

Reports and Journals

The Malayan Nature Society has produced a special double issue of its *Journal* (Vol.24, parts 3 and 4), entitled *National Parks of Malaysia*, with accounts of the country's four parks, Taman Negara and Templer in Malaya, Bako in Sarawak and Kinabalu in Sabah. Between them these parks protect a wide range of comparatively common animals and also several endangered ones, including orang-utan and Sumatran rhinoceros; many of the more common animals could quickly become endangered, which makes the preservation of these areas vitally important. Writing about the gibbons, siamang and leaf monkeys, Lord Medway points out that 'the very specialisations which make them successful in the rain forest spell doom to these mammals if their natural habitat is disturbed'. The *Journal* is obtainable from the Secretary, PO Box 750, Kuala Lumpur, M \$8.00 plus postage.

The *Transactions* of the IX International Congress of Game Biologists, held in Moscow in September 1969, in a volume of nearly a thousand pages, has main sections covering game breeding and habitat improvement, game counts, diseases, increasing productivity, and the predator-prey problem, the last of particular interest to conservation. A.A. Sludski points out that in the Republic of Kazakhstan 200,000 wolves have been killed in the last 20 years, but wolves are still numerous. They kill healthy prey animals as well as the weak, and protection, he argues, would be premature. In part of Siberia, on the other hand, L.N. Michurin found that wolves kept the wild reindeer herds healthy by killing mainly sick and weak animals.

All papers in Russian have an English summary; those in German and English a Russian summary.

The Status of Birds in Britain and Ireland, edited by D.W.Snow for the British Ornithologists' Union (Blackwells, £3), has been long awaited. The BOU's previous list of British birds, in 1952, was widely recognised as unsatisfactory and out-of-date. This list has several valuable innovations. It places much less stress on subspecies. It follows recognised authorities for its sequence (Peters) and nomenclature (Vaurie). It places in special categories species which have not occurred within the past 50 years, introduced species, and species about whose genuine native status there is some form of doubt. This is a list that should stand the test of time, undergoing only those revisions necessitated by natural changes and more efficient observation.

The 1971 ICBP *Bulletin* (International Council for Bird Preservation), a substantial, well edited, 284-page volume, includes sections on endangered species, birds of prey, oil pollution, the trade in wild birds, threats to seabirds and toxic chemicals as well as the customary reports. (£2.50 or \$6.60 from ICBP, British Museum (Natural History), London S.W.7).

The Pedigree Book of the Przewalski Wild Horse, edited by Dr. Jiri Volf and published by the Prague Zoological Garden, shows an increase of three in the zoo numbers in 1969 and 21 in 1970. At the end of 1970 the total zoo population was 182 of which 100 were mares; 28 were in the UK.

The Ecology of the Timber Wolf in Algonquin Provincial Park, Ontario, by D.H. Pimlott, J.A. Shannon and G.B. Kolensky, is the report of a study made between 1958 and 1962. The wolf population remained

stable throughout the study period and appeared to be self-regulating, mainly because of high mortality in the first and second year combined with a low reproductive rate.

Seal Deaths in Cornwall, Autumn 1969, by Nigel Bonner (NERC, Series C, No. 1) shows that the primary cause of death in the more than 50 pups found dead or dying was starvation, thought to have been caused by the pups becoming separated too early from their mothers. They were part of the normal juvenile mortality, and not the result of pesticides.

The Puku No.6, published by the Zambian Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and National Parks, is devoted to a checklist, with keys, distribution records and ecological data, of Zambia's reptiles and amphibians, by Donald G. Bradley (144 pages). Price K1.75.

Dates, facts and figures are assembled in *Nature Conservation and Landscape Management* in West Germany (in English) by Wolfgang Erz and obtainable free from D-53 Bonn-Bad Godesberg, Heerstrasse 110, West Germany.

Brief Reviews

For value it would be hard to beat *Deer of the World*, compiled by Dr. Oliver Dansie and Dr. Walter Wince, published by the East Anglian branch of the Deer Society and obtainable from M. Clark, Tewin Orchard, Tewin, Welwyn, Herts., for 25p. In 24 pages it covers identification, status, distribution including introductions, and breeding of 45 species and races, together with a bibliography, intelligent (and intelligible) maps, and excellent line drawings of the deer themselves, including the threatened ones, such as the Persian fallow.

A revised edition, with completely new illustrations, of the invaluable *Field Guide to British Deer* by F.J. Taylor Page, incorporates new knowledge acquired since 1957, and is excellent value (hard covers) at £1 (Blackwell).

Mammalian Hybrids: a check-list with bibliography, by Annie P. Gray, (Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, £4) is a revised and significantly enlarged edition of the important standard work that appeared in 1954. There is a single record of hybridisation in the Arabian oryx, with the scimitar-horned oryx.

A famous volume of essays by an outstanding naturalist and conservationist, Aldo Leopold's *Sand County Almanac* is teamed with eight of his other conservation essays from *Round River*. *The Alien Animals*, *The Story of Imported Wildlife*, by George Laycock, is a general world survey dealing with general principles – reviewed in *Oryx* April 1967. *The Bears and I* is a remarkable and compelling account by Robert Franklin Leslie of three years spent with three bears that arrived as small cubs on his cabin doorstep. All three books are published by Ballantine at 40p each.

'The Tiger and its Prey' and 'The Mountain Gorilla Displays', both by George B. Schaller, 'The Man of the Woods' (chimpanzee) by Vernon Reynolds, '100 Turtle Eggs' by Archie Carr, 'Predators and Scavengers' – these are among the 18 fairly long articles by eminent conservation scientists in *Field Studies in Natural History* (reprinted from the American journal *Natural History*), with a foreword by Marston Bates