

## INTERNATIONAL

**Norway whales on without sanctions ...**

In October 1993 the US President announced that, although Norway merited sanctions under US law for breaking the International Whaling Commission's moratorium on commercial whaling, he did not intend, at present, to impose trade sanctions against Norwegian products, hoping that Norway would take steps to make sanctions unnecessary. *Source: Environment in Brief (European Environmental Bureau), October 1993, 6.*

**... and exports whale meat**

In October 1993 3.5 tonnes of whale meat, the yield from at least two minke whales, packaged for export to South Korea and labelled as Norwegian shrimp, were seized at Oslo's Fornebu airport. The incident caused intense embarrassment to Norway, which claimed that it would not export the meat when it resumed commercial whaling in 1993. *Source: BBC Wildlife, December 1993, 62.*

**Bad news for bluefin tuna**

The 20 countries that catch bluefin tuna have agreed to halve their catch in the Atlantic by 1995 but the scientific advisory group of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna says that, unless catches are cut sooner, the species could disappear. Stocks of western Atlantic bluefin, which spawn in the Gulf of Mexico, have fallen by 90 per cent since 1975, while numbers of eastern Atlantic bluefin, which spawn in the Mediterranean, have halved.

*Source: New Scientist, 20 November 1993, 11. See also: Bluefin Tuna: An Examination of the International Trade with an Emphasis on the Japanese Market by Andrea L. Gaski, TRAFFIC International, Cambridge, UK, 1993, ISBN 1 85850 016 8, 71 pp.*

**Move to save salmon**

A 5-year agreement has been signed between negotiators in favour of world-wide salmon conservation and representatives of Greenland, suspending commercial fishing of wild salmon in the North Atlantic. This will help the reintroduction attempt for salmon by allowing 140,000 adults to return to the rivers where they were released in the US, Canada and Europe.

*Source: Council of Europe Naturopa Newsletter, 93-9, 2.*

**US gives third warning to China and Taiwan over rhino and tiger trade**

On 8 November the US Administration declined to impose trade sanctions immediately against the People's Republic of China and Taiwan for their illegal trade in body parts and products from rhinos and tigers. Instead, it issued its third warning to both countries and gave them until March 1994 to 'demonstrate measurable, verifiable and substantial progress' in halting the trade. *Source: African Wildlife Update, November-December 1993, 5.*

**Need to gain public confidence in crocodile trade**

Sustainable use is a powerful conservation tool for some commercially fashionable crocodilian species. Operations in Australia, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, USA and

Zimbabwe have demonstrated successful conservation programmes based on ranching for four of the world's 23 crocodilian species. However, public confidence in the industry is undermined by the fact that, of the 1.5-2 million crocodilian skins processed annually, only about 360,000 come from legal sources. Public acceptance of the crocodile-skin trade will only be achieved if there is a concerted effort to stop the illegal trade.

*Source: IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group Newsletter, 12 (4), 2-3.*

**Tracking timber**

An electronic system to track timber from its forest of origin to its destination has been developed by a British company, Forest Log. Each log is tagged with a unique bar code, which forestry workers record on to a hand-held computer along with the volume, species and quality. The data can be transmitted by satellite as often as necessary to a central computer. The system has been used for the first time to track a shipment of timber from a forest in Indonesia to an importer in the UK. The plastic tags are lost when the logs are processed but the volume of timber going into a sawmill can be compared with the output and, if the sums tally, the full data about the wood in each container are recorded on a secure, steel-housed microchip, which will travel with the wood to its destination and can be checked at any time with a remote probe. The ability to trace timber is vital to verify the source of timber claimed to be from sustainably managed forests.

*Source: New Scientist, 25 December 1993/1 January 1994, 16.*

**Fungi or timber?**

Over the lifespan of a forest the commercial value of its edible fungi could be greater than the market value of the timber.

Source: *Fungi and Conservation*, No. 2, September 1993, 3.

**EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA****European Nature Conservation Year**

The Council of Europe has decided to declare 1995 European Nature Conservation Year, focusing in particular on nature conservation outside protected areas.

Source: Council of Europe.

**Latvian reserve under threat**

Latvia's Teichi State Nature Reserve could become a casualty of new land privatization legislation. Some 50–100 former landowners, from whom the land was acquired in 1982, are now reclaiming land. The reserve is now under the jurisdiction of five local authorities and, although the reserve should be exempt from privatization, the authorities are taking different decisions. The reserve covers 19,047 ha, of which 15,472 ha are wetlands, including 19 lakes; 185 bird species have been recorded there as well as 660 species of vascular plants, 200 mosses and 1146 species of Lepidoptera. Even if privatization of the reserve itself is prevented, the new owners of the forests bordering the reserve are likely to clear-fell them to improve their difficult economic situation.

Source: *IUCN Bulletin*, No. 4, 1993, 13.

**Sweden's 23rd park**

The 2000-ha Tyresta National Park, Sweden's 23rd, was inaugurated on 13 September 1993. Lying only 25 km from Stockholm, the western part is ancient pine forest. The eastern section has been modified by forestry but will be now left to recover. The park is surrounded by the 2700-ha Tyresta Nature Reserve.

Source: *IUCN Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas Newsletter*, No. 61, 12.

**Poland's new parks**

On 16 October 1993 Poland's Council of Ministers signed a decree creating two national parks. Biebrza National Park, the largest in Poland, has a core area of 59,223 ha and a buffer zone of 66,824 ha. The park will protect the Biebrza Marshes, a fauna-rich wetland with 157 species of breeding birds, moose, wolves, beavers and otters. The Stolove Mountains National Park covers 6280 ha with a buffer zone of 10,575 ha.

Source: *IUCN Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas Newsletter*, No. 61, 12.

**Greenpeace calls to save dolphins**

In a report, *Dangerous Waters*, Greenpeace has demanded the end to needless deaths of dolphins and other marine wildlife in British waters. The mounting threats include entanglement in fishing nets, pollution, over-fishing and habitat destruction. One study found that one-quarter of dolphins washed up on the British coast had died in fishing nets. Many more deaths go unreported: the government admits that its own attempts to monitor wildlife deaths have failed. The growing use of synthetic gill nets and tangle nets

is a particular problem and Greenpeace wants the government to introduce a licensing programme to control their use. The EC Habitats Directive requires the UK to introduce effective measures to protect dolphins and porpoises and their most important marine habitats. Legislation to implement the Directive must be in place by June 1994.

Source: Greenpeace, 10 January 1994.

**Tag to identify legal reptile leather**

An identification tag has been developed for marking small reptile-leather items whose raw material has been purchased in conformity with international wildlife legislation, particularly CITES. The tags bear a code containing information concerning the legal origin of the goods. This information is also registered on a computer and every single article can be traced through all stages of production. The scheme enables the authorities to check on goods and is a reliable purchasing guide for consumers. The system is administered by Reptilartenschutz e V. (Reptile Species Protection Association) and is supervised by a committee working closely with nature conservation authorities in Germany.

