

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.

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