notes in Sections I and II—The Birth of a Gorilla, by Dr. E. M. Lang, Director of Basle Zoo. Preservation of the Przewalski Horse : The New Animal and Quarantine Section at the London Zoo : The Biological Research Institute of the Zoological Society of San Diego, U.S.A.

Section II gives basic information about the principal zoos of the world and their staffs. Universities Departments of Zoology are then detailed followed by an International List of Animal Dealers. Then we have *Films and Television* followed by *Species of mammals and birds bred in captivity during 1959*. Finally there is a most valuable table of mammalian gestation periods.