

## Briefly

### INTERNATIONAL

#### More for CITES

Surinam, Zambia, Portugal, Argentina and China have formally acceded to CITES, bringing membership to 67.

#### India and Whales

The Indian Government has joined the International Whaling Commission.

#### IUCN Wins Onassis Prize

IUCN has been awarded the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation Prize, mainly for its role in promoting nature conservation in Greece. The 'Olympia' Prize, as it is also known, will be presented at a ceremony in Athens in June, together with a cheque for US\$100,000.

#### WWF/IUCN Campaigns

WWF/IUCN's fund campaign for 1982/83 will be in aid of tropical forests and primates, and that for 1984/85 for plant conservation.

#### To Save the Oryx

An anonymous German industrialist has given \$450,000 to WWF for the Niger project to save the scimitar-horned oryx and addax.

#### Mediterranean Marine Areas

In October 12 Mediterranean countries and the EEC agreed on a draft treaty to create a network of protected marine areas, in addition to the 90 that already exist; they also agreed on guidelines for selecting them, based on papers provided by IUCN. The headquarters for the organisation will be in Tunis.

#### USSR Still Whaling

An announcement by the Soviet Union that it intends to cease whaling, widely reported in the press, is false. The USSR only means to stop whaling in Far Eastern waters, a relatively small part of its overall operations; whaling in the Southern Ocean, mostly for minke, will continue.

#### Crane Counts

The International Crane Foundation's 1980 winter counts report 92-97 wild whooping cranes, up from 75 in 1977; an estimated 200-250 Siberian cranes, down from 300; 4246

hooded cranes, up from 2787; and 390-420 red-crowned cranes up from 362-382. There are also 27 whooping cranes and 28 Siberian in captivity.

#### Orang Studbook

The latest edition of the Orang utan Studbook included 776 orangs living in captivity in more than 160 collections. Of these 399 were born in captivity. The largest captive colony is still at the Yerkes Primate Centre, Georgia, followed by 29 in Surabaya Zoo and 28 in Jakarta Zoo, both in Indonesia. The Studbook Keeper is Marvin Jones of the San Diego Zoo, California.

#### Birds on Record

Jeffery Boswall reports that the calls of about 5000 of the world's 8900 species of birds have been recorded on record and/or tape.

#### St Francis and Ecology

Pope John Paul II has proclaimed St Francis of Assisi the Patron Saint of Ecology.

### BRITISH ISLES

#### Grey Seal Cull

The annual Scottish cull of grey seals was restricted last autumn to the traditional 2000 pups in Orkney. The Wildlife Link Grey Seals Group welcomed the Government's decision not to proceed with a larger cull.

#### AONBs Revived

The Countryside Commission has issued a policy statement on Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – the 'Class 2 National Parks' – which it hopes will strengthen the value and importance of the 33 areas, from the Northumberland Coast to the Scilly Isles, already designated, and the dozen more in the pipeline.

#### New Ungulate Group

More than 70 people have joined the newly formed Ungulate Research Group, which is to be associated with the Mammal Society.

#### Otter Protection in Norfolk

The Otter Trust reports that nine Norfolk rivers and their tributaries, from the source to the point at which they become navigable, are now effectively complete otter havens: Waveney, Wensum, Nar, Thet, Wissey, Bure, Babingley, Black Bourne and Little Ouse.



Eleven river systems have been surveyed and 252 otter havens established with the consent of 261 riparian owners.

### **Polecat Spreading**

The polecat is still spreading in Britain, from its Welsh fastness. Some 260 records have been collected in the past 2½ years of which 30 are from new 10-km squares. In Europe, by contrast, the polecat seems to be decreasing in places.

### **Millions Die in Bottles**

The 6 million drink cans and 5m. bottles which are believed to be scattered about the British countryside could kill as many as 9 million small mammals each year, if the results of a recent litter survey are representative. Some 662 bottles and cans proved to contain the bodies of 57 voles, mice and shrews.

