

The many line drawings of birds, maps and other text-figures, all exceptionally clear, are the work of a talented artist, Norman Tolson, who regretably did not live to see the book—and his fine handiwork—produced. The numerous photographs are of high standard, and we note with interest that Eric Hosking is responsible for many of the best.

DAVID BANNERMAN

Our Crowded Planet. Edited by **Fairfield Osborn.** Allen and Unwin, 21s.

Fairfield Osborn has gathered together over a score of distinguished biologists, historians, economists and others, and each has contributed a chapter to this symposium, sponsored by the Conservation Foundation. Expectedly the quality varies but, integrated, this small volume of 192 pages is excellent and should arouse the interest of many. A chapter a week as a basis for a sixth form discussion class would be an excellent use for it. It is informative, educative and authoritative, even if sometimes a trifle dry in the presentation. Those interested in conservation may be, and certainly should be, jolted into greater recognition that it is not alone the personal folly of mankind which jeopardises the continued existence of other creatures, but the inevitable increase of man-pressure as human population doubles and doubles again.

An introduction by the editor precedes five sections whose titles well illustrate the scope of the whole. They are:—Population Pressures on Man's Natural Environment (Frank Darling has an excellent essay here); Population Pressures on Economic and Political Trends (Eugene Black and Solly Zuckerman among others); Population Pressures in Specific Areas (Walter Lowdermilk and others); The Population Problem and Religion; Population Pressures on Morals and Ethics (André Maurois and Julian Huxley).

The integrative powers of Julian Huxley, in his terminal essay, combined with his high distinction in the sheer art of writing, make his contribution pre-eminent. "We must look at the question of population increase in the light of the new vision of human destiny which human science and learning has revealed to us. . . . We must also look at it in the light of the appalling possibilities for evil and misery that still remain for human life in the future. . . . I would say that this vision, of the possibilities of wonder and more fruitful fulfilment on the one hand as against frustration and increasing misery and regimentation on the other, are the twentieth-century equivalents of the traditional Christian view of salvation as against damnation".

COLIN BERTRAM

The Deer of Great Britain and Ireland. By **G. Kenneth Whitehead.** Routledge and Kegan Paul, £6 6s.

For some years after it had been written, the manuscript of this book proved too formidable a proposition for the publishers. Kenneth Whitehead had spared no effort in its early preparation, and had gathered together a vast assemblage of facts resulting from his researches on the distribution of deer in Great Britain and Ireland. Its welcome appearance at the present time has at last made this mine of information available to the many people now increasingly concerned with the conservation and control of deer, as well as the growing number of those who have taken up the study of deer for the interest and pleasure it affords. The publishers are to be congratulated in bringing out so valuable a work of reference.

The book deals with the origin and present status of deer, and contains the basic information that is required from time to time by cervologists. In such a work it is almost impossible to avoid errors and omissions, and those with up-to-date local knowledge will probably feel that there has been inadequate revision of the earlier text. For although there are indications of attempts to deal with the rapid changes in distribution since the mid 1950's they are by no means uniform throughout. Doubtless a list of amendments will be issued later. One feels also that in so expensive a book a more attractive format could be expected. To have bound up all the illustrations at the back of the book is inexcusable, and it is somewhat irritating that the counties in the distribution section are not given in alphabetical order; the arrangement in regional groups involves continuous reference to the index. There seems no valid reason for this, for each county is dealt with separately. It is likewise not apparent why the maps show the deer parks extant in 1950; many no longer exist as deer parks, and the distribution of deer to-day bears little relation to the parks of 1950.

But there is much to recommend this monumental work. The survey of the history of our ancient herds of deer, those of Exmoor, the New Forest, Epping Forest and the deer forest of Martindale in the Lake District, is particularly valuable, and emphasises the need to regard these herds as of national importance. Much interesting material is to be found on every species of deer, including the prehistoric ones, which have at any time been indigenous, or introduced into parks or zoological gardens. The accurate identification of the six species now roaming wild, which are tending to increase in areas where they have become successfully established, is of considerable importance in relation to the implementation of the Deer Act 1963. This book should not only be a stimulus to study but also become a valuable ally to those deeply concerned with the proper treatment of deer and the development of a wider appreciation of these fine mammals.

F. J. TAYLOR PAGE

The Deer of North America. Edited by **Walter P. Taylor.** Stackpole, Pennsylvania, \$12.50.

To the majority of sportsmen and naturalists in Britain the name "deer" includes all species of the Cervidae. Readers of this book will probably be disappointed to find nothing about some of America's finest deer—the moose, the wapiti and the caribou—for to the North American sportsman "deer" mean just those members of the Cervidae that are included in the genus *Odocoileus*, i.e. the White-tailed deer *O. virginianus*, the mule and black-tailed deer *O. hemionus*. But there are listed here no fewer than thirty sub-species of the white-tailed deer, and eleven sub-species of the mule and black-tailed deer. First published in 1956 and now reprinted, this comprehensive work summarises many years of intimate study of these deer by leading experts in all parts of their range, including state game administrators, biologists of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Forest Service, educators and practical scientists. The result of their combined efforts is a book that leaves no gaps in the present knowledge of the early history, life, productivity, management or hunting, etc., of *Odocoileus*.

Although the casual reader of "deer books" may find some of the reading in this 668-page book a little tedious at times, it is clearly one that should be studied by all serious students.

G. K. WHITEHEAD