Source: *IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group Newsletter*, 12 (4), 10–11.

**Excellent news for the red-breasted goose**

A count of red-breasted geese *Branta ruficollis* in Romania and Bulgaria in January 1993 recorded a total of 75,000 birds, the highest ever. It was the first complete count that has been achieved. Earlier counts had indicated about 35,000 birds and

it was not clear whether numbers were declining. While the new count suggests that the species is at less risk than feared, the population should continue to be monitored. The counters saw hunters shooting the geese (which are protected throughout their range) and there were no young seen in the flocks. In addition, agricultural policy in Bulgaria is changing so the geese may not have as much access to winter cereals in future.

Source: *IWRB Threatened Waterfowl Research Group Newsletter*, August 1993, 16–17.

### New hunting regulations in Malta

From 1 January 1994 new regulations in Malta specify the periods authorized for bird-hunting and trapping. Applicants for hunting licences will be required to pass a bird identification test, to know the legislation on protected species, to demonstrate their ability to handle a gun and to have appropriate insurance cover. Artificial light, mirrors, gases, poisoned bait, hooks and pre-recorded bird calls are among strictly prohibited hunting methods.

Source: *Council of Europe Naturopa Newsletter*, No. 93–11, 4.

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## AFRICA

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### Viper rediscovery

The first live specimen of the Ethiopian mountain viper *Bitis parviocula* was found in June 1993 by a team of Czech herpetologists. The snake, probably a female, is being kept in a vivarium in the Czech Republic and the team plans to return to Bedelle, in the south-western forests of Ethiopia, to try to

find a mate for the snake and to gain some idea of the conservation status of the species.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, December 1993, 13.

### Ethiopia suspends sport hunting

The Ethiopian Ministry of Natural Resources Development and Environment Protection issued a notice on 29 August 1993 suspending sport hunting. The ban will remain in effect until a survey is carried out to determine 'wildlife distribution, numbers, sex and age ratios' in order to devise 'a sound mode of sustainable utilization of the resource'.

Source: *African Wildlife Update*, November–December 1993, 3.

### Second site for rare tree

The leguminous tree *Zenkerella perplexa* was described in 1990 from the only known individual in the northern Uluguru Mountains in Tanzania. Now a sterile herbarium specimen, from Malundwe Hill in Mikumi National Park, Tanzania, has been identified as the same species.

Source: *East Africa Natural History Society Bulletin*, 22 (3), 53.

### Primate reserve gets funds

The Tana River Primate National Reserve in Kenya is the focus of a proposed Global Environmental Facility project. The funding (from the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP), would be used for research, improved management and community economic development activities designed to reduce pressure on the reserve. The reserve represents an important remnant of the riverine forest ecosystem, which has almost disappeared in Kenya and is rich in species, including two

endangered endemic primate subspecies, the Tana River red colobus *Procolobus badius rufomitratus* and the Tana River crested mangabey *Cercocebus galeritus galeritus*.

Source: *East Africa Natural History Society Bulletin*, 22 (3), 34.

### Good news from Garamba

A new northern white rhino *Ceratotherium simum cottoni* was born in 1993 in Garamba National Park, Zaire, bringing the population to 31 individuals, a doubling in numbers since 1984. This is the only known viable population of the subspecies. An aerial census showed a continued increase in the elephant population to 8883 ± 1586 (an increase from 7700 in 1983). The improvements are due to an aid project started in 1984 to rehabilitate the park and to conserve the ecosystem. However, threats remain. Some 50,000 refugees from Sudan have settled nearby and arms are readily available in the area. The pressures of more people and rapid devaluation are causing an increase in poaching; antipoaching tactics are being revised and funds sought to upgrade them. Long-term support for the area includes the need to develop the unique Elephant Domestication Centre and tourism to earn foreign currency.

Source: *Species*, No. 20, 30–32.

### Elephants moved

Zimbabwe's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management moved 650 elephants from Gonarezhou National Park to nearby land conservancies, most of them to the Save Valley Conservancy, a 336,000-ha private reserve to the north. Two hundred of the elephants were transported to Madikwe Game Reserve in Bophuthatswana. Another 250

elephants are to be moved from Gonarezhou in 1994, bringing the population to slightly below the park's carrying capacity.

Source: *African Wildlife Update*, November–December 1993, 2.

### Zimbabwe moves rhinos to safety

The Zimbabwe Government is moving most of its remaining rhinos into four heavily guarded Intensive Protection Zones in the northern part of the country. This new strategy followed the findings that, of the 90 dehorned white rhinos estimated to remain in Hwange National Park early in 1993, fewer than 10 were still alive in September. Annual dehorning will continue in the Intensive Protection Zones. Among the many explanations offered for the killing of the dehorned rhinos is that huge financial incentives were offered to poachers to eliminate the rhino in southern Africa to increase the value of stockpiled horns in Asia.

Source: *African Wildlife Update*, November–December 1993, 1.

### South Africa bans lory imports

South Africa has banned imports of red-and-blue lorries *Eos histrio*. A sudden increase in international trade in these birds had caused alarm for the future of the species, which is endemic to three small Indonesian island groups (see *Oryx*, 27 [4], 206).

Source: *Psitta Scene*, November 1993, 11.

### News of the Madagascar teal

New surveys for the Madagascar teal *Anas bernieri*, following reports that the species was declining fast,

found a total of 73–95 birds in June–July 1993, including a minimum of 35 at Lake Bernamba (where 16–18 were found in 1992) and about 35 at Lake Antsamaka near Masoarivi. Two pairs were captured for a captive-breeding programme at Jersey Zoo but one bird died soon after arrival there.

Source: *IWRB Threatened Waterfowl Research Group Newsletter*, August 1993, 17.

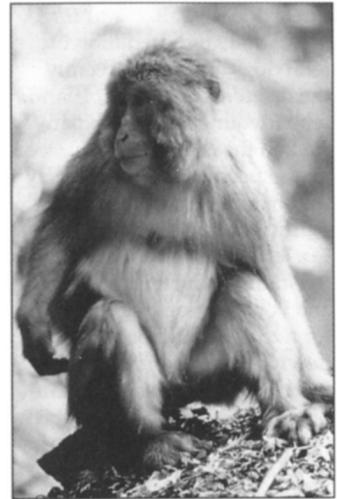
## ASIA (EXCLUDING INDO-MALAYA)

### Cranes thrive in border zone

The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), 4 km wide and 240 km long, between North and South Korea has become a *de facto* wildlife reserve in the last 40 years because it is virtually free from human disturbance. On the southern side is a 4–8-km-wide Civilian Control Zone (CCZ) in which agricultural activity is strictly supervised and where there is virtually no human activity in winter. These areas provide a safe winter haven for the endangered red-crowned crane *Grus japonensis* and the white-naped crane *G. vipio*. There is waste grain in the fields of the CCZ and secluded streams and rivers in the DMZ for roosting. A survey showed that there were 292 red-crowned and 346 white-naped cranes wintering in or near the DMZ and another 2000 white-naped cranes stopping over for several weeks during migration between Japan and north-east China and Russia. Reunification of North and South Korea is bound to bring development pressure to the area and it is hoped that the areas identified as being

important for cranes can be protected and developed for ecotourism.

