

have been able to observe over a period of years how these animals prey on the moose population and keep it within reasonable numbers for the range. One-track-mindedness still allows the wolf to be hunted in Alaska by airplane, but now only on licence as a sporting amusement. It is quite horrible than an animal should be chased relentlessly in all its doublings to and fro until it surrenders with the gesture of rolling over on its back. That is when the sportsman shoots it. In other words, when a fellow puts up his hands, that is the moment to shoot him. Cattle and wolves do not go together, but why wolves must continue to be killed where there are no domesticated stock is a mystery of human psychology.

F. FRASER DARLING.

**African Wildlife**, by **Franz A. Roedelberger** and **Vera I. Groschoff**. English Version by **Nieter O'Leary** and **Pamela Paulet**. Constable, 45s.

Reviewers usually start their brief sermons with an arresting phrase or a statement about what they do or do not know about the subject matter. I want to say as forcibly as I can that, as a professional science writer and amateur photographer with a pronounced interest in African wildlife, I consider this to be the best collection of African wildlife pictures I have ever seen. You can rely on an intake of breath on almost every page. The book opens theatrically with an upsweep of the curtains. Two pages are devoted to an aerial photograph of some hundreds of elephants. The scene changes to equally astonishing numbers of lechwe, waterbuck, Cape buffalo, a profusion of pelican, hippo, cormorants, crocodile, glossy ibises, lesser flamingo and giraffe and then shows more intimate shots, each of outstanding photographic quality, of almost all the animals most of us are interested in. The scope ranges from big mammals to their smaller brethren with many pages devoted to colour shots of birds, invertebrates and fish. Life-sized chameleons have been photographed against a background of scarlet flowers, striped tree frogs are more vivid than a poster, whilst fire-fish against coral can be likened to nothing more striking than what they look like at close quarters.

The text is something considerably more than just the usual sort of verbal glue put in to justify the photography and link one series of pictures with another. The authors have got that feeling of the one-ness of life and have expressed accurately and briefly what conservationists are concerned about. Without smudging this brief notice with an excessive number of superlatives I want to say once more that I cannot envisage a better compilation of photographs and text than what is offered here at a reasonable price. I recommend it with the utmost confidence and warmly congratulate those who put it together.

JOHN HILLABY.

**The Great Arc of the Wild Sheep**, by **James L. Clark**. University of Oklahoma Press, \$6.95

Of all the big game trophies of the world, the sheep is probably the most prized, for to find his quarry the hunter must take to the high mountains—in short he must follow the Great Arc of the Wild Sheep, the shape of which, suggests the author, resembles their long, curved horns. This arc runs from the western part of North America, across eastern Siberia, down through Central Asia and terminates in the Middle East. Nowhere else in the world are true wild sheep to be found, and none occur south of the Equator. The author gives a brief description of the various species and sub-species of sheep, with details of their habitat, colour and some typical measurements. To those unfamiliar with the grandeur of some of these fine animals it will no doubt come as a surprise to discover that the shoulder height of some of the Tibetan argali, such as