



Briefly . . .

BRITISH ISLES

Large Blue Probably Extinct

The large blue butterfly *Maculinea arion* is now probably extinct in Britain, a result of the conversion of much of its habitat to farmland and of the decline of an ant *Myrmica sabuleti* with which the caterpillars lived in symbiosis (see *Oryx*, July 1977, p5). The final blow was the 1976 drought, which reduced the number of adults in the only remaining known colony to five by 1978. Though 22 adults emerged in 1979, all their eggs were sterile.

Record Year for Oil Spills

The Advisory Committee on Oil Pollution of the Sea (ACOPS) reports that in 1978 oil pollution around the coasts of Britain and Ireland reached an all-time high, with more than 500 spills. In 14 of the larger spills, including those from the *Eleni V*, *Christos Bitas*, *Litiopa*, *Esso Bernica* and *Amoco Cadiz*, some 10,600 seabirds of 50 species were damaged — of which 4149 were rescued. Worldwide, more than 206 million US gallons were spilled or burned in incidents involving 20,000 gallons or more.

Sullom Voe Agreement

No tanker will be loaded at the Shetland Islands' Sullom Voe terminal unless it carries at least 35 per cent water ballast, according to an agreement between the oil companies and the Shetland Islands Environmental Health Committee, which has the power to close the terminal. Continuous spills have been affecting seabirds, otters, and seaweed-eating sheep since before the terminal was even officially opened in January 1979.

55 Chillingham Cattle

The wild white cattle at Chillingham Park, Northumberland, in January 1979 numbered 55, the second highest total since 1946.

Dead Elms

Some 15½ million elm trees have died out of the 23 million south of a line between Mersey and the Wash — the part of England most heavily hit by Dutch elm disease — according to a 1978 Forestry Commission survey. Only 5m. of these have been felled.

Award for Farmers

Country Life magazine is to make an annual award to the UK farmer or landowner who does most to encourage wildlife conservation on his farm within the constraints of successful commercial farming.

INTERNATIONAL

Operation Oryx Captive Dies

What may have been the world's last wild-born Arabian oryx has died, aged about 20. One of the three captured in the Rub al Khali by FPS in the 1963 Operation Oryx, and named Edith, she was shipped to Phoenix Zoo, where she bore 13 offspring and eventually became the ancestor of some 100 of the world's captive *Oryx leucorox*. The Zoo veterinarian, Dr Howell B. Hood, said the cause of her death was 'simply old age'. The Arabian Oryx Studbook, now compiled by James M. Dolan of the San Diego Zoological Society shows the number of animals registered as 69 males and 75 females in six locations. Births in 1978 were 24 males and 20 females.

New Bird Red Data Book

IUCN has published a new edition of the Aves Red Data Book, with 199 updated sheets. Obtainable from IUCN, 1110 Morges, Switzerland.

53rd CITES Member

Ratification by the Bahamas brings membership of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to 53.

Primate Conservation Appeal

A Primate Society of Great Britain Working Party appeals for information on conservation issues requiring action, such as CITES violations, habitat destruction or unjustified experiments. Correspondence to R.I.M. Dunbar or R. W Wrangham, Research Centre, King's College, Cambridge CB2 1ST.

Ivory, Rhino Horns Seized

Police in Bremen, West Germany, have confiscated a shipment of 141 rhino horns and 4868kg of ivory exported from Kenya on what appears to be an altered permit. The Kenyan Minister of Tourism and Wildlife, Mathews Ogotu, has ordered an investigation.

Salmon for the Thames

The Thames Water Authority considers that the Thames is now clean enough to support salmon and will reintroduce 50,000 smolts in the spring of 1980.

Code Number Catches Egg Thief

A technique for marking peregrine falcon eggs with code numbers that refer to individual nests and are visible only under ultraviolet light has resulted in the conviction of an egg thief, who was fined £900, the largest amount ever levied in England for such an offence.

Hedgehog Traps

Cattle grids can be traps for hedgehogs, which fall between the bars and into the pit below. Willie Euman, writing in *Scottish Wildlife*, says he has found as many as 10 hedgehogs in one pit and suggests that landlords install sloping planks to give the animals a way out.