Source: *International Crane Foundation Bugle*, 19 (4), November 1993, 3 and 8.



A Japanese macaque – the world's most viable population could suffer as a result of plans for a road (Ian Redmond/ICCE).

### Road threat to Japanese park

Plans to widen a road and build new bridges and tunnels for tourist buses threaten the national park on Yakushima, a mountainous island of 500 sq km in southern Japan. The park is unique in Japan, having continuous natural vegetation from sea level to 1923 m and it contains the most viable population of Japanese macaques *Macaca fuscata*. It is feared that the new road scheme will fragment wildlife populations and do irreversible damage to the forest; the land is so steep that the work will require construction of large concrete supporting walls, shoring up of rock faces above and loss of roadside forest.

Source: *Primate Eye*, October 1993, 20–21.

### Amami rabbit in trouble in Japan

The Amami rabbit *Pentalagus furnessi*, endemic to the Ryuku Islands in Japan, is listed as Endangered by the IUCN because of habitat loss and fragmentation, and predation by feral dogs and cats. Recently, the residents of Amami Island, who favour economic expansion on the island, have released goats specifically because they know from conservation biologists that goat introductions can lead to the extinction of native faunas. Currently forestry and construction of golf courses for tourism could be slowed down or stopped if the rabbit were to be considered in planning on the island. The rabbit is not listed as endangered in the new Japanese wildlife legislation, which came into effect in April 1993, and the IUCN/SSC Lagomorph Specialist Group is encouraging the Japanese Government to protect the species.

Source: *Species*, No. 20, 63.

### China burns tiger bones

China has burnt about half a ton of tiger bones confiscated under a new ban.

Source: *The Guardian*, 14 January 1993.

### Progress for dolphin

China has made enormous efforts in the conservation of the white fin dolphin or baiji *Lipotes vexillifer* but fewer than 150 individuals are estimated to remain in the Yangtze River. An oceanarium facility to study and breed dolphins has been built at Wuhan and a 2 × 22 km seminatural reserve has been established upstream in an oxbow lake at Shishou. The reserve has been tested and the first baiji were due to be intro-

duced in September 1993.

Another semi-natural reserve is being established at Tongling near Nanjing and two natural reserves are planned in areas of known baiji concentration.

However, a Population and Habitat Viability Assessment workshop on the species concluded that the baiji is at very high risk of extinction within the next 25 years and made several urgent recommendations for further action to stem the decline.

Source: *Species*, No. 20, 25–29.

### Crocodile farm for Hainan Island

A 200-ha crocodile farm is to be built on Hainan Island, China's southernmost province. It will combine crocodile breeding with producing and processing meat and skins as well as providing for tourism. This is a joint Chinese/Hong Kong/Australian venture and it will collect crocodiles from all over the world.

Source: *IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group Newsletter*, 12 (4), 6.

### Survival plan for the Chinese alligator

The Chinese alligator *Alligator sinensis* remains critically endangered in the wild, although the Chinese authorities claim that the population in Anhui Province (which holds most of the species's remaining habitat) grew at 15 per cent per year between 1982 and 1992 and now stands at 1000 individuals. China declared a 907-sq-km National Chinese Alligator Conservation Refuge in Anhui Province, which includes 26 protected areas. The Anhui Research Center for Chinese Alligator Reproduction (ARCCAR) has bred 6040 hatchlings since 1983, of which

4197 survived to 1992. Captive-bred stock cannot be released because of a lack of natural habitat. To offset ARCCAR's running costs, a commercial utilization scheme is now being developed for this CITES Appendix I species, with the approval of CITES and with money from Thailand. Captive-bred live Chinese alligators will be sold to the pet trade and zoos, and the skins and meat will go to speciality markets. Source: *IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group Newsletter*, 12 (4), 18.

### Elephants in China

A recent survey in the Dai Autonomous Prefecture of Xishuangbanna in the southern province of Yunnan, China, revealed that around 450 Asian elephants still occur in at least 64 locations and in all but one of the subreserves of the protected area network in Xishuangbanna, all east of the Lancang (Mekong) River. Clearing land for cultivation, commercial logging and conversion to rubber plantations are compressing the elephant range, and conflicts between humans and elephants are increasing. The Forestry Department is relocating villages outside protected areas and erecting electrified fences as elephant barriers.

Source: *Species*, No. 20, 54–55.

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## INDO-MALAYA

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### Cranes released in effort to save Indian flock

Six captive-bred Siberian cranes *Grus leucogeranus* are to be released into India's Keoladeo National Park in an effort to save the flock that winters there. In the winter of 1992–93

only five birds arrived. Their migration route still remains unknown to scientists and researchers hope to discover it by using satellite to track the released birds when they migrate with the wild individuals to Siberia. Once the route is known conservation measures and hunter education programmes can begin. Two of the six birds came from the USA, two from Russia and two from India.

Source: *International Crane Foundation News Release*, 23 December 1993.

### Olive ridleys under threat

Conservationists are pressing for urgent and immediate action to safeguard the world's largest aggregation of endangered olive ridley turtles *Lepidochelys olivacea* at Gahirmatha beach in the Bhitarkanika Sanctuary, Orissa, India. The Indian Government is going ahead with its plans to develop a major fishing port for shrimp trawlers 10 km away (see *Oryx*, 27 [4], 205). The Orissa Government claims that there will be no danger to the turtles and that fisheries regulations will be amended to prevent trawlers operating within 20 km of the coast and to ban fishing in the nesting season. Conservationists say that existing legislation preventing mechanized boats fishing within 5 km of the Gahirmatha coast is not enforced and that turtles are already being killed in large numbers.

Source: *Marine Turtle Newsletter*, 1993, No. 63. Supplement.

### Crocodile conservation in Nepal

A crocodile conservation project has been started in Nepal with funding from USAID. A country-wide survey will be

done to determine the current status of restocked crocodiles and to locate additional habitat for restocking. Gharial and mugger sanctuaries are planned, with monitoring by local people. It is also intended to investigate the feasibility of captive-breeding programmes, where a portion of the revenue would be used for crocodile habitat conservation.

Source: *IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group Newsletter*, 12 (4), 5.

### Bhutan revises protected area system

The Royal Government of Bhutan has revised the country's protected area system to ensure that its biodiversity is adequately represented. The new system of four national parks, one strict nature reserve and four wildlife sanctuaries covers 21 per cent of the total area of the country.

