

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1958

*Presented by the Council to the Annual General Meeting,
22nd April, 1959.*

Vice-Presidents.—During 1958 the Society and the cause of wild life preservation suffered a great loss in the death of Captain K. F. T. Caldwell.

His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore and Captain C. R. S. Pitman were elected vice-presidents.

Meetings of the Society.—The Annual General Meeting and two other General Meetings were held. Council met four times and the committee appointed to take action on the Secretary's report of his African tour, many times.

International Meeting.—The Society was represented by the Secretary at the VIth General Assembly of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, held in Athens. At that meeting the Secretary was appointed Chairman of the Union's Survival Service Commission. As a consequence much of the Commission's work, which is in complete harmony with the Society's purpose, is now being done in our office with the help of the Assistant Secretary, for whose work the Commission has expressed its gratitude.

The Journal.—The usual three issues of *Oryx* were published, thus completing Volume IV. An index will be distributed with *Oryx* V, 1.

Films.—The Society's films, a list of which is published in every issue of *Oryx*, have been well used, especially during the winter months. Their reception in Thailand, from which country Dr. Boonsong Lekagul sends a steady demand, is particularly gratifying.

In July the Society gave a special showing in London of Mr. Michael Grzimek's film "No Room for Wild Animals" to members of the XVth International Congress of Zoology.

Lectures.—Talks on the Society's work, illustrated by slides or films, were given to schools, to the English Speaking Union and to other societies.

Kindred Organizations.—The Society is a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and is represented on the International Committee for Bird Preservation

and on the Co-ordinating Advisory Committee on Oil Pollution of the Sea.

During the year the Society kept in touch with kindred societies and like-minded individuals throughout the world. Among them may be specially mentioned: The Council for Nature, The Nature Conservancy, The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Fauna Protection Panel of New South Wales, The Bombay Natural History Society, The Canadian Wildlife Service, The Nyasaland Fauna Preservation Society, The Wild Life Protection Society of South Africa, The Natal Parks, Game and Fish Preservation Board, The National Parks Institute of the Belgian Congo, The Nigerian Field Society.

Deeds of Covenant.—The Inland Revenue have, for the second year, withheld tax recoverable under Deeds of Covenant. Other cultural societies have suffered a similar blow. The reason given for withholding payments in our case, is that members receive certain benefits, e.g. entitlement to *Oryza*, and so there is doubt whether they give their subscriptions solely to further fauna preservation.

The Society's appeal to the Special Commissioners of Income Tax will be held on the 6th March, 1959, and the result published in *Oryza*.* Council wish to express the gratitude of the Society to Mr. Percy F. Carpenter of W. B. Keen and Co., our auditors, for the interest he has taken in this matter and the great help he has given, including appearing in person before the Commissioners on the Society's behalf.

Accounts.—Once again Council has to report an excess of expenditure over income. But against a deficiency of £501 4s. 1d. we have received donations and legacies of £557 15s. 3d. which are brought into the Balance Sheet and credited to the General Reserve Fund. Council wishes to express the gratitude of the Society to those members who give donations beyond their annual subscriptions. The Society's existence depends to a great extent upon their generosity.

Acknowledgments.—The Council expresses the Society's thanks to Mr. Maurice Wilson for his picture of caribou, used for the 1958 Christmas card.

Thanks are offered also to those who gave lectures and showed films at General Meetings.

The Society is most grateful to the Zoological Society of London for office accommodation and for the unstinted help given by that Society's staff throughout the year.

* NOTE. The Special Commissioners found in the Society's favour, but the Inland Revenue may take the case to the High Court.