### **Falconers 'Stockpiling'**

The RSPB reports 36 known thefts of eggs or young from peregrine falcon eyries in 1980. Falconers are suspected of stockpiling in advance of the Wildlife and Countryside Bill, which will probably require registration and ringing of captive birds of prey.

### **Birdwatchers' Code**

The welfare of the birds must come first, is the first of ten dos and don'ts in the Birdwatchers' Code of Conduct, issued by the RSPB after consulting with five other ornithological bodies. Respecting the rights of landowners and other people's rights in the countryside are two others.

### **RSPB Membership Soars**

Between 1971 and 1980 membership of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds rose from 71,000 to 340,000.

### **Spider Orchids Survive**

Of the 59 early spider orchids rescued by the Sussex Naturalists' Trust in 1979 from a cliff edge that was about to fall into the sea, 49 still survive at their new site further inland.

### **Students Use Spermaceti**

British secondary school students are being taught in chemistry classes to make cosmetics using spermaceti wax, which comes from sperm whale oil, as part of the Nuffield Secondary Science Project. Trade in sperm oil is banned in the EEC as from 1982

### **Indian Lions to Marwell**

The two Indian lions *Panthera leo persica* presented to the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust by fFPS in 1972, and which have never bred, have been transferred on permanent breeding loan to the Marwell Zoological Park, Hampshire. It is hoped that each will succeed in breeding with the new mate it will find at Marwell. The lions, which are a brother and sister, were named Zafar and Zahida after Zafar Futehally, Vice-President of WWF India, and his daughter.

## **EUROPE**

### **FFSPN Threatens Court Action**

The Fédération Française des Sociétés de Protection de la Nature, the umbrella organisation for French environmental groups, has threatened to take the French Government to court unless it brings France's bird protection legislation into line with the EEC bird directive by April 4 1981, the date the directive is due to enter into force.

### **Amoco Cadiz Haunts River**

The Aber Benoit river in Brittany is covered with an oil slick along its entire length, a leftover from the 1978 *Amoco Cadiz* spill that is expected to remain there for several years.

### **German Wood Imports**

In 1979 West Germany imported nearly 1000 million marks' worth of tropical wood, a 21 per cent increase over 1978.

### **Greek Forest Spared**

Thanks to concerted lobbying by Dr Thomas Schultze-Westrum, Greece has agreed to halt logging and road-building in a 1000-ha beech and spruce forest in Thrace's Rhodope Mountains, habitat of chamois, brown bear, lynx and wolf.

### **Threat to a National Park**

The Sarek National Park in northern Sweden is threatened by a plan for a power station coupled with a reservoir in Sitojaura.

### **Seabirds Starving**

Puffins, guillemots and razorbills nesting on Norwegian cliffs last year starved to death because stocks of white fish, their main source of food, down to less than three per cent of

pre-1970 levels. More than half a million puffins starved in 1980. The cause may be a natural periodic fluctuation.

### Biological Alternatives

A non-chemical pesticide incorporating a bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis*, has been found effective in West Germany against the cabbage butterfly and corn grub and appears to have no environmental side effects. Germany expects to export about 1200 tonnes a year to the Americas, Europe and South-east Asia.

## NORTH AMERICA

### Alaska Bill Finally Passes

The Alaska Lands Bill, signed by President Carter on December 2 (after nearly 10 years of failing to get through Congress because of procedural obstructions), designates 56 million acres as wilderness and puts 25 million acres in national parks, 19 million in park preserves and 54 million in national wildlife refuges; 13 rivers are protected as 'wild and scenic'.

### Exit with a Flourish

When Congress failed to pass a bill creating a Snake River (Idaho) Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, President Carter's outgoing Interior Secretary, Cecil D. Andrus, issued a 'public land withdrawal order' on the 500,000 acres, which are thought to contain the world's largest concentration of eagles, hawks, falcons and owls. The order, unless overridden by special legislation, effectively protects the area for 20 years.

