

SHORTER NOTICES

ANIMALS OF RHODESIA. Written and illustrated by C. T. ASTLEY MABERLEY. Harold Timmins. Cape Town. 12s. 6d.

This book is exactly what the visitor to Northern or Southern Rhodesia needs in order to recognize and learn something about the mammals which he is likely to meet. Seventy-nine species are described—with their English, native and scientific names—under Field Impression, Descriptive Notes, Distribution and Habits.

Mr. Maberley's drawings are, of course, excellent and bring out clearly each animal's salient characteristics, whether they consist of its head and horns, its back view, its front view, or even its general appearance. Sometimes there is a characteristic pose or a sketch of the running animal.

There is a short introduction describing the Wankie National Park in Southern Rhodesia and the reserves in Northern Rhodesia. The book is compact, strongly bound and inexpensive.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION. By ROBERT STEBBINS. 12s. 6d. Cambridge University Press.

MAMMALS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION. By ROBERT STEBBINS. 12s. 6d. Cambridge University Press.

It is not easy to speculate about the value of these two little volumes, which deal with the mammalian and amphibian fauna of a restricted region of the U.S.A.

The books are excellently produced and illustrated, and would doubtless be of use to naturalists in North America. They contain information of a general nature which is sound and well got out. However, it seems fair to say that at 12s. 6d. they would be unlikely to have a ready sale in Britain. At the same time, one wishes that we, in this country, could produce similar works so well condensed and with many finely reproduced colour plates.

CENSUS OF PLAINS ANIMALS IN THE SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK TANGANYIKA. Reprinted from the *Journal of Wildlife Management*, Volume 24, No. 1, January, 1960.

This is a report on the investigations carried out by Michael Grzimek and his father, Dr. Bernhard Grzimek, which were mentioned in *Oryx*, V, 1. It will be remembered that Michael

Grzimek was killed in an air accident during this work, thus truly giving his life for the wild animals of Africa.

This Report describes fully the method by which the census was carried out and its results. Applications for the reprint should be made to Dr. Bernhard Grzimek, Zoo Direktor, Frankfurt am Main, Am Schützenbrunnen 16, Germany. He has most kindly offered to distribute them without charge as long as he has any stock.

“NEWS FOR NATURALISTS.”

The first two numbers of this bulletin have been published by the Council for Nature and give much information about British natural history societies and their work. We learn for instance, that the Botanical Society of the British Isles expects to publish its flora distribution atlas in 1960. Insect migrations and also the parasites of birds and mammals are being studied—it is interesting to learn that the human flea has not been recorded entomologically from many English counties. The Field Studies Council has opened at Slapton Ley in Devonshire, its sixth field centre. The Scottish Centre for Ornithology, in conjunction with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has opened in Edinburgh a centre for ornithology and bird protection.

Under “Requests for Information”, the bulletin publicizes the requirements of its member societies—information is needed on roe deer and on toxic sprays, and on birds for the several inquiries which the British Trust for Ornithology are conducting.

The bulletin also reports the Council's own activities, for example, the formation of an Intelligence Unit under Mr. R. S. R. Fitter, and the work done by the Conservation Corps in 1959.

These bulletins may be obtained for the cost of postage (fourpence) from The Council for Nature, 41 Queen's Gate, London, S.W. 7.