EUROPE

Birds-of-Prey Shooting in Malta

Some 9000 bird shooters roam the 122 sq miles of Malta and regard birds of prey, which are not protected, as legitimate game. They are believed to shoot at least 2500, including owls, each year. Three-fifths of these are honey buzzards, kestrels, hobbies and scops owls. The Government of Malta is reported to be considering new bird protection laws, which will prohibit both the shooting and stuffing of birds of prey.

Black Grouse and Capercaillie Released

In two years more than 50 captive-bred black grouse *Lyrurus tetrix* and capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* have been released in France's Cévennes National Park. Captive-bred capercaillie are twice as heavy as wild ones of the same age and could have difficulty escaping from predators.

Capercaillie Hunting Ban

Spain has banned hunting of capercaillie, whose Spanish population is approximately 1300.

Insect Survey

The Council of Europe is undertaking a study on European endangered and endemic Lepidoptera, Odonata and Hymenoptera (butterflies, moths, dragonflies, bees, wasps, ants), using the criteria of the IUCN Red Data Books.

From Poison to Perfume

In its war against bark beetles, Sweden has switched from insecticides to pheromones, artificial sexual attractants, which, it is hoped, will entice the beetles into traps.

Swallows Declining

Swallows in West Germany are declining because of increased use of insecticides in stables, where swallows often nest, and the tarring of country lanes, which deprives the birds of nesting materials.

Finnish Peregrine Revival

Finland's peregrine falcons, which numbered as high as 1000 pairs before the widespread use of DDT in the early 1940s and dropped to 20 by 1975, have now risen to 27 breeding pairs, two non-breeding pairs and seven single birds; 39 young are known to have flown from the eyries in 1978, a normal level of reproduction.

Estonia to Expand Park System

Estonia has announced a long-term plan for increasing its protected lands from the present 4.1 per cent of its total area to around 10 per cent. The new areas will include a biosphere reserve, several islands, and extensions to protected wetlands.

Lapps May Shoot Wolves

In Sweden two Lapp villages have been given permission to kill two of the country's 10 wolves.

Lynx Multiply in Yugoslavia

Our FPS consultant in Yugoslavia, Vladimir Pfeifer, reports that lynx reintroduced in 1978 had by summer 1979 increased to over 30 animals. Brown bear numbers keep up well, at between 800-1200. Efforts to save the last marshlands, he says, 'are always too late', but in autumn and winter nearly all surviving marshlands are in the hands of Italian hunters.

Return of the Lammergeier

The bearded vulture *Gypaëtus barbatus*, named 'lammergeier' (lamb-killer) because it was mistakenly thought to have killed the lambs whose carcasses it fed on and as a result was eventually hunted to extinction in the Alps, may be reintroduced in the 1980s. A captive breeding project, using zoo stocks, has been organised under the chairmanship of Dr Pierre Goeldlin, an IUCN Bureau member. In

Briefly

the rest of Europe some 50 wild breeding pairs remain: in the Pyrenees, southern Spain, mainland Greece, Crete and Corsica.

Roosts for Griffon Vultures

Griffon vultures *Gyps fulvus* that visit the alpine valleys of Austria's Salzburg Province every summer have declined from a regular 200 to less than 50 because the dead sheep on which they usually feed have become scarcer with a decrease in sheep farming. WWF has set up two roosting and feeding places in the valley in an effort to build up the vulture's numbers.

NORTH AMERICA

Last Resort for California Condor

With numbers in the wild down to under 30, the Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to try captive breeding for the California condor, using techniques developed in experimental breeding of Andean condors and turkey vultures. Four young birds will be taken in January 1980.

Wolves in Wisconsin

For the first time in 20 years wolves have been sighted in Wisconsin; they are thought to be immigrants from neighbouring Minnesota, the only other of the 'lower 48' states to harbour *Canis lupus*.

Acid Rain in Minnesota

In more than one quarter of the lakes in Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area and the nearby Voyageurs National Park, fish and other aquatic life are in imminent danger of being wiped out as a result of pollution caused by rain contaminated with nitric and sulphuric acid from coal-fired power stations.

Great Lakes Pact

Canada and the US have signed an agreement to reduce 'the discharge of pollutants into the Great Lakes system'. This will require cities and towns in the region to comply with strict pollution controls by the end of 1982.

