

Book reviews

one page on fishes—but is designed to fill gaps left by other books. If, however, you should need to build, plumb and wire a park headquarters or house, tie a bowline, age a hippopotamus (by its teeth) or anaesthetize a warthog—simply enquire within.

The book is divided into 16 chapters, which cover the basics of: building and construction; workshop and vehicle maintenance; office and staff organization; planes and flying; plumbing, drainage and waterworks; road building and river crossings; simple surveying techniques; camping and bushcraft; a collection of useful tips for home and workshop; East African natural history (including a useful key to Acacias); medical, first aid and veterinary matters; guns, hunting and anti-poaching; radio communication; and the capture and care of wild animals.

The main drawback is that a single volume is not sufficient to cover the subjects, but references are given. It also presupposes a large measure of common sense on behalf of the reader—some of the instructions, if followed by a novice without expert tuition, could be downright dangerous. Some warnings are given—the short section on blasting with dynamite or gelnignite begins, 'This is not recommended for those without experience . . .' An expert in any of the fields covered might quibble about minor points; for example, some would object to incising venomous snake bites, even—as stipulated—as a last ditch attempt to save life; and inexperienced use of a tourniquet can do more harm than good, but this does not detract from the value of bringing together such a mass of information between the covers of one manageable book. It will serve as an invaluable aid to anyone living and working in wilderness areas.
Ian Redmond, wildlife biologist and photographer

Naturalised Mammals of the World

Sir Christopher Lever

Published by the Longman Group Ltd, Harlow, Essex, 1985.
£40.00

I have had this book on my desk since it was published and I have found it an invaluable work of reference. Inevitably, with a publication that endeavours to be comprehensive, every time I come across an obscure reference to any mammalian introduction in some out-of-the-way

corner of the globe, I check to see if it is mentioned. Almost without exception Sir Christopher has ferretted them all out. This will be, without question, a standard work for many years to come, and invaluable wherever you live—from the Solomons to Newfoundland—an accurate account of man's stupidity.

John A. Burton

The Giant Panda

Wang Zongyi

China Pictorial in 1984, distributed by China International Book Trading Corp., and obtainable in Britain from Collets, Denington Estate, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 2QT, UK, 120 pp, PB £9.50 plus £1.00 postage and packing

To this Jasmine-tea Table Book no fewer than 23 Chinese photographers have contributed. It is lavishly illustrated and well produced. There are 103 pictures and 12 pages of text. The words tell us about the animal, its habitat, its problems in relating to human beings, its propagation in captivity and its role as a political envoy. The photographs, however, dominate the volume and many are stunning. They show different aspects of panda life, even though they are mostly, as would be expected, of animals in captivity. The illustrations also embrace the panda's dramatic habitat, animal neighbours like the golden monkey and the takin (a shaggy highland four-foot) and a selection of woodland and alpine flowers. The shot of copulating wild pandas should have been attributed to George Schaller from whose still it is reproduced.

Jeffery Boswall, BBC Natural History Unit, Bristol, UK

Sex in Nature

Chris Catton and James Gray

Croom Helm, 1985, 224 pp, HB £12.95

A broad overview of sexual strategies in plants and animals, aimed at the interested amateur. It is lavishly illustrated, in colour and in black and white.

The Countryside in Winter

Brian Jackman, illustrated by Bruce Pearson

Hutchinson, 1985, 160 pp, HB £12.95

A celebration of Britain's most underrated season by Brian Jackman, FFPS Council Member and Travel Writer of the Year 1982, and Bruce

Oryx Vol 20 No 2, April 1986