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Contents

News and Views 69

Briefly 70

The reintroduction of the Andean condor into Colombia, South America: 1989–1991

Alan Lieberman, Jose Vicente Rodriguez, Juan Manuel Paez and Jim Wiley 83

Yemen's rhino horn trade increases

Lucy Vigne and Esmond Bradley Martin 91

Promising future for an elephant population – a case study in Burkina Faso, West Africa *Théophane E. Damiba and Ernest D. Ables* **97**

Biotope and distribution of Blanford's fox Eli Geffen, Reuven Hefner, David W. Macdonald and Michal Ucko 104

Two endemic viverrids of the Western Ghats, India N. V. K. Ashraf, A. Kumar and A. J. T. Johnsingh 109

Conservation of biological diversity in the Dominican Republic

Andreas Schubert 115

Book reviews 122

FFPS News 128

Cover

The great auk Alces impennis – extinct since June 1844 when the last known pair was killed on Eldey Island, Iceland. The species declined because of human predation at breeding colonies: it was killed for food and oil and, as numbers declined, for collection specimens. This engraving comes from Reptiles and Birds by Louis Figuier, published in 1869 (John A. Burton/Bruce Coleman Ltd).



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