Source: *IUCN Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas Newsletter*, No. 61, 16.

### Environmental havoc in Myanmar?

Planned energy projects in Myanmar will lead to environmental and social havoc, according to a recent report. For some years Myanmar and Thailand have been planning a series of huge energy joint ventures, including eight hydroelectric dams, in some of the most fought-over territory in Myanmar. The planned Upper Salween Dam would be among the largest in the world and would result in the flooding and deforestation of thousands of sq km of pristine forest bordering Thailand and the displacement of thousands of indigenous peoples.

Source: *Green November* 32, August–September 1993.

### Crocodile sanctuary

A proposal for a sanctuary, primarily for saltwater crocodiles *Crocodylus porosus* in Meinmahla Reserve Forest, Myanmar, has been endorsed by the country's Forestry Department. Meinmahla is a mangrove island about 30 km long and 8 km wide in the lower Bogale (Dalla) River. It is being considered whether to also include the nearby Thauangkadun Islands in the sanctuary to protect nesting sea turtles or to give them separate protected status.

Source: *IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group Newsletter*, July–September 1993, 9.

### White-winged wood duck in Thailand

Only 210 white-winged wood ducks *Cairina scutulata* survive in the world, scattered through six countries (see *Oryx*, 27 (1), 3–5). A 1992–1993 survey in Thailand estimated that 90 birds remain there, restricted to three upland areas. Three sites were identified that should be incorporated into the protected area network and it has been recommended that legal protection for the species be upgraded.

Source: John Parr.

### Bangkok's bird sanctuary

A bird sanctuary is being considered for Bangkok, Thailand, to increase environmental awareness in the city. It would be constructed along with a new reservoir.

Source: *Bangkok Post*, 3 January 1994.

### Indonesian initiative for primates

While the ranges of long-tailed macaque *Macaca fascicularis* and

silvered langur *Presbytis cristata* are steadily declining in Bali, Indonesia, there is a promising development for primate conservation. The villagers of Padangtegal manage a monkey forest at Ubud, charging admission to tourists and using the money on reforestation and management of the habitat. A survey found that wild troops of macaques are still relatively abundant but are hunted and most are dependent to some extent on human food sources. By contrast, the presence of silvered langurs was confirmed only in West Bali National Park, although there were reports that they still occur elsewhere, in the mountains near Amlapura, where they are hunted.

Source: *Asian Primates*, 3 (1&2), 1–2.

### New records for Sumatran rhino

Tracks and sightings of the Sumatran rhinoceros *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis* have been reported from Way Kambas National Park in Sumatra, the first record of the species in the park. Tracks have also been found in Berbak National Park further up the coast. Indonesia and Malaysia have started a joint Global Environmental Facility project on Asian rhinos and more surveys are to be done to assess accurate numbers.

Sources: Anwarrudin Choudhury and Kathy MacKinnon.

### Vietnam major centre for illegal wildlife trade

The Cho Cau Market in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, has become a thriving centre for illicit trade in wildlife. With the opening up of the Vietnamese economy, a vigorous trade has

developed, particularly from Laos and Myanmar through Vietnam to China and Korea. A report by the Earth Island Institute following field visits to Vietnam in June 1993 enumerates a large volume of trade in wild birds, tiger parts, deer bones and musk, live reptiles and crocodile skins.

Source: *IUCN/SSC Crocodile Specialist Group Newsletter*, July–September 1993, 9.

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## NORTH AMERICA

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### Canada risks losing ground in protected areas

Canada must accelerate the rate of creation of national parks or risk losing wilderness heritage to development, according to a report by nature conservation groups. At least 16 new national parks are required by the year 2000 to complete the national parks system. In particular, the report says, the federal government is ignoring its mandate to protect representative marine areas: there is no marine parks act yet and the first and last marine park was created at Fathom Five off Ontario's Bruce Peninsula in 1987.

Source: *Nature Alert*, Canadian Nature Federation, Winter 1994, 2.

### Butterfly without status needs protection

Housing development around the Peters River in Bathurst, New Brunswick, Canada, threatens to contaminate the salt-marsh habitat of the maritime ringlet. Only three other colonies of this rare butterfly are known: two of them in areas close to Peters River are protected by provincial legislation. Currently the

Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) only looks at vertebrates and vascular plants; only two mammals, three birds and one plant are listed under New Brunswick's Endangered Species Act, although in theory invertebrates could be listed. While the butterfly has no formal status it is difficult to ensure its protection but COSEWIC is considering expanding its mandate to include taxonomic groups that have been neglected to date.

Source: *Nature Alert*, Canadian Nature Federation, Winter 1994, 2.

### Yukon goes on killing wolves

Despite national and international protest, Canada's Yukon Government intended to conduct the second year of its wolf kill in early 1994 (see *Oryx*, 27 [4], 206).

Source: *Nature Alert*, Canadian Nature Federation, Winter 1994, 3.

### Arctic falcon no longer threatened

After 20 years of protection, marked by steady progress towards recovery, the Arctic peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus tundrius* has been proposed for removal from the US List of Threatened Species. The subspecies, representing about 75 per cent of North America's peregrines, nests in the Arctic areas of Alaska, Canada and Greenland and winters as far south as Argentina.

Source: *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, XVIII (4), 1.

### Biological survey for the States

The US Federal Government launched the National

Biological Survey in October 1993. It is charged with cataloguing and mapping every plant and animal species in the nation. Regular updates will enable serious environmental problems to be detected.

Source: *National Parks*, November/December 1993, 11–12.

### Bring Back the Natives

Bring Back the Natives is a campaign developed in response to a decline in riparian and aquatic ecosystem health and the concern that aquatic species in North America are becoming endangered and extinct at a much faster rate than terrestrial animals. Public lands contain the best, or last, remaining habitats for many imperilled aquatic species: 187 million ha of land managed by the Forest Service (FS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) provide habitat for almost 69 per cent of fish species in the US listed as threatened or endangered. The campaign, which is run by the BLM, FS and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, involves restoration and improved management of riparian corridors. By 1993, the second year of the campaign, there were 34 projects in 13 states benefiting more than 44 threatened, endangered and special-concern species. An ambitious project is the restoration of 290 km of habitat for a threatened fish, the Lahontan cutthroat trout *Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*, in the Marys River, Nevada. Source: *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, XVIII (4), 5–10.

