

Reviewing this book for another journal, I described it as 'notable for its clarity – and its humane and balanced approach'. Overall, this last is certainly true, but we all of us have our PPPs (People's Pet Places), about which we are never quite sane; the Tsavo is obviously one of Toni Harthoorn's, and here his judgment does not seem to be so sure. His own views on elephant reduction are stated clearly, but does he give the contrary arguments full weight? Perhaps we can judge this better after reading in the last ORYX (December 1970) Dr Laws's comments on Dr Glover's recent article on Tsavo. Dr Laws was the Director of the Tsavo Research Project to whom Dr Harthoorn refers, although not by name.

Postscript – What is it about Kenya – or possibly East Africa? – which causes so many head-on clashes between individuals? Why do not the scientists there get together more and discuss their work as it proceeds? Where this is done it is surprising how often a jointly held view emerges, and one on which the Administration can act. When the poor Admin. is faced with two completely conflicting arguments, things simply drift – or someone tosses a coin. Either way, not a very satisfactory outcome of research.

JOE EGGELING

An Eye for a Bird, by Eric Hosking with Frank W. Lane. Hutchinson, £3.25

First Catch your Tiger by Oliver Graham-Jones. Collins, £1.80.

These books tell the life-stories of two men dedicated in different ways to the study of wild animals, one in portraying them in nature and the other in caring for them in captivity; from both we learn not only about the authors but much about the animals – mainly birds in the first instance, primarily mammals in the other. Eric Hosking subtitles his 'the autobiography of a bird photographer', and it carries a foreword by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. It is, of course, richly illustrated with photographs of high quality, some in colour.

Everyone with any interest in birds knows Eric Hosking's photographs. Details of how the shots were taken are not here unduly stressed; rather it is the behaviour of the subjects that, properly, receives chief attention. Likewise, there is not too much technical information for the amateur, although one may follow the evolution of the equipment from a box camera, used (unsuccessfully!) at the age of eight, to the costly modern artillery of interchangeable lenses of ever greater dimensions and such devices as electronic flash. More interesting is the human story of how the youth set up in business, at first with bread-and-butter commissions to photograph weddings and children, but gradually specialising in nature work. The main task itself was trying enough, requiring long hours in the dark room; the author now has something like 200,000 pictures on file, apart from discards, and one of them is thought to have been reproduced on about 1000 occasions. The actual photography involved periods of arduous field work each year. It has also been dangerous at times, for the punning title refers to the early loss of an eye in a night encounter with a tawny owl. The author makes it abundantly clear, however, that he has been able to live the life that he most desired; and he pays deserved tribute to the support given by his wife, Dorothy.

Oliver Graham-Jones was the first whole-time resident veterinary officer at the London Zoo, and for some years concurrently Curator of

Mammals. His was the pioneer task of creating an effective medical service for the animals in the Society's collection, including the design and equipment of a modern hospital; this he successfully accomplished in the face of considerable difficulties. On the professional side there were also novel problems, particularly in working out techniques for producing anaesthesia in species of all sizes and with widely different types of reaction; and always, of course, it was first necessary to catch his tiger – some hair-raising incidents are vividly recounted. The author writes with notable sensitivity about the animals that were his patients, emphasising the need for shielding them from emotional stress and the fundamental psychological difference between wild animals under restraint and domesticated species with an inherent orientation to man.

A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON

Animals of Bible Lands, by G. S. Cansdale. Paternoster Press, £2.50

Written primarily for the Bible student interested in natural history, this fascinating book attempts throughout to relate Biblical texts to modern knowledge of the Palestine fauna – 'animal' is used in its widest sense, embracing vertebrates and invertebrates alike. It seeks also to make precise identifications of the many Hebrew animal names found in Bible texts. It is hardly surprising that the translators here encountered many difficulties, but in some cases they clearly did not consult the works of those scholar-naturalists best qualified to help. Thus it is astonishing to read that the Hebrew name 'Shaphan' is still being variously translated as 'coney', or even as 'badger' or 'rock badger'. As long ago as 1866 Canon Tristram, aptly described as 'the father of natural history in Palestine', indicated that this name, meaning literally 'the hider', was correctly applied to that unique little mammal, the hyrax. Again, Tristram clearly indicated that the Hebrew name 'kippod' (qippod) meant the hedgehog; it was often, understandably, misapplied to the porcupine, but there seems little excuse for the erroneous translation 'bittern' Zeph. 2:14: 'The bittern shall lodge in the upper lintels' (of Nineveh). This was doubtless a prophetic utterance, alluding to the desolation and burial of Nineveh beneath the soil, when the humble hedgehog could indeed have lodged in its upper lintels! No doubt it did fulfil this prophecy, since *Hemiechinus* at least is known to construct a burrow.

This erudite book, well illustrated and full of interest for naturalist and bible student alike, is first class value, and stimulating reading for anyone with these interests contemplating a visit to the Holy Land.

DAVID HARRISON

The Shell Natural History of Britain, edited by Maurice Burton. Michael Joseph, £2.50.

At a time when the term 'natural history' is spoken of condescendingly, if not actually derisively by some younger biologists (and when its entry in one modern dictionary can be followed by 'archaic' – it is good to find a sponsor and publishers issuing a book with this title and an editor, and a professional scientist at that, so completely uninhibited in his use of the words in his introductory chapter. For the truth is that whereas the older, often anecdotal form of natural history has undoubtedly fallen into a well-earned decline, a newer, more precise study of living things in the wild was never more needed than at the