

Briefly

INTERNATIONAL

CITES News

Colombia, Bangladesh, Austria and Malawi have ratified CITES, bringing membership to 77. Austria entered a reservation on two Appendix I crocodiles, *Crocodylus cataphractus* and *C. porosus*, which will be considered as listed on Appendix II. Colombia's accession is particularly important, as years ago it was one of the world's largest wildlife exporters. Belgium's ratification is still awaited (the report of ratification in *Oryx*, October 1981, was mistaken); Belgium is one of the few countries still importing Appendix I species.

New Sites for World Heritage List

The World Heritage Committee has selected 11 new sites, bringing the total to 112: Los Glaciares National Park, Argentina; Darien National Park, Panama; Mammoth Cave National Park and Olympic National Park, USA; Kakadu National Park, Great Barrier Reef and Willandra Lakes Region, Australia; Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary and Niokolo-Koba National Park, Senegal; Mt Nimba Strict Nature Reserve, Guinea; and Serengeti National Park, Tanzania.

Tropical Forests Campaign

WWF is launching its Tropical Forests Campaign in October this year.

New Cracid Group

The World Pheasant Association has formed a Cracid Working Group, chaired by Dr Jesús Estudillo Lopez, to publicize the plight of the Cracid family (curassows and guans) and promote action.

Primate Trade Study

Dr Michael Kavanagh has been commissioned by WWF-UK to report on the patterns of primate imports and re-exports in Britain. He is also collaborating with TRAFFIC-USA and Dr Ardith Eudey of Nevada University in a study of worldwide primate trade. He would appreciate any information, even anecdotal or incomplete, that would help these enquiries into a diverse, badly recorded and often secretive

business. Please send to him at the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit, IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre, 219(c) Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, UK.

BRITISH ISLES

Action on World Conservation Strategy

A coalition of environmental and nature conservation groups have published a detailed plan to prepare a UK conservation and development programme, based on the World Conservation Strategy. It covers seven priority areas: rural resources; domestic, marine and coastal resources; urbanism; industry; the international community; the education of society towards commitment and conservation; and society's ethics. Working groups will report on each in time to allow public debate prior to presenting an integrated action programme, 'Earth's Survival: A Conservation and Development Programme for the UK' early in 1983.

SSSI Ploughed

Forty acres of grazing land on Halvergate Marshes, an SSSI in Norfolk, have been ploughed. For more than a year conservationists have been negotiating with farmers to try to prevent this and to save the 5800-acre wetland site from more efficient drainage, and were assured that all farmers were well aware of the conservation value of the site.

Salmon Return to the Thames

The fourth marked salmon, from the 50,000 parr released annually in the Thames by the Thames River Authority since 1979, has been recovered in the Misbourne, a tributary of the Colne, which joins the Thames near Staines. An adult 4-lb male carrying milt, it was put into the Thames in 1979 and is the first to approach so closely to potential spawning grounds in the topmost shallow reaches of the river system.

Badger TB Research Review

A Co-ordinating Group for research on tuberculosis in badgers and cattle has been set up by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Group's task is to review completed, current and proposed research and development



work and thus ensure the 'maximum value of the research effort and that no avenue remains unexplored'.

Elm Toll

About two-thirds of the estimated 30 million elm trees in Great Britain in 1970 have been lost because of Dutch elm disease, according to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Best Year for Osprey and Red Kite

Last year two of Britain's rarest birds, the red kite *Milvus milvus* and the osprey *Pandion haliaëtus*, had their best breeding season this century. In Wales 39 pairs of red kites raised 27 chicks and in Scotland 42 osprey chicks were raised – three times the number of three years ago.

Death of a Society

The Scottish Society for the Protection of Wild Birds, founded in 1927, has wound up its operations and handed over its remaining assets, including one owned and two leased nature reserves plus £30,000, to the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

EUROPE

Belgium Lags Behind

Last November the Belgian Government, which now holds the Presidency of the Council of EEC Environment Ministers, was taken before the European Court of Justice for illegal delays in applying six community environmental directives. Belgium has also still to implement 25 international conventions, including CITES, the Oslo Convention on Marine Pollution and the Ramsar Convention on wetlands, despite pressure from ngo's and the media. Belgium has no Minister of the Environment despite the election of nine ecologists to parliament last November.

