

reproduction and printing, gratifyingly carried out in England, and the whole imaginatively laid out and unified by the designer, Linda Sullivan. No lettering has been allowed to trespass on the picture pages; instead, short descriptive notes on each photograph are banished to a separate index with a black-and-white miniature to identify it by. In addition, 40 pages of informative text describe the predators and the author's experiences photographing them.

I suppose some day a better picture book than this may come out of the Serengeti, but not, I would think, for many years to come. All who share the author's love for the place will find, even at £15, that it is well worth the price for the memories it will evoke now and in the years ahead.

JOHN OWEN

Animals on View, by Anthony Smith. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £6.50.

As the title page states, this is an illustrated guide to Britain's Safari Parks, Zoos, Aquariums and Bird Gardens. In gathering his encyclopaedic information, Anthony Smith travelled 3000 miles and visited every major animal collection within Britain, 180 in all. Tabulated information is given for each: how to get there; opening hours; feeding arrangements for inmates and visitors; attractions and facilities. A descriptive story follows, mentioning the more noteworthy species and the breeding record, and there are numerous black and white illustrations and maps, and some striking colour photographs.

The present reviewer feels a certain embarrassment at seeing animals in captivity. Not so the present author. His awareness that some collections have failed to keep up with rapidly changing standards, that traces of the old menagerie linger on and that gate money dominates, scarcely dampens his enthusiastic approval: 'Having accused zoos and zoo-men of a wide variety of colourful drawbacks, such as dishonesty, hypocrisy, in-fighting, secrecy and mere illegality, I should hasten to add that I am entirely on their sides'. His overall objective, he says, is 'to tell something of the flavour of each collection, of its uniqueness, its charms (or horrors) and of its particular animal offerings'. Above all, he brings out the revolution of the last half-century—Whipsnade in 1931, Longleat in 1949 and their proliferating successors.

Affluence here, population explosion there, the motor vehicle everywhere, have together altered irreversibly the prospects for animals in the wild. Some zoos are becoming more like nature reserves, some nature reserves more like zoos. More and more species will survive only within the confines of one or other. Like it or not, the new 'zoos' are the progeny of our civilisation. We had better recognise our children and see that they are brought up properly.

G. T. CORLEY SMITH

Natural History in America—from Mark Catesby to Rachel Carson, by Wayne Hanley. Quadrangle/New York Times Book Co, £8.95.

This is a lovely book, most scholarly and packed with information. It could so easily have been one of those anthologies where a few introductory words preface each slab of prose. Instead, at least fifty per cent consists of learned Mr Hanley telling us a very great deal about the thirty or so principal characters he has selected from the 250 years of active American natural history. All the big names are here—Audubon, Wilson, Bartram, Thoreau, Melville, Agassiz, Gray, Roosevelt, Fuentes, Bachman, Wilkes—but not a single foreigner. In other words, this is a series of biographies of the principal Americans who have contributed to American natural history in particular. The quotations may be twenty pages, or a paragraph, but have been chosen both to illustrate the natural historian in question and to portray the prevailing state of natural history in general. Sometimes it is difficult for the reader to change gear, to slip from late twentieth-century style into its variety of predecessors (and even Melville can be heavy going), but a willingness to skip the indented sections may be no more than additional praise for the author. Regrettably, he must also join the list of those