

finally), and the quantity of information collated is very impressive; deficiencies in our knowledge are clearly indicated. A summary of quantitative (and qualitative) data for each genus would be very helpful in Volume 2.

Minor deficiencies concern the lack of running heads to the pages (which impedes quick cross-reference), no references given for the two comprehensive volumes on callitrichids (to which reference is made in the introduction), use of the archaic and confusing term *Anthropoidea*, and use of 'oestrus' (so inappropriate to haplorhine primates, who have emancipated their reproductive behaviour from the rigid hormonal control characterizing other mammals). Otherwise, it is certainly an outstanding volume, which will be invaluable to anyone interested in the neotropics and their primates; the completion of this task is awaited eagerly.

DAVID J. CHIVERS

Copies obtainable from R. Mittermeier, Dept of Anatomical Sciences, SUNY, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11794, USA.

**Nocturnal Malagasy Primates**, by P. Charles-Dominique, H.M. Cooper, A. Hladik, C.M. Hladik, E. Pages, G.F. Pariente, A. Petter-Rousseaux, J.J. Petter and A. Schilling. Academic Press. £19.60.

This book is an integrated collection of papers concentrating on the prosimians of the dry deciduous forest of Western Madagascar; it makes a welcome companion volume to Charles-Dominique's 1977 work on the rainforest prosimians of Gabon. Of the ten papers, one is on climate and vegetation, three are field studies of sympatric prosimian species and four are captive colony studies on various aspects of activity, feeding, marking and reproductive patterns under simulated seasonal variation of light and temperature conditions. These field and laboratory studies are exceptionally well integrated and contain valuable information, although owing to logistic problems beyond the research team's control, the field work was necessarily of limited duration. The two remaining papers (one a posthumous paper by Pariente on light conditions in the natural habitat and another on learning abilities of two prosimian species) are of interest in themselves although of less immediate relevance to the otherwise well-knit work. More discussion would have been valuable – in particular direct comparison with the prosimians of dry deciduous habitat in mainland Africa would have been of use.

The book is well produced with a clear layout and useful figures; in one or two papers the English seems awkward but in general it is a readable work. The main drawback is the price: this is a reference book for the specialist interested in primate ecology and behaviour, not for the naturalist or general conservationist.

KATHERINE HOMEWOOD

**Swift and Enduring**, Cheetahs and Wild Dogs of the Serengeti, by George and Lory Frame. Dutton, New York, \$16.50.

George and Lory Frame, the dust cover tells us, are predator ecologists and this is their first non-technical work. These patient and appreciative observers have set out to give us an intimate account of the day-to-day life of two handsome carnivores but an integral part of their tale is a picture of the day-to-day life of an endearing pair of predator ecologists. Incidentally they also give us a glimpse of the little community of researchers that lived in the Serengeti Research Institute while they pursued their four-year study.