

Society pages

Harold Jefferson Coolidge 1904–1985

Hal Coolidge was one of the leading wildlife conservationists of the mid and late 20th century, a worthy successor to his ancestor, the great American statesman and polymath, Thomas Jefferson, whose middle name he bore. He was for many years a friend of the Fauna Preservation Society, as it then was, and was appointed one of our Vice-Presidents in 1978. He also served as an Hon. Director of FFPS Inc., which was located in Boston, close to his home in Beverly, Mass.

A distinguished primatologist, who separated the two eastern gorilla races, *graueri* and *beringei*, he also served for 23 years as Executive Director of the Pacific Science Board of the US National Academy of Sciences. He was associated from their beginnings with both IUCN and WWF (USA), being the first chairman of two of IUCN's commissions, then known as the Survival Service Commission and the International Commission on National Parks. From 1966 to 1972 he served two terms as President of the Union.

As our own President, Sir Peter Scott, has said: 'He was an amazing man. He made an immense contribution largely because of his dogged energy and drive. He never took no for an answer and never seemed to rest, but was always working away on about ten fronts at the same time.'

Richard Fitter

Awards for the FFPS Chairman and for the former Editor of *Oryx*

At the IUCN General Assembly in Madrid in November 1984, the Chairman of the Species Survival Commission, Gren Lucas, presented the first SSC Peter Scott Awards. Of the eight awards for 1982–84, one was made to the FFPS Chairman, Richard Fitter, and another to the former Editor of *Oryx* and current FFPS Council Member, Maisie Fitter. The Peter Scott Award was created in honour of the SSC's former Chairman, Sir Peter Scott, in order to recognize 'highly significant achievements in conservation' that have made 'a particularly significant and noteworthy contribution to the conservation of wild fauna and flora, especially endangered and

threatened taxa and those subject to exploitation by man'. Richard Fitter has been a member of the SSC since 1963 and Chairman of its Steering Committee since 1973. His Award is in recognition of his total dedication to the SSC and his work for both national and international wildlife conservation. Maisie Fitter has been a member of the SSC for nearly 20 years and has participated in every IUCN General Assembly since 1963. She is now Editor of the *SSC Newsletter*.

Gifts and Grants to FFPS

FFPS is most grateful for the gifts of £25 and over listed below, and also for many smaller donations between 1 April and 30 June 1985.

| | |
|---|--------|
| Oryx 100% Fund | £ |
| St Katharine's Fund—earmarked for EAWLS | 600.00 |
| Conder Conservation Trust—earmarked for Rio de Janeiro Primate Study Centre | 500.00 |
| Channel Four—earmarked for Urban Ecology Fund | 70.00 |

Mountain Gorilla Project

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|---------------------------------|---------|
| Peter Nathan Charitable Trust | 1000.00 |
| I.M. Redmond's lectures | 300.00 |
| Reader's Digest | 250.00 |
| I.E. Wenlock | 141.50 |
| T.M. Goody (Deed of Covenant) | 120.00 |
| Nicholas Bacon Charitable Trust | 100.00 |
| M.J. Hayne | 100.00 |
| F.A. Rossi (Deed of Covenant) | 100.00 |
| T.E. Casson | 100.00 |
| C.A. Gwinnell | 100.00 |
| M. Rae | 51.00 |
| D. Attenborough | 50.00 |
| T.H. Rose (Deed of Covenant) | 50.00 |
| S.M. Cooper | 50.00 |
| B. Jackman | 50.00 |
| D.F. Johnson | 50.00 |
| R.M. Thurgar | 50.00 |
| K. Nichols | 50.00 |
| P. Artemiou | 35.00 |
| Ashmole School | 32.52 |
| R. and M. Cinderey | 30.00 |

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| Goole and District Natural History Society | 30.00 |
| K.V. Robinson | 30.00 |
| K.E. Dawkin | 30.00 |
| Twickers World | 28.00 |
| T.S. Clark | 25.50 |
| M.M. Bentley | 25.00 |
| E.E. Martin | 25.00 |
| J.E. Mumford | 25.00 |
| R.C. Purdum | 25.00 |
| I.D. Gilbert | 25.00 |
| A.C.L. Veit | 25.00 |
| Anon. | 50.00 |
| P. Lux | \$100.00 |

Bat Project

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| Country Life | 133.00 |
| London Weekend TV | 75.00 |
| Nature Conservancy Council | 62.83 |
| O.H. Frazer | 50.00 |
| Somerset Trust for Nature Conservation | 40.00 |
| Sir John Leslie | IR£150.00 |

