

The authors cannot be faulted on their selection of species to include, having taken every precaution to exclude unreliable observations. They have also, thoughtfully, appended a short list of animals which might be expected to occur here, on the grounds of their known proximity, although not yet reliably recorded within the borders of Zimbabwe.

It is difficult to recommend this book to any particular reader. As a checklist alone it has value to the specialist who would, however, have access to scientific literature for ecological and other information. The more general information included about each species would be of value to the amateur naturalist and conservationist, but the format does not render this a convenient book for the identification of animals in the field, on several grounds. The book (19 × 25cm) is not of a handy size for the pocket of a bushwalker; nor does it carry illustrations of the animals. The keys which are included for identification of species are fragmented throughout, so that, for example, one cannot identify his mouse unless he can already identify it to Family at sight and so find the entry to the keys on page 155.

If the book was aimed at the wider readership, as one would hope of a work from this particular publisher, it would have been much improved by the addition of an identifying key system integrated in one place — preferably at the beginning.

Descriptions are often vague, although this is a common fault and especially so when colour is the subject. What, for example, is a 'buffy tinged ochraceous colour'?

Otherwise, without in any way detracting from the overall great value of this work, a critical reader might be irritated by the writing style which is inconsistent, and by the use of clumsy phraseology which seems to indicate a lack of care in preparation or in editing. This reviewer has a personal dislike of phrases such as 'up to about 60 or more' which could be reworded more precisely.

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**Darkness and Dawn in Zimbabwe** By *H. P. Elliott*. London, Grosvenor Books, 1978, 49pp., £0.65.

**Fear and Fun — Rhodesian Recollections** By *Kachengere (R. H. Lees)*. [Plymouth?], privately, 1978, 184pp., no price indicated.

Both of these books are of true stories but very different in character.

The first is about people working for peace and understanding in a country divided by political strife and an escalating war in 1978. The purpose is to show that God has inspired a plan for the solution of political problems. While the sentiments are unexceptional the stories do not ring true; their message is simplistic and seems to derive from Moral Rearmament.

The second is a collection of reminiscences about the author's youth near Bulawayo and then on the Copperbelt and in Lusaka. The stories are slight but told in an interesting and unpretentious manner; their main focus is hunting and natural history but there are also useful sidelights on the social history of European society in the difficult years of the inter-war period.

R.S.R.