Bird Breeders' Toll Continues

On Ministerial Orders issued by the Walloon and Flemish Regions some 30,000 song-birds, including 13 species of migrants in the Walloon region alone, were allowed to be taken in each of the two regions this spring.

Acid Rain is Killing Trees

Acid rain is killing forests in West Germany.

Silver firs *Abies alba* are particularly affected and the sickness is spreading to spruce *Picea abies*, pines *Pinus* spp. and even the more resistant oaks and beech. Professor Bernhard Ulrich, a leading forest expert, predicts that whole forests will die in the next five years.

New Bid to Stop Wildlife Trade

Dr Arnd Wünschmann is leading a fight against one of Europe's largest illegal trade routes in animal and plant products from a new WWF-Germany headquarters in Frankfurt. At present offences against CITES are regarded as no more than slight misdemeanours.

Dangers of Salting Roads

Twenty thousand trees die each year in the Federal Republic of Germany because of the vast quantities of salt used on the roads to clear snow and ice. If this continues on the present scale one-third of the 2 million roadside trees will be dead by 1986.

Getting into Schools

One-third of Sweden's primary and secondary school biology teachers are taking a training course in environmental protection and some of these will be trained to hold similar courses for other teachers.

Elk Population Explosion

There will be 300,000 elk *Alces alces* in Sweden this year, despite the fact that 150,000 were shot in the autumn hunting season. In the 1960s there were only 120,000 elk. The increase is due to changes in Swedish forestry and the larger acreage of young forest plantations are highly favoured by the elk.

Beaver Success Story

There are now more than 40 beavers living in the Bavarian Unterer Inn Reserve. They were reintroduced by the country's conservation groups, assisted by the Bavarian Zoological Society.

France Extends Bird Protection

An order in September 1981 amending the list of protected birds in France extended protection to all non-domestic species except for six game birds.

Italy Makes Decrees

As a result of the WWF International campaign 'The Seas Must Live' and pressure from WWF-Italy, the Italian government has passed decrees to: protect cetaceans and sea turtles; forbid sport fishing with scuba gear or nets; and establish a 500-metre sea belt around the island of Montecristo as a protected area. The government also approved a bill for the creation of 21 marine reserves.

Replanting in Cyprus

About 11,000ha of Cyprus forest destroyed by fire in 1974 have been replanted with aid from the Council of Europe. The fires destroyed 15 per cent of all the island's forest, including more than a third of the forest of Paphos.

Delta Plan Rejected

The Greek Government has rejected plans to build a petro-chemical complex in the Achelos delta.

NORTH AMERICA

Black Market Trade Uncovered

A massive domestic and international black market trade in endangered reptiles and birds was uncovered last summer by Fish and Wildlife Service agents working behind a storefront called Atlanta Wildlife Exchange. Investigations resulted in 27 arrests and seizure of 1000 animals.

Crocodylian Imports Increase

In 18 months, US imports of crocodylian skins, leather and manufactured products rose dramatically; 60,000 items in the first three months of 1981 compared with 10,000 in the last three months of 1979. Most trade was in manufactured products from Italy and France. In addition, almost 30,000 live crocodiles for the pet trade were imported in the same period.

New Act Embraces Plants and Corals

The Lacey Act 1981 combines the existing Lacey and Black Bass Acts into one statute to control interstate and foreign commerce in wildlife. The Act prohibits, for the first time, the sale of plants collected in violation

of state laws or protected by CITES, and the import of corals. Law enforcement efforts will concentrate on commercial dealers and suppliers, and stiff penalties face violators – fines of up to \$20,000 and five years imprisonment. But the new act will not cover violations of plant laws of foreign countries, such as the recent import of 750 pitcher plants *Cephalotus follicularis*, protected in Australia since 1938.

