

Members' diary

London Meetings

London meetings are held in the Zoo Meeting Rooms, in the Outer Circle of Regent's Park. Each includes a wine and cheese buffet supper or lunch and tickets are available from the ffPS office (an SAE would be appreciated). For catering purposes please ensure that you book your ticket at least one week in advance of the meeting date.

Forthcoming meetings are listed below and details of the two meeting planned for the New Year can be found on the insert in this *Oryx*.

Reintroductions of Extinct British Wildlife Symposium—Saturday, 1 December at 10 am. Papers will include 'The Spread of Pine Marten, Polecat, Wild Cat and other Mammals', 'Reintroduction of Captive-Bred Otters in East Anglia', 'Sea Eagles on Rhum', 'The Red Squirrel in Regent's Park', 'Translocation of Sand Lizards and Natterjack Toads' and 'Reintroduction of the Large Blue Butterfly'.

Tickets are available from the ffPS office and cost £5.00 each. This includes coffee, tea and a wine and cheese buffet lunch.

Joint ffPS/British Ornithologists' Union Autumn Scientific Meeting Tuesday, 4 December at 6.30 pm. We look forward to joining with the BOU for this meeting when the subject will be *Conservation in Madagascar*. Guest speakers will be Lee Durrell on Latest Scientific Research in Madagascar, Dr Nigel Collar on Threatened Birds in Madagascar and Olivier Langrand who will show his superb slides of the birds of the region. A wine and cheese buffet supper will be served and tickets cost £3.50.

A holiday in Costa Rica?

The Instituto Idioma Internacional (The International Language Institute of Costa Rica), San José, Costa Rica offers an exciting holiday programme featuring visits to several national parks. Full details from the ffPS office.

The ffPS has produced this sticker as part of its campaign to improve the image of Britain's snakes, which are often persecuted irrationally. All three species have declined in numbers and only the endangered smooth snake is protected by law. The grass snake is extinct in many parts of its range; one reason is probably the disappearance of horse-manure heaps (in which grass snakes lay their eggs) from the countryside. ffPS plans to build horse-manure heaps in areas where grass snakes still occur to encourage greater breeding success. The design was donated by Jan Pienkowski and is available from ffPS for 50p, including postage and packing.



The third sticker in the set produced by the Society for the Study and Conservation of Nature in Malta, as part of its campaign to conserve the Maltese flora, is now available from the ffPS office, free, but please send an SAE. It shows the pheasant's eye *Adonis microcarpa*, an annual plant that was once common in Malta's fields. Its scarlet decorative flowers are cut for sale and the consequent lack of a seed source is considerably depleting local populations.

