

the text is not read, for the author has gone to some care to produce an interesting account that is scientifically accurate, literate and devoid of the exaggerated language that seems to be mandatory in so many picture books on wildlife. There is also a reference list that is much fuller than is usual in such books. It is not only in photography that the author is an artist, for the pen and ink drawings that embellish the margins of many of the pages are miniature masterpieces that strengthen the impression of wide open spaces given by the photographs. Wildlife other than wildebeest and zebra are not neglected so that the book provides a useful introduction to the Serengeti itself. I highly recommend it.

S. K. Eltringham.

**The Muskoxen of Polar Bear Pass**

David R. Gray  
Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1987,  
191 pp., HB \$50.00

Is your favourite furry animal – the giant panda or the red-kneed tarantula, perhaps – in a bad way? Then why not transfer your affections to the furriest of all animals. The muskox is doing very nicely at the moment. But this has not always been the case. Arctic whalers, fur traders and polar explorers took a heavy toll and in 1917 there were believed to be no more than 400–500 muskoxen left in mainland Canada. Protection came in time and there are now about 18,000 muskoxen on the mainland with more on the Canadian Arctic islands and Greenland, and reintroduced populations elsewhere.

David Gray's book is a monograph devoted to his studies over 10 years of Eeyore,

Jessica, Ming and Mak and the rest of the Polar Bear Pass muskoxen. His text is a mixture of dryly detailed analysis and lively anecdote that shows how muskoxen are well adapted to life in the harshest conditions. But the book ends on a cautionary note. There are proposals to mine and drill in Polar Bear Pass and a gas pipeline may be run across it. Studies of pristine populations, like this one, are essential for proper management when the developers arrive.

Robert Burton.

**East African Mammals. An Atlas of Evolution in Africa. Volumes IIIA: Carnivores; IIIB: Large Mammals; IIIC: Bovids; and IIID: Bovids**

Jonathan Kingdon  
University of Chicago Press,  
1989, PB: IIIA, 491 pp., £29.95  
(\$43.25); IIIB, 442 pp., £29.95  
(\$43.25); IIIC, 414 pp., £26.00  
(\$37.00); IIID, 358 pp., £26.00  
(\$37.00)

The seven-volume publication hardly needs any introduction. It is a classic that everyone with more than a superficial interest in African mammals already knows and uses, and if they do not, they should. The final four volumes have just been published in paperback (the first three were published in paperback in 1984) and at between

£26.00 and £29.95 per volume it is a reference work that one usually dips into in the library, but this is a pity. Apart from being a mine of information, it is also a very good read, refreshingly and intriguingly old-fashioned in its anecdotes, musings and presentation of ideas for future study that have occurred to the author, as well as being profusely illustrated with line drawings. On reflection, £191.85 is not so much to pay for such a work.

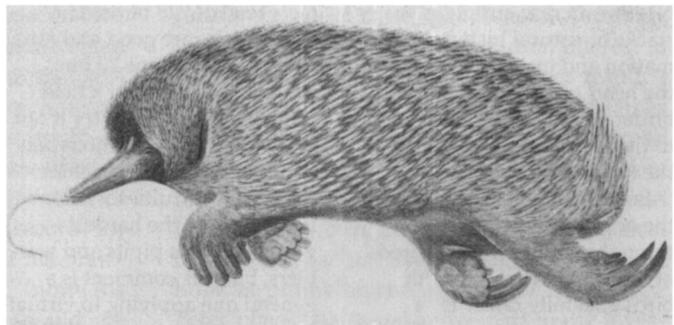
Roger Wilson.

**Fauna of Australia. Volume IA: General Articles**

Edited by G. R. Dyne and D. W. Walton  
Australian Government  
Publishing Service, 1987, 339  
pp., \$44.95 (available from  
AGPS Mail Order Sales, GPO  
Box 84, Canberra, ACT 2601,  
Australia)

The production of *Fauna of Australia* is an initiative of the Australian Government and its 10 planned volumes will provide a comprehensive account of the biology, taxonomy, evolution and history of the discovery of Australia's fauna. It is expected to involve about 1000 authors.

The first volume has 13 chapters in all. Nine cover various aspects of Australia's natural environment and the major



An 1792 drawing of the echidna by William Bligh, from *Fauna of Australia*.