### Dolphin kill in tuna nets down

Incidental kills of dolphins in nets cast for yellow-fin tuna in



An Atlantic puffin *Fratrercula arctica*. Conservation efforts have met with success at Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge in the USA where puffins are nesting again after an absence of 105 years (Mark Tasker/ICCE).

the eastern Pacific have been reduced by more than 89 per cent since 1986, mainly because fishermen have been trained to release the dolphins – 99.5 per cent are now released unharmed. The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), which places observers on every vessel, introduced new rules in 1993, which should bring the kill down even more; a skipper who kills too many dolphins loses the privilege of fishing on dolphins for the rest of the year and the excess is deducted from the boat's quota in subsequent years. Many people still abhor the eastern Pacific fleet's remaining take – 15,470 dolphins in 1992, down from 133,000 in 1986 – but the numbers are no longer a conservation problem. Indeed, to avoid dolphin kills altogether by using other methods of finding tuna would cause problems for the tuna stocks. While only mature tuna swim with dolphins, setting nets on free-swimming tuna brings up about 6 per cent juvenile fish and many other fish species, which are wasted. For

every dolphin saved, according to IATTC, 9000 undersized tuna would be dumped. The US Congress, however, remains determined to 'eliminate' all dolphin bycatch. The International Dolphin Conservation Act, which became law in 1992, requires the US Government to seek a global moratorium on intentional encirclement of dolphins in tuna nets.

Source: *Audubon*, November–December 1993, 21–22.

### Puffins return

After an absence of 105 years, Atlantic puffins *Fratrercula arctica* are nesting again at Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge in the Gulf of Maine, USA. Seven pairs nested in 1992 and 14 in 1993 thanks to an 8-year effort by the National Audubon Society, which translocated more than 950 puffins to three of the six historical nesting sites in the Gulf. In an attempt to restore murre (guillemots) *Uria* spp., which have not nested in the Gulf for 150 years, a National Audubon team has

placed 50 decoys, 12 ceramic murre eggs and recordings of murre calls on Matinicus Rock. *Source: Audubon*, November–December 1993, 118.

### Burying beetle resurfaces

A reintroduction project for the endangered American burying beetle *Nicrophorus americanus* is under way on Penikese Island, 8 km off southern Massachusetts. For 4 years mated beetle pairs have been released on chicken carcasses protected by upturned buckets. The beetle was once common throughout eastern and central US but numbers fell precipitously around the turn of the century and the species is now known to occur naturally only on Block Island off Rhode Island and in scattered pockets of Oklahoma, Arkansas and north-central Nebraska.

Penikese Island was selected as the first reintroduction site because it lacked small carrion-eating mammals and because it was the last place that the beetle had been seen in Massachusetts. The decline of the beetle was probably due to a combination of habitat destruction, a rise in numbers of carrion-eating mammals such as opossums, raccoons and skunks, and the decline of ground-nesting birds.

*Source: Audubon*, November–December 1993, 22–23.

### San Francisco park controversial

The Presidio, a 607-ha Army base in San Francisco, scheduled to join the US national park system this year, has become a centre of controversy. Opponents point to the expense; those in favour argue that the costs can be offset largely by leasing the base's facilities. The Presidio is located

at the entrance to San Francisco Bay and provides spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean. More than half the area is open space, preserving wild coastal bluffs, wetlands, sand dunes and untouched shoreline. It contains the last free-flowing creek in the city and a forest planted in the 1880s. The UN has declared the Presidio and surrounding Golden Gate area an international biosphere reserve. The Parks Service will restore wetlands and forest, designate hiking and biking trails and envisages the Presidio as a global centre for environmental and international issues, with voluntary organizations using some of the buildings.

*Source: National Parks*, January/February 1994, 10–11.

### Whooping crane count

On 2 December 1993 there were 267 whooping cranes *Grus americana*, of which 142 (126 adults and 16 young) were in the wild flock that migrates between Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, USA, and Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada. Nine were in the Rocky Mountain Experimental Flock at Grays Lake, 10 were in the Florida flock of captive-bred released birds and the rest were in five captive breeding flocks.

*Source: Grus Americana*, 33 (1), 3.

### Desert secured

After nearly 20 years of effort to protect the Californian desert, conservation groups achieved a victory on 5 October 1993 when the US Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved the California Desert Protection Act. If the Act is passed by the Senate and House of Representatives it will preserve 5666 sq km of desert as Mojave National Park, ex-

pand the boundaries of Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments and redesignate them as national parks, and set aside 16,188 sq km of federal desert land as wilderness.

*Source: National Parks*, November/December 1993, 13.

### California condor

On 23 September 1993 12 California condors *Gymnogyps californianus* were transported from southern California to the World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho, to form a third captive breeding flock. Seven of the birds came from San Diego Wild Animal Park and five from Los Angeles Zoo. There are now 75 California condors – 66 of them in captivity – up from a low of 27 in 1987. Four of the eight captive-produced condors released in 1992 in Los Padres National Forest have died, one from ingested leaked radiator fluid and the others from collisions with power lines. After the death of the fourth bird, the remaining four were recaptured and moved to a site in Lion Canyon, a more remote area of the national forest 110 km to the north-west. They were joined there by another five captive-produced birds and all nine were released between 8 and 10 December.

*Source: Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, XVIII (4), 18.

### Mass stranding of turtles

Between 28 May and mid-June 1993 60 dead juvenile Kemp's ridley turtles *Lepidochelys kempii* were washed ashore near Grand Isle, Louisiana, USA – the largest mass stranding known for this species. It is not known what killed these apparently healthy animals: possible explanations include drowning in shrimp trawls whose excluder devices were not in use

or did not function properly with such small turtles, or drowning because of multiple recaptures in butterfly nets or incidental capture in menhaden nets. There are believed to be fewer than 1000 adult Kemp's ridleys in the world so the loss of 60 juveniles is a serious blow. *Source: Marine Turtle Newsletter*, 1993, No. 63, 6.

### Pearlshell status improved

The Louisiana pearlshell *Margaritifera hembeli*, a freshwater mussel previously known only in the Bayou Boeuf drainage in Rapides Parish, Louisiana, has been reclassified from Endangered to Threatened. The decision was made because of improvements in habitat management, a reduction in threats to the mussel and the discovery of new populations in the Red River drainage in Grant Parish. *Source: Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, XVIII (4), 20.

### Otter translocation unsuccessful

Most of the southern sea otters *Enhydra lutris* translocated to San Nicolas Island in California (see *Oryx*, 26 [2], 76) have dispersed and the population there currently numbers 11 adults and five pups. The recovery team for the species is reviewing the use of translocation as a recovery tool for the sea otter. *Source: The Otter Raft*, Fall/Winter 1993, 4.

### Florida refuge declared

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is to establish the Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge to conserve endangered taxa endemic to a distinctive scrub vegetation community in central Florida. The birds in-

clude the Florida scrub jay *Aphelocoma coerulescens*. This area has the greatest concentration of endangered and threatened species in eastern North America. The refuge will cover 7945 ha of undisturbed scrub in 12 parcels in two counties. Much of the habitat has been destroyed for Florida's citrus industry or sold for building development.

*Source: Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, XVIII (4), 3-4.

### Disease hits dolphins

The same morbillivirus that caused disease in seals in the North Sea in 1988 and striped dolphins in the Mediterranean in 1990-1992 has been found in 17 bottle-nosed dolphins *Tursiops truncatus* washed up on the shores of Alabama and Mississippi in the USA.