Thin Air

Dr Jack Berry of the US Forest Service, discussing precision in aerial spraying at a meeting of pesticide experts in New Brunswick said: 'Ultimately we are going to have to find some way of accounting for the

SPAIN'S postage stamp appeal for the Mediterranean monk seal and Audouin's gull



70 per cent of spray material that doesn't show up on our test cards, that just seems to disappear after it comes out of the aircraft.'

US Steel to Cut Pollution

At the urging of the Environmental Protection Agency, the US Steel Corporation has agreed to spend \$400 million cleaning up nine of its dirtiest plants in Pittsburgh, which will cut pollution in the area by 50 per cent and pollution of the Monongahela River by 90 per cent.

TVA to Install Solar Boilers

The Tennessee Valley Authority, builders of the Tellico Dam (see *Oryx*, November 1978, p295), has decided that, rather than construct another power station, it will install 100,000 solar-powered water heaters in its customers' homes, at a cost of \$200 million.

Pacific Salmon in Lake Ontario

A 1976 ban on stocking Lake Ontario with Pacific salmon — coho and chinook — has been lifted by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation after pressure from sport fishermen who, according to the NYDEC Commissioner, 'want the opportunity to catch these large spectacular fish, whether or not they can be eaten'. The previous main objection to the exotics, some of which have already been found in the St Lawrence River, where they compete with the smaller Atlantic salmon, was that they tended to build up unacceptably high PCB levels.

Prairie Ducks Not Recovering

The 1975-1977 drought in the southern Canadian prairies, breeding grounds for some 40 per cent of all ducks in North America,

reduced nesting success rate from 11-40 per cent to 6 per cent, where it has stayed despite normal rains in 1978. Wildlife Service biologists fear that the prairies' traditional sky-darkening flocks may be a thing of the past.

Herbicide Ban

The US Environmental Protection Agency has banned the use of the herbicide 2,4,5-T, which contains dioxin, one of the most toxic substances known.

Largest Fur Seizure

The US Fish and Wildlife Service made its largest-ever seizure of illegally imported furs when it took more than 17,500 pelts at a ranch on the Mexican border near Marathon, Texas. Most were from animals not officially listed as endangered — such as ringtail cat, gray fox, coyote, raccoon, skunk and badger — but there were also 1556 pelts of Mexican lynx, a subspecies of bobcat protected by the US, Mexico and CITES. The furs were thought to be en route to Europe.

Pronghorn Re-introduced

140 pronghorn antelope have been re-introduced in the Clayhole area of northern Arizona, where a once-thriving population was wiped out before 1900.

Stopping Power Boats for Manatees

Power boats, the main cause of injury and death of Florida's endangered manatees, would be restricted or prohibited in sanctuaries recently proposed by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Florida.

Catfish on the March

Descendants of the South-east Asian walking catfish that escaped from a Florida fish farmer's pond in the mid-1960s will occupy three-quarters of the state within the next decade, according to a Florida Atlantic University professor who has been documenting their progress. Many were killed in severe cold spells in the early 1970s, but a cold-resistant strain now appears to have evolved. They prey on native fish, especially bass.

Zoo Hatches Endangered Toads

Three pairs of endangered Houston toads, captured by the Houston Zoo in a nearby state park where about 1000 survive, produced some 1200 tadpoles, of which 500 were released back into the wild. If 40 reach

maturity, the project will be deemed successful, and the Zoo will set up a permanent breeding colony.

Snails Listed

The Fish and Wildlife Service has listed the Iowa Pleistocene snail and Virginia fringed mountain snail as endangered, and five other snails as threatened. The ruling includes restrictions on taking, export or sale.

Killing the Wrong Insects?

In Canada, gadgets that attract insects to an ultraviolet light and then electrocute them — and which can cost almost \$300 — must now carry a disclaimer: 'This device does not control mosquitoes, blackflies or other biting flies'. Tests commissioned by one manufacturer found that almost all the insects electrocuted in typical Canadian back yards were non-biting varieties.

Rhododendron Listed

A rare rhododendron *Rhododendron chapmanii*, known from only three localities in Florida, has been listed as endangered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Collection is the principal threat; some populations, once discovered, have been removed entirely. A Critical Habitat could not be designated, since information on its whereabouts would make it even more vulnerable to collectors.