Future Bright for Endangered Goose

Last winter 2700 Aleutian Canada geese *Branta canadensis leucopareia* migrated successfully to California, 37 per cent more than last year's population estimate. Of the banded birds observed so far 15 were among the 350 captive-bred birds released in August in the western Aleutians, but their migration route remains an enigma.

Butterflies Could Freeze to Death

The Governor of Mexico has helped to secure the landowner's agreement that no trees will be felled in a 200-hectare area of the monarch butterfly's wintering grounds in high altitude coniferous forest. Recent logging has thinned the canopy so much that a severe winter could kill millions of the hibernating monarchs.

Holstein Cow Gives Birth to Endangered Ox

A male and a female gaur *Bos gaurus*, born at Bronx Zoo in August and October 1981, are the second instance of wild mammals born to a domesticated surrogate mother as a result of embryo transfer. The technique holds promise for other rare wild cattle such as kouprey *Bos sauveli* and anoa *Bubalus depressicornis*. Initial steps have been taken towards embryo transfer between two wild species, using South Africa's gemsbok antelope as a surrogate mother for the Arabian oryx. The first successful interspecies transfer occurred when a domesticated sheep gave birth to a mouflon *Ovis orientalis* at Utah State University.

Ivory Dealer Pays for Exhibition

Hand-carved ivory objects worth \$1 million were seized from a dealer in Los Angeles. The California Endangered Species Act prohibits the commercial sale of ivory entering the state after 1977. The Los



Angeles Zoo and International Airport are exhibiting the forfeited ivory as part of an education programme and the dealer, as well as being fined \$5000, was made to pay \$3000 towards the exhibition and \$1500 towards an advertising campaign highlighting the plight of Africa's elephants.

Waterfowl Contaminated

Last autumn waterfowl in Montana contained three times as much endrin, a deadly insecticide, as the Environmental Protection Agency allows for safe consumption. Hunters were warned not to eat goose-meat or duck-fat and the use of endrin was stopped immediately. Endrin was used to control cutworms in the fields of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and South Dakota last year.

Financial Incentives for Riverside Protection

Oregon has a new law to encourage protection of streams and streamside wildlife habitat. A property tax exemption is to be given to owners who protect and enhance riparian lands, and a 25 per cent income tax credit granted for costs incurred in improving fish habitat.

Tecopa Pupfish Extinct

The Tecopa pupfish *Cyprinodon nevadensis calidae*, last seen in 1970, appears to be extinct. An extensive search of its habitat – the Amaragosa River system which originates in hot springs in California's Death Valley – was unsuccessful and it has been deleted from the US list of endangered species. One cause was the re-channelling of hot spring outflows during construction of bath-houses, which resulted in a swifter channel carrying hotter water further downstream.

Sanctuary City

The whole city area of Walla Walla, Washington, population 26,000, has been officially designated a bird sanctuary by the city council so that federal protection laws for migratory birds can be applied. Every city police officer is now a wildlife enforcement officer.

Siberian Crane Breeding Success

The first Siberian crane bred through artificial insemination has fledged success-

fully at the International Crane Foundation in Wisconsin. There are 30 others in captivity around the world, someday destined to replenish the dwindling world population of around 150.

A Victory for Steel Shot Supporters

Courts in Texas and South Dakota have ruled that a state wildlife agency has the right to enforce the use of steel rather than lead shot. Between 1.6 and 2.4 million ducks, geese and swans die each year from ingesting lead shot which has fallen into the water.

Poison Ban may be Lifted

The Bureau of Land Management's Director, Robert Burford, is in favour of lifting the ban on Compound 1080. The ban was imposed in 1972 because of the poison's devastating effect on animals other than the coyote – the target species – including red wolf, mountain lion, grizzly bear, black-footed ferret, California condor, and bald eagle. Secretary of the Interior, James Watt, and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, Anne Gorsuch, are also in favour of renewing the use of this poison.