*Source: New Scientist*, 11 December 1993, 13.

## CENTRAL AMERICA

### Reserve for vaquita

On 10 June 1993 the Mexican Government declared the Biosphere Reserve of the Upper Gulf of California and Colorado River Delta to protect the vaquita *Phocoena sinus*, the fish *Totoaba macdonaldi* and other endangered species. *Source: Conservation Biology*, 7 (4), 795.

### Panama study gives bad news for reefs

Mangroves and coral reefs could take more than a century to recover from an oil spill, according to biologists who have been monitoring the recovery of an 80-km badly oiled stretch of the Panama coast. In 1986 a

tank at a refinery at Bahía Las Minas on Panama's northern coast leaked 60,000-100,000 barrels of crude oil into the sea. Five years after the spill one-third of the outer fringe of mangroves was dead, patches of seagrass between mangrove and reef had disappeared, coral polyps down to a depth of 6 m were killed and, on one heavily polluted reef, 76 per cent of the coral had died. Scarcely any coral has started to grow and many reef species have suffered dramatic declines. The effects have been so bad because the environment within the reef is so sheltered and the oil is trapped in the sediments, leaking out regularly, especially after heavy rains. *Source: New Scientist*, 8 January 1994, 5.

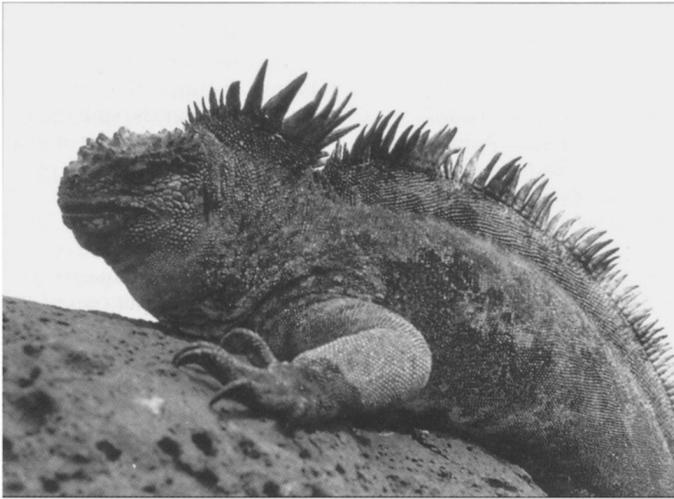
## SOUTH AMERICA

### Wildlife rescue in French Guiana

A wildlife rescue operation is under way in 310 sq km of rain forest in Petit Saut, French Guiana, which was due to be flooded in January 1994 as part of a hydroelectric scheme. The rescue operation is being financed by the public company building the dam. Mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds will be captured and released in forest close by. This area has been overhunted in the past and so the risk of disturbing existing populations and importing diseases is minimal. Control animals will be monitored for 2-3 years. *Source: Species*, No. 20, 22.

### Sea cucumber catch causes concern

Sea cucumbers *Isostichopus fuscus* are being harvested illegally



A marine iguana *Amblyrhynchus cristatus* on Santa Cruz in the Galápagos Islands. Feral cats appear to be preventing recruitment in some island populations (Andy Purcell/ICCE).

in large numbers in the Galápagos Islands. Several populations have already disappeared and if the catch continues at current levels the animals could be wiped out altogether. Despite this, the Ecuadorian Government is considering whether to revoke the 1992 decree prohibiting the exploitation of sea cucumbers in its waters because of increasing pressure for Asian markets. Local fishermen, who want the ban lifted, are picketing the Charles Darwin Research Station and are threatening to kill giant tortoises and introduce alien animals on to the islands. The President has created an advisory commission to examine the issue.

Sources: *Galápagos Bulletin, Notes from the Station*, Fall 1993; *New Scientist*, 11 December 1993, 32–35.

### Native plant initiative in Galápagos

The residents of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on the

island of San Cristobal in the Galápagos have welcomed an initiative to use native plants for ornamental purposes rather than imported species from the mainland. The project started 2 years ago and many municipal areas have been landscaped and planted with almost 400 native species, thanks to students at the Alejandro Humboldt Institute. Private residents who wish to join the scheme will be given plants raised at a botanical garden on land belonging to the Franciscan Mission.

Source: *Galápagos Bulletin*, Fall 1993, 3.

### Marine iguanas

In 1983 Andrew Laurie (*Oryx*, 17 [1], 18–25) drew attention to the lack of recruitment in marine iguana *Amblyrhynchus cristatus* populations on the Galápagos Islands where cats and rats were present. A research team recently travelled around the archipelago to collect blood samples from the

marine iguanas for a genetic study and was struck by the absence of juveniles in the populations on Isabela, Floreana, San Cristóbal and Santa Cruz.

These islands, and Baltra, are the only ones with feral cats. Iguana numbers on these islands were lower than those reported by Laurie, supporting his suggestion that the populations were in danger of extinction when the adults died. The team recommends a repeat of Laurie's census to assess the impact of cats and if necessary a study to look at the feasibility of cat control in the critical areas.

Source: *Galápagos Bulletin*, Fall 1993, 2–3.

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## AUSTRALASIA/ ANTARCTICA

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### New nature conservation legislation

A draft Nature Conservation (Amendment) Bill for Australian Capital Territory was released for public comment in 1993. It outlines a listing process to identify species and communities at risk, processes that threaten native plants and animals, conservation measures and a strategy for the long-term conservation of ACT's biodiversity.

Source: *IUCN Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas Newsletter*, No. 61, 13–14.

### Another site for endangered frog

The spotted tree frog *Litoria spenceri*, one of Australia's most endangered frog species, has been discovered in the Cotter River in Namadgi National Park in Australian Capital Territory. The species occurs along rocky unpolluted rivers

in mountains and had previously been recorded at a few sites in the eastern highlands of Victoria and at one site near Mt Kosciusko in New South Wales. *Source: IUCN Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas Newsletter*, No. 61, 14.

### Private Australian sanctuaries go public

Earth Sanctuaries of Adelaide, Australia, is issuing shares to raise capital for buying large tracts of land across Australia, ridding them of feral animals, enclosing them with electrified fences and stocking them with native animals. Warrawong, the first sanctuary opened in Adelaide Hills in 1982, is now earning \$A400,000 a year from visitors. The company plans to create up to 100 sanctuaries in the next 20 years: the next will be a 1600-ha sanctuary at Buckaringa Gorge in the Flinders Range of South Australia where the yellow-footed rock wallaby *Petrogale xanthopus* once lived. *Source: New Scientist*, 4 December 1993, 7.

