

stable throughout the study period and appeared to be self-regulating, mainly because of high mortality in the first and second year combined with a low reproductive rate.

*Seal Deaths in Cornwall, Autumn 1969*, by Nigel Bonner (NERC, Series C, No. 1) shows that the primary cause of death in the more than 50 pups found dead or dying was starvation, thought to have been caused by the pups becoming separated too early from their mothers. They were part of the normal juvenile mortality, and not the result of pesticides.

*The Puku* No.6, published by the Zambian Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and National Parks, is devoted to a checklist, with keys, distribution records and ecological data, of Zambia's reptiles and amphibians, by Donald G. Bradley (144 pages). Price K1.75.

Dates, facts and figures are assembled in *Nature Conservation and Landscape Management* in West Germany (in English) by Wolfgang Erz and obtainable free from D-53 Bonn-Bad Godesberg, Heerstrasse 110, West Germany.

## Brief Reviews

For value it would be hard to beat *Deer of the World*, compiled by Dr. Oliver Dansie and Dr. Walter Wince, published by the East Anglian branch of the Deer Society and obtainable from M. Clark, Tewin Orchard, Tewin, Welwyn, Herts., for 25p. In 24 pages it covers identification, status, distribution including introductions, and breeding of 45 species and races, together with a bibliography, intelligent (and intelligible) maps, and excellent line drawings of the deer themselves, including the threatened ones, such as the Persian fallow.

A revised edition, with completely new illustrations, of the invaluable *Field Guide to British Deer* by F.J. Taylor Page, incorporates new knowledge acquired since 1957, and is excellent value (hard covers) at £1 (Blackwell).

*Mammalian Hybrids*: a check-list with bibliography, by Annie P. Gray, (Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, £4) is a revised and significantly enlarged edition of the important standard work that appeared in 1954. There is a single record of hybridisation in the Arabian oryx, with the scimitar-horned oryx.

A famous volume of essays by an outstanding naturalist and conservationist, Aldo Leopold's *Sand County Almanac* is teamed with eight of his other conservation essays from *Round River. The Alien Animals, The Story of Imported Wildlife*, by George Laycock, is a general world survey dealing with general principles – reviewed in *Oryx* April 1967. *The Bears and I* is a remarkable and compelling account by Robert Franklin Leslie of three years spent with three bears that arrived as small cubs on his cabin doorstep. All three books are published by Ballantine at 40p each.

'The Tiger and its Prey' and 'The Mountain Gorilla Displays', both by George B. Schaller, 'The Man of the Woods' (chimpanzee) by Vernon Reynolds, '100 Turtle Eggs' by Archie Carr, 'Predators and Scavengers' – these are among the 18 fairly long articles by eminent conservation scientists in *Field Studies in Natural History* (reprinted from the American journal *Natural History*), with a foreword by Marston Bates

(£1.90). A companion volume, also 18 articles, *Encountering the Environment* (£1.75) is the product of what editor Alfred Meyer calls 'an aroused scientific community' who hear more clearly than most 'the approaching rumble of the Environmental Disaster Express'.

A collection of Ballantine paperbacks includes a reprint of Farley Mowat's splendidly readable *Never Cry Wolf* (30p) which must have done more for wolf conservation than any other single publication or event, and Sir Frank Fraser Darling's now famous Reith lectures, *Wilderness and Plenty* (30p). Others are concerned with the pollution and degradation of the environment and the threat to the human species. Sir Frank also writes an introduction to *The Population Bomb* (30p) by Paul Ehrlich, whom he calls 'a natural humorist . . . it is that brave humour in which men indulge when they are in grave danger'. The book spells out clearly what the danger is, what needs to be done, and also what individuals can do. And the same author's *How to be a Survivor* (40p) is a natural sequel. Three reprints are *Teaching for Survival*, by Barry Commoner; *Moment in the Sun* (deterioration in the US environment) by Robert and Leona Train Rienow, and *The Frail Ocean* (all 40p each). Jonathan Holliman's *Consumer's Guide to the Protection of the Environment* describes some of the costs of our goods and services and how the individual can help (40p). In *Since the Silent Spring* (40p) Frank Graham Jr assesses the effect of Rachel Carson's famous book. All but one are published in conjunction with either the Sierra Club or Friends of the Earth.

*The World of Birds* by Malcolm Ellis (Hamlyn, £1.50) is a large, beautifully illustrated (with photographs in both colour and monochrome), popular account of certain aspects of birds, with chapters covering their evolution, distribution and behaviour, birds of the ocean and nocturnal birds, and concluding with a very brief one on bird artists together with reproductions of the work of some.

Profusely illustrated with photographs and line drawings, *Gregory, Jackass Penguin* is an account by Marie Philip of how a badly oiled bird was restored to health, and also of the danger to this attractive species, confined to South African waters, from the immense build-up of oil tanker traffic round the Cape of Good Hope. (David Philip, £1 from FPS office).

In *Zeebongo* a well known New York animal dealer, Frederick J. Zeehandelaar, describes what he calls 'the wacky wild animal business' – a racy and sympathetic account, illustrated with a lot of first-class photographs of animals he has handled – all of course with a zoo background. (Prentice-Hall, \$5.95).

*The Expedition Organisers' Guide*, written by John Blashford-Snell and Richard Snailham for the Scientific Exploration Society (Daily Telegraph, 12½p) does a thorough job in 36 pages.

The Smithsonian Institution has published a *Preliminary Identification Manual for Mammals of South Vietnam*, by P.F.D. Van Peenen.

### Correction

In the table accompanying Kai Curry-Lindahl's article, 'War and the White Rhinos', in the January 1972 *Oryx*, page 264, two figures were unfortunately transposed in the printing and not noticed: the number of elephants should be 5594, and of square-lipped rhinos 1202.