Walrus Hunting Banned Again

US Federal Government has reimposed the ban on hunting Alaska's 140,000-200,000 Pacific walruses, lifted in 1976 (see *Oryx*, June 1979, p20) because the State has repealed most of its own walrus-hunting regulations and abandoned attempts at management and law-enforcement, thus violating the conditions of the original waiver under the Marine Mammals Protection Act. Only 'non-wasteful' subsistence hunting will now be allowed.

Without Comment

'In California birders organised a drive across a marsh to flush a black rail into view. When the rarity was sighted, the party surrounded the spot where it disappeared, one man vigorously poking the bushes and trampling the high grass to force the bird to reveal itself again. The party left, frustrated, but two birders remained behind and found the rail, mangled and dying, having been stamped into the muck by a heavy boot.' Frank Graham Jr in *Audubon*, July 1979.



LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Antilles Haven

The Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs has asked the Dutch Antilles to allow his department to represent the Caribbean colony in the International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling, the convention for establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, and the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. The Antilles' unregulated activities were brought to the world's attention when a 'pirate' whaling ship registered there sank while trying to hoist a fin whale aboard. The Marine Action Centre reports that the Antilles have also become a haven for tuna fishermen evading the US law on incidental dolphin catches.

Meso-American Groups Federate

Central American non-governmental conservation organisations have formed the Federation of Meso-American Conservation Organisations (FEMAC) with headquarters in Costa Rica.

US Lists Bolson Tortoise

Mexico's Bolson tortoise *Gopherus flavomarginatus*, North America's largest land reptile, which was recently added to Appendix I of CITES, has been listed as endangered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the result of habitat destruction — cultivation and irrigation — throughout its range in Chihuahua, Coahuila and Durango.

Grant for Costa Rica

Costa Rica's Association for the Conservation of Nature (ASCONA) has received a \$240,000 grant from the US Agency for International Development (AID) for an environmental education campaign.

Black Coral Protected

Black coral has been declared an endangered species in the British Virgin Islands; the penalty for unlicensed trade in it can be a £1000 fine or one year's imprisonment.

AFRICA

1.3 Million African Elephants

Latest estimates put Africa's elephant population at 1.3 million, ranging across seven million sq km in 36 countries,

according to the IUCN Elephant Specialist Group, headed by Dr Iain Douglas-Hamilton. Some 15 per cent of their range is protected and contains about 20 per cent of the population.

Canada to Train Kenyans

Canada has granted Kenya more than £1 million to improve the management and development of its wildlife resources, and six Canadian Wildlife management specialists will be attached to the Wildlife Planning Unit for four years to train local personnel.

Reedruck Explosion

Southern reedruck *Redunca arundinum* inhabiting South Africa's Eastern Shores, a strip of land between Lake St Lucia and the Indian Ocean, have responded so well to a Forestry Department policy of replacing grazing land in the area with pine forests that a population which was dwindling in the 1950s now shows signs of being too large. A 1974 estimate of 2125 increased to 3795 in 1977, and it has become common for males to kill each other in what should be only ritual combat; also, an all-white strain has appeared. Suggestions for population control include 'harvesting' and reintroduction of the cheetah.

Stripping Stinkwood in Natal

Despite legal protection, the black stinkwood tree *Ocotea bullata* could vanish from Natal within five years, according to the African Wildlife Society's Director of Conservation, because its bark is valued as a powerful medicine, good-luck charm and lightning repellent. Ninety-five per cent of the trees in sample areas had lost some bark, and 40 per cent had been ring-barked and would die.

Roan and Sable Malnourished

A 3½-year study of roan and sable antelopes in southern Africa, where both species have declined considerably in recent decades, showed that in South Africa bad nutrition precipitating disease was a principal cause of mortality.

Khartoum Environmental Institute

An Institute of Environmental Studies has been set up in Khartoum in the Sudan, the first of its kind in Africa, to research on major problems, especially the ever-advancing desert. It is affiliated to the Faculty of Science in Khartoum University.

Lion Values

Economic note: the capital value of a live full-maned lion in Amboseli National Park in Kenya for tourist purposes has been computed at \$15,000, compared with the value of its skin in commerce, which is \$1150.

