

# Briefly . . .

## International

### New Ramsar sites

In July 1985 the British and Norwegian Governments added six and 13 sites, respectively, to the List of Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. Norway also extended the Akersvika Wetland, first designated in 1974.

*IUCN Bulletin*, 16, 7–9.

### Tropical forest coalition

On 15–17 November more than 80 conservation activists met in San Francisco, USA, to form an international coalition to save tropical forests. The three-day meeting set up working groups to exchange information, to seek sustainable uses of the forests and to reform development practices by governments, multilateral development banks and international institutions. A newsletter is planned. Details: Tropical Forest Network, 466 Green Street, San Francisco, CA 94133, USA.

### CITES Parties reach 90

Afghanistan acceded to CITES on 30 October 1985, bringing the total number of Parties to the Convention to 90.

*IUCN Bulletin*, 16, 10–12.

### Global wetland campaign

The WWF and the IUCN launched their global campaign to conserve wetlands on 17 September 1985. The WWF will be seeking to raise US\$3 million for an international conservation programme developed by the IUCN and ICBP with assistance from IWRB. The Wetlands Programme has selected seven regions for special attention: Brazil, Central America, the Sahel, Coastal West Africa, Southern Africa, China and Indonesia. It will focus strongly on threatened species.

*WWF Monthly Report*, September 1985; *WWF News*, 37.

### Hamburg's role in illegal trade

The free port of Hamburg in West Germany is still being used by wildlife importers to bring CITES Appendix I and II species into the EEC. In June

1985 2.5 tons of reptile skins and furs seized at São Paulo's airport were bound for West Germany, and Brazilian authorities revealed that 27 shipments of wild animal skins totalling 19 tons left the country during the previous six months with the same destination.

*TRAFFIC (USA)*, 6, 3.

### Japan, the USSR and Norway continue . . .

Japan was the first nation to violate the IWC moratorium when Japanese coastal whalers killed four sperm whales in November and announced that they intended to take 400 in the current season. Its Southern Ocean fleet took 39 minke whales in the first week of the Antarctic season; the Soviet fleet left port a little later than usual. In October Norway lodged an objection to the classification of minke whales in the North-East Atlantic as threatened stock and will probably take 360 in 1986. *WWF News*, 38; *Monitor*, 4 November, 18 November and 30 December, 1985.

### . . . and Brazil ends whaling

Resisting extreme pressure from Japan and the powerful Japanese–Brazilian community, President Jose Sarney announced in December that Brazil will comply with the moratorium on all commercial whaling. He signed a decree forbidding whaling in Brazilian waters for the next five years and invited 300 children to attend the signing ceremony on 20 December 1985.

*Monitor*, 23 December 1985.

José Truda Palazzo Jr. Environmental Defense Operations Headquarters, Porto Alegre, Brazil.

### Japan is world's largest consumer of tortoiseshell

During the five-year period of 1980–84, Japan imported an estimated 10,000–17,000 hawksbill turtles *Eretmochelys imbricata* from Central America, about 20 per cent of its total imports of tortoiseshell. The remaining 80 per cent came from Indonesia, Philippines, Cayman Islands, Cuba and other Caribbean countries. Japan is the world's largest consumer of raw tortoiseshell, having entered a reservation on hawksbills when joining CITES in 1980. Most of the imports from Central

America originated in Panama despite a trade ban there in 1980.

*TRAFFIC (USA)*, 6, 3.

### US gets tough over drift nets

Japan's allocation of fish in US waters was withdrawn from 1 January 1986. Negotiations between Japan and the US broke down in December when Japan walked out after refusing to accede to a US demand to phase out its driftnet fishery in the North Pacific, which is devastating salmon, seabirds and marine mammals. It is estimated that Japanese driftnets incidentally kill at least 5500 Dall's porpoises, 400–1000 fur seals and 250,000–750,000 seabirds each year, as well as intercepting a significant portion of North America's salmon catch.

*Monitor*, 23 and 30 December 1985.

### Fish catch in 1985 lower than in 1984

The world fish catch in 1985 was predicted to be below the record 82.5 million metric tons landed in 1984, according to the FAO. Landings of Alaska pollack, Japanese pilchards and Chilean pilchards, which together accounted for one-sixth of the 1984 catch, were lower in the first seven months of 1985, as were catches of groundfish and tuna.

*Fishing News International*, 24, 12.

### Whale case continues in the US

On 4 December the Reagan Administration and the Japan Whaling Association and Japan Fisheries Association appealed to the US Supreme Court against the whale lawsuit rulings (see *Oryx*, January 1986, page 3). US conservation and animal welfare groups filed a brief with the court in the final week of 1985 opposing the appeal petitions.

*Monitor*, 9 and 30 December 1985.

### Europe and North Africa

#### Countryside campaign

The Council of Europe is organizing a European Campaign for the Countryside in 1987–88, which is intended to ward off the dangers at present threatening the future of the country-

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side: the desertion of declining regions, the spread of urban areas and the growing imbalance of man and nature. *Council of Europe*, 16 December 1985.

## Capelin decline in Barents Sea

The Barents Sea stock of capelin has declined seriously, from an estimated 2.4 million metric tons in 1983 to 700,000 tons in 1985. Improving stocks of predators, haddock and cod, and competitors, herring, may have contributed to the slump, but overfishing is suspected as the primary cause. *Fishing News International*, 14, 12.

## Finland reports on endangered species

The report of a committee that has been investigating Finland's endangered species and their protection, under the chairmanship of the Minister of the Environment, is due to be published soon. A total of 20,000 species has been investigated and of these 150 are extremely endangered, more than 200 are endangered and a further 600 need watching carefully. Nearly 100 species have completely disappeared from Finland, and the committee makes several recommendations, especially for the protection of forest habitats where 40 per cent of the endangered species live.

*Suomen Luonto*, 8, 85.

## Finland votes for bear

As a result of a nationwide ballot, the brown bear *Ursus arctos* has been designated Finland's national animal. Of the 50 wild mammals put up for election, it gained twice as many votes as the Saimaa seal *Phoca hispida*, which came second.

*Suomen Luonto*, 7, 85.

## Sweden clear-fells ancient forest

The Swedish Government has decided against making Ekerydsnäs, an immensely interesting area of ancient forest in Småland, a nature reserve, but to clear-fell it. The decision goes against demands by the conservation movement, the Environment Protection Board and the county administration's conservation unit.

*Sveriges Natur*, 4/85.

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## Sweden acts to protect reptiles

On ratifying the Bern Convention, Sweden placed a further 10 species of reptiles and amphibians under strict protection on 7 October 1985. The European smooth snake *Coronella austriaca* and the sand lizard *Lacerta agilis* have been protected since 1962. *naturupa-newsletter-nature*, 85–11.

## Tomorrow is too late

The UK's Royal Society for Nature Conservation, in conjunction with its 46 County Trusts, launched a £10 million British Wildlife Appeal with the slogan 'Tomorrow is too late' on 22 October 1985. The money will be used to buy and maintain threatened sites, and to promote public awareness of wildlife and conservation.

