

and the somewhat haphazard way in which many have been omitted seems a pity, for instance we could have been told that the tree-shrews of S. E. Asia are known to science as *Tupaia*. Also, that obscene oddity the naked mole rat—expressively called *Heterocephalus glaber*—of Northern Kenya and adjacent arid regions might have been included. Other notable omissions are the fishing cat of Asia; the potto, a strange Tropical African lemuroid; Humboldt's woolly monkey of South America; and *Hypsignathus monstrosus*, the super-bat of the African equatorial forest region. The wombat of Australia is scarcely mentioned; the considerable population of the mountain gorilla, east of Lake Kivu has been overlooked.

The four chapters on birds have succeeded in presenting lucidly a splendid exposition on a vast and complex subject, but in the one on "Birds of Prey" there are some unfortunate inexactitudes. The harrier hawk, *Gymnogenys typicus* (now *Polyboroides typicus*) is widespread in Africa south of about latitude 15° North, and not as seems suggested restricted to South Africa. A printer's error makes *pyaneus* instead of *cyaneus* the specific name of the hen harrier; the bearded vulture, *Gypaetus barbatus* would appear by inference to be an Indian species, though it occurs in Europe and Africa and other parts of Asia; similarly, the African fish eagle (not really a sea eagle), *Cuncuma* (not now *Haliaetus*) *vocifer* is widespread through much of Africa, and is not confined to South Africa as might be inferred—its most remarkable characteristic is the unmistakable and resonant laughing cry. The description of the hunting technique of the crowned eagle, *Stephanoaetus coronatus* is imperfect, the method described being the one which is least commonly used.

Of an exceptionally high standard and cheap at the price, this is a volume which is indispensable to nature lovers and students.

C. R. S. P.

NO ROOM FOR WILD ANIMALS. By BERNHARD GRZIMEK.
Thames and Hudson, Ltd. 18s.

In his capacity as Director of the Frankfurt Zoo, Dr. Grzimek has made several expeditions to countries from which zoos draw many of their more spectacular exhibits. This book deals with a trip to the Belgian Congo to collect animals, even more to observe them for himself, but it also contains a powerful plea for the beasts that man is so rapidly exterminating or displacing.

His first chapter has the gloomy title "African wild animals are doomed" and unless there is a rapid, and quite improbable, change of heart this prognostication is only too likely to be fulfilled. The only ultimate hope for the larger African animals is in the game reserves and national parks, and with the rapidly changing political picture to-day there is always the chance of even these areas being sacrificed to the god of expediency.

Dr. Grzimek pokes a finger of scorn at big game hunting, more particularly in its commercialized armchair form, but he also points out that but for discriminating hunters it is unlikely that any deer would have survived in Europe. This is probably correct as regards the red deer though one wonders if it is equally applicable to the elusive and ubiquitous roe. It is surely true in Africa also that the most effective game conservation is usually found where European hunters have been, and still are, most active.

There is a particularly interesting passage in Chapter 10 "Among the hippopotami", which emphasizes one potential value of such expeditions. As a result of watching hippos in their native haunts, Dr. Grzimek modified the Frankfurt hippo enclosure, replacing narrow steps by steep ones and increasing the volume of water. As a result of this a calf has since been born and reared each year.

One result of this trip was the safe arrival in Frankfurt of the first okapi to reach Germany and Dr. Grzimek gives a full account of the okapi-catching station where it was obtained. No reasonable person can object to the way in which a few of these rare animals are carefully caught each year and sent to approved zoos. The author has a readable style and every page is full of interest, with a good many sly digs at himself and his fellow humans. The translation is excellent, the only technical mistakes noted being in the captions to the photographs: for instance, 'Thomas waterbuck' should be Uganda kob, while the giant forest hog shown is, as the original German copy has it, one of the first brought to England and not the very first. Unfortunately one finds that the English edition has a mere 20 photographs, compared with more than 130 photogravure pictures in the original, as well as several colour plates.

G. S. C.