

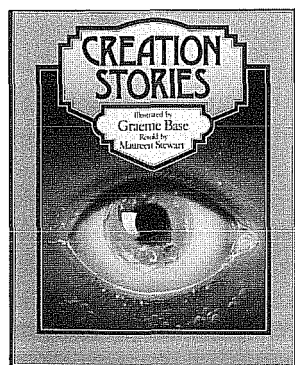
**The wildlife 1 2 3: A nature counting book.** Jan Thornhill. Greedy de Pencier, 1989. Unpag., \$16.95 cloth. ISBN 0-920775-39-X.

Jan Thornhill's newest book is just as delightful as her *Wildlife A B C: A nature alphabet book*. The bold vivid pictures catch the attention of children of every age. This book is an excellent way to introduce pre-schoolers to nature, from the common type of fish or animals to the more exotic varieties. Nine sparrows gathered at a kitchen window feeder is an every day occurrence even the youngest reader can get excited about. The older reader may want to find out more information about Lemurs. What a challenge – are there really 1000 wiggly tadpoles?

Each picture is uniquely bordered with the same number of animals found in the original picture – can you find the Panda playing peek-a-boo in the bamboo, or five tigers frisking in the tall grass?

The numbers are printed bold and black enhancing the illustrations and making learning easier. At the end of the book appear good nature notes. Jan Thornhill's wildlife art is rich in detail. This enchanting book is a must for the budding biologist or for that special pre-schooler with small hands.

**Patricia Feltham** is the children's librarian in Waterford, Ontario.



**Creation stories.** Illus. Graeme Base. Reteller Maureen Stewart. Stoddart, 1989. 32 pp., \$14.95 cloth. ISBN 0-7737-2334-X.

This delightful collection of stories on the creation of the world and mankind covers eleven different civilizations from the North American Indian to Vikings and Maoris. It is important for children to realize that the creation myth of their civilization is not the only one, and this book should stimulate children's (and adult's) curiosity about the nature of creation. The similarities between various myths are also striking: for example, a number of

them claim that the world came from an egg, while nearly all associate creation with light from darkness, dry land from the sea. This book therefore not only encourages a comparative approach, but could also lead to discussions about the nature of myth and man's need to translate cosmic events into myth and legend.

Not all the tales are as gentle as the Judaic. "In the beginning..." In fact most of them seem to believe in a world that begins with a big bang rather than a whimper. As might be expected, the most graphic is the Viking version with the Frost Giants who hack Ymew to death, then drown his relations in