

hensive summary of capture techniques now employed in Africa and as such will be of considerable use to wildlife biologists and veterinary surgeons in this field.

D. M. JONES

The African Ark, by R. J. Prickett. David & Charles, £3.25.

The Mitchell Beazley Atlas of World Wildlife. Mitchell Beazley, £9.50.

The first of these two remarkable publications describes a bold enterprise that achieved astonishing success, despite almost insuperable obstacles; the second is a most ambitious project with Dr Gwynne Vevers as Editor-in-Chief and Sir Julian Huxley as Consultant Editor.

Two wildlife-viewing sites in the heart of Kenya's Aberdare montane forests were selected for the Ark, developed under difficulties, and a safari lodge built that affords unique opportunities for seeing bongo, rarest of large forest antelopes, the fearsome giant forest-hog and the elusive leopard. There is a comprehensive and graphically illustrated list of the mammals and some of the more interesting birds; the author also describes some of the lodge guests and their reactions. On one occasion the usual placid spectacle became too realistic when the visitors were witnesses of a grisly demonstration of how the spotted hyena will hunt, pull down and then feast on its still living victim.

Well illustrated—there are two particularly beautiful colour shots of bongo by night, and outstanding monochromes of a greater kudu bull and of a cheetah in three postures—most informative, and highly entertaining, it can be thoroughly recommended.

With the world wildlife atlas the general layout is what one would expect. Broadly, it begins with *The World before Man*, *The Evolution of Life*, and *Zoogeography and Ecology*, followed by the salient details of the zoological and botanical wildlife of continents, sub-continents, oceans and island habitats—in all 88 magnificent and most instructive double-spreads in colour. It concludes with *Man and Wildlife*, and another 11 double-spreads, covering such important subjects as *The Impact of Industry*, *Changing Role of the Zoo*, *Man the Protector*, *Endangered Species*, and *National Parks and Reserves*. Of particular benefit is a really splendid index, as well as a comprehensive list of references.

This atlas is not merely concerned with animal and vegetable life; it also emphasises the importance of various relationships, such as the complex relationship of animals, which is further influenced by vegetation, the terrain and climate. Particularly valuable is the profusion of maps—territorial, physical, distributional and climatic.

For so lucid a reference compendium on the world's wildlife, its modest price is commendable.

C. R. S. PITMAN

Animals and their Colours, by Michael and Patricia Fogden, Peter Lowe, £3.50.

The importance of colour in the lives of animals must be obvious to almost anyone, but it needs someone like the authors, a husband and wife team of professional biologists who have made a special study of the subject in the field in several parts of the world, to make us aware of all its implications.

Starting with an explanation of the nature and variety of animal colours, they review the ways in which colour is used by animals in camouflage, disguise, warning coloration and mimicry. They make a clear distinction between Mullerian mimicry, in which both mimicker and model are

unpalatable and are related species which gain mutual benefit from the colouring, and Batesian mimicry where the mimicker is without special protection such as unpalatability but so closely resembles other unrelated types which have these attributes that it, too, secures relative safety. They stress that coloration, ecology and behaviour are inextricably bound together and the survival value of animal colours lies in the way they adapt species for life in a particular environment and in their relationships with other animals. The final section is a brief account of the ways man himself uses colour in disguise and adornment.

The lavish illustrations from colour photographs, mostly taken in the field, and many by the authors, surely provide the best collection of photographs on the subject that has yet appeared in Britain. A bibliography, glossary and full index complete a splendid and handsome volume that gives a concise, easily understood account of a fascinating topic.

JOHN CLEGG

The Cairngorms: their natural history and scenery, by Desmond Nethersole-Thompson and Adam Watson. Collins, £3.50.

The Coastline of Scotland, by J. A. Steers. Cambridge UP, £10.50.

In any short list of the most interesting regions of the British Isles for the naturalist, the Cairngorms would be found jostling with the Norfolk Broads and Connemara for a high place. Except perhaps for north-west Sutherland, it is the largest tract of high-level wilderness we have. And for all round interest, it would probably head the lists of most naturalists for north of the Border. There is something for everybody, and as the number of co-authors indicates, this book is very much a team effort, despite being assigned to the two principal authors. The essay on vegetation by Derek Ratcliffe I found particularly fascinating, but when a region also includes among its specialities red deer, wild cat, crested tit, osprey, dotterel and snow bunting, one is faced with an embarrassment of riches. Nor is the interest by any means confined to the plants and the higher vertebrates. Geology, physiography, soils, climate, invertebrates and Gaelic place names are all discussed by the appropriate specialist. This is a book both to read for pleasure and to put in the car or rucksack for your next visit—yes, miraculously it is actually of a size and weight that do not make it too great a burden to carry in the field.

The same could almost be said for the slightly larger and heavier work by Professor Steers, which complements, though not on the same detailed scale, his magisterial survey of the coastline of England and Wales. It is not surprising that he could not traverse in such detail—though he has actually done it twice—a coastline more than twice as long (if the islands are included) as that of Britain's southern half. But it is invaluable now to have this companion volume to augment one's pleasure on visiting the coast in Scotland, by adding to one's understanding of the geology and physiography. Because the task is so forbidding, it will be many years before anybody else tackles it all in more detail.

RICHARD FITTER

Land Above the Clouds, by Tony Morrison. Deutsch, £3.95

This 'survival special' on South American wildlife is the harvest of a series of expeditions in the Andes ranging from the Caribbean to the Magellan Straits. The title suggests a book dealing only with the Andean highlands, but Mr Morrison does not accept this self-imposed limitation and wanders freely down to the Pacific shores and into the Amazonian jungle. This has