## Thames estuary is cleanest

The UK's River Thames, which between 1920 and 1960 was so polluted that no life could survive in the stretch that flows through London, is now the cleanest metropolitan estuary in the world. A clean-up campaign, started in 1974, has cost £200 million to date, and now almost 100 fish species live in the river's lower reaches.

*IUCN Bulletin*, 16, 10–12.

## Sand eel take is too high

Environmentalists in Shetland, UK, are concerned that intensive industrial fishing for sand eels in the area in recent years is beginning to affect the food supply for seabird colonies.

*NCC*, October 1985.

## Innocent birds shot

Cormorants, red-breasted mergansers and goosanders are being shot indiscriminately in Scotland, according to the RSPB. Under the UK Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the EEC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, they may be killed to prevent them causing damage to fisheries, but the RSPB claims that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland is issuing licences to kill without evidence that the birds are to blame for diminishing salmon stocks.

*Birds*, 10, 8.

## Moorland damage grants stopped

Farmers in Wales were paid nearly £6 million between January 1984 and March 1985 for road building to allow access to previously remote moorland. The RSPB, particularly concerned about the effects on the merlin *Falco columbarius* of the resultant conversion of moors to pasture, has been pressing the Welsh Office to refuse grants that lead to the loss of valuable moorland. The Office has now agreed to stop the grants.

*Birds*, 10, 8.

## Dredging hampers North Sea fishing

Fishermen on England's east coast are claiming that inshore fishing is being destroyed by the dredging industry, which damages fishing gear and destroys fish feeding grounds. The problem will be exacerbated if plans to treble the 10 million tons of aggregate dredged in the southern North Sea every year are put into effect.

*Fishing News International*, December 1985.

## Fine for heathland destruction

The Birch Land Company of Poole, Dorset, UK, was fined £1000 plus £300 costs for bulldozing heathland and intentionally damaging an area used by sand lizards *Lacerta agilis*, at Wimborne Magistrates Court, Dorset on 19 November 1985. The company was prosecuted by the NCC under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and this is the first successful prosecution relating to destruction of sand lizard habitat. In Britain the species is virtually confined to heathland in the south.

## Crayfish plague in UK

White-clawed crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* in England and Wales may become locally extinct because of crayfish plague. The disease, fatal to all European crayfish, was detected in the Bristol Avon in 1981 and has since appeared in other southern rivers. The causal fungus *Aphanomyces astaci* has probably been brought to Britain by American signal crayfish, *Pacifastacus leniusculus*, which are resistant to the fungus, imported for

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The heath fritillary—a conservation success story (by kind permission of the Nature Conservancy Council).

crayfish farms, of which there are now 250. *A. pallipes* is listed as rare in the IUCN Invertebrate Red Data Book, and in Ireland, the only other country where it is still common, imports of foreign crayfish are banned. *NCC Topical Issues*, November 1985.

## Woodland management helps butterfly

In 1980 the heath fritillary *Mellicta athalia* was down to 31 colonies in Britain and it was feared that it might follow the large blue butterfly to extinction. Research showed that it flourished only in coppiced woodland, a type of management that is now rare. The introduction of coppice management into two reserves has resulted in increased numbers of butterflies, some of which are being reintroduced into former localities in Essex and the West Country. *NCC Topical Issues*, November 1985.

## Mandarins at home in UK

The mandarin duck *Aix galericulata*, down to perhaps 7000 pairs in the wild (mainly in Japan, with perhaps 1000 in China) is now well established in Britain. Escapees from captive flocks introduced

mainly in the 1900s have formed feral breeding colonies, which contain a total of about 1000 birds. A. K. Davies has found that the provision of nestboxes increased the numbers of breeding pairs in a UK study area, and suggests that reintroducing the species to China and providing nestboxes could reverse the decline there. *Birds*, 10, 8.

## Harmless way to clean boat bottoms

A British company claims to have developed a non-toxic, totally effective anti-fouling system for boats — 'Foul Free'. It is reported to be easy to apply, inexpensive and to overcome the pollution problem created by the use of organo-tin containing paints that have caused so much controversy. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 16, 12.

## Experts advise against dam

A 50-member commission appointed by the Austrian Government has advised against building the Hainburg dam on the Danube (see *Oryx*, July 1985, page 169). Instead, it has proposed the establishment of a national park in the Au forest region, describing it as an 'ecologically valuable area of

international rank'. *WWF News*, 37.

## Swiss ban phosphates

Switzerland has become the first European country to ban, from July 1986, the use of phosphates in laundry detergents and to reduce the amount permitted in dishwashing liquids and sewage wastes. This follows the alarm about the amount of phosphates in the country's rivers, lakes and streams despite the fact that 85 per cent of Swiss sewage is treated. High phosphate levels cause excessive algal growth, which cuts off the supply of oxygen in lakes and kills all other life. *IUCN Bulletin*, 16, 7–9.

## Butterfly hunt banned

Butterfly collecting has been banned in the Maggital, south of the Simplon Pass, in Canton Valais, Switzerland, to protect a butterfly *Erebia christi*. It is no longer found anywhere else in the world and excessive hunting is the greatest threat to its survival.

*naturepo-newsletter-nature*, 85–11.

## Anti-hunting camp has some success

In 1985, for the fifth year running, the Messina section of the Italian League for the Protection of Birds (LIPU) set up a camp to try to stop the illegal shooting of honey buzzards and other birds of prey on the Straits of Messina. With the help of the Ministry of Agriculture, which sent 50 foresters, and the media, the shooting has declined. On the Calabrian side of the Straits, however, the bird slaughter is greater than ever and hunters opposed the setting up of a protection camp by the Pellaro section of LIPU in 1985.

*UCCELLI*, Autumn 1985.

## Robin campaign outstanding success

A campaign was launched on 5 October 1985 by Malta's Ornithological Society to try to stop the seasonal practice of trapping robins *Erithacus rubecula*. A large banner was hung at Valletta City Gate and a large replica of a robin trap, containing a young member of the Society dressed as a robin, was set up. Other members distributed leaflets and

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The banner hung above Valetta City Gate at the launch of the anti-rob-in trapping campaign in Malta. The slogan, translated, reads 'Let it free'.

stuck lapel stickers on passers by. A further 60,000 stickers and 10,000 leaflets were distributed in schools.  
*The Ornithological Society of Malta.*

## Cyprus bans mist net imports

Cyprus has new legislation prohibiting the import of mist nets and limesticks used to trap birds.  
*Animals International, V, 18.*

## Casino threatens turtle beach

In western Cyprus the still unspoiled Akames Peninsula is the home of several rare plants and birds, and the green turtle, whose main nesting sites are near Lara. There are plans to develop the coast near Lara, including building a casino, and it is hoped instead that the Government, which owns most of the peninsula, will respond to current pleas to declare the area a nature reserve.  
*The Economist, 2 November 1985.*

