

### Sir Hugh Elliott: an obituary

Sir Hugh Elliott, Bt, who died on 21 December 1989, served on FPS Council from 1962 to 1967 and thereafter continued for several years to attend as an observer on behalf of IUCN, for which he worked from 1961 to 1980, serving as Secretary General from 1962 to 1966. He entered the Colonial Civil Service in Tanganyika in 1937 and while Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources was extremely helpful when the Society sent Professor W. H. Pearsall out in 1956 to make an ecological survey of the Serengeti National Park. The Pearsall Report (published by FPS in 1956) played a key part in saving the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater. He was also a distinguished ornithologist, becoming President of the British Ornithologists' Union, Chairman of the British section of ICBP, and a Trustee of the British Museum (Natural History), and making many valuable ornithological observations while he was Administrator on Tristan da Cunha from 1950 to 1952.

*Richard Fitter.*

### A new President for FFPS

Following the sad death of the Society's President, Sir Peter Scott, the Council invited the Right Honourable Lord Craigton, PC, CBE to take on the Presidency and is pleased to be able to inform members of his acceptance.

Lord Craigton has been connected with the Society for many years, having been a Council member from 1965 to 1970, Chairman from 1981 to 1983 and a Vice-President since 1983.

An able politician, Lord Craigton has been a champion of the conservation cause throughout his career in both Houses of Parliament. He held the seats for two divisions of Glasgow between 1950 and 1959, when he was made a Life Peer. He piloted the Wildlife and Countryside Bill, which became an Act in 1981, through the Lords, and he was Chairman of the All Party Conservation Committee of both Houses of Parliament in 1972. He was Chairman of the Council for Environmental Conservation, under whose

auspices Wildlife Link was born, from 1972 to 1983. He was also Chairman of the Federation of Zoological Gardens between 1975 and 1981 and has been a member of Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust Council and an International Trustee since 1972.

### The Oryx 100% Fund

#### *Grants awarded*

At its meeting on 12 December 1989 the FFPS Council approved funding for the following projects.

**£650** plus a pair of binoculars for a study on the ecology and conservation of Bannerman's turaco *Tauraco bannermani* and the banded wattle-eye *Platysteira laticincta* in the remaining montane forest of Kilum Mountain, Cameroon. These two birds, which are confined to the Bamenda Highlands, are among the 11 most threatened in mainland Africa and detailed knowledge of their ecology is needed to ensure that forest management in the reserve on Kilum is appropriate. (Project no. 89/45/17).

**£600** for a wildlife resource inventory of the Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary in Ghana. The aims of this project are to collect information on plant and animal resources, to initiate a long-term programme for monitoring populations of black-and-white colobus monkey *Colobus polykomos* and the mona monkey *Cercopithecus mona* and to provide field research opportunities for students. The results will be compiled for Ghana's Game and Wildlife Department and will be useful in developing a management plan for the sanctuary. (Project no. 89/39/16).

**£150** for a report on the results of a survey to determine the distribution and habitat requirements of the azure-rumped tanager *Tangara cabanisi* in the Sierra Madre de Chiapas in Mexico. The proposed El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve covers a sizeable portion of these mountains, but only a small part of known azure-rumped tanager habitat. The survey will try to find if the species is able to survive in the disturbed forest, or coffee or

cacao plantations in the lower altitudes of its range. (Project no. 89/38/15).

#### *Report received*

The following report was received recently from the 1989 winners of the ICBP/FFPS Conservation Expedition Competition. They returned last September with a budget surplus of £1250, which they have generously donated to the Oryx 100% Fund; it will be used for projects with a focus on rain forest.

*Project GREEN (Ghana Rainforest Expedition Eighty-Nine).* This five-man Cambridge University Expedition set out to conduct biological research in the tropical forests of south-west Ghana between 30 June and 12 September 1989. On arrival in Ghana the team faced insoluble bureaucratic problems and had to modify slightly the original plans, but despite this the expedition was judged to be an outstanding success.

