

News in Brief

Chairman of Museum Trustees

Sir Landsborough Thomson, one of our FPS Vice-Presidents, has been elected Chairman of the Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History) in succession to the late Professor C. F. S. Pantin, FRs.

FPS and Otters

The FPS has asked the Mammal Society for facts about the otter in Great Britain to find out how serious and how general is the reported decrease in numbers. Once the facts are known it should be possible to formulate a management policy and make recommendations for its conservation.

After the Torrey Canyon

The fund set up jointly by the World Wildlife Fund, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the RSPCA to rescue seabirds and promote research has realised £54,000, of which the government contributed £5000, the USA National Appeal of WWF £2000, and British Petroleum £1000. Seabird casualties in Cornish seas alone are estimated to be at least 20,000. The New York Zoological Society through its President Dr Fairfield Osborn sent £200 to the FPS to use as the Society judged best.

Equipment Wanted for Ghana Rangers

The Ghana Game and Wildlife Department is appealing for field equipment for rangers and wardens in its reserves. The list includes camp beds, tents, mosquito nets, simple prismatic compasses, water bottles, first aid field kits, boots, raincoats. Any FPS member or friend who would like to help Ghana with any of these items (not money) should send them to the Chief Game and Wildlife Officer, Mr E. O. A. Asibey, Dept. of Game & Wildlife, P.O. Box M239, Ministry Post Office, Accra, and send a note to the Hon. Secretary, FPS, c/o The Zoo, Regent's Park, London N.W.1. listing what has been sent. Mr Asibey who is our FPS correspondent in Ghana, writes "It is largely through the efforts of the Fauna Preservation Society that the Gold Coast Government tried to do anything at all for wildlife and I trust you will help again."

Federation of British Zoos

Twelve new members have been admitted this year to the newly formed Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland, bringing the total to 21, and covering between them 24 zoos and bird gardens. Founded last November under the chairmanship of our Council member, Lord Cranbrook, the Federation aims to encourage the proper care of wild animals in zoos by laying down standards of care and management, to promote the interchange of new ideas and to help members with technical advice. All zoos applying for membership are inspected before admission.

More Females in Chillingham Herd

The Chillingham Wild Cattle Association reports that the herd still numbers 36, but with a better proportion of females: 23 or 13 males. Eight calves were born in 1966, of which seven survived; three bulls died in the struggle for leadership. The outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Northumberland last summer came very close to the herd; if one animal had

caught the disease the Ministry of Agriculture would have insisted on the slaughter of the whole herd.

New British Reserves

The Nature Conservancy has recently declared two new national nature reserves, one at Holkham, 9700 acres of coastal marshes and intertidal sand and mud flats on the Norfolk coast, the other at Glasson Moss, 140 acres of peat bog on the south side of the Solway Firth, in Cumberland.

A Jim Corbett Museum

The Chief Conservator of Forests of Uttar Pradesh in India is appealing for letters, trophies or any other mementos of Jim Corbett for the museum that is being established in Corbett's cottage in the Corbett National Park.

Another Sanctuary in the Falklands

The Falkland Islands Government has designated Middle Island, in King George Bay, West Falkland, as a wild animal and bird sanctuary. Five islands have already been declared sanctuaries, for the protection of albatrosses, penguins and fur seals, as reported in ORYX, December 1965.

Corsican Red Deer in Sardinia

Following his visit to Sardinia on behalf of the Italian World Wildlife Fund, Dr David Jenkins concluded that, although the Corsican red deer *Cervus elaphus corsicanus* has decreased considerably in range, there are now two healthy populations which, given protection from poaching, could mean that these rare deer are safe for the moment. The Italian WWF is collaborating with the Sardinian authorities to improve protection for the deer.

Badger Survey in British Columbia

Four endangered species in British Columbia—badger, peregrine, prairie falcon and garry oak—have been selected for action by a specially appointed committee of the British Columbia Nature Council, headed by David Stirling. A survey of the badger, about which little is known, has been started, and pressure is being put on the Provincial Fish and Wildlife Department to reduce or stop "cropping" of the falcons and to tighten up the falconry laws.

WINSTON CHURCHILL TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIPS

IN 1968 the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust is offering Travelling Fellowships open to all citizens of the United Kingdom concerned with wildlife conservation and its habitat, including the contribution of tourism. The fellowships may be taken in any country overseas for a period of not less than three months or more than twelve. Grants will cover return air fares, daily living and travel allowances, and, when necessary, residual expenses in the United Kingdom. No special qualifications are needed, and there are no age limits, but applicants must show that they have a worthwhile purpose for their travel. The awards will be made in January 1968, and applications must reach the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, 37 Charles Street, London W.1, before November 15, 1967. An application form and explanatory leaflet will be sent to anyone sending his or her name and address on a postcard to the Trust.