General Fund

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| | £ |
| Consolidated Gold Fields (Deed of Covenant) | 10,000.00 |
| Kleinwort Benson | 500.00 |
| St Katharine's Fund | 400.00 |
| Lt. Col. G.A.E. Gibbs (Deed of Covenant) | 280.00 |
| E. Shaughnessey—earmarked for premises appeal | 100.00 |
| C. Horton—earmarked for premises appeal | 100.00 |
| W.M. Hull | 100.00 |
| M.G. and J.M. Davies—earmarked for premises appeal | 80.00 |
| A.M. Hanock | 50.00 |

Life Members

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| V. Alatas | 1000.00 |
| C. Franklin | 1000.00 |
| T.G. Getty | 1000.00 |
| L. Gracey | 1000.00 |
| B. Maggs | 1000.00 |
| V.E. Treves | 1000.00 |

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Oryx 100% Fund grants

At its meeting on 10 July 1985, the FFPS Council approved grants of:

£1100 to the International Council for Bird Preservation (219c Huntingdon Rd, Cambridge) for a report on methods to eradicate feral goats from small islands. The report will assess documented and undocumented methods and discuss the implications for conservation of the islands affected. The investigation will be published jointly with FFPS, in the *ICBP Study Report* series, and so will be widely available. Operating dates: June to August 1985.

£800 to Geoff Welch (2 Springholme, Caudle Hill, Fairburn, Knottingley, Yorkshire) for his expedition to Djibouti to do follow-up work on earlier studies of migrating birds, and the deterioration of habitat. Operating dates: 7 October to 2 December 1985.

£500 to Chris Raxworthy (3 Hillside Gate, St Albans, Herts) for his expedition with the University of London for an avifaunal survey of Zahamena, the largest rain forest reserve of Madagascar. A survey of the plants, reptiles and amphibians is being made during the same expedition. Zahamena has hardly been visited by botanists or zoologists since its creation in 1927. Operating dates: 1 July to 30 September 1985.

£500 to Peter Walton (28 St Leonard's Rd, Chesham Bois, Amersham, Bucks) for his status study of the mountain tapir in Ecuador, in comparison with a survey in 1968. He will be assisted by Ecuadorean students, who he hopes will continue to monitor the tapir's status after his project's completion. Operating dates: August 1985 to May 1986.

£500 to Dr Richard Watling (Box 9269, Nadi Airport PO, Fiji) for his investigation of the status of the Ogea flycatcher *Mayromis versicolor* and the blue-crowned lory *Vini australis* in the islands of Fiji. It is 60 years since the Ogea flycatcher has been

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studied, but there is evidence to suggest that it is hybridizing with another endemic species, the slaty flycatcher *M. lessoni*. The blue-crowned lory appears to be undergoing a serious decline through much of its range. All the work will be carried out in conjunction with the Fiji Museum. Operating dates: mid-1985.

£400 to Richard Pickering (Vanuatu Natural Science Society, PO Box 944, Port Vila, Vanuatu) for his status study of the Santo Mountain starling *Aplonis santovestris* and other birds, and to collect lizards for the Australian Museum. The project will give an opportunity to a number of young nationals to take part in this type of expedition, as part of the President's Award Scheme. Operating dates: 31 August to 8 September 1985.

£350 to Paul Ramsay, (Hendy, Tyddyn Heilyn, Caerhun, Bangor, Gwynedd, Wales) for his expedition to the Paramo and Quenoa Forests, in Ecuador, to study the effects of trampling, burning and grazing. It is hoped that the work will add to the increasing pressure on the administration to ban burning and grazing in the park and to enforce that ban. Operating dates: 23 July to 14 October 1985.

£350 to Miss S.L. Tetlow (New Hall, Cambridge) to make a species study of the Mbololo Forest in the Taita Hills in south-east Kenya and produce a detailed land-use map of the forest. Several rare and largely unstudied species of flora and fauna are found only in Mbololo, including the endangered Taita thrush *Turdus helleri* and Teita swallowtail *Papilio desmondi taita*. In recent years, the primary forest has been cleared for fuel, agriculture and exotic tree plantations. The expedition is affiliated with the Herbarium at the National Museum of Kenya, Nairobi. Operating dates: 24 June to 19 September 1985.

£250 to Dr Michael Rands (3, Knoll Farm Cottages, Damerham, Fordingbridge, Hampshire) for his expedition with the

Ornithological Society of the Middle East to the Yemen Arab Republic. The status of the Arabian bustard *Ardeotis arabs* and nine bird species endemic to the Arabian plateau will be studied. The priorities for bird conservation in the Republic in the light of recent human settlement, agricultural development and oil exploration will also be ascertained. Operating dates: 1 October to 1 December 1985.

