

we would have liked to see included, and indeed some newly found sites have been recommended for grade 1 status even since the publication of this book – I walked over one only last May. Dr Ratcliffe and the NCC are to be congratulated on a good job. Only the unregenerate bureaucrats who caused the delay in publication should be criticised.

There is one last fly in the ointment. In commending these volumes to the public, the Secretaries of State for Environment and for Education and Science, Peter Shore and Shirley Williams, say that neither the Government nor landowners are committed to any action on particular sites mentioned in the text. This may be a political necessity at present, but it is up to the wildlife conservation movement to make it an equal political necessity for the Government to commit itself, quite soon, to the safeguarding of the great majority of these sites. What would be said if the Government issued an illustrated catalogue of the Crown jewels or the National Gallery, and then said it was not in any way committed to safeguarding them from vandalism or theft?

RICHARD FITTER

Konrad Lorenz, by A. Nisbet. Dent £5.95.

There can be hardly anyone remotely interested in animals who has not heard the name of Konrad Lorenz. Here now is an excellent opportunity to learn more of the 'human substance at the centre'. This is no mere adulation of a latter-day St Francis, but a determined attempt to understand and explain a man and his work, both of which can be penetrating and amorphous, fascinating and irritating, humble and arrogant – but always stimulating. There are those who genuinely cannot understand why Lorenz shared a Nobel Prize with such outstanding experimental biologists as Tinbergen and von Frisch, who were puzzled when eminent scientists like Kramer, von Holst and Koehler worked so hard to create an academic niche for him. This book distils, on the whole successfully, and evaluates the essential Lorenz from the lengthy papers and the philosophical books so long in gestation.

Lay readers will still find the exposition of ethology and Lorenz's seminal contribution somewhat hard going, and will delight more in the many and amusing anecdotes about the ebullient phenomenon that is Lorenz the man. They will also, regrettably, fasten on the chapter dealing with the notorious 'nazi' paper of 1940, and on the more recent acceptance from an extreme right-wing group of the Schiller Prize. These issues are not baulked, but they are convincingly dismissed as being the result of a certain political and social naivety. In the account of the later years there is a running refrain of things left undone that might have been done. No goose book has appeared to complement the jackdaw-oriented *King Solomon's Ring*. The Seewiesen establishment is not thought to have produced scientific results comparable to the time and effort involved. But Lorenz is only human, and it is fitting that the book ends with a sentimental account of the Return of the ageing Prophet to his native land and a report of his determination to live for longer than the 92 years achieved by his father.

G. V. T. MATTHEWS

The Mammals of Pakistan, by T. J. Roberts. Benn, £35.00.

This new and comprehensive book will be welcomed as a modern work of reference by specialists in the field and by all naturalists interested in the fauna of Pakistan. It is liberally illustrated with text figures which are accurate and useful as well as artistically pleasing. The distribution maps for each species in Pakistan are especially welcome, as is the comprehensive bibliography and geographical gazetteer. The text is well written and concise, and includes information on the taxonomy of each species, descriptive notes, distribution, status and biological notes.