### Dioxin in Lake Ontario

Levels of dioxin in Lake Ontario fish are higher than anywhere in the world except Vietnam, which during the war was sprayed with defoliants containing the poison. Neither the US nor Canada has established 'safe' levels of dioxin in fish, as they have for mercury and other substances.

### Fishing Ban Lifted

For the first time since 1975, when large amounts of the pesticide Kepone were discovered in the James River, the Virginia Board of Health is to allow commercial fishing, despite the fact that kepone levels in many fish and crabs still exceed 0.4ppm, the Federal safety limit. The Board advised children and

pregnant women not to eat fish from the river, but for other people an occasional fish is 'an acceptable risk'.

### Under the Bulldozer

The Environmental Protection Agency predicts, if present tendencies continue, that up to the year 2000 the US will lose 2 million acres of wildlife habitat every year.

### How Many Fish Does Pollution Kill?

In the US 471 million fish were reported to have died from pollution between 1960 and 1975 (the 1975 figures were not published until 1980). Since the EPA reckons that 80 per cent of fish in a kill go unreported, a conservative estimate for the 15 years is 2300 million.

### Farmers, Not Hunters, Threaten Pheasants

A 14-year survey of ring-necked pheasants *Phasianus colchicus* on both sides of the Minnesota-Iowa border has found no differences in population trends despite Iowa's longer hunting season. Pheasants on both sides declined uniformly, however, because of land-use changes and intensive farming.

### Wild Turkey Success

In the past thirty years Missouri has been reintroducing wild turkeys *Meleagris gallopavo*, which in the late 40s had all but disappeared from the state; 2611 birds have been released at 142 sites in 87 counties, and in 1979 hunters were able to take about 23,000.

### Peregrines Breed in the Wild

In the USA and Canada 300 captive-bred peregrines have been released in the wild and some have bred.

### Four Species Protected in Texas River

Four species known to occur only in the spring-fed San Marcos River in central Texas have been given Federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. The San Marcos salamander *Erycea nana* and the San Marcos gambusia *Gambusia georgei*, a small fish, have been classified as endangered and threatened respectively, and Critical Habitat has been declared for Texas wild rice *Zizania texana* and the fountain darter *Ethostoma tonticola*. None of the four has ever been successfully introduced to another river. The San Marcos is threatened by real estate development, depletion of its springs through increased use of ground-water, and swimming and boating.

### Songbird Decline

Migratory songbirds in the US have decreased every year since 1968, according to a Fish and Wildlife Service survey. Eastern kingbirds have declined one per cent annually, yellow warblers two, yellow-breasted chats three, and prairie warblers four, mainly because of destruction of Central and South American rain forests.

### Milk Vetch Rediscovered

The Columbia River milk vetch *Astragalus columbianus*, thought to have become extinct in the 1950s when construction of Priest Rapids Dam destroyed its only known habitat, has been rediscovered near the dam on a strip of land between a military firing range and a nuclear reactor.

### Walrus Ivory Seizure

Five tons of walrus ivory valued at some \$450,000 was seized by US Fish and Wildlife Service officers in February in simultaneous raids mostly in Alaska, following 11 months of investigations. Only Alaska natives may kill walrus and hold ivory.

### Llamas Flummox Coyotes

Three llamas on a sheep ranch in Wyoming have cut coyote predation of lambs to zero. The keen-eyed and curious llamas send the coyotes packing by spitting at them.

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

### Charter of Belem

The eight Amazon Treaty nations (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela) meeting in Belem, Brazil, in October 1980, issued a 'Charter of Belem', which calls for, among other things, an end to illegal trade in endangered species, a study of the Amazon's transport and energy potential, and the establishment of research centres and study courses on Amazonia.

### Hurricane in St Lucia

Hurricane Allen, on August 29 last, devastated the Caribbean island of St Lucia, destroying nearly half its trees. Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust is helping the St Lucia Government with measures to preserve the highly endangered St Lucia parrot *Amazona versicolor*, of which only 125 were known to survive even before the hurricane.