Trouble in the Fynbos

A survey of the Cape Province heathlands known as the fynbos, which are shrinking under pressure from roads, railways, townships, industry, farming, forestry and exotic plants, showed that 562 plant species have uncertain status, 278 are rare, 110 vulnerable and 89 endangered; 60 are presumed and 36 are definitely extinct in the wild. South Africa's National Programme for Environmental Sciences has called the fynbos a disaster area and hopes to produce a conservation plan by 1986.

ASIA

Breakthrough in China

China has agreed to join IUCN and CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, to set up a national WWF committee and to require environmental impact assessments on all future development projects. This announcement came during a visit to Peking by a delegation which included Sir Peter Scott, Chairman of WWF International and of FPS; Charles De Haes, WWF's Director-General; and Dr Lee Talbot, Director of Conservation for WWF and an FPS Vice-President. Mr De Haes called the agreement 'the most significant single development in conservation since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972'.

Jordan Bans Hunting

Jordan has banned hunting of all species of animals except fish and will no longer grant import licences for any item of hunting equipment.

Dam for Silent Valley?

The Society for the Protection of Silent Valley has been formed to fight a proposed hydro-electric project in one of India's last remaining rain forests, a habitat of the lion-tailed macaque *Macaca silenus*. The Kerala State Assembly has already approved the project, but Professor M. K. Prasad, the Society's leader, has filed a suit against this approval in the State's High Court.

India Sanctions Gharial Project

India has officially sanctioned the Chambal River National Gharial Sanctuary Project, a precondition for declaring a 2500-sq-km reserve in the Chambal Valley.

Guard Stations for Thailand

A guard station has been built with WWF money in each of the five wildlife sanctuaries in Thailand, all of which are also tiger reserves; in one, Phu Hkien Sanctuary in the north-east, Sumatran rhino tracks have been seen in recent years.

Tourist Invasion

The large numbers of tourists visiting Sri Lanka's national parks cause so much disturbance to resident animals that breeding and migratory habits have begun to change and some diurnal species have become nocturnal. The Wildlife Department has asked the Tourist Board to control the numbers.

Threat to Seram Allayed

Dam and transmigration schemes that would have damaged Wae Mual and Wae Nua, on the Indonesian island of Seram, have been withdrawn after a representation to the provincial governor by FAO and the national Director of Nature Conservation. Timber concessions that would have encroached on the reserves were re-defined to exclude both the reserves the proposed extensions which would join the two into a single national park.

Indonesian Training School Opens

Indonesia has opened a Conservation Training School near Bogor with an initial enrolment of 29 students drawn from the Directorates of Nature Conservation and Forestry Planning.

ANTIPODES

Whaling Ban

Australia has announced that it will ban whaling inside its impending 200-mile fishing zone and within 200 miles of its Antarctic Territory, and from January 1981 will prohibit imports of all whale products.

Legless Lizard Rediscovered

A legless lizard, the bronzeback *Ophidiocephalus taeniatus*, known only from a single specimen described in 1897, has been rediscovered near Alice Springs. Herpetologists Harry Ehmann and Dean Metcalf collected ten specimens in January 1978.



Brolga, the Australian crane

Brolga Killer Fined

A Queensland man has been fined A\$3080 for killing 67 brolgas *Grus rubicunda*.

Saltwater Crocodiles Surveyed

Sixty river systems in northern Australia, covering 2786 km of tidal waterways, were surveyed for saltwater crocodiles *Crocodylus porosus* in 1975-78. Of the 4353 crocodiles sighted, 22 per cent were hatchlings and more than half were sub-adults. This recruitment is still small, despite total protection since 1974, and reflects the extreme over-harvesting for the skin trade before 1974. It could take over a decade for the juveniles in the present population to reach maturity and start a faster rate of increase.

ACF Grant Cut

The Federal Government's annual grant to the Australian Conservation Foundation was cut by one-third between 1977/78 and 1978/79, from A\$150,000 to A\$100,000.

OCEANS

Reef Destruction in the Maldives

Several fish species have disappeared and starfish and sea urchins have declined sharply in the Maldives as a result of taking coral to build accommodation for tourists. Because the reefs protect the low-lying islands from high seas the destroyed areas have been replaced by artificial sea-breaks built with coral from other reefs.