The fieldwork consisted of six separate but related parts and centred on a comparison of primary rain forest with secondary rain forest, which had been selectively logged 17 years previously. The primary forest site was the Boin-Tano Forest Reserve, west of the River Tano in western Ghana and the sites logged 17 years previously—Tano-Ehuru and Tano-Anwia forest reserves—were 70 km away. Data were collected on two insect indicator groups (butterflies and moths, and dragonflies and damselflies), on birds, and on mammals. In addition the team investigated the influence of local villagers on the Boin-Tano Forest Reserve. The methods and results of the field work are given in detail and there is useful discussion on the value of these kinds of investigations for the assessment of conservation priorities.

Chapter 11 of the report gives an objective account of a logging operation in Ghana carried out by African Timber and Plywood (Ghana) Ltd. The team was impressed by this company's interest in conservation and the measures being taken in Ghana to try to achieve a sustainable yield by careful forest management. However, considerable threats

face the reserves containing most of the country's remaining rain forest. Illegal farming in forest reserves is a major problem and effective enforcement of existing forest legislation is required.

Chapter 13 lists a number of recommendations on control of hunting and logging in the forest reserves. Hunting with firearms and snares is common despite prohibitive legislation, and it might be more effective to issue permits for hunting certain species for local consumption rather than to try to enforce a strict no-hunting policy. Although the existing selective logging practices of African Timber and Plywood (Ghana) Ltd are to be commended in that they result in a good habitat for many forest-dependent species, they could be improved even more to conserve an even more diverse array of fauna and flora. Suggested improvements include better training for workers, leaving unlogged strips to act as nursery areas, establishing mixed species plantations outside the forest reserves, introduction of modern technology at the sawmill to ensure that each tree is used more efficiently, and using the logging roads in wildlife-based tourism. In addition it would be valuable if the Boin-Tano Forest Reserve could be included in the protected area network under the Department of Game and Wildlife.

#### **What is our logo?**

Some recipients of the new-style *Oryx* have expressed surprise that the journal's new logo depicts a gemsbok *Oryx gazella*. The Society's key role in planning and carrying out Operation Oryx in 1962, which resulted in the rescue of some of the last surviving wild Arabian or white oryx *Oryx leucoryx* for a captive-breeding programme, has led some people to believe that this animal is the one that symbolizes the Society. In fact the logo was chosen in 1950 by Lt Col C. L. Boyle, who had just become the Society's Honorary Secretary and Editor. Also in that year the Society changed its name from the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire to the Fauna Preservation Society and it was there-

fore necessary to rename the journal. Colonel Boyle, in the course of a walk in the Zoological Society of London's gardens, became inspired by the sight of a gemsbok, or beisa oryx as it is also known, and felt that *Oryx* would be 'a convenient and attractive name' that 'will help popularize our Journal and so forward the cause of wild life preservation'. That design was generously donated by a life member of the Society, Miss Barbara Prescott. Our new design has also been generously donated, by David Hibberd of Blackwell Scientific Publications. We will use the new logo for the covers of *Oryx* and on other Society material where appropriate, but we shall be retaining the original logo for certain uses.

## Fund-raisers dare to be different

The office is always delighted when members send in donations to support the Society's work and it is particularly pleasing when the accompanying letter describes an enterprising and different way of raising funds for us. For the benefit and encouragement of those members who might be thinking of helping the Society in this way but have not yet thought of a fund-raising method, we went through our files for last year and did a quick analysis.

Some members add a donation to their membership renewal, or send money in memory of someone who has died. Others send fees from talks they have given, money from shares they have sold or give regularly through the Give As You Earn scheme. Some buy Conservation Bonds (as described in *Oryx* 24, 60) and one group of students gave us the proceeds of their college Rag Week.

Selling things proved popular last year—we received income from people selling waste-paper, prints, drawings and photographs as well as unspecified items from stalls at fairs. One group collected over £150 by manning a display of primate skulls and information boards and some children sent in their pocket-money. It is in the category of sponsored activities that the most unusual methods turn up and we have to admire those who last year cycled hundreds of miles, picked up litter,

played golf, fasted, ran the London Marathon, did motorcycle stunts, and even went bald to help our work.