### Prosperity Reduces Poaching

Cedros Island mule deer *Odocoileus hemionus cerrosensis*, the only mule deer to be listed as endangered in the Red Data Book, are probably 'substantially' more numerous than the current estimate of 50, according to Dr Dale McCullough. Poaching was formerly the main threat to the deer, but an economic boom on the Mexiacan island, thanks to a thriving lobster and abalone fishery, means that fishermen no longer need to hunt deer for food.

### Maned Wolf Deaths

A study of the maned wolf *Chrysocyon brachyurus* in Brazil's Serra da Canastra National Park showed that a major cause of loss was shooting by farmers whose (unprotected) chickens the maned wolves had raided; 22 out of 25 wolves had died this way.

### Possible Eskimo Curlew Sighted

A bird believed to be the elusive Eskimo curlew, a near-extinct species whose present breeding grounds are not known, has been sighted in Guatemala by a bird-watching group from the Sacramento Audubon Society.

### Canal Spill

Most of the 175,000 gallons of Alaska crude oil spilled by the tanker *Texaco Connecticut* into the Panama Canal last summer ended up in Gatun Lake, killing crocodiles, lizards and fish. Three species of birds left the area during their nesting season.

### Condor Tracking

Six Andean condors *Vultur gryphus*, bred in the US Fish and Wildlife Service Patuxent Research Centre, were released in July 1980 in the coastal mountains of Peru, where they appeared to join up with a small existing population. The birds are fitted with small solar-powered radio transmitters and can be tracked for up to five years.

### California Condor in Mexico?

Persistent claims that California condors had been sighted in various parts of Baja California, NW Mexico, where it existed until the 1930s, were investigated in five visits to the area between November 1971 and April 1979 by two American ornithologists, Sanford R. Wilbur and Lloyd F. Kiff. They concluded that it is extremely probable that all the alleged sightings were misidentifications of other large birds of prey. The very small amount of suitable habitat is regularly visited

by ornithologists, who would certainly have seen any birds that had survived, and the sedentary condor is unlikely to have wandered the more than 300 miles from its known habitat north of Los Angeles.

### World's Worst

Cubatão, in Brazil, a petrochemical manufacturing centre, is probably the world's most polluted city, with no birds or insects of any kind and no live trees. Eighty of every thousand babies are either stillborn or die within a week.

## AFRICA

### West African Environmental Convention

Representatives of 13 West African coastal states have drawn up a 'convention for cooperation in the protection and development of the marine and coastal environment of the West African region' and a protocol for dealing with pollution emergencies. The countries are Benin, Cape Verde, Congo, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

### Cameroon Trade Ban

Cameroon (not a member of CITES) has banned the unlicensed export of all animal products, including ivory.

### Forestry Commission for Ghana

Ghana has created a Forestry Commission to co-ordinate the country's forest and wildlife resources.

### Game in the Kalahari

A Botswana Government aerial survey of the Kalahari desert in the central and western parts of the country – about 250,000 sq km – recorded more than a million wild herbivores. About half were hartebeest and wildebeest, and most of the rest were gemsbok, giraffe, eland, springbok, ostrich, kudu, duiker and steenbok.

### Nature Desecration

Jean Verame, a French artist, has spray-painted the mountains in Sinai's spectacular and previously untouched Bir Nafach valley. Boulders, peaks and rock walls were painted black and blue, in solids, squares

and polka dots, in order to add 'a human dimension to nature'. The principal backer of Verame's vandalism was the US-based Society for Prospectives (sic) in Other Spaces and Dimensions.

### Falcon Prices Soar

Prices of birds of prey in Egypt, which exports to falconers in many other countries, are on average 800 times higher than in 1970, and for some 2000 people in the Nile delta catching raptors is a full-time occupation.

