

Mediterranean littoral of Israel. However, this is a useful bonus because there are no comprehensive modern works on the mammal faunas of these countries.

Several species have had to be added since the first edition, some new to science such as the Queen of Sheba's gazelle *Gazella bilkis*, the Arabian pipistrelle *Pipistrellus arabicus* and the Arabian white-toothed shrew *Crocidura arabica*; others newly recorded from Arabia, including *Crocidura somalica* and the lesser kudu, although the origin of the two recorded specimens of kudu, and the survival of the species in Arabia, are doubtful. For most species additional data are available, whether on distribution, behaviour, ecology etc., and all have been carefully documented, with sources. Its value for quick reference would have been enhanced, however, if topics such as habitat, food and reproduction had been given separate headings instead of being included under 'Remarks', which in some cases fill a column or more without paragraph breaks.

The reduction from the first edition has been achieved in a number of ways without detriment to the quality and the usefulness of the work. Descriptions of morphological details have been considerably condensed except where they are useful for the confirmation of identification in the more difficult groups; the maps and illustrations have been reduced in size without any loss of clarity; and the tables of measurements have been condensed by giving means and ranges rather than measurements of individual animals. The result is considerably greater clarity, enhanced by greatly enhanced layout and typography. Identification keys

are given throughout and are much more clearly presented than before.

For the many species of larger mammals whose ranges have drastically declined in the last century, the decline is well documented in the text but it would have been helpful to distinguish between old and recent records on the maps.

As far as any volume can be described as definitive, this is the definitive reference on the mammals of this important and volatile region. It is a safer prediction now than it was in 1964 that this will 'last out the century' but even so at least two species have arrived too late for inclusion (a new species of mouse *Apodemus hermonensis* in Israel and the African mon-goose *Bdeogale crassicauda* in Yemen), and no doubt there will be many more changes for better and worse to be documented in the future.
Gordon B. Corbet.

Beyond Captive Breeding: Re-introducing Endangered Mammals to the Wild: Zoological Society of London Symposia 62

J. H. W. Gipps (editor)
Clarendon Press, Oxford,
1991, 284 pp., ISBN 0 19
854019 1, HB £45.00

The release into the wild, for reintroduction, of captive-bred animals, with the ultimate aim of re-establishing populations, has become an area of keen interest in contemporary conservation. *Beyond Captive Breeding* discusses the advantages and limitations of this approach to conservation and establishes criteria for reintroductions and how best to carry them out. The volume contains 17 articles by 27 expert authors covering the theoretical and practical factors involved with

reintroductions and includes case studies of scimitar-horned oryx, addax, black-footed ferret, red wolf and golden lion tamarin for illustration.

The contributors discuss the many biological and non-biological factors involved in the decision to proceed with a reintroduction effort, and suggest that this approach may be useful only for threatened species for which large areas of suitable habitat remain and for which adequate protection can be assured. In consequence, the greatest value of reintroductions may be in the habitat protection that they entail and in the public support for such projects that they can encourage.
Liz Price.

The Birds of Pakistan Volume 1

T. J. Roberts
Oxford University Press,
1991, 598 pp., ISBN 0 19
577404 3, HB £40

This large, informative work is the first of two volumes, covering 347 of a total of 660 species. Its style is now a rarity in the ornithological literature—a country avifauna in which the author not only provides detailed information on distribution and status (accompanied by 285 maps and a gazetteer), but also includes sections on identification, habits, breeding biology and vocalizations. Much of what is written is original, based on 30 years studying wildlife in Pakistan. Unlike the compressed style of most recent avifaunas, the accounts are frequently a delight to either dip into or browse through, especially those relating to near-endemic species such as western tragopan *Tragopan melanocephalus*, Syke's nightjar *Caprimulgus mahrattensis* and