We are grateful to all those who send us donations large and small and assure you they are very much appreciated and are put to good use.

## FFPS attends flying fox conference

As co-ordinator of the Fruit Bat Action Plan being prepared by the IUCN/SSC Chiroptera Specialist Group, Simon Mickleburgh attended the Pacific Island Flying Fox Conference hosted by Bat Conservation International in Honolulu, Hawaii on 1–2 February 1990. There were over 50 delegates, from the USA, UK and many Pacific Island states. The conference discussed the problems facing flying foxes in the Pacific, in particular trade centred on Guam (see article in this issue). Priorities for conservation action were also discussed. The Fruit Bat Action Plan, which is expected to be in final draft in March, will cover threats facing all Old World fruit bat species (family Pteropodidae) and will outline recommended conservation action.

## Exhibition of wildlife photographs

Winning and commended entries in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition 1989 can be seen at:

- South Cleveland Heritage Centre, Boosbeck, Saltburn, 15 April–20 May;
- Pontefract Museum, 15 April–20 May;
- Sunderland Museum and Art Gallery, 27 May–1 July;
- Wakefield Art Gallery and Museum, 27 May–1 July;
- Oxford University Museum, 8 July–12 August;
- Devizes Museum, 8 July–12 August;
- Yorkshire Museum, 19 August–23 September;
- Aberystwyth Art Centre, 19–23 September;
- Nottingham Natural History Museum, 30 September–4 November;
- Museum of St Albans, 11 November–16 December;

Buxton Museum and Art Gallery, 23 December–27 January 1991;  
 Cornwall County Museum, Truro, 23 December–27 January 1991.

## Rainforest Art Exhibition raises funds for FFPS

An exhibition of art inspired by the rain forest, organized by the environmental charity Living Earth, opened at the Natural History Museum in London on 1 February and ran until 25 February. The 30 artists offering more than 100 works of art for sale donated 50 per cent of the proceeds to rain-forest projects. On the first night £5000 was raised, of which FFPS receives £2500 to help towards its forest conservation work in the tropics. Living Earth specializes in environmental education and has published a variety of information on rain forests for use in UK schools.

## FFPS intervention helps save mahogany plantation

One of the reasons why trade in the timbers known collectively as mahogany causes such concern to conservationists is that it is not sustainable. The majority of mahogany in trade has been extracted from primary forest by methods that destroy many other non-commercially useful species and leave the forests in a degraded state. Attempts to grow mahogany in plantations have usually been defeated by the vulnerability of the stands to devastating attacks of shoot-boring insects.

However, some 62 years ago the owner of the Sayama Tea Estate at Mulanje in Malawi managed to establish a stand of *mbawa*, an African mahogany, *Khaya nyasica*. The estate is now owned by the Unilever group and last year a director decided, during a brief visit to Sayama, that the capital represented by the mahogany stand should be realised; it was to be felled and replaced by a plantation of macadamia trees. Fortunately an FFPS member alerted the Society, which immediately wrote to Unilever expressing concern about

the plan. Unilever responded quickly and positively; now that the company recognized the importance of the stand in its care it has abandoned the plans to fell it and has every intention of preserving it.

The plantation is ready for the kind of sustained yield management that could be a model for mahogany utilisation. The demand for mbawa timber in Malawi is so great that trees are even being cut from along streams in government 'Protection' Forest Reserves.

## Members' meetings

Details of London meetings, held at the Zoological Society of London's meetings rooms are given in the insert in this issue of *Oryx*.

For information about local group meetings, please write to the address given for each group, enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope.

### *Bristol and the West of England Group*

Ian Redmond, c/o BBC Wildlife Magazine, Broadcasting House, Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 2LR.

### *Cambridge Group*

Sue Wells, c/o ICBP, 32 Cambridge Road, Girton, Cambridge CB3 0PJ.

### *Edinburgh Group*

Roger Wheeler, Edinburgh Zoo, Murrayfield, Edinburgh EH12 6TS.

### *North-West Group*

Nick Ellerton, Chester Zoo, Caughall Road, Upton, Chester CH2 1LH.

### *Oxford Group*

David McDonald, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS.