

water and agricultural chemicals are raising problems, and Vietnam showed the sensitivity of mangal to herbicides.

While many coastal-zone studies have been made over the past decades, most focused on the flora and fauna and their life cycles, and on descriptive ecology. The relatively few (and somewhat conflicting) studies of nutrient cycling, food webs and population dynamics must be greatly extended if forceful scientific arguments are to be advanced to reduce further destruction. High biological productivity is not enough. The benefit to man, direct or indirect, must be demonstrated if the developers are to be given pause. Subtle benefits such as denitrification, sulphuric acid reduction and assimilation of other pollution need to be further studied and emphasised. Much remains to be done, but this brilliant volume provides the basic source book for future research into this undervalued twilight zone between land and water.

G.V.T. MATTHEWS

**Mammals of Borneo** by Lord Medway. Kegan Paul, £5.

Lord Medway's sojourn in the Orient has been long by some standards, short by others, but most successful by any. Field keys and annotated check lists are often rather tedious, however useful, but Lord Medway has compiled a fascinating account of Bornean mammals. The tone of this second revised edition is set in the Introduction, which evokes the full flavour of the ecology of Bornean rain-forests and the history of studies there.

The twelve orders of mammals represented in Borneo by 34 families are described succinctly, with a key to species introducing the sections on the Insectivora, Chiroptera, Primates, Rodentia, Cetacea, Carnivora and the sub-section on Tragulidae (but not for the Cervidae). The examination of museum material has been thorough, but the descriptions of individual species are rather variable and those of some of the smaller mammals rather inadequate. Reference to distributions of those species occurring outside Borneo would have been useful; so too would have been some maps of distribution within Borneo.

In paperback, with 24 black-and-white plates and running to 172 pages, this is a most useful, concise and lively book, concluding with a comprehensive bibliography extending beyond the references cited to encompass other relevant faunistic, taxonomic and general works relating to Bornean mammals. Essential for any visitor to Borneo, it is also strongly recommended to anyone wishing to broaden their knowledge of Malesian wildlife, especially when read in conjunction with *The Wild Mammals of Malaya* by the same author. The Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society are to be congratulated for sponsoring this venture, and in particular for this second edition.

DAVID J. CHIVERS

**Tiger: The Story of the Indian Tiger**, by Kailash Sankhala. Collins, £7.95.

In this highly readable and evocative account of the Indian tiger, illustrated with splendid colour photographs, the author distils the experience of twenty-five years, the later years more particularly devoted to the tiger. After serving in the Indian Forest Service, in 1962 he became Director of Delhi Zoological Park, and in 1972 head of Project Tiger, the world-wide attempt to save the Indian tiger from extinction. He records facts about the tiger which I have seen nowhere else mentioned: clearly, this was made possible only because he created for himself the unique experience of virtually 'living' with tigers both in captivity and in the wild for extended periods.

The first part of the book deals with the tiger in the wild and describes its hunting, feeding, family life, and relationship to prey and other animals in its habitat. It is interesting that the author does not consider that tigers hold territory, in variance with other observers, for example, McDougal in Nepal. There are, clearly, explanations for both propositions. The second part is concerned with his evaluation of man's impact on