## Cyprus salt lake threatened again

Two years ago an international uproar blocked a decision to site a sewage plant near Lake Akrotiri on Cyprus's south coast. One of the few surviving wetlands of the Mediterranean, it is important for millions of migrating and wintering birds. Now the Cyprus Government has

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The message on this lapel sticker translates as 'Let it live free': 60,000 were distributed as part of the anti-rob-in trapping campaign.

plans to put the plant on a new site on the lake shore, which is owned by the Greek Orthodox Church and which would be increased in value by the development that the siting of the plant near the lake would encourage.  
*The Economist, 2 November 1985.*

## Turkey plans dolphin census

Turkey's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Affairs has prepared plans for a National Dolphin Project, which will include a census of Black Sea dolphins. Turkey halted its dolphin fishery in 1983 after unfavourable publicity and plans to resume it only when safe levels of catch have been estimated.  
*IUCN Bulletin, 16, 10–12.*

## Smugglers poison wolves

In March 1985 smugglers dealing in cattle across the Portugese–Spanish border put down poisoned meat in the Peneda-Gerês National Park in Portugal because they feared losing cattle to wolves. As a result four wolves, six wild boar and 20 dogs were killed, and a pair of golden eagles disappeared.  
*Grupo Lobo Newsletter, 1.*

## Bear project wins award

The Asturian Fund for the Protection of Wild Animals won the 1985 European Conservation Award for its 'Project Bear', set up in January 1985 to protect the brown bears *Ursus arctos* in the Cordilla Cantabrica in northern Spain. It launched a campaign to raise public awareness and has created a fund to pay compensation for all damage

caused to livestock and crops by bears. The Award is organized by the Conservation Foundation, based in the UK, and is supported by the Ford Motor Company Ltd.

## Provincial Governor bans poison to save wolves

The Civil Governor of Orense in Spain, a wolf area contiguous with much of Portugal's northern border, has forbidden the use of traps and poisons in the Province, which should save the lives of some of the wolves.  
*Grupo Lobo Newsletter, 1.*

## The saltpans of Spain

Spain has declared the saltpans of Ibiza, Formentera and the intervening small islands natural areas of special interest. Those of Ibiza form one of the few inland wetlands in the islands that are still rich in species.  
*naturupa-newsletter-nature, 85–11.*

## Spain acts on chimpanzees

Spain began to implement CITES regulations before it officially acceded to the Convention by seizing nine chimpanzees used by beach photographers in southern Spain. It is hoped that the animals will be returned to Africa.  
*Animals International, V, 18.*

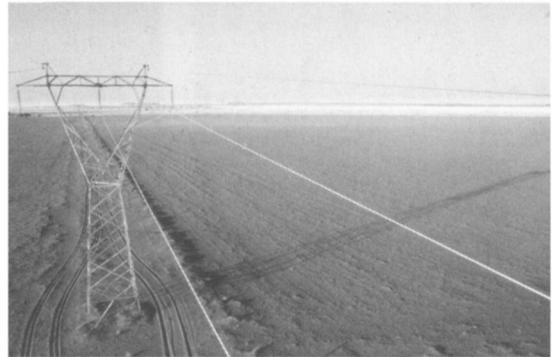
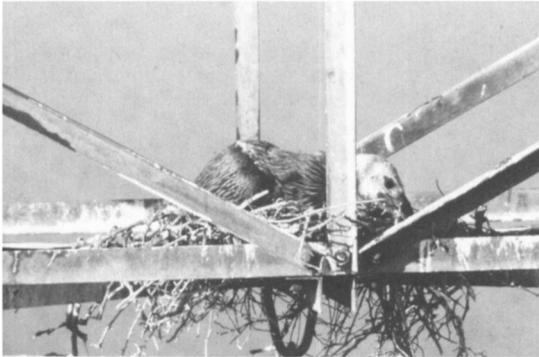
## Tunisia wetland threatened

The Ichkeul National Park in Tunisia, considered one of the most important wintering sites in North Africa for waterfowl, is threatened by the construction of dams and the diversion of water for urban and irrigation requirements.  
*Geographical Magazine, November 1985; GNUS, 7 November 1985.*

## Action for whales and seals in Madeira

Madeira has abandoned whaling and is instead to establish a marine sanctuary in co-operation with the Society for the Protection of Marine Mammals. The sanctuary will cover 200,000 sq km (77,200 sq miles) and will protect sperm, fin, sei and humpback whales, dolphins and a small population of monk seals.  
*Society for the Protection of Marine Mammals, October 1985.*

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An electricity pylon near Kimberly in South Africa, where a pair of African white-backed vultures built a nest and hatched a chick (*Escom*).

## Africa

### Expensive solution to Togo's problem

The results of a study by Benin University on Togo's coastal erosion problem led to the conclusion that 25 km (15 miles) of coast will stabilize naturally, but that expensive artificial protection will be necessary elsewhere. The main cause of the problem is the Akosombo Dam in Ghana, which has seriously reduced the alluvial deposits at the mouth of the Volta River, which are carried by coastal drift to Togo's coast and there counteract erosion.

*IUCN Bulletin Supplement*, 3/1985.

### Cameroon's montane forest needs protection

A recent ICBP survey in the mountains of western Cameroon confirmed the importance of conserving the montane forest habitat. It is home to 53 bird species, 20 of which are true endemics and eight of which are included in the African Red Data Book. Mt. Cameroon, for example, has unbroken forest from sea level to montane grassland, but its lower slopes are included in a timber concession and there are plans to extend oil palm plantations into the foothills, which would seriously threaten the rare Bate's weaver *Ploceus batesi*, a lowland forest species known only from southern Cameroon. The Government

is to be alerted to the importance of these forests and it is hoped that they will be included in the country's programme of national parks. Cameroon's conservation record may soon be the best in Africa; by 1990 it will have nine national parks.

*World Birdwatch*, 7, 4.

### Bustards smuggled by the thousand

Thousands of white bellied, crested and kori bustards (*Eupodotis senegalensis*, *Lophotis ruficrista*, *Choriotis kori*) are being smuggled out of Kenya despite the country's total ban on the trapping of animals for export. The birds are used as live targets in the training of falcons in the Middle East to hunt the Arab's traditional quarry, the houbara bustard *Chlamydotis undulata*.

*Birds*, 10, 8.

### CAR clamps down on ivory

The President of the Central African Republic has announced a ban on all private collection, import, export or transport of ivory following a personal appeal by Charles de Haas, Director General of WWF-International and Kenton Miller, Director General of IUCN. From 1 January 1986 the Government will be the sole exporter of ivory and the only supplier of ivory to craft workers.

*WWF News*, 38.

