

Legacies and Gifts

FPS is most grateful for the following gifts of £20 and over, as well as many smaller ones, totalling £16,668, received between September 1978 and February 15 1979:

Legacies

Miss Hilda Tilley	£4839
Miss C. K. McMullen	£500

Gifts

BBC Nationwide 'Save Our Species' Programme	£2734
Anonymous	£2000
New Moorgate Trust	£1000
St Katharine's Fund	£400
J. Constable, Mrs. M. J. Hayne, each	£100
F. Hammer	£85
Mrs R. H. Taylor	£50
Miss E. Hickok	£20

Oryx 100% Fund

People's Trust for Endangered Species (earmarked for Greenpeace grey seal campaign)	£4000
St Katharine's Fund (earmarked for East African Wildlife Society)	£500
Thomas Lilley Memorial Trust	£100
Lt Col A. E. Gibbs, Brigadier E. F. Maude, K. Richards, each	£50
J. C. Cadbury, M. Fitter, S. Rostron, each	£30

Oryx 100% Fund

The following grants have been made from the FPS Oryx 100% Fund:

- £500 to Dr C. M. Perrins to study the fauna of Gran Chaco, Argentina.
- £500 to Peru's Pro Defensa de la Naturaleza to buy equipment for the Paracas Institute, Lima, Peru.
- £300 to Jane Whitten to complete a study of the endemic small mammals of Siberut Island in Indonesia.
- £250 to the Charles Darwin Foundation in the Galapagos for a study of the dark-rumped petrel.
- £295 for insignia for vehicles belonging to the Rwandan Office of Tourism and National Parks.
- £250 to Jesus Garzon to study biotype preservation on the Tagus River in Spain.
- £250 to David Jones for an ecological survey of the Massif du Termit in Niger.
- £200 to William J. Higgs for a study of Greenland white-fronted geese.
- £175 to M. A. Linley of the University of Bristol for a status study of lizards on Hierro in the Canary Islands.
- £150 to Dr N. J. Collar of the Edward Grey Institute for an ICBP expedition to the Canary Islands to study the houbara bustard.
- £100 to Zafar Futehally to organise the Conservation Symposium of the International Primatological Congress in Bangalore, India, January 1979.

- £100 to C. A. Mackenzie of the University of Bristol for a survey of bats in Papua New Guinea and Sulawesi.
- £100 to WWF International for wardens on the Salvagens Islands, Madeira.
- £60 to Romulus Whitaker, Honorary Director of the Madras Crocodile Bank, for the SSC Crocodile Group newsletter.
- £50 to Peter Holmes for an Oxford University expedition to study endemic forest birds in Sulawesi.
- £50 to Yves Prévost for a University of Edinburgh expedition to study ospreys in West Africa.
- £50 to Philip Rostron for a Cambridge ornithological expedition to Vestfirðir, Iceland.

Two New Red Data Books

It is a pleasure to praise the USSR for its forward-looking decision to prepare the magnificent Red Data Book of the USSR and an even greater pleasure to acknowledge the important part that our Vice-President, Professor A. G. Bannikov, has played in it. A substantial volume of 460 pages, produced by the Central Research Laboratory on Nature Conservation, it covers 62 mammals, 63 birds, 8 amphibians, 22 reptiles and some 441 flowering plants and ferns. Each account has an illustration and a map, which, together with the Latin name, enables non-Russian speakers to use this volume written, naturally, wholly in Russian. Professor Bannikov has edited the mammal section and Professor Flint, the well known ornithologist, the birds. This is far the best of the national red data books to appear so far, and all the more creditable since, where the state is all-powerful, the blame for the arrival of these animals and plants at a state of near-extinction, can only be laid on the state. Let us hope it will encourage other governments to recognise their deficiencies and to do something about their own endangered animals and plants.

Within the UK plants have led animals in the production of a Red Data Book, but in the international field animals have led plants. Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibia and Freshwater Fish have all now had their Red Data Book volumes. Admittedly plants, with their 20,000-25,000 species at risk, have been a much bigger job, and had to be tackled differently. So we welcome the appearance of the IUCN Plant Red Data Book, compiled by Gren Lucas and Hugh Syngé for the Threatened Plants Committee of the Survival Service Commission of IUCN (obtainable from: T.P.C. c/o The Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey. Price £10.00, US \$20.00 which includes surface mail postage and packing. The 250 species accounts comprise only 1 per cent of those that could be included if the information were available. Most people will never have heard of the majority of them, but it will come as a surprise to find that the familiar Monterey cypress *Cupressus macrocarpa*, which adorns every other garden on the south coast of England, is endangered in its native California, where it can be seen at the same place as an endangered mammal, the southern sea otter. There are two British plants in the book, the Lundy cabbage *Rhynchosinapis wrightii* confined to Lundy in the Bristol Channel, and the grass *Bromus interruptus*, which may already be extinct in its only recent British locality in Cambridgeshire. Hopefully this new red data book will stimulate action to save not only these 250, but many of the others too.

R.F.