Condor Still in Difficulty

In 1981 two pairs of California condor *Gymnogyps californianus* bred in the wild but only one chick survived. Two adult birds are to be trapped and fitted with radio-transmitters and three young non-breeding birds captured for a breeding programme. A new threat is the building of second homes in the south-eastern part of the condor's range, a known fly-way to the Sierras and probably an important feeding area.

New Wildlife Research Institute

The National Wildlife Federation has established the Institute for Wildlife Research to focus on rare, threatened and endangered species; first subjects for study will be raptors and cats.

Slow Down – Manatees

Each winter, between 15 November and 31 March all waterborne activities are prohibited in manatee sanctuaries in Florida; now there are also slow-speed boating regulations for the rest of the year. In 1981

at least 20 manatees *Trichechus manatus* died after collisions with boats, but for the first time ever two individuals were successfully rehabilitated and returned to the wild after being injured, one in a crab trap and the other by a boat.

Bonytail Chub Release

Forty-one thousand five hundred young bonytail chubs *Gila elegans* from the Dexter National Fish Hatchery have been released into Lake Mohave, California. This is the most endangered Colorado River endemic.

First Mexican Wolf Captive Bred

The only female Mexican wolf in captivity has produced a litter of four pups, three female, at the Wild Canid Survival and Research Center in St Louis, Missouri. Fewer than 30 are probably left in the wild, and the ten in captivity are held in three different institutions to avoid the possibility of a catastrophe affecting them all.

Musk-Ox Hunt Resumes after 63 Years

The Canadian Government has decided that the musk-ox *Ovibos moschatus* population, now about 12,000, has increased sufficiently to allow hunting with a quota of 20. Eskimos in snowmobiles will drive them into the hunting areas.

Time for the Eagles

The US Congress has proclaimed 1982 as the Bicentennial Year of the American Bald Eagle and 20 June as National Bald Eagle Day. This follows the National Wildlife Federation's March 1982 Wildlife Week theme, 'We Care About Eagles'.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

To Save Brazilian Monkeys

Three highly endangered species of Brazilian primates are to be captive-bred at the Rio de Janeiro Primate Center, directed by Dr Ademar F. Coimbra-Filho. The species are the buff-headed marmoset *Callithrix flaviceps*, the white-eared marmoset *C. aurita*, and Geoffroy's white-faced marmoset *C. geoffroyi*. Of these, only one breeding colony exists for *C. flaviceps* and none for *C. aurita*.

Reserve Extended

The 2000-acre Finca La Selva reserve in Costa Rica has been extended by 1500 acres. This area of undisturbed lowland rain forest was chosen by the US National Academy of Sciences as one of the four primary sites in the world for large-scale ecosystem research.

Times Better for Parrot

A record number of nine chicks of the Puerto Rican parrot *Amazona vittata* were produced and survived in the wild last year. Two more were hatched in captivity – one was placed in a wild nest and survived to join the wild flock. Now there are 29 in the wild and 15 in captivity.

New Treaties for Pacific Coast

Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile have signed agreements to protect the marine and coastal environment of the entire Pacific coast of South America.

Nest of 'Extinct' Bird Found

The nest of a sharpbill *Oxyruncus cristatus*, until now thought to be extinct, has been discovered by ornithologists in eastern Brazil.

Forest Felled for Sugar-Fuel Project

The Fazenda Bodoquena project in Brazil's Mato Grosso do Sul has destroyed 1700 sq km of a rare forest ecosystem to plant sugar to convert into alcohol fuel for motor cars – all to produce far less than one per cent of Brazil's needs.

Hunters Help Conserve Turtles

Turtle hunters in Carriacou, a 13-sq-mile island in the Grenadines, have instituted a voluntary quota on the harvest of endangered hawksbill turtles *Eretmochelys imbricata*. Since 1980, when a turtle hatchery was established, local interest has grown and led to the formation of the Carriacou Sea Life Centre, with teachers and fishermen on its directional board. It actively promotes conservation through education, and the leading turtle hunter on the island set an example to others by tagging and releasing a turtle after it had nested. Now turtle hunters assist with collecting data and protecting wild nest sites.