### Botswana's wildlife laws inadequate

The conservation of Botswana's wildlife is being hampered by the serious

inadequacy of the nation's two major wildlife laws, enacted in 1961 and 1979. The most harmful provisions are those permitting the transfer of hunting licences and allowing unlicensed people to 'assist' a licenced hunter in his efforts to kill an animal. Several conservationists and lawyers are examining the laws and believe that a major overhaul may be necessary.

*Kalahari Conservation Society Newsletter*, 10.

### Vultures in the pylons

Five pairs of African white-backed vultures *Gyps africanus* successfully hatched chicks on electricity pylons near Kimberly in South Africa in 1985; it is believed that this is the first time vultures have done this anywhere in the world. South Africa's electricity supply company, Escom, have been leaving nests in pylons undisturbed for 10 years, merely trimming those with long sticks protruding dangerously. Since 1977 helicopter patrols have found 10 species of large bird nesting in pylons, including hadada ibis, Egyptian goose, black eagle, tawny eagle and martial eagle.

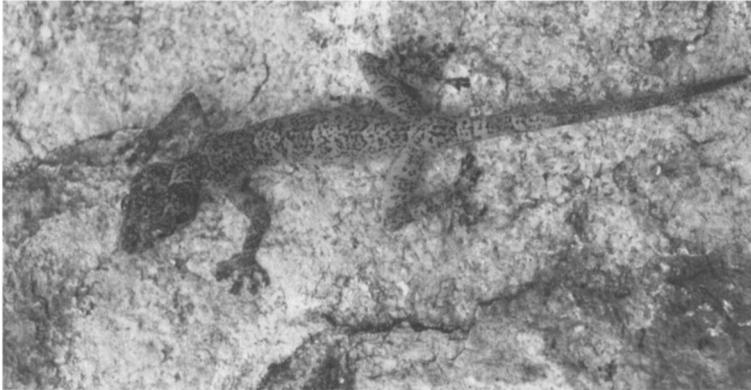
## Asia (excluding Indo-Malaya)

### Taiwan leads the way

Taiwan has banned imports of rhino horn, the first breakthrough in a broader IUCN/WWF initiative aimed at stopping rhino horn trade. The Duke of Edinburgh has sent letters to the Premiers of Singapore, South Korea and North Korea calling for an end to the trade and urging them to join CITES. Some users

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Golden gecko, rediscovered in 1985 (J. C. Daniel).

of rhino horn are switching to the horn of the Saiga antelope *Saiga tatarica*, which is not in danger. *WWF News Release: IUCN Bulletin*, **16**, 10–12.

## Measures for whitefin dolphin

The plight of the baiji or whitefin dolphin *Lipotes vexillifer* in China is now so serious that emergency measures are now necessary, according to Professor Zhou of Nanjing University, his colleagues and the authorities of Anhui Province. In 1985 saving the dolphin was listed as one of the top 20 priorities for the government of Anhui Province. There is a proposal to translocate dolphins from the main Chang Jiang (Yangtze River) to a semi-natural reserve at Datong, where shipping and fishing are prohibited. There will be a research facility, a holding pool and a hospital pool for wounded dolphins, which are sometimes retrieved from fishing gear. In December the announcement came of plans for a reserve along 84 miles (135 km) of the Chang Jiang in Hubei Province, which would cover the known habitat of 40 of the 200 dolphins left in the river. *WWF News*, **37**; *The New York Times*, 21 December 1985.

## Planned Chinese dam could be disaster

In May 1986 the Chinese Government will decide whether or not to go ahead with building the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River (now Chang Jiang), which would be the largest in the world. It is backed by the US Bureau of Reclamation, but opposed by US and Chinese scientists, who say it could turn

into an expensive environmental disaster. Two million people would be displaced, 100,000 acres (45,500 ha) of farmland destroyed and the ecology of the highly productive estuary would be disrupted. Endangered species such as the Chinese alligator and the Chinese sturgeon would also be threatened. *International Wildlife*, **15**, 6; *New Scientist*, 5 December 1985.

## Indo-Malaya

### Pakistan to save its mangroves

Pakistan's Government has formed a National Mangrove Committee, under UNESCO's international project on the management of coastal ecosystems, to prepare a management plan for the country's mangrove forests, which occupy about one-quarter of the coast, but are rapidly deteriorating. *Fishing News International*, **25**, 10.

### Fish stocks depleted by Pakistan dam

A joint Pakistan–US study has shown that fish stocks in Pakistan's rivers have been depleted by the building of large dams. In the 1950s the fish catch in the Sind coastal area was 185–210 tons per boat per year; in the 16 years after 1955, when the Kotri Barrage was built on the Indus River, this fell to 55 tons. The dams have restricted the flow of nutrient-rich waters, which helped sustain stocks, and have increased the salinity in the estuary, where mangrove forests have suffered. *Fishing News International*, **25**, 10.

## Asian elephants need help

According to the Asian Elephant Survival Foundation, in the past 60 years the number of Asian elephants in Nepal has shrunk from several thousand to fewer than 50. Poaching for ivory and deforestation are to blame. There are 2500 ivory carvers in Delhi, India, alone. The Foundation is setting up an elephant sanctuary in Nepal for orphaned calves and old working elephants, and also hopes to develop captive-breeding techniques. A new popular science magazine, *Elephant: Nature and Humanity in Asia*, is being published.

Asian Elephant Survival Foundation, Sierra Nevada College, 800 College Drive, Box 4269, Incline Village, NV 89450, USA.

## India bans cruel treatment of frogs

The Indian Government has banned the severing of legs of live frogs for export, following widespread protests by environmentalists and wildlife experts. Licences will be issued only to those who kill frogs by painless electrocution.

*The Guardian*, 11 October 1985.

## Silent Valley inaugurated

The Silent Valley National Park in Kerala, India (*Oryx*, January 1985, page 40) was inaugurated on 7 September 1985 by India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. It is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, one of 12 being established in India. *Threatened Plants Newsletter*, 15.

## Golden gecko find

The golden gecko *Calodactylodes aureus*, described in 1870 as a new species and genus, was rediscovered in 1985 by a team led by J.C. Daniel on Tirumalai Hill, Andhra Pradesh, India, where it was first collected. The party was surveying the proposed Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuary as part of an exercise under the National Wildlife Action Plan for identifying areas pristine enough to be preserved by state and central governments. *Hornbill*, 1985, 3.

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## Rhino reintroduction

Four female Indian rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis* have been released in a reintroduction programme in Dudhwa National Park in Uttar Pradesh, India. The aim of the joint India/Nepal Government project is to create a new breeding population for the species, which is under threat in Assam, West Bengal and Nepal. The rhinos join others obtained in 1984. *IUCN Bulletin*, **16**, 10–12.

## Olive ridleys recovering

Olive ridley turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea* numbers are recovering in India due to the Government's crack-down on the turtle trade. In 1982 170,000 olive ridley turtles arrived at Ekakula Beach in Orissa, the world's largest nesting site for the species. In 1985 300,000 arrived. More than 90,000 turtle eggs in Tamil Nadu, 300,000 in Orissa and 1000 in West Bengal's Sunderbans have been collected by the state governments for hatching and release. New hatcheries have been established in the Sunderbans, Kerala, Karnataka and Gujarat, and the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute in Cochin, Kerala, has launched a turtle management and conservation programme. *Commonwealth*, **28**, 3.

