

## News in Brief

### IUCN Meeting in Delhi

The tenth general assembly of IUCN is to be held in Delhi in November, and special reports on the wildlife situation in India will appear in *ORYX* in May 1970. An important recent appointment in India is that of the Chief of the Army Staff *ex-officio* to the Indian Wild Life Board. The present Chief is General S. H. F. J. Manecksha, MC.

### To Conserve British Insects

A Joint Committee has been set up for the Conservation of British Insects. With more than 20,000 species, insects are the largest section of the British fauna, and beneficial and harmless ones greatly exceed the pests (so called). Secretary is Dr M. G. Morris, Monks Wood, Abbots Ripon, Huntingdon.

### Tigers Protected

The states of Rajasthan and Orissa have both made the tiger a protected animal and banned all shooting, the former for five years. The population of tigers in Rajasthan is believed to be about 100 animals.

### Welcome for Wolves

Wolves have been seen in the US Yellowstone National Park where it was thought that they had been exterminated. This is welcome news to the park officials, for they would keep down the elk, which, with no predators to cull them, keep outgrowing their food supply.

### Morelet's Crocodile near Extinction

An investigation into the status of Morelet's crocodile in Mexico last year, conducted by the Instituto Mexicano de Recursos Naturales Renovables, aided by WWF, confirmed that the species is almost extinct. Four crocodiles were taken to a Mexican zoo with a view to breeding them in captivity.

### Good News of the Trumpeter

The trumpeter swan has been taken out of the US Red Book of endangered wildlife. After counts last year, the population in the States was estimated to be as high as 5000 with more birds in Canada. This compares with a population of 69 in 1932, the result of slaughter for feathers and meat, and shows what determined conservation can do.

### White Rhino and Water for the Kruger

Thirty-eight more white rhinos have been taken from Natal and released in the Kruger National Park thanks to a grant from the South African Wildlife Foundation (the WWF national appeal in South Africa). The Foundation has also transferred an earmarked gift from Mr Charles Englehard to construct the Letaba dam in the Kruger which will have a capacity of 700 million gallons.

### Death on the Roads

More animals, most of them wild, are killed by vehicles on United States roads every year than by hunters. The American AA estimates that at least 365 million were killed in this way in 1968. A one-day count in one state (Florida) produced 5000 dead quail and 2000 squirrels, rabbits, birds, rodents and reptiles.