

Animal Twilight by J. L. Cloudsley-Thompson. G. T. Foulis, 36s.

The book's sub-title *Man and Game in Eastern Africa* is certainly more appropriate than the title, which suggests a narrative outlining the steady decline of wildlife populations, due primarily to the impact of man. Under discussion is Africa east of longitude 25° East, a region which formerly supported herds of ungulates, great and small, in such incredible numbers that 'millions' was no exaggeration. Three chapters, *The Impact of Man*, *The Changing Scene* and *Game Conservation*, are the most important, but the general presentation is awkward, and the theme, though offering a wealth of informative and interesting detail, lacks continuity. But this defect of method does not detract from the ethnic, historical and zoological value of a work based on the consultation of nearly two thousand books of reference. In so vast a region it is obvious that, without intimate knowledge of local conditions and the vagaries of traditional hunting, important items will inevitably be missed. The initial trade in savage wild animals developed partly as a matter of prestige, but mostly to stage sickening man-and-beast gladiatorial spectacles, or cruel beast-to-beast combats – rarely individual animals, often in dozens, sometimes hundreds. Also, though well known that elephants, both Asian and African, frequently figured in the armies of ancient times, who knows that 9000 war elephants were once part of an Indian army?

The enormous economic potential of wildlife is stressed, not only for tourism, but for the planned cropping of the wild ungulates, which in circumstances adverse to domestic stock could ensure that land is put to the most economic and efficient use. Why destroy tens of thousands of immune ungulates as a tsetse-control measure when they can be profitably cropped to provide much-needed protein?

There are some fine illustrations, and the 15 historical drawings – all reproductions – are excellent.

C. R. S. PITMAN

Vanishing Wild Animals of the World by Richard Fitter. Midland Bank and Kaye & Ward, 30s.**Extinct and Vanishing Animals** by Vincenz Ziswiler. Longmans & Springer, 35s.

The first of these books devotes its royalties to the World Wildlife Fund, the second is recommended by it. Both are excellent value. Despite the similarity of title they are very different, and in some respects complementary.

The first is handsome, coffee-table, a pleasure to look at and to possess, with a foreword by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and an introduction by Peter Scott. Appropriately to its title, it concentrates particularly on the species and their status, discussing them by continents, though there is also discussion – fore and aft – of the causes of extinction and methods of conservation. Its splendid full-colour illustrations depicting rare animals in their habitats, painted by John Leigh-Pemberton, reproduce well on the large page. On the other hand, despite good type lay-out, the size is a little large for comfortable reading of the text, which, as may be expected from its author, is well written, full, balanced and reliable.

The second volume is small and slim, an excellent introduction to the subject that would be especially handy in schools. It concentrates on the general aspects of extinction and conservation, which it sets out and analyses clearly, being stronger on this than on the particulars of species. The small black-and-white illustrations and diagrams are numerous, well-chosen and appropriate, relating closely to the text. The translation from German, although plain enough, is not