Coral Reef Group

The IUCN's Survival Service Commission has formed a Coral Reef Group, with consultants from all the main coral-reef areas. It will publish a newsletter three times a year, obtainable from the chairman, Dr Bernard Salvat, Laboratoire de Biologie marin et Malacologie, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, 55 rue de Buffon, 75007, Paris.

Tree Fern Logging on Hawaii

Three hundred acres of virgin tree-fern forest will be logged on Hawaii Island in an area designated as top priority by the US Fish and Wildlife Service because of the unusually large number of endangered species there. Permission has been given by the State Board of Land and Natural Resources. The rarities include three of the only four known *Tetraplasandra kawaiensis grandis* trees and a newly discovered and as yet unnamed giant *Drosophila* fly, which lives in conjunction with them. Approval was granted against the recommendation of the Board's Division of Forestry and despite strong opposition from the Hawaii Audubon Society.

Magpie Robin Transfer

Seychelles magpie robins *Copsychus sechellarum*, once found on several islands in the archipelago but wiped out by domestic cats on all but Frégate, are being transferred to nearby Aride in the hope of establishing a breeding population there.

Galapagos Tourists Exceed Limit

The number of visitors to the Galapagos Islands in 1978 was over 13,500, considerably exceeding the maximum of 12,000 laid down in the master plan. Nearly 2000 were day visitors. Efforts are being made to ensure that the limit is adhered to.

Pot Luck

Incidental catches of other species by tuna fishermen are not limited to dolphins. US observers aboard a Japanese longline trawler in the Gulf of Mexico in April and May 1978 recorded that of 1254 catches 782 were bluefin, yellowfin or bigeye tuna, 89 dolphins, 214 various sharks, 68 swordfish, 45 lancefish, and 33 white and 12 blue marlin, as well as spearfish, sailfish, oilfish, opah, sunfish, wahoo, manta ray, amberjack and king mackerel.

Sierra Rammed

The *Sierra*, the most notorious of the 'pirate' whalers, was rammed in Oporto harbour in July by the *Sea Sheppard*, a ship belonging to the US-based Fund for Animals. Though the 683-ton Cyprus-registered factory ship was holed (the *Sea Sheppard's* prow had been reinforced with concrete), all the damage was above the water-line and deemed repairable by the *Sierra's* agency, which also announced that once the repairs were made the ship would be sold.



NEW NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES

Peru has created the 366,936-ha Salinas Aguada Blanca National Reserve in the southern State of Arequipa, to which some of the expanding population of vicuñas in the Pampa Galeras Reserve will be translocated, joining small, scattered groups of vicuñas already there. The reserve also harbours guanacos, tarukas and Andean and James flamingoes.

Namibia has created a 22,836-sq-km national park, the Namib-Naukluft, which includes all the former Namib Desert Park and contains four distinct regions: gravel plains and canyons, sand dunes, coastal wetlands, and the Naukluft — 970 sq km of cliffs, canyons, plateaus and forest. Amongst its wildlife are kudu, baboons, gemsbok, dassies, klipspringer, and Hartmann's mountain zebra.

The President of the Republic of Panama announced that the 50,000-acre pipeline reservation on the Canal Zone would become a natural park from October 1. FPS sent congratulations.

Western Samoa has created its first national park, O Le Pupu-Pu'e, 2800ha on the southern island of Upolu, rising from volcanic coastline to montane rain forest and including the only relatively inaccessible wilderness on the island.

The Government of Malta has declared the Ghadira Pool at Mellieha, and a 500m perimeter round it, a bird sanctuary. The pool is an important wetland and rest area for migratory birds.

Four nature reserves totalling 620ha of heathlands and dunes have been established on the West German island of Sylt.

Five crocodile sanctuaries have been established in the Indian State of Andhra Pradesh: Nagarjuna Sagar, Srisailam, Papi Konda, Coringa and Manjira.

Two reserves, of 295ha and 848ha, have been established in north-west Estonia to protect some of the country's 260 bears.

The Wild Life Society of Rhodesia has leased 500ha of the Cecil Kop Range from the city of Umtali to be used as a game park and conservation area.