£150 to Robert Harvey (Churchill College, Cambridge) towards equipment needed to investigate the status of swallowtail butterflies (*Papilionidae*) in Palawan Philippines. The equipment—nets, handles, traps and cages—will all be left with a national organization in the Philippines. The FFPS is also contributing to the production of the expedition report, which will be sent to the national authorities. Operating dates: August to September 1985.

£70 to Susan Wells (Conservation Monitoring Centre, 219c Huntingdon Rd, Cambridge) for a survey and collection of endangered *Partula* snails on Moorea, Society Islands, to contribute to a captive breeding stock. It is feared that an introduced carnivorous snail *Euglandina rosea* has caused their widespread decline. Operating dates: 10–13 June 1985.

Fund-raising for gorillas

The Society is very grateful to all those who have joined the fund-raising campaign for the Mountain Gorilla Project. A total of £1013.51 has been raised at 31 organized events throughout the country between September 1984 and July 1985, using the posters, stickers, information leaflets and slide packs available from the FFPS office. Activities included lectures, stalls, exhibitions, film evenings, a sponsored wheelbarrow push, a swim and run, a car boot sale, a treasure hunt and a sale of paintings. In addition, 40 red and transparent collecting boxes have brought in £103.18. These were placed as an experiment in a variety of locations: pubs; cheese, health food, wine, and pet shops; a golf club bar;

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a garage; offices; hotels and off-licences. If anyone is interested in taking responsibility for one or more boxes, to be placed in a similar public place, please write to the office.

As a result of the 'Afternoon of Mountain Gorillas', organized by the Society on 1 June in a London cinema, by kind permission of Thorn EMI, and attended by 421 people on a very hot afternoon, FFPS was able to put a further £2201.50 to the project, and received 129 offers to display posters and stickers, including two in Holland and Germany.

The Society is very grateful to: Ian Redmond, for his continued assistance; the Primate Society of Great Britain for their support in raising £140.12 with collecting boxes, Dianne and Reg Gates in New Zealand for raising £683.89 through their lectures; Mrs Irene Wenlock in Wolverhampton, for her and her husband's lucrative fund-raising activities; London Zoo, and Twycross Zoo, in particular Miss M. Badham and Miss N. Evans for their help with the exhibitions.

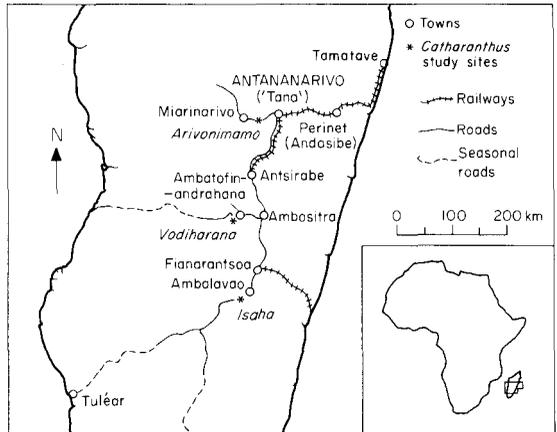
In search of a relative of the rosy periwinkle

The following account has been extracted from a report by Deborah Thompson, a member of an Oxford University Expedition to Madagascar in search of the endangered plant *Catharanthus coriaceus*, to which the FFPS contributed £250 from its Oryx 100% Fund.

Madagascar has about 10,000 plant species, 80 per cent of which are endemic. The flora is under severe threat, but current botanical knowledge is very limited. Only one Madagascan species, *Catharanthus coriaceus*, is included in the IUCN Plant Red Data Book. This species is of particular interest because the closely related rosy periwinkle *C. roseus* yields alkaloids used in the treatment of Hodgkin's Disease and lymphocytic leukemia. It is possible that *C. coriaceus* also has important medicinal properties.

An expedition from Oxford University spent July and August 1984 searching for the plant at three sites where it had been recorded in the past. A healthy population was found at only one of these sites, Ambatofinandrahana, and three plants

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Central Madagascar, showing study sites of the expedition in search of the rosy periwinkle.

were taken to the Botanic Gardens at Tsimbazaza for cultivation and perhaps future reintroductions into the wild. Some dried specimens are being subjected to phytochemical analysis by Dr N. Bissett of Chelsea College, University of London.

