

essential scientific facts with readable descriptions about the habits of each species, Dr Peterson's text is of interest both to the student and to the layman. Of the 122 species treated, 102 are native, nine introduced, ten domestic and one extinct (the sea mink).

By way of introduction the author includes several short essays on mammals and man, the class Mammalia, the origin and classification of mammals, the mammalian skeleton, and a key to the orders of mammals. Each species is illustrated in pen and ink drawings, followed by a short description, giving measurements, distribution, habitat and a review of the animal's biology. For many species the detailed distribution maps are the first available; the information on which they are based is often inadequate, but the author hopes that this will encourage others to fill in the gaps. For the specialist, adequate classified descriptions of the skull dimensions with superb skull drawings make this book of a standard equal to Hall and Kelson's *The Mammals of North America* (1959). For the conservationist, short notes describing the animal's status are included where applicable. The book makes a significant contribution to the existing knowledge of mammals, and is certainly well worth recommending.

PAUL JOSLIN

Nature's Paradise by Jen and Des Bartlett. Collins, 5 gns.

'Shoot and let live' – is the motto of more and more wildlife stalkers who confront animals not with high velocity rifles but with high powered lenses. Far from festooning some baronial hall like a bizarre Madame Tussauds, the new brand of animal stalkers like the Bartletts disport their kills in fine productions like this collection of several hundred photographs of Africa's wildlife. It is divided into eight ecological sections ranging from the Coral Reef to Snow on the Equator, and one deals with conservation projects, including Operation Noah financed by the FPS.

Predictably, that gaping hippo and yawning lion are included; the book would not be complete without an angry bull elephant charging out of the pages; and those zebra are still drinking from that waterhole framed by the magnificent Kilimanjaro. Despite these clichés, the quality of the photography is unrivalled and it is perhaps an invidious task to select any for particular praise. There are beautiful portraits of a mountain gorilla and a lesser flamingo, and a snarling cheetah sprawls across two pages with every hair in sharp detail. The collection is well balanced, with a liberal scattering of landscapes; views of hideously eroded countryside contrast with fertile scenes where enormous acacias cut black rhinoceroses down to size.

The impact of the photographs will sell this book and so it is all the more surprising that those given a double page spread are spoilt by the centre creases. Why no fold-outs? Despite this criticism, many will gain immense pleasure discovering Africa's animals through the Bartletts' viewfinder.

JOHN SPARKS

Ecology of the Alpine Zone of Mount Kenya by M. J. Coe. Dr W. Junk. The Hague, 25 guilders.

Dr Coe's eagerly awaited book will disappoint those who hoped for a broad treatment of the ecology of Mount Kenya, for it deals only with one zone, between 3,500–4,500m, below the glaciers and above the ericaceous (moorland) zone. These metric heights in themselves are suspiciously round to describe any ecological zone on a mountain so dissected and with much higher rainfall on eastern and southern than on northern and western slopes.

The alpine climate on these mountains is characterised by daily rather than