

**Shell Guide to the Wildlife of Ethiopia**, by John Blower. Ethiopian Tourist Organisation, P.O. Box 2183, Addis Ababa, \$E. 1.50 (5s).

John Blower had been four-and-a-half years with the Ethiopian Wildlife Department when he left in April this year to take a similar appointment in Nepal. During that time he must have travelled at least as widely in Haile Selassie's empire as any other naturalist past or present. His booklet, intended 'as a field guide to the recognition of the commoner and larger forms of wildlife found in Ethiopia', describes seventy-six forms, all, except the ostrich and the crocodile, mammals, six of them Red Data Book species: mountain nyala, Simien fox, walia ibex, Nubian ibex, Swayne's hartebeest and Somali wild ass. There are ten full page colour plates by Baron Jurgen Freiherr von Wolff and a superb cover design by Mrs. Jill Poole.

Not all these animals are easy to see: some are very rare, some nocturnal, some have very limited distribution. In six expeditions to Ethiopia totalling almost 52 weeks the reviewer has seen only 33, less than half. Blower implies that the Somali race of ass that occurs in Ethiopia's Danakil Desert has no vertical stripe across the shoulder, thus distinguishing it from the Nubian race, but this is not the case with animals observed by the reviewer in the Sardo area of Dancalia and photographed there by Dr Franco Santi. Curiously, however, the stripe does not show in Blower's own photograph from the same location in ORYX of May 1968.

JEFFREY BOSWALL

**The World's a Zoo**, by John Perry. Dodd, Mead, \$6.95.

**Berggren's Beasts**, by Sigvard Berggren. Hutchinson, 35s.

Man's influence now directly extends to every acre of the Earth's surface, whether by virtue of his physical presence, by agriculture or forestry, or by radioactive fall-out or pollution. Even in the Antarctic appreciable amounts of DDT and its residues have been found in penguins. Since the year 1600, approximately when man began his special attack on the living world, one hundredth of our higher animals have become extinct. The present position is now much worse, for one fortieth are at present threatened. A zoo could be said to be a place where animals are protected by man from the physical and biological environment, for various reasons including entertainment and research. Now that man's actions are having such catastrophic repercussions on the plant and animal kingdoms, perhaps the whole world ought to be treated as a zoo.

John Perry's plea is that mankind should devise patterns of co-existence so that wild species will survive. As Assistant Director of the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C., he has a lot to say about the whys and wherefores of zoos, and believes that in an imperfect world they do a lot of good. But he does not pull his punches in describing where he thinks zoos go wrong and how they could better serve international conservation. He would like to see 'Survival Centers' established as adjuncts to zoos, ranch-like breeding farms specialising in one or a few species of threatened animals, and not open to the public.

However, his book ranges more widely than this for he gives by far the best account yet published of the work of IUCN and especially of its Survival Service Commission, of which he is a member. As Secretary of the Wild Animal Propagation Trust, he describes its endeavours to promote the captive breeding of endangered species in the USA.

John Perry, a gentle man, could have written a much angrier book; he has chosen the way of sweet reasonableness and his case is the stronger.

Boras Zoo in Sweden was a pioneer in the 'zoo park' field and *Berggren's Beasts* describes its origins and development. Sigvard Berggren keeps his animals as far as possible in large open enclosures. The largest is the African savanna exhibit, where elephants, white rhinos, reticulated giraffes, white-tailed gnus, bushbuck, crowned cranes, ground hornbills, ostriches and guinea fowl roam at will in the daytime. He describes how the population was built up by a process of trial and error.

The book is a personal history, and the author concludes with a chapter devoted to his philosophy on the relative places of man and animals in the world, and on the form that zoos will have to take in years to come.

JOE LUCAS

**The Hedgehog**, by Maurice Burton. André Deutsch, 30s.

'It seems that one can expect almost anything of a hedgehog!' This remark on page 34 almost summarises the contents of this new and welcome addition to the series of Survival Books. Dr. Burton has augmented his own observations and study of this fascinating mammal with information received from his many correspondents. To a detailed analysis of the hedgehog's general behaviour, senses, feeding, breeding and hibernation, are added accounts, with photographs, of the puzzling habit of self-anointing, which Dr. Burton compares with anting in birds and the reaction of cats to catmint. The evidence presented on the long-standing belief that hedgehogs impale fruit on their spines seems to indicate that it is not impossible under certain conditions associated with self-anointing. The equally old controversy about hedgehogs robbing resting cows of their milk seems similarly to be not so unlikely as might at first be thought.

It was time that the various pieces of lore that have surrounded discussion of this nocturnal and secretive mammal should be critically examined and either accepted or rejected, and in doing this Dr. Burton has provided us with a pleasantly written and interesting book.

JOHN CLEGG

**Natural History of the Lake District**, edited by G. A. K. Hervey and J. A. G. Barnes. Warne, £3.

The Lake District is the only truly mountainous area in England and each year attracts thousands of visitors who enjoy walking, climbing, boating and other open-air pursuits. It is for such people that this book has been written.

The idea originated with the late Canon Hervey who acted as editor. The book reflects his tremendous enthusiasm and energy and his interest in conservation, and it is to his genial persuasion that we owe the enlistment of the team of specialist contributors. Their job was to draw attention to special features of the local natural history, to tell the reader about the plants and animals he is most likely to see, and to present a story of changing nature so that conservation work may be more widely understood. Most have succeeded admirably and the accounts of life in the water, of birds and of deer are especially noteworthy for the intimate local knowledge presented.

With such a wealth of available material to compress into a book of reasonable length some omissions are inevitable, but it is strange that there is so little reference to classic work on Lake District ecology. Thus, even though the Keskadale and Rigg Beck oakwoods are mentioned in the chapter on plants, it is not until the chapter on birds (page 156) that it is made clear that it is sessile (not pedunculate) oakwood which is a