## Snow leopards in Ladakh

Two hundred snow leopard *Panthera uncia* have been sighted in the Ladakh region of Kashmir, indicating an increase following a crack-down on poaching, according to a survey by naturalist Brig. Moti Dar. The number of brown bears *Ursos arctos* in the Zaskar area has also risen to 200. *Daily Telegraph*, 4 October 1985.

## Turtles in trouble

Fewer leatherbacks *Dermochelys coriacea* are nesting at Terengganu's famed Rantau Abang beach in Peninsular Malaysia. In 1956 the nesting population was 1779; in 1978 this fell to 631 and in 1985 there were only 225. This is occurring despite protection under the Turtles Enactment in 1951, which prohibits killing and capture of turtles and fishing around the egg-laying

areas. The turtles are adversely affected by an oil refinery, development projects, commercial fishing, harassment by tourists and excessive egg collecting by licenced collectors. Licence fees go towards the running of a turtle hatchery, but conservationists fear that too few young turtles are released, and recommend making the beach a sanctuary.

*Suara Sam*, October 1985.

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## Captive-breeding of Sumatran rhino started

The Sabah Government, Malaysia, has allocated an initial grant of \$3 million for the Sumatran rhinoceros *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis* captive-breeding project, to be sited in 30,000 ha (74,000 acres) in the Tabin Forest Reserve on the State's east coast. The project began in January. Isolated rhinos are being captured by staff of the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Department and to begin with three pairs will be kept. Only about 30 rhinos are left in Sabah.

## Three dams for Sarawak

Sarawak, Malaysia, is to have three new dams in the next 10 years: they will displace 20,000 people and destroy tens of thousands of ha of rain forest. The first, Batang Ai Dam, was recently opened, displacing 3000 people, who have not yet received the promised compensation for the loss of homes and livelihoods.

*Suara Sam*, October 1985.

## Pesticides contaminating frogs

Indonesia's President is urging an expansion of the export trade in frogs' legs, which in 1983 was worth US\$8.7 million and involved 3500 tons of legs. Stocks are declining, however: hunting wild frogs has led to local increases in insect populations and a rise in the incidence of plant diseases has encouraged the use of more pesticides. Now there is concern about the safety of eating frogs contaminated by chemicals; the US has rejected several shipments on health grounds.

*Fishing News International*, **25**, 10.

## Indonesia's massive marsh conversion

Indonesia is continuing its plans to turn 5.58 million ha (13.79 million acres) of coastal marsh into arable land for transmigration purposes; 3.2 million ha (7.9 million acres) have already been lost and a World Bank Survey showed that a further 15.7 million ha (38.8 million acres) are not fit for development.

*IUCN Bulletin*, **16**, 10–12.

## Mangroves added to reserve

The Pulau Dua Nature Reserve in Indonesia was enlarged in 1984 from 8 ha to 30 ha (19 acres to 74 acres) to incorporate mangrove forest that has established on silt accreted in the channel between the reserve and Java. The new forest, now used for nesting by nearly half the reserve's birds, was under threat by cutting for firewood and conversion into fish ponds, and the breeding colonies —7300 pairs in April 1985—were being disturbed. *WWF Monthly Report*, September 1985.

## China clam in danger

Shell exporters have noted an increasing demand for shells of the China clam *Hippopus porcellanus*, scientifically recognized as a new species in 1982, for making into salad bowls and other items. There are also reports of a steady decline in the supply. It has a restricted range—reefs in the South China Sea, the Philippines, Indonesia and Palau—and is now scarce around the Sulu archipelago, where it used to be plentiful. It has indeterminate status in the IUCN Invertebrate Red Data Book, but should now probably be upgraded to Vulnerable or Endangered.

Edgardo Gomez, Director, Marine Sciences Center, University of the Philippines.

Sue Wells, IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, UK.

## Crocodile release

In July 1985 two three-year-old Philippine crocodiles *Crocodylus mindorensis* were released into Calawit National Park, northern Busuanga.

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Calamianes Group, in the hope that they will establish a breeding population. The crocodiles, down to a scattered wild population of about 100 individuals, are bred at the Silliman University in Dumaguete City in the island of Negros in the Philippines. *WWF Monthly Report*, September 1985.

## Cyanide killing reefs

Reefs in the Philippines are threatened by cyanide, which is used by divers collecting tropical fish for the home aquarium trade. The practice is killing the reefs and may be threatening the health of the divers.

*Not Man Apart*, November–December 1985.

## North America

### Oil lease sale off Alaska

The Interior Department of the US planned to proceed with a controversial offshore oil lease sale on 15 January 1986 in Alaska's richest salmon fishing grounds, in Bristol Bay in the Bering Sea, despite opposition from the State of Alaska environmentalists and fishermen. The State and a coalition of environmental groups filed separate lawsuits to block the sale in December 1985.

*Wall Street Journal*, 13 and 23 December 1985.

### New park in Canadian Arctic

Canada has announced that a major new park is to be established on Ellsmere Island in Canada's eastern Arctic.

*IUCN Bulletin*, 16, 10–12.

### Loggers want bear area

Three biologists visiting the remote Kutzeymateen River Valley, 40 km north-east of Prince Rupert in British Columbia, Canada, have confirmed that it could have the highest grizzly bear concentration in the State. The estuary is also important for birds and seals. The Kutzeymateen is one of several wilderness areas being reviewed by the controversial advisory committee set up in October (*Oryx*, January 1986, page 1).

Conservationists want 25 sq km (10 sq miles) declared a grizzly bear ecological reserve, but the Wedeene River Contracting Company wants to log it.

*The Sun (BC)*, 4 November 1985.

### Action against logging in Queen Charlottes

Indians and naturalists have blocked roads and stopped logging in the Queen Charlotte Islands and have demanded that the Government declare them a nature reserve.

*Daily Telegraph*, 4 November 1985.

### Selenium levels worrying

Levels of selenium in five US national wildlife refuges receiving irrigation runoff water are high enough to cause concern, and further studies are also needed in a number of other areas, including the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico, which is the winter home of the Rocky Mountain experimental flock of whooping cranes *Grus americana*.

*Grus Americana*, 25, 1.

### Die-off puzzle

Freshwater mussel die-offs reached epidemic proportions in rivers throughout the US in 1985. Commercial shell divers estimate that 50–75 per cent of mussels in commercial beds were dead or dying. There are fears that these episodic die-offs may be occurring more frequently than in the past. The Virginia Tech Coop Unit is seeking information on die-off events in the past decade and a workshop on mussel die-offs might be convened.

*Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, X, 11.

