

proved a groundless anxiety—the animals merely jump over the obstacle.

This is an absorbing book not only for the great deal that it has to say about migrations, fur, feathers, the temperature of sleeping men and the use of clothing, but also because the author appears to be musing on paper. It is intriguing and delightful to find such candour as in his remark about the cooling of titmice at low temperatures: 'But I would not know how to examine a physical system in which all three factors in the equation comprising temperature, heat and insulation were changing'.

JOE LUCAS

The Long African Day, by Norman Myers. Collier-Macmillan, £5.95.

The prospective purchaser would be misled, if he thought this was yet another 'coffee table' production on that continent. The pictures indicate the quality of the camera work, but there the comparison with other lavishly illustrated books, many of which become skeletons if the photographer's art is removed, must end. Take away the excellent photographs from this work and only the skin has been removed, exposing muscle and fat of considerable import.

Norman Myers lives in Kenya and is much travelled throughout East Africa, where he has among other things undertaken ecological surveys for IUCN on the status of the leopard and cheetah, as *Oryx* readers know. His own experience, coupled with an intimate knowledge of the work carried out by other scientists in East and Central Africa, has resulted in an excellent compendium of the wildlife scene. Full recognition is given of the work and observations of many researchers and the bibliography shows the wealth of scientific experience that he has drawn upon. Every major 'problem' from poaching to elephant overpopulation is dealt with sincerely and with great objectivity.

In the final pages the author says, 'This book is not a polite plea for wildlife. There have been dozens of those in the last ten years, and if there were scores every year—given the progress that has been achieved so far—they still would not meet a fraction of what is needed. Because there is no other measure: what matters is not whether a lot has been done, or a lot more than a lot, but whether it is *enough*'.

This book should be read by all those who have a feeling for the wildlife of Africa. It will increase their own knowledge whilst providing the answers to the many questions posed by the unconverted.

R. J. WHEATER

Okavango Adventure, by Jeremy Mallinson. David & Charles, £3.25.

This account of an animal-collecting journey to Africa fulfills the first requirement of any successful book—it is eminently readable. From the time the author leaves Tilbury, with masses of luggage and a pair of European red foxes destined for Pretoria Zoo, until his return to Heathrow, with a varied collection of African specimens, we are interested in his progress, sympathise with him in his failures and rejoice over his successes.

His modesty, revealed in humorous, self-deprecatory accounts of his adventures, gives the book a universal appeal. Not only does his sincere love of animals become apparent, but also his love and understanding of people—a quality sometimes missing from books of this genre. We see this most clearly, perhaps, in his amazing relationship with the lion, Chinky, and in the affectionate rapport between the author and John Carpenter, the African who was trained to build cages and feed animals.

With pace and infectious enthusiasm, Mallinson describes how 'the