Paraguay: Species Inventory

Scientists making an inventory of species for the Paraguayan Government have found many previously unrecorded reptiles and amphibians, including a northern anaconda. The survey was started because foreign investments for agriculture threaten western Paraguay, which is still largely unexplored and undisturbed.

ASIA

Siberian Tigers Increase

There are now 180 Siberian tigers living in the Ussuri taiga, USSR. A hunting ban was imposed ten years ago when only 90 tigers were left.

Musk Oxen Thriving

The musk oxen *Ovibus moschatus* that were flown to Wrangel Island in 1975 in an attempt to refound the extinct Siberian population now number 27, including nine calves that were born on the island. The herd originated from the island of Nunivak off Alaska.

Birds for Restaurants in Japan

The Wild Bird Society of Japan estimates that four million migratory birds a year are illegally caught with mist nets and sold to restaurants, including many species protected by migratory bird treaties. Mist nets have been banned in Japan since 1947, but enforcement has not been strict so poaching is easy, profitable and punishable only by light fines. Two days after the society's report the government Environment Agency asked the National Police Agency to pursue poachers diligently. The society is now pressing for a complete ban on the manufacture and sale of mist nets.

Panda Birth

One of Dr George Schaller's radio-collared wild pandas has given birth in the Wolong Nature Reserve in Sichuan Province, China.

One Person; Three Trees

Taking the severe floods of last year as a grave warning China has stepped up its tree-planting campaign. Every fit person

over 11 years old must plant three to five trees a year to reach a target of 2500–3000 million new trees annually; the aim is to have 20 per cent of the country forested by 2000. China has also banned indiscriminate tree-felling and issued directives to plant trees instead of crops on steep hillsides.

Thailand Bans Export of Turtle Trophies

Thailand, although not a party to CITES, has imposed a ban on exports of mounted specimens of hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata* and green turtle *Chelonia mydas*.

Indonesia's Conservation Agreement

Indonesia has signed a major five-year Conservation Agreement with WWF and IUCN, aimed at sustainable use of natural resources and based on the World Conservation Strategy. At present 196 reserves cover four per cent of the land; in the next five years it is hoped to increase this to give 11.5 million ha of reserves. Indonesia is one of the 12 countries singled out for priority attention in the global 1982–83 WWF Tropical Forests and Primates Campaign.

Mystery Bird Found

The yellow-fronted gardener bowerbird *Amblyornis flavifrons*, sought for decades by ornithologists, has been found by Californian scientist, Jared Diamond, in New Guinea. Previous knowledge of the bird had been from three skins sold to a British zoologist in 1895.

Threat to Indonesian Reserve

Berbak Game Reserve in Sumatra, one of the oldest (1929) in Indonesia, is threatened by settlers who are draining the swamps to plant rice; 30,000 of the 190,000ha of peaty swamp forests, which contain Sumatran rhino, tapir, tiger and other rare and threatened species, have been destroyed.

Plan for Clean Seas

An action plan to fight pollution in the East Asian seas has been launched by the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The five member countries, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines are contributing funds for projects dealing with pollution, coral reefs, mangroves and waste disposal.

Rivers Cleaned

Twenty-four of 44 main rivers in Malaysia have now been declared pollution-free as a result of stopping the illegal discharge of palm oil and rubber effluent.

Herb Exports from Bangladesh

Tons of rare medicinal plants are exported from Bangladesh, mainly to Pakistan, West Germany and international research institutions, and export companies are reported to be plundering the countryside, destroying habitats with no re-stocking. The Government offers financial incentives for this export trade which brings in very little foreign currency (£6000 last year).

Not Extinct in Bangladesh

The gharial *Gavialis gangeticus*, a crocodile thought to be extinct in Bangladesh, has been reported to exist after all by Dr Reza Khan of Dacca University. Visiting the Padma and Jamuna Rivers, he confirmed a report that villagers had collected between 36 and 39 eggs from a gharial's nest.

Muggers Breed

Captive-bred mugger crocodiles *Crocodylus palustris* released at Ethipothala Falls in Andra Pradesh in 1977, have now started breeding.

Orchid Sanctuary

The Arunachal State Forestry Department in India's eastern Himalayas, has set up an orchid sanctuary and is studying the possibility of cultivating orchids to meet the demands from overseas. At present smugglers, unable to export from India, a CITES member, smuggle orchids out to non-member countries such as Belgium from where they can be legally exported.

Furs for Sale in Kashmir

Skins of rare CITES Appendix I species, including snow leopard *Panthera uncia* and clouded leopard *Neofelis nebulosa*, can be bought easily in Srinagar. Most of the species on sale no longer occur wild in Kashmir and must be obtained from other parts of India, or from neighbouring countries, to supply the tourist trade. Unlike nearly all other Indian states, Jammu and Kashmir has not implemented the Wildlife (Protection) Act

1972 and the sale of skins is still allowed, although export by tourists is illegal.

Siberian Cranes

In 1981/82 38 Siberian cranes wintered in India's Bharatpur sanctuary — an increase of five over 1980/81. Harsh Vardhan, a conservationist, is leading a campaign to control illegal cattle grazing and firewood gathering in Bharatpur which threaten all wildlife in the sanctuary.

Ban on Wildlife Exports

Pakistan has placed a three-year moratorium on the export of mammals, reptiles and their derivatives as from September 1981.

Arabian Oryx Births in Jordan

Two Arabian oryx calves, one female and one male, were born in January at the Shaumari Wildlife Reserve, bringing the total number in Jordan to 21.

AFRICA

Egypt's Diminishing Wetlands

Over 25 per cent of Mediterranean coastal wetlands that remain in a natural or semi-natural state are in Egypt and all are more or less seriously threatened, especially by large-scale reclamation projects. In the Nile delta 25 per cent (700 sq km) of coastal wetlands have already been reclaimed and plans for other large reclamations exist. In addition dumping of silt from the new Suez by-pass destroyed the only breeding areas of the flamingo and slender-billed gull *Larus genei* in the south-eastern Mediterranean.

Reserve becomes Forest Island

Kibale Forest Reserve in Uganda is under threat. The home of 11 primate species, including the endangered red colobus monkey *Colobus badius*, it has become a forest island, surrounded by impoverished grazing and farmland. Poachers burn areas to create grasslands for buffalo *Syncerus caffer* and bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus*, which they hunt; local people cut trees for firewood. In an attempt to change attitudes Dr T. Struhsaker has been running day courses for teachers. Now school children

are helping to plant eucalyptus trees around Kibale which, although a 'desert' for wildlife, will buffer the rain forest from the axes of those who desperately need fuel.

Hunting Again in Zaire

The Zairean Government signed a decree in February allowing hunting to resume. As well as granting licences to professional hunters the Government has approved the principle of allocating hunting concessions to private safari operators.

Export Ban by Kenya

The Kenya Government has banned the export of monkeys and baboons by private companies, and has also called for a tightening up on the issue of animal-capture permits, which have been required since the hunting ban was imposed.

Toxic Chemical Effects being Studied

The Institute of Natural Resources in Natal is starting a three-year investigation into the effects of toxic agricultural chemicals on wildlife.

Latest UNEP Action on Seas

UNEP has launched a new project of the Regional Seas Programme involving eight East African and Indian Ocean countries. A fact-finding mission will investigate the resources and environmental problems of the coastal and marine area from Somalia to Mozambique, including the islands of Madagascar, Mauritius, the Seychelles and the Comoros. An East Africa Action Plan based on the reports is to be agreed at an intergovernmental conference in 1982.