### Bison hunt resumed

For the first time in 100 years US hunters will be permitted to kill bison that stray into Montana from the 2000-strong herd in Yellowstone National Park. Wildlife Officers say shooting animals that stray is necessary because the herd is infected with brucellosis, which could spread to cattle. The public hunt, approved by the State Legislature, was criticized by the State Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, which preferred that the killing be done

by wildlife professionals, as happened in 1984.

*The New York Times*, 11 November 1985.

### Fence order: implications

A federal district court judge in Wyoming, USA, ordered a rancher to remove a fence erected on his land in such a way that it blocked access of pronghorns *Antilocapra americana* to public land. If the ruling holds it will have far-reaching ramifications throughout the western US, where certain kinds of fence impede wildlife movements.

*Outdoor News Bulletin*, 39, 23.

### Black-footed ferret crash

When in June 1985 the US Fish and Wildlife Service discovered plague amongst the prairie dogs that are the main prey for Wyoming's black-footed ferrets *Mustela nigripes*, it dusted 100,000 prairie dog burrows with the insecticide Sevin, which is used to control fleas on dogs and cats. A good flea kill was reported and there was no major die-off of prairie dogs. However, according to wildlife scientist, Dr Tim W. Clark, the ferret population crashed from 129 in October 1984 to 58 in July, to 31 in September, to 16 in October and to 6 in November 1985. Of an additional 12 taken into captivity 6 have died from canine distemper, but 6 are healthy.

### Net ban extended for otters

The Californian Department of Fish and Game invoked an emergency closure of the gill and trammel net fishery out to 20 fathoms between Cape San Martin and Point Piedras Blancas on 25 August 1985. The area previously closed to the fisheries stretched out to the 15-fathom contour and did not eliminate the entanglement of southern sea otters *Enhydra lutris nereis* in nets.

*Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, X, 10.

### Albatross visits California after 100 years

In November 1985 bird watchers reported the first short-tailed albatross *Diomedea albatrus*—a one-year-old—

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to visit Californian waters for nearly 100 years. The albatross was proclaimed extinct in the 1930s, believed to have been exterminated by Japanese feather collectors on breeding islands in the Bonin Islands, east of Japan. Some survived, however, and in 1957 the island of Torishima had 20 pairs. They were once common in Californian waters. *The Washington Post*, 18 November 1985.

## No Californian condors in wild

Biologists rounding up the last six wild Californian condors for captive breeding found one female to be ill. It has since died from lead poisoning.

## Airport dunes for butterfly

Remnant sand dunes covering 120 acres (49 ha) at the west end of Los Angeles International Airport are to be managed for the El Segundo blue butterfly *Euphilotes battoides allyni*. The dunes are also the habitat of at least two other rare lepidoptera. Lora Aborn's moth *Lorita abornana* and Henne's eucosma moth *Eucosma hennei*, neither of which had been seen for 40 years before a survey in 1984. *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, X, 11.

## Net use restricted to save whales

New laws restrict the use of gill nets off southern California. No new gill net permits will be issued and commercial shark and swordfish fishermen will be required to stay outside a line 75 miles from the coast between 1 June and 15 August to reduce the catch of overfished thresher sharks, and outside a line 25 miles from the coast from 15 December to 31 January to protect migrating grey whales. *Los Angeles Times*, 18 October 1985.

## Plants protected

Four more plants have been protected under the US Endangered Species Act. Slender rush-pea *Hoffmannseggia tenella* is a perennial orange-flowered member of the pea family now confined to two populations in the Gulf Coast Prairie, Texas, where its grassland

habitat is threatened. Fragrant prickly-apple *Cereus eriophoros* var. *fragrans* is a 3–16 ft (1–5 m) tall cactus, endemic to Florida's east coast; urban development has destroyed native vegetation and only 14 plants remain. Scrub mint *Dicerandra frutescens* and long-spurred mint *D. cornutissima* are restricted to very small areas in central Florida, threatened by expanding commercial and residential development. Both mints and the cactus are being propagated at a Florida botanic garden. *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, X, 11.

## Bobwhites thriving on the ranch

By mid-September 1985 363 masked bobwhite quail *Colinus virginianus ridgwayi* had been released on Buenos Aires Ranch in Arizona, US, which had been bought especially for them (Oryx, October 1985, page 245). Sterilized Texas bobwhite quails, which are not endangered, are being used as foster parents. By mid-October an estimated 2500 were to have been released. *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, X, 10.

## Dam opposed

A coalition of US conservationists is fighting the proposed Cliff Dam in Arizona, which would inundate 8700 acres (3500 ha) of Touto National Forest and destroy 6 miles (10 km) of the Verde River, including the habitat of endangered bald eagles. *International Wildlife*, 15, 6.

## Squawfish reintroduction

In August 1985 captive-bred Colorado squawfish *Ptychocheilus lucius* were reintroduced into Verde River and Salt River in Arizona, USA. Further releases are planned over the next 10 years in an attempt to establish viable populations in the species's former waters. This large minnow—it can grow up to 6 ft (1.8 m) long—was once so plentiful in Arizona waters that early settlers pitchforked them out of irrigation channels to use as fertilizer. It is also reported to be good for eating. Dams have been the cause of their decline, and today wild populations occur only on parts of the Upper Colorado River Basin. *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, X, 10.

## Cactus recovery scheme

Knowlton's cactus *Pediocactus knowltonii* is known only from one place in the wild, where an estimated 7000 plants grow in 25 acres (10 ha). In spring 1984 cuttings were taken and reared in a greenhouse, and in September 1985 104 plants were reintroduced to the species's historic range in New Mexico. The plants will be monitored to determine if this is a valid recovery technique. *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, X, 10.

## Central America

### Hatcheries planned to curb turtle decline

Mexico plans five new turtle hatcheries because of concern about the decline in turtle populations. The worst-affected species is the Atlantic or Kemp's ridley *Lepidochelys kempii*, which has fallen in numbers from 45,000 in 1970 to 2000 in 1984 because of poaching. *Fishing News International*, December 1985.

### Parrot record

A record 12 endangered Puerto Rican parrots *Amazona vittata* chicks fledged from nests in the Caribbean National Forest, the only site where the species remains in the wild. Five of the chicks placed in wild nests were from breeding birds in captivity. *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, X, 9.

### Wreck a danger to turtles

The wreck of a passenger liner, *A. Regina*, is smashing up a major reef system off Mona Island, Puerto Rico, and polluting a critical habitat for endangered marine turtles. To date, the US Army Corps of Engineers and the US Coast Guard have rejected pleas from the Puerto Rican Government and conservationists to remove the wreck. *Monitor*, 4 and 25 November 1985.

### Orange threat to Belize forests

A Coca Cola Foods subsidiary, Minute Maid, has bought 50,000 acres (20,000 ha) of primary forest in Belize for conversion to orange groves. The oranges

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will be exported to Florida as orange juice concentrates.

*Financial Times*, 16 October 1985.