The Royal Forest and Bird Society of New Zealand has bought 45ha of native bush and marshland 30km from Auckland to be named the Te Henga reserve.

The Canadian Nature Federation has bought its first sanctuary, 57ha of aspen parkland 30 miles from Edmonton, Alberta, to be known as the Clifford E. Lee Nature Sanctuary.

Over 600 acres of Martin Down has been secured for preservation by the joint action of the Hampshire County Council and the Nature Conservancy Council.

The Hampshire Trust has been given Brockenhurst Woods, 800 acres of woodland heath and bog on the edge of the New Forest, by Peter Barker-Mill.

PERSONALIA

The Natural Resources Council of America, comprising 47 US conservation organisations with a total membership of five million, has given its annual Award of Honour to Carl W. Buchheister, former President of the National Audubon Society.

Professor Archie Carr, widely known for his work with marine turtles, and Marjorie Harris Carr, a wildlife biologist who led the successful struggle against the Army Corps of Engineers' plan to build a canal across Florida, have each been awarded the New York Zoological Society's Gold Medal.

President Jimmy Carter was named Conservationist of the Year by the US National Wildlife Federation at a joint meeting with the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Dr Ian McTaggart Cowan of the University of British Columbia was named International Conservationist of the Year, and Dr Fred G. Evenden Wildlife Conservationist of the Year.

Roger Ewbank, a senior lecturer in animal husbandry at Liverpool University, has been appointed Director of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW), succeeding Major Walter Scott.

Ir. H. Prijono Hardjosentono has retired as Director of Indonesia's Directorate of Nature Conservation (PPA) and is succeeded by Ir. H. Lukito Daryadi.



Russell A. Peterson, a former Chairman of the US Council on Environmental Quality, has succeeded Dr Elvis J. Stahr as President of the National Audubon Society. Dr Stahr had led the Society since 1968.

W. H. Phelps Jr has resigned as Chairman of the ICBP Venezuelan National Section and is succeeded by Dr Eugene Eisenmann.

Sandra Price has been appointed Director of African Operations of the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation, succeeding Bob Poole, who was killed in a car accident.

Keith M. Schreiner, formerly director of the US Endangered Species Program, has been appointed the Fish and Wildlife Service's Area Director for Alaska.

Dr Lee M. Talbot, an FPS Vice-President, formerly Assistant for International and Scientific Affairs to the Chairman of the President's Council for Environmental Quality, has joined WWF as Director of Conservation and Special Scientific Adviser.

Michael Wright, formerly Director of International Programs, US Nature Conservancy, has become Director of Operations, US World Wildlife Fund.

OBITUARIES

Dr David Bannerman, who died in April aged 92, was one of the most prolific ornithological writers of the century, best known for his 8-volume *Birds of Tropical West Africa* and 12-volume *Birds of the British Isles*. His great

services to ornithology were recognised by the honorary offices he held in many ornithological bodies, both at home and abroad.

Newton B. Drury, Director of the US National Park Service from 1940 to 1951, when many important national parks, including the Everglades and Grand Teton, were included, has died, aged 89.

Dr Peter Enderlein, Chairman of the IUCN/SSC Wild Cattle Group, died in a logging accident on his property in Sweden on May 5.

Sir Robert Falla KBE CMG DSc FRSNZ, the first Chairman of New Zealand's Nature Conservation Council, a former director of both the Canterbury and Dominion (now National) museums, and famous for his studies of Antarctic and New Zealand birds, including the rediscovered *Notornis*, died on February 23, aged 77.

Dr Cecil Thomas Prime, formerly Vice-President of the Botanical Society, President of the South London Botanical Institute and Chairman of the Council for Nature, died on February 5.

John Proctor, who had worked as conservation adviser in the Seychelles, was killed in a car crash in Suriname in July while engaged in a wildlife conservation survey for the Overseas Development Agency.