### Crowned Crane Exports

Kenyan ornithologists are concerned about the increasing trade in crowned cranes *Balearica pavonina*, 500 of which were exported in 1979 and the first half of 1980. Sightings in the wild should be notified to the Ornithology Section of the National Museums of Kenya (PO Box 40658, Nairobi).

### New Cooker Could Save Forests

The simple addition of an air intake control to the traditional Kenyan wood or charcoal cookstove, the jiko, can increase its efficiency from 5-10 per cent to 24 per cent, and if half the country's old jikos were replaced 1.5 million tons of wood would be saved annually.

### Senegal Dams Threaten Fish Stocks

Two dams being built on the Senegal River, which rises in Mali and eventually forms the border between Mauritania and Senegal, could drastically deplete the river's fish, on which 700,000 people depend, and wipe out crocodiles and manatees. In Mali the Manantali dam is expected to reduce fish stocks downstream (almost the entire river) by half, and the Diama dam near the river's mouth to deplete the fish by a further 5000 tonnes a year.

### Rhinos to Kruger

Twelve black rhino have been translocated from Natal to southern Kruger National Park, an area that has not seen rhino since 1926. The Park's rhino population is now 59.

### Cheetahs Released

Five cheetahs were brought in and released last November in the new Pilanesberg Game Reserve in Bophuthatswana by the South African Endangered Wildlife Trust.

### The Value of Marine Reserves

A year after the declaration of marine reserves

## Briefly

at Trafalgar and St Lucia in Natal, reefs that were previously almost lifeless now have growing populations of crabs, sea lice, mussels, crayfish and fish. Two sightings of octopus, the first for many years, have been reported.

## ASIA

### Saudi Arabian Conservation Pact

Saudi Arabia and IUCN have signed a US\$300,000 agreement whereby IUCN will advise the Saudi Meteorology and Environmental Protection Agency on setting up a Department of Natural Resources, planning a national conservation strategy, establishing a network of protected areas, training wildlife managers, and conserving endangered species.

### Endangered Plants in China

Chinese botanists have compiled a preliminary list of rare, threatened and endangered plant species. The Threatened Plant Committee's Newsletters are now translated into both Russian and Chinese and circulated to botanic gardens.

### Lizard Ban in Bangladesh

Lizards have become rare in Bangladesh due to the indiscriminate issue of export permits, and the Government has banned all exports for three years. Under the second Five Year Plan, 394,000 acres are to be afforested, and work has begun on the Bay of Bengal coast.

### Batu Caves Endangered

Malaysian conservation groups are campaigning to halt blasting in a limestone quarry dangerously near the famous Batu Caves, habitat not only of thousands of bats but of orchids and a wide variety of other plants, including 28 species of mosses and 38 ferns. Even moderate damage to the caves could allow too much light in, which would change the caves' temperature and humidity and probably destroy the ecosystem.

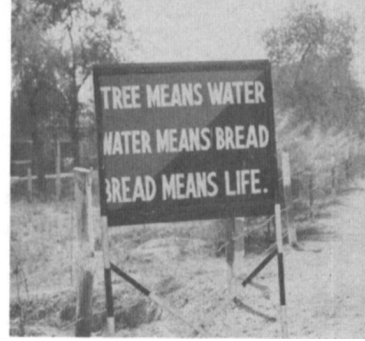
### India Gets Environment Ministry

India last November established a Ministry of the Environment.

### New Weed in India

A pernicious exotic weed has appeared in India and is overrunning the countryside, especially in the south. *Parthenium hysterotrophus*, an

Conservation education by the roadside in Uttar Pradesh, in northern India  
*Richard Fitter*



American plant, is highly adaptable, grows throughout the year, and is now to be found in some wildlife sanctuaries. Useless for fodder, it is displacing native plants.