## Nicaragua's peace plan for forest

The Director of the National Park Service of Nicaragua, Lorenzo Cardinale, says that military conflict is damaging the most important rain forest in Central America. Nicaragua is proposing that two vast forest areas enveloping the Contra-infested border with Honduras in the north and the Costa Rican border in the south should be designated as UNESCO biosphere reserves, i.e. pacification zones. Cardinale is keen to pool Central American expertise in a strategy for the subcontinent's remaining forests and says that the most important step is to have peace in the region. In El Salvador forests are being bombed with napalm and defoliants, and in Honduras American bases are opening doors to exploitation. Nicaragua has identified 18 per cent of the country as potential conservation areas, but the war has drained the country's funds.

*The Guardian*, 23 October 1985.

## South America

### Campaign for Venezuela

A Coastal Conservation Campaign for Venezuela is being promoted by the Brehm Fund of West Germany. It evolved from the Fund's aerial censuses of 1983 and 1984, and focuses attention on the scarlet ibis and flamingo, both of which are severely threatened in the country. The campaign has been endorsed by Venezuela's major conservation organizations and government agencies, as has a pledge to designate a superb wetland, Los Olivitos, on the west coast as a wildlife sanctuary.

*Flying Free*, 3, 3/4.

### Tamarins return to Brazil

Sixteen of the 24 golden-headed lion tamarins *Leontopithecus rosalia chrysomelas* held by a dealer in Belgium were returned to Brazil on 30 November 1985, where they are being held at the Primate Rehabilitation Centre near Rio

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de Janeiro until they can be released into a protected area. The tamarins were smuggled out of Brazil in 1983 and entered Belgium via Bolivia. The repatriation is the culmination of two years' diplomatic activity by the Belgian Ministry of Agriculture, World Wildlife Fund—Belgium, the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Brazilian Institute of Forest Development.

*Traffic Bulletin*, VII, 5.

### Bank withdraws funds for destruction

The World Bank has stopped funding the Polonoroeste programme in Brazil. This resettlement plan for peasants from South Brazil would have cost US\$1.6 billion, would have destroyed a tropical forest area the size of West Germany, and would have threatened 34 tribal groups and countless species. The Bank withdrew after pressure from environmentalists all over the world.

*World Rainforest Report*, 4.

### Iron producer takes advice on environment

A corporation, part state and part privately owned, which is Brazil's leading producer of iron ore, has established an independent advisory group to advise on all environmental aspects of its activities. The company (Compania Vale do Rio Doce), in managing its mining operations in Carajas Province, undertakes environmental research, including an inventory of wildlife, and gives socio-economic support to 14 Amerindian communities.

*UNEP News*, September–October 1985.

### More wildlife confiscations in Brazil

The fight by the Instituto Brasileiro de Desenvolvimento Florestal (IBDF) against illegal wildlife trade continues. In October 1985 10,800 skins of white-lipped and collared peccaries were confiscated in Manaus en route to Germany because of incorrect documentation from Bolivia—it is believed that the skins originated in Brazil. In November 2000 cayman skins were confiscated in Manupuru en route to Manaus, and in December seven tons of crocodile meat, 600 kg of capybara meat, 1000

crocodile skins, four collared peccary skins, 400 turtles and 40 kg of tapir meat were confiscated at Lake Ayapua (Rio Purus) in Para State. The Biological Reserve of Abufari in the Rio Purus region suffers from indiscriminate hunting. Skins are sold to fishing boats from Para State, taken to Belem and exported to Cayenne, French Guiana, and from there mostly to West Germany.

*A Noticia*, 27 October 1985; *A Critica*, 12 November 1985; *Jornal do Comércio*, 10 December 1985.

### Bolivia extends wildlife ban

The Bolivian Government has announced the extension of its ban on wildlife exports for one more year. In a Ministerial Resolution of 2 August 1985 'the hunting, capture, harassment, transport, sale, transfer and export of live wild animals and their parts is prohibited until 31 July 1986 inclusive.'

*TRAFFIC (USA)*, 6, 3.

## Australia/Antarctica

### More protection for Abbott's booby

Australia's National Parks and Wildlife Service is proposing to expand the national park on Christmas Island to give greater protection to Abbott's booby *Sula abbotti* and other seabirds.

*World Birdwatch*, Winter 1985.

### Sad state of Australia's environment

A report, *State of the Environment in Australia, 1985*, released by Australia's Environment Minister, Barry Cohen, details widespread and accelerated damage to the environment. Two-thirds of Australia's tree cover have been destroyed; 96 species have been driven to extinction; more than half of agricultural land needs treatment for erosion; many river systems, wetlands and underground water sources are severely degraded; and air pollution in most capital cities periodically exceeds WHO limits. It concluded that, despite major achievements in the past 15 years, 'much remained to be done to maintain and enhance the environmental quality in Australia'. Mr Cohen said that he

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expected to make a statement soon on the introduction of legislation to overhaul the Environment Protection Act. *Queensland Daily Sun (Brisbane)*, 26 November 1985.

## Boycott refrigerators to save trees

The recommencement of logging in the internationally important Downey Creek rain forests has prompted the Innisfail Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland, Australia, and the Wilderness Society to call for a boycott of products of the logging concern's parent company Email. The products include washing machines and refrigerators. *Wildlife Australia*, 22, 3.

## Dieback outbreak

Dieback, caused by a fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, is spreading in Western Australia and threatens large numbers of species with restricted distributions in national parks and reserves on the south coast. Members of the Proteacea are especially vulnerable. The transport of fungus on vehicles is the most important human factor in the spread of the disease, and hygiene measures are being taken, including providing facilities for washing vehicles and restricting access to vulnerable areas. Many of the susceptible plants, like banksias, are often important food sources or habitats for animals such as the honey possum. *Landscape*, 1, 2.

## Freckled ducks shot: prosecutions

More than 50 freckled ducks *Stictonetta naevosa* were shot during the opening of the 1985 duck open season. This endangered species is one of the rarest in the world and is found in 16 wetlands in Australia. The maximum fine for shooting one in New South Wales is \$10,000 and prosecutions are underway. *Wildlife Australia*, 22, 3.

## Shrub rediscovered in Arboretum

*Hakea crassinervia*, a spreading shrub with bright pink flowers, which was

believed to have become extinct 20 years ago, has been found in Burrendong Arboretum, Wellington, New South Wales in Australia. It strikes readily from cuttings and a number of plants are now in cultivation in Australian botanic and private gardens. *Threatened Plants Newsletter*, 15.

## Does the thylacine live?

The Tasmanian wolf or thylacine *Thylacinus cynocephalus* could still survive, according to Dr Luigi Boitani of Rome University who spent some weeks in Tasmania in 1985 searching for the animal and interviewing Tasmanian Parks Officers. However, the area in which a firm sighting was made in 1982 is being logged and no other areas are being considered for protection as possible thylacine habitat. In addition, poisoned bait is being used on farmland 20 km (12 miles) from the 1982 location. *WWF News*, 37. *Threatened Species Conservation Alert*, 4.

