

Reports and Journals

The International Zoo Yearbook, volume 9, edited by **Joseph Lucas**. Zoological Society of London, 126s. (overseas, 151s. 6d., \$18.75).

There is little on conservation as such in this latest volume, though a short note on preserved sperm as a tool for the preservation of rare mammals is valuable and prophetic, but a lot on breeding, one of the conservationist's main tools, and the usual invaluable collection of zoo statistics. An interesting note from the manager at Longleat describes plans at that very successful new zoo park; a paper from Australia describes the concept of a biological centre, and a most useful and practical paper by the former editor, Caroline Jarvis, gives detailed guidance to zoo staffs and animal-collection owners for studying the behaviour and biology of wild animals, for which they have such exceptional opportunities (now largely being wasted). This shows how and under what heads data should be recorded, giving coherence to the whole exercise. This paper can be obtained as a separate.

The Galapagos edited by **Robert T. Bowman**. California UP,

These Proceedings of the Symposia of the Galapagos International Scientific Project, 1964, comprise 40 papers covering more than 300 pages by scientists who took part – seven on general studies, six on the physical environment, eight on marine biology, five on plants, three on plant-animal relations, eight on animals and three on applied science, the last including one on the economic resources by Carl B. Koford, in which he sees tourism as the major earner for the future; and for tourism the key is conservation of the wildlife.

Conservation in Latin America. IUCN, c/o Nature Conservancy, 19 Belgrave Square, London SW1, 50s. (\$6) post paid.

The Proceedings of the IUCN Latin American Conference on the Conservation of Renewable Natural Resources, held in March 1968 at San Carlos de Bariloche, in Argentina, have appeared with splendid promptitude in a fat but manageable volume of 517 pages bound in strong paper covers. Topics include vampire bats and rabies, primate conservation problems, the vicuña, marine turtles and the import and export of animals, in which section the Hon Secretary of FPS read a paper which has suffered in its travels from delivery to publication, being given the title of an earlier paper by a different speaker and losing its opening sentences.

Animals (Restriction of Importation) Act 1964 Advisory Committee: Summary of Statistics 1967. HMSO, 4s.

These useful statistics for the year ending December 31st 1967 did not appear until 13½ months after the end of the period to which they refer, and it is to be hoped that the Department of Education and Science will be able to prod HMSO into greater despatch in future. In 1967 licences were issued for just over 600,000 reptiles, almost all tortoises, more than 26,000 primates, mostly Old World monkeys, 20 marsupials and three rhinoceroses. The great bulk of the tortoises were consumed by the pet trade, and of the primates by scientific research. Direct importation by or for zoos affected only 260 primates, 148 reptiles, 14 marsupials and 3 rhinos. Some valuable information about the countries of origin is also set out.

Conservation of Vegetation in Africa south of the Sahara
 edited by Inga and Olov Hedberg. Almqvist and Wiksell, Stockholm, Sw.kr. 70.

These Proceedings of a symposium held at the 6th plenary meeting of the *Association pour l'Etude Taxonomique de la Flore d'Afrique Tropicale* in Uppsala, September 1966, comprise 86 papers, starting with general ones – why conserve vegetation?, the influence of fire, deforestation for tsetse control – followed by surveys of the various regions. In an interesting paper on the part played by wildlife, Kai Curry-Lindahl points out that if botanists want to allow the plant communities in tropical Africa to evolve naturally they must preserve the grazing animals and their predators with them.

Life Histories of American Birds

A great sigh of relief must have gone up somewhere with the completion of the mammoth task initiated by Arthur Cleveland Bent in 1910, when he started work on *Life Histories of North American Diving Birds*. The 21st and last volume has now appeared from the Smithsonian Institution, whose Bulletin No. 237 it forms, in three massive parts, as *Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows, and Allies*. (US Government Printing Office, \$8.25 the set). It seems safe to say that nobody will ever again set out to survey the avifauna of a continent in such detail, and with such an ambitiously high standard of competence. This volume was edited by Oliver L. Austin Jr.

Botswana Mammals

A Check List and Atlas of the Mammals of Botswana, by Reay N. Smithers, published by the National Museums of Rhodesia, of which the author is Director, is an interim report made before the completion of the field work of the Botswana Mammal Survey, covering descriptions, distribution and habitat, but excluding feeding habits and reproduction. Simplified keys to the genera and some species are included.

Natal Parks Guide

To celebrate their 21st birthday the Natal National Parks Board have published a beautifully illustrated and helpfully informative *Guide* in hard covers. The photographs alone, many in colour, should lure many newcomers to their splendid reserves.

Information About the Falklands

The Falkland Islands government has issued a free information pamphlet on wildlife conservation in the colony, listing the nature reserves and sanctuaries, breeding birds and mammals and details of the conservation laws. We hope to publish an article on the Falklands in Oryx in the near future.

A County's Birds

The Birds of Somerset by E. M. Palmer and D. K. Ballance (Longmans, 45s) is a history and account of the present distribution of the county's birds, illustrated with photographs to give some idea of the variety and habitats in the county. There is a useful bibliography.

The Fauna Preservation Society

c/o The Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London NW1

Application for Membership

Please enrol me as a member of the Society

Name (BLOCK LETTERS) Please state Mr/Mrs/Miss or title

Address

I enclose £ : :

being my subscription as a Life/Ordinary Member.

The annual subscription is £2 or \$5.50, payable on 1st January. The value of a subscription is greatly increased if it is paid under a seven-year Deed of Covenant. This entails no extra cost whatever. The Secretary will be glad to send Covenant forms. A Banker's Order saves time, expense and reminders.

Life membership fee:

Age: Under 41, £50; Age 41-60, £40; Age 61 and over, £20.

Banker's Order

Bank

Address of Bank

Please pay for the Credit of The Fauna Preservation Society, Barclays Bank Ltd., Camden Town, London NW1, my subscription of £..... due on 1st January, 19 , and a similar amount on 1st January each year until further notice.

Signature

Date

Minimum Subscription £2 per annum (\$5.50) but Members are asked to subscribe as generously as possible.

TEAR ▲ HERE