

notes as economical of line as they are vital, each a simple statement drawn from a far deeper understanding of how animals are put together and how they work. Scientific journals are dangerous places to 'go into print', especially if one proposes to use superlatives. But this concerns art, and art happily is still a matter of personal opinion. For what mine is worth, I believe these are the most technically competent, the most sympathetic, lively, free animal drawings ever to come out of Africa—or anywhere else.

KEITH SHACKLETON

Man and Wildlife, by **C. A. W. Guggisberg**. Evans, £3.50

Wildlife Preservation, by **Philip Street**. McGibbon and Kee, £1.50

Wild Harvest, by **Clive Roots**. Lutterworth Press, £2.25

These three books examine the particular relationship of man to wildlife with which the readers of *ORYX* will be familiar, but although there is a degree of overlap, the emphasis of each is distinctive.

Perhaps Dr Guggisberg's is the most satisfying because a nice balance of text and illustration both stimulates and makes one wish to browse. Tracing the chequered relations between beast and man back to neolithic cultures, he develops the subject to the present time when in a few cases the destructive trend has been reversed. Contemporary prints and photographs amplify the text; there is one enchanting reproduction by Thomas Bairns showing a mixed herd of quagga, blesbok and other species being hunted by bushmen, and painted just 34 years before the last quagga died ignominiously behind bars in Amsterdam Zoo. One third of the book is devoted to a world survey of important national parks and reserves, with maps, relevant statistics and lists of species of special interest, which makes it a useful source of reference.

Wildlife Preservation is an eminently readable account of the problems of saving animals from extinction, and the ways and means of reversing the situation. *Operation Oryx*, partly financed by the FPS, has a whole chapter to itself, and others document Asia, Africa and the Arctic.

Mr Roots's book is the most intellectually stimulating of the trio. The first section documents the progress towards the Animal Armageddon, a Doomsday account that documents the roles of hominid avarice, greed, ignorance and plain cruelty. Medical research and the pet business are indicted by facts. Part two, covering the 'sensible' harvest, deals with the history of the wildlife sanctuary movement, farming wildlife, controlled



A drawing by Ralph Thompson reproduced from his new book *An Artist's Safari*, reviewed above

hunting, and the zoos' role in conservation. Clive Roots is rightly in favour of careful exploitation of wildlife resources and argues for well organised hunting and less humbug and hypocrisy: 2½ million deer are killed annually in the United States and this is a sustainable yield! Nothing, it seems, speaks louder than money, and animal populations that can be sustained for profit become an asset. He cites examples, including the Uganda Wildlife Development Company which raises revenue from shooting and photo safaris, which is then ploughed back to improve the game. Tribesmen, once poachers, now gamekeepers, thus have a vested interest in maintaining their new-found source of revenue. So too with leopards; these can also be maintained and cropped for their skins in areas where game management or farming is practised. The profit margin on their pelts would exceed that on the meat they consume (why not ranch them like mink, one might add!).

But how will the overpopulated, technologically backward, under-nourished Asian and African countries react in the 21st century to having large areas of land managed for wildlife? Will game farming ever be productive enough to keep pace with the demand for food in those countries where it could be practised? Clive Roots has dealt well with the immediate future; it is a pity he did not look even deeper into his crystal ball. I, for one, would have hoped that he would not have been too disappointed with the view.

JOHN SPARKS

The World of the Jaguar, 45s; The World of the Giant Panda, 36s,
both by **Richard Perry**. David and Charles.

Antelopes, by Rennie Bere; Bears, by Richard Perry; Eagles, by Leslie Brown; Gorillas, by Colin P. Groves. Barker, 25s each.

The jaguar, a handsome 'spotted cat', whose skin is coveted by the luxury trade, has disappeared from vast regions where it was once abundant and its numbers are steadily decreasing; but it is not as yet seriously endangered. Richard Perry's book is a well illustrated medley of fact and fiction, folklore and legend, supported by lengthy quotations from the published writings of travellers and explorers, and embellished with horrifying tales of the perils of the Amazonian forest. His book on the giant panda, particularly beautifully illustrated, is an important documentary which records in detail the little that is known of the mode of life of the fabulous 'white bear' or *beishung* of Western China. Most heartening is the suggestion that as many as two thousand still survive in the elevated bamboo forests not readily accessible to man. The bibliography, incorporating a host of minor references, is of especial value.

The other four titles are from 'The World of Animals' series, each superbly illustrated with 16 pages of colour and 60 of black and white photographs, each in its own way a text book in miniature. All four refer to the past abundance of the various species under discussion and the increasing threat to their well being; all offer advice for their future welfare. The text is strictly limited, and much space has been wasted in its style of presentation. *Antelopes* is a term, without scientific basis, covering a diversity of ungulates, varying in size from the massive, bovine-like eland to the diminutive dik-dik—no bigger than a hare. To obviate the limitations imposed a systematic list of the 85 antelope species includes short descriptive notes on colour, size, weight, distribution, and type and length of horns—useful for identification. *Bears*, comprising seven species and many races, deals with habitat, food, predation, hibernation and family