### Rediscovery of dunnart

A female long-tailed dunnart *Sminthopsis longicaudata*, believed to be extinct in Australia's Northern Territory, has been found in a bottle by a prisoner clearing rubbish in the West MacDonnell National Park. The last recorded sighting was in 1985 and the dunnart was among the 45 per cent of mammals that once existed in the West MacDonnell ranges and are now believed extinct. A male dunnart has now been found and the Conservation Commission intends to start a breeding programme. *Source: IUCN Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas Newsletter*, No. 61, 14.

### Wetlands protected in New Zealand

Three important wetland remnants in New Zealand have been designated government purpose reserves: Whangamarino in the Waikato, and the Kopuatai Peat Dome and Torehape on the Hauraki Plains. The first two will also be listed as Ramsar sites. All three wetlands were once proposed for drainage and development but, in a 1985 landmark decision, the Planning Tribunal denied drainage adjacent to Whangamarino on the grounds that altering natural water levels was a privilege of private ownership rather than a right and that this should be withheld where drainage would damage important habitat. *Source: Forest & Bird*, November 1993, 3.

### Kaka forest to be logged

The timber rights to 2167 ha of Waitutu coastal forest, one of the few remaining pristine forests in New Zealand, have been sold by its 700 Maori owners to the Paynter Timber group. Logging is imminent. The forest is the most important area for the survival of the kaka *Nestor meridionalis* on the mainland. Conservationists say that the government should place a heritage order on Waitutu forest to prevent the logging and compensate the Maori owners. However, conservation groups say that Paynter Timber, as one of the most environmentally irresponsible companies in New Zealand and the only private-sector forestry company still destroying native forests, should voluntarily abandon plans to destroy Waitutu. *Source: Forest & Bird, Conservation News* No. 83, December 1993.

### Tracking wetas

Researchers at two New Zealand universities are fitting giant wetas (flightless cricket-like insects) with radio tags and lights so that they can track them after dark in order to discover more about their breeding behaviour. Introduced mammals have eliminated wetas from New Zealand except from predator-free islands and above the snow-line. The studies are needed to optimize the chances of success for re-introduction attempts. The first batch of 100 captive-bred Mahoenui wetas has been released and it is intended to release batches of paired wetas into enclosures to protect them from predators. If successful, the Department of Conservation plans to captive-breed and release the Middle Island tusked weta and the largest giant weta, which can attain a length of 25 cm. *Source: New Scientist*, 6 November 1993, 11.

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## OCEANIA

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### Conservation effort for Mariana Island birds

Captive-breeding technology is being developed for three species of Pacific island birds to safeguard against extinction. The brown tree snake, which caused the extinction of almost all Guam's avifauna, has now been found on 10 other Pacific islands and a dead one has been found on Rota. Biologists have captured seven Mariana crows *Corvus kubaryi*, three Rota bridled white-eyes *Zosterops conspicillata* and 16 Mariana fruit doves *Ptilinopus roseicapilla* from Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All

have been taken to zoos in the USA and a second trip to Rota is planned to collect more birds. *Source: 'Elepaio, 53 (11), 73.*

### National park in Samoa

The governor of American Samoa, a US territory in the South Pacific, has approved an agreement provided for operation of the National Park of American Samoa. The US Congress passed a bill in 1988 to establish the park, which protects rain forest, coral reefs and beaches, but because all land in Samoa is owned communally, the agreement was needed to allow the Parks Service to manage the park. *Source: National Parks, January/February 1994, 11.*

### Forest saved in New Caledonia

One of New Caledonia's last kauri *Agathis lanceolata* forests was saved from the chainsaw when provincial officials called off the logging because the contractor had done excessive environmental damage. The move followed protests from community and conservation groups. The relatively intact forest in the Ni Valley, north of Noumea, now appears safe and there is hope that a reserve will be declared. Conservationists fear, however, that forestry activities will be transferred to remaining undisturbed areas of New Caledonia's forest. *Source: Forest & Bird, November 1993, 6.*

### Second translocation of ultramarine lorries

Continuing the conservation programme for Polynesian lorries, the Delegation of the Environment for French Polynesia and the Zoological Society of San Diego success-

fully translocated a second group of seven ultramarine lorries *Vini ultramarina*. The birds were captured on the Marquesan island of Ua Huka and taken to the neighbouring island of Fatu Hiva on 24 November 1993. The ultramarine lorry is found only on Ua Huka, where it is threatened by human activities. Residents of Fatu Hiva report regular sightings of a flock of five ultramarine lorries from the first group of seven lorries translocated to the island in August 1992. *Source: Alan Lieberman and Cynthia Kuehler, Zoological Society of San Diego, 6 December 1993.*

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## NEW ORGANIZATIONS

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### Wolf federation

The European Federation for the Wolf has been founded with a view to protecting the wolf in Europe and collaborating with similar institutions overseas. *Contact: Fohenstrasse 66, CH-4053 Basle, Switzerland.*

### New group for parrot conservation

The Association for Parrot Conservation was formed in October 1993 at a meeting in Washington, DC. Its mission is to promote the conservation of wild parrots and their habitats through scientific research, policy recommendations and education. It will concentrate initially on New World parrots. An Executive Council of 17 members was elected and the president is Dr Enrique Bucher from Argentina. The establishment of the group was sparked off by a BirdLife International decision temporarily to disband the Parrot Specialist Group of the IUCN/Species

Survival Commission after policy disagreements within the group. For further information on the Association for Parrot Conservation contact Dr Rosemarie Gnam, Executive Director. Tel: (+1) 703 739 9803. *Source: Psitta Scene, November 1993, 10.*

### African Bird Club

The African Bird Club was founded on 1 January 1994 to collect information on the continent's birds, to foster an interest in bird conservation and to develop a conservation research fund. *Contact: The Membership Secretary, the African Bird Club, c/o BirdLife International, Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA, UK.*

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## OPPORTUNITIES

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### Volunteers needed for conservation work

Volunteers are needed for sea-turtle conservation work in Greece between mid-May and mid-October. The work will include monitoring and protecting nests and turtles and raising the awareness of tourists. Candidates will be expected to work as a team, speak English and share all aspects of the demanding work. Free camp-site accommodation and training are provided; other expenses are to be covered by volunteers. The minimum participation period is 4 weeks. *Contact: Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece, 35 Solomou St, GR-106 82 Athens, Greece. Tel/Fax: (+30) 1 36 44 146.*

### Award for animal conservation

The Whitley Award for Animal Conservation is a new annual award established by the Whitley Animal Protection Trust and the Royal Geographical Society. It is aimed at supporting multi-disciplinary teams whose projects make a practical, lasting and substantial contribution to the protection and conservation of animals in their natural habitats. Applications are open to British conservationists working in Britain and overseas. With a value of up to £15,000, the award is intended to cover the major costs of a project. *Contact:* The Whitley Award, Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR. Tel: (+44) (0)71 589 5466.