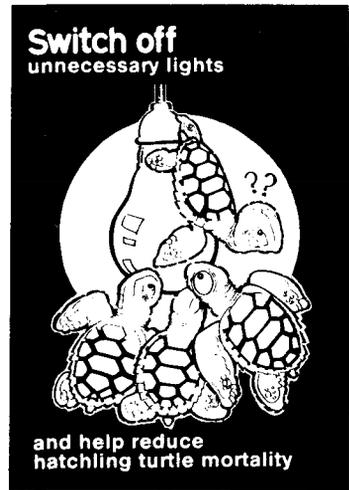
Correction

An East African Regional Section of ICBP has been formed – not a national section in Kenya as reported in the February *Oryx*, page 216.

ANTIPODES

Switch off a Light and Save a Turtle

Turtle hatchlings on Heron Island, in the Great Barrier Reef off Queensland, were dying because light from the tourist hotel and the research station disoriented them.



The State Wildlife Service put a sticker beside every offending light switch and distributed an explanatory leaflet. The response was immediate – visitors and staff switched off, shaded or even relocated lights – and many fewer misoriented hatchlings had to be recovered from among the buildings.

Great Barrier Reef

Australian Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser, has pledged that the entire Great Barrier Reef will become a marine park. At present only 2.4 per cent of the 350,000 sq km site has been declared a national park. The Reef was one of three areas of Australia selected for the World Heritage List in 1981.

Rare Marsupial Captured

The long-tailed Dunnart *Sminthopsis longicaudata*, discovered in the Gibson Desert by members of the Western Australian Wildlife Research Centre, was formerly known only from three specimens, the last collected in 1940. Information is still scanty, but it is now thought to be widespread in rocky desert areas.

More Land for National Park

Westland National Park in South Island, New Zealand, is to be extended by 17,000ha of untouched native rimu *Dacrydium cupressinum* forest, and wetland. The new areas, South Okarito and Waikukupa, which were threatened by logging, contain a rare subspecies, the South Island brown kiwi *Apteryx australis australis*.

OCEANS

Cats and the Magpie Robins

An ICBP campaign last year against the feral cats, believed to be responsible for the decline in nesting success of the unique Seychelles magpie robin on Frégate Island in the Seychelles, killed more than 50 cats and is being pursued this year. The numbers of fledged young increased. Strict anti-rabies control in the islands should prevent any further cat introductions. The total robin population in December 1981 was 22, of which 16 were adults.

Shearwaters Saved

On the Hawaiian island of Kauai outdoor lights were confusing Newell's Manx shearwaters *Puffinus puffinus newelli*, a threatened subspecies, and causing them to crash. By shielding the lights crashes have been reduced to 28 per cent and members of the public have brought hundreds of crashed shearwaters to an aid station where most were rehabilitated and released.

Bluefin Ban

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) has voted virtually to close the bluefin fishery in the western Atlantic for two years. Quotas on bluefin have been in effect since 1974 but stocks are down to 15 per cent of what they were in 1960. To monitor stocks, 800 tons a year will continue to be caught by US, Canadian and Japanese fishermen.

Second Home for Rare Tree

A tree *Serianthes nelsonii* so rare that only four individuals were known, all on Guam in the Marianas, has now been located on nearby Rota by Philip Moore.

NEW NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES

In Dorset, England, 290 acres of heathland owned by the Rank Organisation and leased to the NCC on a 999-year lease for a pepper-corn rent, has been declared a national nature reserve.

The Ribble Marshes NNR has been extended by 120ha to make the total 2302ha. This is the reserve rescued by the NCC in 1979 after the area had been bought by a Dutch farmer who intended to drain the marshes.

The NCC has declared a national nature reserve of 199ha by agreement with the National Trust at Stackpole, on the South Pembrokeshire coast in Wales; the area of limestone cliffs, sand dunes, beach scrub, woodland and lakes harbours coughts.

Lough Ine, a sea lough of national and international scientific importance, the Rapids and Barloge Creek in County Cork form the first marine reserve in Ireland.