As a fire-resistant species capable of rapid regeneration, *C. coriaceus* appears to favour recently disturbed areas, and its typical habitat is on the rocky edges of sclerophyllous forest. Such forests are still in evidence, but in a few small scattered patches on the central plateau, threatened both by indiscriminate fires and by replacement with introduced *Eucalyptus*. Until other populations of *C. coriaceus* are positively identified, the Oxford expedition confirmed that the species must be considered to be in danger of extinction.

London Bat Survey Launched

On 24 June 1985, Ken Livingstone, leader of the Greater London Council, officially launched the London Bat Survey by attaching a bat box to a tree on Hampstead Heath in north London. The London Bat Survey is being carried out by the London Bat Group, which was set up in March this year with a GLC grant to the FFPS. As well as carrying out the survey to locate important breeding, hibernating and feeding areas for bats, the Group provides advice on bats and bat problems. More information about the Group can be obtained from the Co-ordinator, Simon Mickleburgh, at the FFPS office.

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London Meetings

London Meetings are held in the Zoo Meeting Rooms in the Outer Circle of Regent's Park. Each includes a wine and cheese buffet supper and tickets are available from the FFPS office (a stamped addressed envelope would be appreciated). For catering purposes, please ensure that you book your ticket at least one week in advance of the meeting date. For details of forthcoming meetings, please see the insert in this *Oryx*.

Local group meetings

Oxford Group

Details from Dr David Macdonald, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS.

Cambridge Group

Nigel Bonner will speak on 'Conservation and the Antarctic' on Friday 15 November in the Lecture Theatre, Zoology Department, Downing Street, Cambridge. The talk will be preceded by a buffet supper. Details of this and other meetings from Robert Burton, 46 West Street, Great Gransden, Sandy, Beds. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Botanic Gardens Conference

An international conference on Botanic Gardens and the World Conservation Strategy is to be held in Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, 23–30 November 1985. Information from Dr David Bramwell, Jardín Botánico Viera y Clavijo, PO Box 14 de Tafira Alta, 35017 Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Spain.

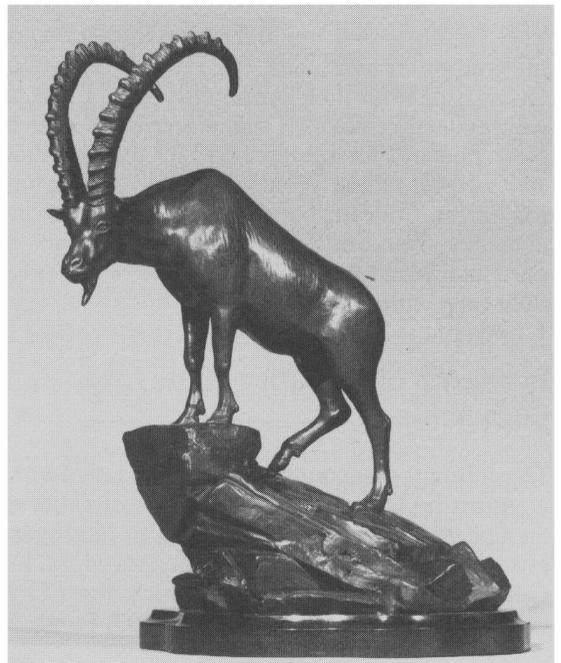
Owl Conference—very advance notice

An international symposium on the great grey owl and other northern forest owls will be held in Canada in February 1987. Papers and workshops will cover: capture and marking techniques (including radio telemetry), sexing and ageing techniques, habitat requirements and management, ecology, conservation and species status. Information: Dr Merlin W. Shoesmith, Biological Sciences, Manitoba Wildlife Branch, Box 14, 1495 St James St, Winnipeg, Man., Canada R3H 0W9.
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Planning an expedition?

The Expedition Advisory Centre in London is holding a weekend seminar specifically designed for those planning a small scientific or adventurous project overseas. The seminar will take place on 26–27 October 1985 at the Royal Geographical Society.

Contact: Diana Hancock, Expedition Advisory Centre, Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR (Telephone 01-581 2057).



Ibex, in bronze, by Terry Matthews; to be seen at SWAN's Wildlife Art Exhibition in October.

Wildlife Art Exhibition

The Society for Wildlife Art for the Nation (SWAN) intends to build a national gallery of wildlife art and is to hold its inaugural exhibition in the Guildhall Art Gallery, London EC2, 4–12 October inclusive (except Sunday). Open 10.00 a.m.–5.00 p.m. Admission free.

Oryx by air

Overseas members who wish to receive *Oryx* by airmail can do so by sending the FFPS £6.40 in addition to their annual subscription.

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