### Primate conservation fund

Primate Conservation Incorporated is a new organization founded to fund field research that supports conservation programmes for wild populations of primates. Priority will be given to projects focused on the least-known and most endangered species in their natural habitats and those involving citizens from the country in which the primates are found. *Contact:* Primate Conservation Incorporated, Box 1707, East Hampton, NY 11937, USA. Tel: (+1) 516 267 6856; Fax: (+1) 516 267 2024.

### PEOPLE

David McDowell of New Zealand has been appointed as Director General of IUCN–The World Conservation Union, succeeding Dr Martin Holdgate, who retires in April.

McDowell has been the Director General of the Department of Conservation and head of the overseas development aid agency of his own country. At present he is New Zealand's Ambassador to Japan.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Pigs, Peccaries and Hippos

This new IUCN/SSC Action Plan focuses on the 18 extant species of pigs, peccaries and hippos. The four main chapters – Neotropical tayassuids, Afrotropical hippopotamuses, Afrotropical suids and Eurasian suids – start with a section on taxonomy and conclude with a review of conservation action and future research. In between, separate sections for each species present taxonomy, distribution, ecology, behaviour and an action plan. General sections deal with economic importance, origins of domestication and the pig culture, and introduced feral populations. *Pigs, Peccaries and Hippos: Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan*, prepared by the IUCN/SSC Pigs and Peccaries Specialist Group and Hippo Specialist Group and edited by William L. R. Oliver, is published by IUCN, 1993, ISBN 2 8317 0141 4, 202 pp. From IUCN Publications Unit, WCMC, 219 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK.

#### World Zoo Conservation Strategy

The World Zoo Organization has published a strategy to outline the role they can and must play in addressing the destruction of biological diversity. It points to three main areas where zoos and aquaria can

help achieve conservation goals: actively supporting the conservation of populations of endangered species and their natural ecosystems; offering support and facilities to increase scientific knowledge that will benefit conservation; promoting an increase in public awareness of the need for conservation. *The World Zoo Conservation Strategy: The Role of Zoos and Aquaria of the World in Global Conservation* is published by IUCN/SSC, 1993, 76pp. It is available from the IUCN/SSC Captive Breeding Specialist Group, 12101 Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Apple Valley, MN 55124–8199, USA for \$US10 including postage.

#### The Birds of CITES

*The Birds of Cites and How to Identify Them* by Johannes Erritzoe was published by the Lutterworth Press, Cambridge, in 1993. It has 200 pages and is available in both hardback and ring-bound formats. After each biennial meeting of the Parties to CITES the Lutterworth Press will issue new or replacement pages. *Details:* The Lutterworth Press, PO Box 60, Cambridge CB1 2NT. Tel: (+44) 0223 350865; Fax: (+44) 0223 66951.

#### Fish of Indonesia and Sulawesi

*Freshwater Fish of Western Indonesia and Sulawesi* by Maurice Kottelat, Anthony J. Whitten, Sri Nurani Kartikasari and Soetikno Wirjoatmodjo has been published by Periplus Editions Ltd, Hong Kong, 221 pp. with 84 colour plates. ISBN 0 945971 60 5. It describes each species, giving distribution, ecology, threats and conservation requirements. There is an English and an English–Indonesian version available.

Available for £55 from the Natural History Book Service, 2–3 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN, UK, or from the Wildlife Heritage Trust, 95 Cotta Road, Colombo 8, Sri Lanka for £42 including postage. Fax (+94) 1 586767.

### Lemur news

The first issue of *Lemur News*, the newsletter of the Madagascar Section of the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group, appeared in May 1993. The Editor is Rodric B. Mast, Conservation International, 1015 Eighteenth Street, NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036, USA.

### Environmental consequences of the Gulf War

*Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 27, is devoted to the 1992 Gulf War: Coastal and Marine Environmental Consequences. Guest editors are A. R. G. Price and J. H. Robinson and there are 43 papers on various aspects of the topic. Source: *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 27, 380 pp.

### Ecological Genetics in Mammals

*Ecological Genetics in Mammals – Current Research and Future Perspectives* is the Proceedings of a meeting held in September 1992 in Kódź, Poland. It has been published as a special issue of *Acta Theriologica*, 38, suppl. No. 2, November 1993. Seven of the 14 papers deal with conservation genetics. Copies are available from The Mammal Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences, 17–230 Białowieza, Poland, for \$US14.

## MEETINGS

**Global Change and Terrestrial Ecosystems: The First GCTE Science Conference.** 23–27 May 1994, Massachusetts, USA. Contact: First GCTE Science Conference, GCTE Core Project Office, CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology, PO Box 84, Lyneham, ACT 2602, Australia.

**International Conference on Aspects of Bear Conservation.** 31 May–5 June 1994, Bursa, Turkey. Contact: International Bear Foundation, t. a.v. Petra Pouwels, PO Box 9, 3910 AA Rhenen, The Netherlands. Tel: (+31) 8376 19110; Fax: (+31) 8376 13727.

**Society for Conservation Biology and Association for Tropical Biology, Joint Annual Meeting.** 7–12 June 1994, Guadalajara, Mexico. Contact: B. Benz or E. Jardel, SCB-ATB, Laboratorio Natural Las Joyas, Univ. de Guadalajara, Jalisco, 44100 Mexico or E. Santana, Department of Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706, USA.

**International Conference of Ecology and Environment.** 20–24 June 1994, Drake Bay, Peninsula de Osa, Costa Rica. Contact: Celso Vargas, Departamento de Computacion, ITCR, Aptdo 159, Cartago, Costa Rica.

**International Ornithological Congress.** 21–27 August 1994, Vienna, Austria. Contact: Interconvention, 1450 Vienna, Austria.

**IV International Congress of Ethnobiology.** 17–21 November 1994, Lucknow, India. Contact:

S. K. Jain, Organizing Committee Fourth ICE, National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, India 226001 or International Society of Ethnobiology, 803 Craft Avenue, Elcerrito, CA, USA.

**The Exploitation of Mammals.** 25–26 November 1994, London, UK. Organized by The Mammal Society in association with the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare. Contact: UFAW, 8 Hamilton Close, South Mimms, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3QD, UK. Tel: 0707 658202; Fax: 0707 649279.

**International Symposium on the Biology of Marine Mammals in the North East Atlantic.** 29 November–1 December 1994, Tromsø, Norway. Contact: Arne Bjørge, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, PO Box 1037 Blindern, N-0315 Oslo, Norway.

**International Symposium on Urbanization and Forests.** 14–15 December 1994, Chiang Mai University, Thailand. Contact: Dr Pantawee Mapairoje, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand 50200. Fax: (+66) 53 222268.

**International Congress of Chelonia Conservation.** 6–9 July 1995, Gonfaron, France. Contact: Congress Secretariat, BP 24, 83590 Gonfaron, France. Tel: (+33) 94 78 2641; Fax: (+33) 94 78 2427.

### Contributions to Briefly

The Editor welcomes contributions to Briefly: news items, requests, details of meetings and announcements. The deadline for the next issue (July 1994) is 14 May.