### Overdoing Reafforestation

The use of exotic eucalyptus in an attempt to restore blackbuck and great Indian bustard habitat in Karnataka's Rannibennur Blackbuck Sanctuary at first had the desired result: blackbuck increased from nearly nil in 1958 to 1000 in 1974, 15 bustards were resident, and, as a bonus, wolves had moved into the sanctuary. But when remaining open areas – which all three species need – were also planted with eucalyptus and the original eucalyptus began to overtop the native scrub vegetation, all three declined again. S.G. Neginhal, Karnataka's Assistant Conservator of Forests, predicts that the blackbuck sanctuary will now belong to spotted deer, grey junglefowl and leopards.

### Hong Kong Fishermen Arrested

Nearly 600 fishermen in Hong Kong were arrested after breaking a fishing ban in a 20-mile-wide belt along the coast, imposed to protect marine life.

### Untouchables and Wildlife

In Japan processors of animal skins and other wildlife products are traditionally members of the *Dowa*, or untouchable, caste, and before Japan ratified CITES in 1980 one of its principal excuses for not doing so was that many *Dowa* would lose their jobs. But *Dowa* leaders told Noritaka Ichida, executive director of the Wild Bird Society of Japan, 'that wildlife was weak, just like the *Dowa* and that the weak should fight for each other'. This may have been a major reason for the Government's change of heart.

### New Rat in China

A new species of rat, discovered in 1975 in the Wang-lang Natural Reserve, northern Sichuan, is described in *Acta Zoologica Sinica* 26:4, 1980. *Vernaya foramena* has long, thick, cinnamon brown fur and a long tail, and resembles *V. fulva*.

## ANTIPODES

**South Island Loses Little Kiwi**

Recent surveys have failed to find any traces of the smallest and rarest of the three kiwis on South Island, where its presence on the western side of the Southern Alps had long been taken for granted. The little spotted kiwi *Apteryx oweni* now appears confined to two offshore islands: D'Urville, with 20 birds, and Kapiti, with 500-600 (all descended from five birds released there early this century).

**Black Stilt Programme**

Ten black stilts *Himantopus novaeseelandiae*, now reduced to under 60 birds, have been hatched from eggs collected by the New Zealand Wildlife Service in the bird's only remaining habitat, the MacKenzie Basin, and taken to the Mount Bruce Reserve for incubation. Known nesting sites are protected from predators, mainly feral cats and ferrets, by fences.

**Mudfish Threatened**

An environmental impact statement (EIS) by a company planning to mine peat in New Zealand's Kaimaumu Swamp states that 'no fish life of any significance is present', despite the fact that the Kaimaumu contains what is possibly the last large population of the black mudfish *Nechanna diversus*, the rarest of the three New Zealand species. Mudfish are notable for their ability to breathe air in dry spells.

**Wildflower Business**

The Western Australian Fisheries and Wildlife Service reports that some 200 rare wild flowers are being exploited commercially and that most native plants sold come from the wild.

**Disappearing Soil**

Queensland's soil is eroding at a rate of about 50 tonnes per hectare per year, and by the end of the century many grain-growing soils will have been seriously depleted.

**Crocodiles Thriving**

Crocodiles in the Northern Territory have increased since being legally protected. Nuisance animals are captured by wildlife officers and sent to the Territory's only crocodile farm, 40km south of Darwin.

**New Frog**

A new species of frog, named *Cyclorana manya*,

has been discovered in the Cape York peninsula. Squat and mottled brown with a pale stripe down its back, it is the smallest species in its genus – less than 30mm long.

**Elephant Seal Increase**

Breeding southern elephant seals *Mirounga leonina* on Peterson Island in Vincennes Bay, Antarctica, have increased. In the summer of 1972 12 were sighted, and in 1979 82. Another breeding colony that has been reported, also at Vincennes Bay, would be the world's southernmost and the first on the mainland.

## OCEANS

**Incidental Dolphin Kills Down**

Incidental dolphin kills by US tuna fishermen have been below 20,000 in each of the last few years, compared with 300,000 in 1971, the year before the passage of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, which required that the kill be reduced to 'a level approaching zero'. About 99 per cent of dolphins (which fishermen use as guides to schools of tuna) now survive. The new quota for 1981-85 is 20,500 a year, down from 31,150.