## Recovery of a rare plant

*Abutilon julianae*, a yellow-flowered relation of hibiscus, was described from Norfolk Island in the south-west Pacific in 1833 and was last recorded in 1912, when it was judged to be in danger of extermination. Repeated searches failed to find it, but it has recently been found on Philip Island nearby by a team from the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service working on the final stages of the rabbit eradication programme. The vegetation of Philip Island was almost destroyed by goats, pigs and rabbits, but now that these animals have gone the island is turning green again. *Threatened Plants Newsletter*, 15.

## Shining gum's last stand

Logging and woodchipping around Eden, Victoria, Australia, threaten the last intact mature tall moist forests in the area. The proposed clear-felling of Coolangubra and Tantawanglo State Forests will destroy the last stands of shining gum, the Gippsland waratah *Boronia deanei* and *Persoonia brevifolia*. The last two plants are extremely rare. The area's dense populations of sugar gliders, greater gliders, feathertail

gliders, pygmy possums, mountain possums, cockatoos and lorikeets will disappear.

*Threatened Species Conservation Alert*, 14.

## Fishermen call for seal cull

Tasmanian members of the Professional Fisherman's Association are claiming that fur seals are now in 'plague' proportions, are 'upsetting the ecosystem' and should be culled. *Threatened Species Conservation Alert*, 14.

## New environmental government departments for New Zealand

The New Zealand Government plans to set up its new Department of Conservation and a Ministry of the Environment by April 1986. The Department will take responsibility for national parks, reserves and protected natural areas, protected indigenous forests, protected inland waters, wild and scenic rivers, wildlife, historic places, forest parks and other multiple-use state forest areas not used for wood production, rural crown lands not used mainly for agriculture or forestry, and some parts of fisheries and coastal waters. *IUCN Bulletin*, 16, 10–12.

## Falklands fisheries free-for-all

More and more fishing fleets from 10 nations are fishing in waters round the Falkland Islands, and there is no indication that the UK intends to establish a 200 mile limit. Instead it has asked the FAO to establish a multilateral fisheries regime involving Argentina and the countries fishing in the area. Controls are desperately needed to protect the stocks—especially of squid, which is important in the diet of elephant seals, rockhopper penguins and black-browed albatross. *Falkland Islands Foundation Newsletter*, 4.

## Falklands reserves

The Falkland Island Foundation has bought or leased 18 islands in the Falklands in the past two years. All are important for wildlife and many are

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covered with virgin tussock grass, which is critical breeding, feeding and nesting habitat for many birds. Nine of the islands were previously owned by the UK's Royal Society for Nature Conservation.

*Falkland Islands Foundation Newsletter*, 4.

## Small progress in CCAMLR

Little progress towards Antarctic conservation was made at the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 2–11 September 1985. The Commission agreed to protect *Notothenia rossii* by requesting all Parties to refrain from fishing for this species, and to reduce the bycatch when fishing for other species around South Georgia, in the Peninsula area, around South Orkneys and Kerguelen Island, where populations of this long-lived fish have collapsed. Conservationists favour a 10-year moratorium in the convention area, which is severely over-fished. Australia, supported by New Zealand, expressed dissatisfaction with the Commission's achievements and proposed that the next meeting should define a conservation and management strategy for Antarctic marine living resources.

*Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition*.

## Oceania

### Endangered endemic now numerous

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed removing the Tinian monarch flycatcher *Monarcha takatsukasae* from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife. It is endemic to the island of Tinian in the western Pacific, the forest of which was destroyed for sugar cane production and by military action in World War II. Since 1945 the island has been revegetated by an introduced shrub *Leucaena leucocephala* planted by the US military to which the monarch has adapted. It is now the most abundant bird on the island, with an estimated population of 40,000.

*Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, X, 11.

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## Requests

### Jabiru storks

Audubon Park currently houses 4 (3.1) of the 6 jabiru storks *Jabiru mycteria* known to be held in captivity in the United States. Denver and San Antonio each hold a single male. There are 4 young birds at Vogelpark Walsrode in Germany and a single bird in Singapore. Our only female has a strong pair bond with her mate and some reproductive activity has been seen. Although jabirus have not been bred in captivity, we would like to locate additional females in an attempt to establish a captive-breeding population. The apparent decline of the jabiru in Central America necessitates work with the species. Anyone who knows of other birds in the US or anywhere else in the world is urged to contact: Peter Shannon, Curator of Birds, Audubon Park Zoo, PO Box 4327, New Orleans, LA 70178, USA.

### British ladybird spot

In April 1986 the Cambridge Ladybird Survey, in conjunction with WATCH, is launching the first ever nationwide survey of ladybirds to collect information on all aspects of their natural history and distribution in Britain. One purpose of the study is to look at the ecological and commercial suitability of different species as aphid control agents. It is also hoped to determine accurately the distribution and strength of some of the rarer species to see whether protection is necessary. The survey may also discover whether the 13-spot ladybird, *Hippodamia 13-punctata*, which was last recorded in Britain over 25 years ago, is actually extinct. All records and observations of ladybirds are welcomed.

Details from Dr Michael Majerus, Department of Genetics, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge CB2 3EH.

## People

Sir Peter Scott, President of the FFPS, has been awarded the J. Paul Getty Prize for 1986.

Lord Dulverton, Honorary President of Timber Growers United Kingdom, was

invested as a Commander of the Order of the Golden Ark by His Royal Highness, Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands on 5 October 1985, 'for his dedication to conservation over many years in many parts of the world, especially in the UK and East Africa, as well as for his invaluable support to conservation through the Dulverton Trust.'

First prize in the *Country Life* Farming and Wildlife awards 1985 went to John Horsman, of Linstead Farm near Halesworth in Suffolk, as the farmer in the UK who has done most to encourage wildlife conservation on his farm within the constraints of successful commercial farming. Joint winners of the second prize were Frank and Frank E. Harvey of Hadham Lodge, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, and Christopher Passmore of Applesham Farm, Lancing, West Sussex.

## Obituaries

Jean Delacour, the French-born renowned aviculturalist—ornithologist, died in November 1985 in California. He was instrumental in organizing the Whooping Crane Conservation Association.

Dr Dian Fossey, who worked with mountain gorillas since 1967 and set up the Karisoke Research Centre, was murdered in December 1985 in Rwanda. An obituary will appear in the next issue of *Oryx*.

Dr Ronald Melville died in August 1985, aged 82. He was the first plant conservationist in IUCN's SSC. After he retired from the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in 1968 he compiled the first Plant Red Data Book, published in 1970.

Dr Jaroslav Vesely, Czechoslovakia's pioneer conservationist, died in August 1985. Born in 1906, his many achievements included the launching of the first Czech State Nature Conservation Act in 1966, and promotion of international co-operation in conservation. *IUCN Bulletin*, 16, 10–12.