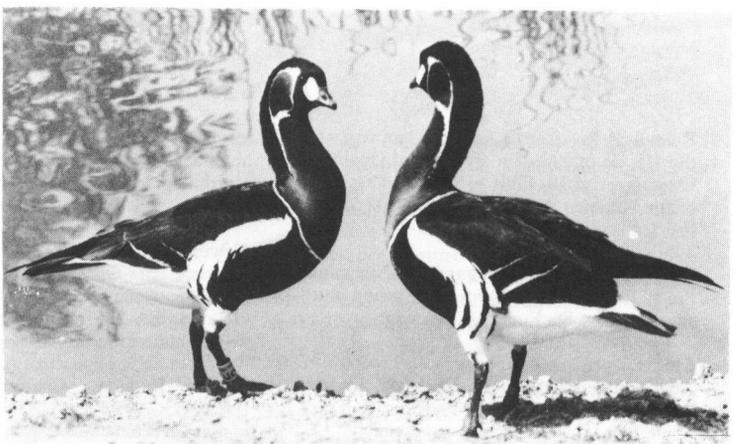
Norman D. Riley, distinguished entomologist and member of the FPS since 1934, has died. He was the author of *The Guide to the Butterflies of Britain and Europe*.

Corrections

In the June 1979 *Oryx* (p21) it was reported that the US Endangered Species Management Authority would 'no longer grant import permits for chimpanzees'. However, Dr Geza Teleki, a member of the IUCN Survival Service Commission's Primate Specialist Group, has checked this with the Authority and found that 'though (it) has denied approval of import permits . . . during 1978 and 1979 . . . there is no official policy regarding an embargo . . . All 1978-79 permit applications have been rejected due to failure to comply with routine formats, and several permit applications . . . are passing through established channels of review. Some may be granted, others not.'

In the November 1978 *Oryx* (p307) an item based on a report from St Louis Zoo incorrectly claimed that a captive-born orang-utan which did not reject her infant was unique in that respect. Dr Michael Brambell, Director of Chester Zoo and formerly Curator of Mammals at London Zoo, points out that Chester, London and many other zoos 'have had normal rearings for several years now'.

Appeal for Wildfowl



The Wildfowl Trust has launched a Special Appeal for £1.6 million because, says Sir Peter Scott, Hon. Director, that is 'the precise minimum we need' to build up cash reserves, to create a land-purchase fund and to improve, both for birds and people, the Trust's seven centres open to the public and three ringing stations. The Wildfowl Trust is the most remarkable and successful amalgam of research, education, conservation and entertainment. Started in 1946 by Sir Peter Scott at Slimbridge, on the Severn estuary, half a million people, including 200,000 children, visit the centres each year. The red-breasted geese in the photograph are one of the numbers of rare species bred by the Trust, best known being the nene or Hawaiian goose, of which 1100 have been reared and 200 returned to the wild in the Haleakala Crater on the Hawaiian island of Maui.

New FPS Overseas Consultants

The following have accepted invitations to act as FPS overseas consultants:

Egypt	Professor A. Maher Ali	New Hebrides	Gerald Burman
Bahrain	F. Izzeddin	Papua New Guinea	Mrs B. Hudson
Iran	A. Ashtiani	Romania	Dr I. Fuhr
Japan	Noritaka Ichida	Armenian SSR	Dr Kh. P. Mirimanian
Korea	Professor E. Kim	Mexico	Dr H. Granados
Nepal	Hemanta Mishra	Middle America	Dr Craig MacFarland

FPS now has 121 consultants in 75 countries.

Wildlife Disaster

As we go to press it looks as though a disaster comparable to the early decimation of the passenger pigeon faces the waterfowl of North America's Mississippi flyway. In October, when all the waterfowl that breed in the Great Plains, Canada's prairie provinces and the Canadian western Arctic migrate down the flyway to the Gulf of Mexico, they will fly straight into the oil spilling out of the great Mexican gusher off the Yucatan peninsula that is now reaching the Texas coast. Among those waterfowl will be almost the whole world stock of wild whooping cranes, bound for the Aransas Wildlife Refuge, which is right in the line of the oil's advance. In addition to this impending holocaust, the gusher could also exterminate the Atlantic ridley turtle, whose whole world population nests on the Mexican Gulf coast. Also bound for the scrap heap will be the shrimp fishery, hitherto the main threat to the turtle's continued existence, and many other local fisheries throughout the Gulf. The original flow of 30,000 barrels a day has been reduced to 10,000, but mid-October is the earliest date at which the gusher is likely to be staunched.