**Turtles Remain on Menus**

Dr George Balazs reports that more than a year after a ban on the import of turtle products some Hawaiian restaurants still serve turtle steaks and soup. Anyone finding a turtle on a menu in Hawaii (or anywhere else in the US) should notify the Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Cattle Egrets in Hawaii**

On Kauai island in Hawaii cattle egrets *Bubulcus ibis*, introduced in the islands from Florida in 1959 to control flies, had increased from 25 to at least 6800 in 1980. Scientists have warned that the possibility of the egrets displacing nesting native red-footed boobies *Sula sula* at Kilanea Crater should be watched.

**Seals Prefer New Neighbours**

In 1980, a year after the Fish and Wildlife Service took over Tern Island in Hawaii's French Frigate Shoals from the Coast Guard, 24 monk seals hauled out on the island's beaches – four times as many as in any previous year.

**Life on the Lava Flows**

Three endemic arthropods have been discovered on the freezing, bare lava flows at



the summit of Hawaii's Mauna Ke'a (4207m); they feed on organic debris carried up the mountain by orographic winds. A flightless lygaeid bug *Nysius* sp. n. lives under rocks and among cinders near areas with permafrost 10-25cm deep; it shares this habitat with two web spiders (Linyphiidae) that build snares on the undersides of boulders. One is probably of the genus *Erigone*; the other is unknown.

### Bad Eggs Reduce Predation

Chicken eggs injected with hot pepper sauce, ammonia and a bird repellent have reduced predation by introduced mynas *Acridotheres tristis* on the eggs of wedge-tailed shearwaters *Puffinus pacificus* on Kauai in the Hawaiian islands.

### Plastic, Jellyfish and Turtles

An examination of the stomach contents of 20 leatherback turtles, washed ashore after becoming fatally entangled in lobster pots, found that eight had eaten some kind of plastic, one a 3x4m polythene sheet. The plastic may resemble jellyfish, a principal item in the turtles' diet.

### Sind Protects Turtles

Pakistan's Sind Province has given legal protection to marine turtles. The beaches around Karachi are one of the world's 11 major green turtle nesting grounds.

### Lost Net Danger

A lost, free-floating salmon driftnet recovered in the North Pacific by two officials of the US Fish and Wildlife Service contained 99 trapped seabirds of five species, two salmon sharks, and over 200 chum and silver salmon. The modern monofilament nets are highly durable.

### Hérons Re-established on Nonsuch

To combat a plague of land crabs which attack the eggs of the endangered Bermuda petrel *Pterodroma cahow* at its only breeding site on Nonsuch Island, yellow-crowned night herons *Nycticorax violaceus* have been re-introduced and are breeding. They are called 'crab catchers' in the Caribbean.

### Long-Distance Turtle

A female hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata* tagged in 1976 in the Solomon Islands was killed by a turtle hunter in 1979 in Papua New Guinea, 1400km away – the second longest hawksbill tag return on record. If the turtle followed a straight line it would have had

to swim across one major oceanic current and 400km directly against another one, at a minimum average speed of 1.7km per day.

### NEW NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES

Studland Heath National Nature Reserve has been trebled under a new lease. It is the largest remaining tract of Dorset heathland.

The Otter Trust has brought the 32-acre Stanley Carrs, a Grade 3 SSSI and the largest remaining alder carr on the River Waveney.

Italy has designated Sardinia's Oasi di Sale Porcus a protected waterfowl reserve under the Ramsar Convention.

Kenya, with the agreement of local landowners, has declared a heronry south of Kisumu on Lake Victoria a National Reserve. Breeding birds include four egrets, black-headed heron, sacred ibis, two storks and spoonbill.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has bought the remnants of the Antioch Dunes on California's San Joaquin River as its first rare plant and insect reserve.

