

collecting itch' grew, and reinforces his story with pleasing, colourful descriptions of the scenery of the Okavango swamps. His account of the bird life round the Thamalakane river, where he saw kingfishers, pygmy geese, African jacanas, cormorants and fish-eagles, is particularly memorable. The slight jerkiness of style, the occasional clichés and lapses into anacoluthon, and the positioning of photographs, could well be irritating in a book which lacked this one's outstanding merits. The lasting impression is of a charming, likeable man whose integrity and depth of knowledge are indisputable, and whose brief, philosophical dissertations on what conservation really is (particularly effective in his postscript) seem more telling and less pompous than those of many authors who have written on the subject.

PHILIP WAYRE

**Solo**, by Hugo van Lawick. Collins, £2.25.

**Crocodile's Eggs for Supper**, by Rennie Bere. Deutsch, £1.50.

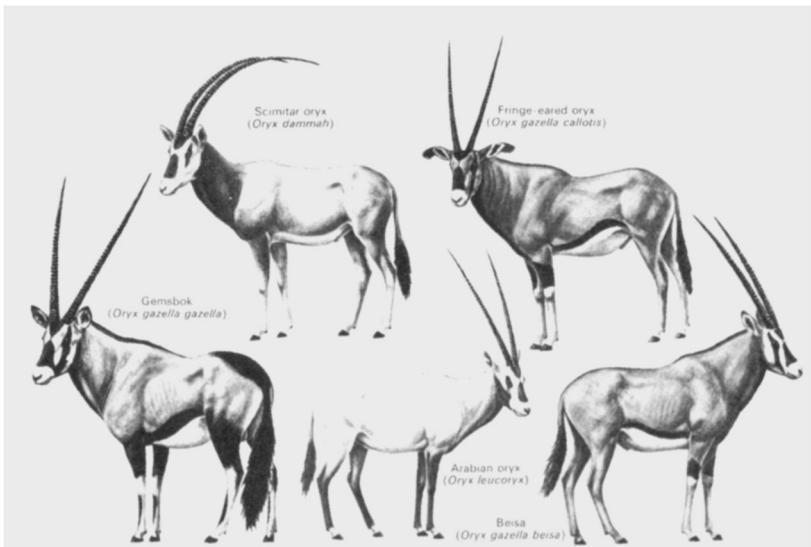
**Africa: World of Wildlife Vol. 2**, by Felix Rodriguez de la Fuente. Orbis, £3.

Three titles, all concerned with Africa, respectively tragic, legendary and encyclopaedic:

*Solo* introduces a wild dog theme, as bizarre as it is tragic, which has enjoyed the privilege of a television programme in colour, well described as 'epic'. Is wild nature, reputedly 'red in tooth and claw', normally as cruel as this narrative portrays? It is a sequel to the relevant chapters in *Innocent Killers*, a thrilling account by Jane van Lawick-Goodall and the present author, her husband, of predator behaviour in Tanzania's Serengeti Plains, where contact was first made with the wild-dog pack in which the aptly named Solo was the only survivor of a large maltreated litter. This harrowing tale, superbly illustrated, vividly describes the day-to-day life, in good and bad times, of a pack led by a dominant insensate bitch who killed off, one by one, the defenceless offspring of one of her companions. The misfortunes of 'Solo', the famished, but big-hearted, runt-survivor of a cruelly persecuted litter, make pathetic reading, though human interference finally not only ensured survival, but also, unexpectedly, successful return to a wild family. One may well ask does a pack's dominant bitch always behave so bloodily, or may this be nature's way of effectively controlling numbers?

In view of the total absence of written records, tribal history in primitive Africa has for centuries been propagated by word of mouth, sedulously memorised from generation to generation. Unfortunately, scant opportunity has been taken by those best qualified to place on permanent record valuable traditional folk-lore and legend, which not only provide an insight into local acuteness of perception towards the wild life, but also demonstrate the morality of salient aspects of tribal life. Rennie Bere, writing of the Acholi of northern Uganda, has therefore done a great service for posterity. He stresses 'whose proper sense of right and wrong is clearly shown in this collection of stories'. The title is intriguing and the vivid monochrome drawings peculiarly expressive.

The relationship between some of the Acholi animal characters and those of the Brer Rabbit fables of North America is obvious. In Africa it is the hare which is the crafty trickster, fooling the lion, leopard and others, with the tortoise, as always, wise and clever. The birds portrayed, large and small, are those with prominent attributes—the ubiquitous, semi-domestic wagtail, the migrant swallow seasonally in transit in hundreds of thousands, the male bishop in gaudy breeding plumage, and the familiar, noisy 'tu-tu'



THE THREE ORYX SPECIES—an illustration in *Africa: World of Wildlife*, reviewed below. Some authorities regard the gemsbok as a separate species, making four.

of the coucal. This is a book for young and old alike, especially those conversant with the African scene.

Dr de la Fuente's second volume contains such a medley of information, some scarcely relevant, as to be positively bewildering and confusing. The title is misleading as both volumes are based on East Africa, and most of the reviewer's criticism of the first volume (*Oryx*, October 1973) is valid for this one, though the elephant and rhinoceros are now allotted 63 pages, well illustrated in colour. The subject matter evidently was not submitted to the authoritative scrutiny of someone familiar with East Africa. A discourse on vertebrates and invertebrates is marred by inaccuracies. It seems this valuable reference work attempts too much, but certainly it is most informative, as well as profusely and beautifully illustrated in colour, and at £3 it is remarkable value.

C. R. S. PITMAN

**The Predatory Behaviour of Wild Chimpanzees**, by Geza Teleki. Bucknell University Press, \$15.

Since Jane Goodall first observed chimpanzees killing and eating prey in 1963, it has gradually become apparent that this was no isolated incident. Animal food represents a small—but significant—part of the chimpanzee diet. Teleki provides a graphic and detailed account of this predatory behaviour. His study relates exclusively to the Gombe Stream study area, and it is based on a ten-year collection of records together with one year's intensive observations of his own.

So far, the chimpanzees at Gombe have been seen to kill and eat olive baboons, colobus monkeys, red-tail monkeys, blue monkeys, bushback and bush pig, and it is noteworthy that four of these six prey species are actually primates themselves. In sifting past records and adding his own concentrated observations, Teleki has clearly shown the importance of keeping detailed field notes on a wide range of topics and making these available to subsequent observers. The foresight of earlier workers at Gombe has really produced results. Apart from this careful attention to detailed records, it also emerges from Teleki's book that there has been a