Three new national parks have been added to Sweden's existing 16: Store Moss (7540ha), an area of drained lakes, fens and bogs in the south; Tiveden (1380ha), conifer forests, small lakes and rocky areas in the west; and Skuleskogen (2460ha), a varied landscape with a mixture of plants typical of both southern and northern Sweden, in the north.

Italy set up 11 nature reserves covering 27,671ha in 1981. Of these, the Laguna di Ponente di Orbetello reserve in Tuscany is an important nesting and wintering area for many birds and a breeding area for cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* and black-winged stilt *Himantopus himantopus*. The Mount Maiella reserve in the Abruzzo, includes golden eagles *Aquila chrysaetos*, rock partridges *Alectoris graeca* and brown bears *Ursus arctos marsicanus*.

The Grasslands National Park in Saskatchewan, near the Canada-USA border, covers 350 sq miles of original short-grass prairie, a natural habitat hardly preserved anywhere else on the continent. Wildlife includes pronghorn antelope *Antilocapra americana*, Richardson's ground squirrel or gopher *Citellus richardsoni*, and the endangered prairie falcon *Falco mexicanus*.

The Sarawak Government has earmarked 455,900 acres at Lanjak Entimau in the First Division for a wildlife sanctuary. It also proposes 26,748 acres of Matang,



Gunung Gading, Loagan and Benut for national parks as part of a plan to increase national park areas from 0.5 per cent to 5 per cent of the land.

Guangdong Province in south China has designated 7333ha as a natural reserve under special protection. South China tigers *Panthera tigris amoyensis*, pangolins *Manis* sp. and spotted deer *Cervus axis* are found in the reserve's thick forests of Chinese cluster-flowered yews and other trees.

PERSONALIA

HRH the Duke of Edinburgh has accepted an invitation to become a Vice-President of the IUCN in his capacity as President of WWF International.

Professor Bernhard Grzimek has been appointed Officer of the Order of the Golden Lion by the President of Senegal in recognition of his contribution to nature conservation in Africa over several decades.

Mrs Brooks McCormick, Robert McNamara (recently-retired president of the World Bank) and S. Dillon Ripley (Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution) have been elected to the WWF-US Board of Directors.

Jeffrey Knight has been appointed Executive Director of Friends of the Earth.

Eugene Lapointe is the new Secretary General of CITES.

Alan Dixon is the new co-ordinator of the Mountain Gorilla Project. Roger Wilson and

Regina Dedander have succeeded Conrad and Rosalind Aveling as the Project's conservation-education advisors in Rwanda.

The third annual Country Life Farming and Wildlife Award was won by John McCutchan of Sussex – 'the farmer in the UK who has done most to encourage wildlife conservation on his farm within the constraints of successful commercial farming'.

David Waugh is the first Training Officer of a scheme, set up by the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, to train nationals from countries with endangered species in appropriate captive-breeding techniques.

Chris Rose is the first Conservation Officer of the new London Wildlife Trust.

OBITUARIES

Dr Howard 'Duke' Campbell died, age 46, in December 1981. A dedicated conservationist, he worked on the US Endangered Species Program, and was an internationally recognized herpetologist and leading expert on crocodilians. He chaired the IUCN Crocodile Specialist Group.

C.E. (Ted) Norris, who died suddenly in January, was for many years a leading member, first of the Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) Wildlife Preservation Society and later of the East African Wildlife Society in Kenya, and in 1980 played a leading part in the formation of TRAFFIC (East Africa) which he ran almost single-handed.

Conservation Acronyms

This list is only intended to cover acronyms used in this issue of *Oryx*.

CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
ICBP	International Council for Bird Preservation
INPA	Instituto Nacional des Pesquisas da Amazonia
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
NCC	Nature Conservancy Council
NNR	National Nature Reserve
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SCMU	Species Conservation Monitoring Unit
SSC	Species Survival Commission
TRAFFIC	Trade Records Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce
WTMU	Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit
WWF	World Wildlife Fund