Florida's 6090-acre Kissimmee Prairie, 30 miles north of Lake Okeechobee, has been made a National Audubon Society sanctuary called the Ordway-Whittell Prairie Reserve. Cost \$3.6 million.

The US has declared a marine sanctuary around the Santa Barbara Channel Islands in southern California.

Honduras has declared 5000 sq km in the Rio Platano basin a Biosphere Reserve (under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere programme), the first in Central America.

The Brazilian President has signed an Act establishing the Jau National Park, 2.3 million ha in northern Amazonia.

China has set up two Manchurian tiger reserves in the north-eastern Heilongjiang province: Jingpohu, 150,000ha, and Qixinglazi, 33,000ha. About 100 tigers will benefit, most of them in the smaller reserve, as well as red-crowned cranes, spotted and musk deer, sable, leopards and bears.



## PERSONALIA

Horace Marden Albright, a founder of the US National Park Service in 1916 and its Director from 1929 to 1933, has been awarded the Medal of Freedom, the highest US civilian honour.

Frank Antram has been named Director of the UK Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit, formerly TRAFFIC International.

Derek Barber, Chairman of the RSPB Council and a founder of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, has been named Chairman of the Countryside Commission, and Adrian Phillips has been named the Commission's Director, succeeding Reg Hookway, who has retired.

Ralph Daly, Adviser for Conservation of the Environment to the Sultanate of Oman, has been awarded the Order of Oman. He has been responsible for the return of Arabian oryx to Oman and the plans for their release in the wild.

Dr Dian Fossey, who has studied the mountain gorillas in the Virunga Volcanoes since 1967 and founded the Karisoke Research Station, has returned to the USA and taken a post with Cornell University. The new Director at the Station is Dr Sandy Harcourt, who is Co-ordinator of the Mountain Gorilla Project.

Robin Grove-White has become Director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, in succession to Christopher Hall, who has become Editor of the *Countryman*.

Karl Heinz Narjes, a former West German MP, has been appointed the EEC Environment Commissioner.

Sir Arthur Norman KBE DFC, Chairman of WWF/UK, has been appointed a member of the Nature Conservancy Council.

The 1980 Douglas H. Pimlott Conservation Award has gone to Dr J. Dewey Soper, Canadian conservationist, writer and artist.

Kenhelm W. Stott Jr, explorer, zoologist and author, has been awarded San Diego Zoo's 30th Conservation Medal.

The 1981 *Country Life* Farming and Wildlife Award has been presented to W.J. Wilder of Easton Grey in Wiltshire.

## OBITUARIES

Derek Bryceson, former Director of National Parks in Kenya, has died.

Dr Eric Ennion, bird artist and author, promoter of the Field Studies Council, first warden of its Flatford Mill Field Study Centre and later of his own Field Research Station at Monk's House in Northumberland, died on February 28.

Dr Douglas L. Gilbert, American authority on wildlife management, has died.

C.A.W. Guggisberg, well-known author of books on African wildlife, notably *Game Animals of Eastern Africa* (1959) and *Crocodiles* (1972), died on December 9.

Maurice A. Machris died on November 3 in Los Angeles. President of the Shikar Safari Club International at the time of Operation Oryx in 1962, he was largely responsible for raising the funds to fly the captured oryx to the USA and continued to represent the Club as a Trustee of the World Herd in Phoenix Zoo.

Hamilton K. Pyles, Executive Secretary of the Natural Resources Council of America and former Deputy Chief of the US Forest Service, has died, aged 71.

Edwin Way Teale, eminent American writer-naturalist, died in October 1980.

George Waterston, distinguished Scottish ornithologist, died on September 20. He was for many years Secretary of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club and Regional Director of the RSPB for Scotland. He also saved Fair Isle, now owned by the National Trust for Scotland, for the nation.

**Correction**

The Javan tigers referred to on page 444 of the December *Oryx* (15,5) were in fact leopards.