

## THE SOCIETY'S BUSINESS

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, held at the Offices of the Zoological Society of London on Tuesday, 17th April, 1956, at 5.0 p.m.

The Marquess of Willingdon, President, in the Chair.

About eighty members present.

(1) The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

(2) *Auditors' Report*.—It was proposed by the Honorary Treasurer, seconded by Mr. Edwin Cohen and carried unanimously that the Report of the Auditors for the year ending 31st December, 1955, be approved and adopted.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Auditors, which was carried unanimously.

(3) *Council's Annual Report*.—It was proposed from the Chair, seconded by Mr. A. C. Botwright and carried unanimously that the Report of the Council for the year ending 31st December, 1955, be approved and adopted.

Mr. Botwright said he would like to congratulate Mr. Mervyn Cowie on his Royal Festival Hall lecture and on the lecture tour, which had been quite a feat of endurance, and suggested that the thanks of the Society to Mr. Cowie should be placed on record. This was unanimously agreed.

(4) *Arising out of the Report*, the Chairman asked Dr. Fraser Darling and Mr. I. D. Malcolmson each to say a few words on their recent visits to Africa.

Dr. Fraser Darling commented on the status of the red lechwe. He stated that in 1931–32 there were 250,000 of these animals on the Kafue flood plains. To-day there were only 25,000, half of this number living close together on the Lochinvar Ranch, and not in such good condition as the other half which inhabited the rest of the Kafue Flats. Dr. Darling said that the native *Chilas*, or tribal hunts, were, to a great extent, to blame for the heavy reduction in numbers and if the destruction of this animal, which occurred only in Northern Rhodesia, continued at this rate, it would not be long before it was completely extinct.

Mr. Malcolmson said that he had quite recently visited the Lochinvar Ranch and, as well as red lechwe, there were a number of other species of animals resident there, including many kinds of antelope, lion, cheetah and leopard. The ranch was a sanctuary, surrounded by land on which no game remains at all.

There had, Mr. Malcolmson said, been a great deal of talk about Lochinvar Ranch being sold and turned into a game

sanctuary, but it was difficult to discover the intentions of the owners. In his opinion, if bought by the Government or public funds, the ranch could, properly handled, be turned into an excellent game sanctuary. If it was sold privately, however, to someone not interested in wild life preservation, the game would completely disappear in a very short time.

Mr. Malcolmson said he had also visited Southern Rhodesia and had discussions on the newly-published Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Report. In this connection, there was nothing the Society could do until after the debate on the Report in the Southern Rhodesia Parliament.

(5) *Election of Officers.*—It was proposed by Mr. Edwin Cohen, seconded by Sir Vincent Baddeley and carried unanimously that the Marquess of Willingdon be re-elected President of the Society, and Mr. I. D. Malcolmson re-elected Honorary Treasurer.

The President thanked the meeting on behalf of Mr. Malcolmson and himself for their re-election, thanked the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary for their work, and expressed gratitude to the Zoological Society of London for their unfailing help at all times.

(6) *New Members of Council.*—It was proposed by Lord Willingdon, seconded by Mrs. Penelope Seaman and carried unanimously that the following elections to Council be confirmed :—

Lieut.-Colonel G. A. E. Gibbs, R.E.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Hurcomb, G.C.B., K.B.E.

D. R. Rosevear, Esq., C.B.E.

(7) *Lecture.*—Immediately after the Annual General Meeting, Mrs. Iris Darnton spoke about the wild life of East Africa and showed her film "From Hippos to Sunbirds in Uganda".

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs. Darnton, which was carried with acclamation.

The Meeting ended at 6.30 p.m.

*Christmas Cards, 1956.*—The Society is most grateful to Mr. Maurice Wilson for the gift of his picture of polar bears, painted specially for our Christmas card.

Order forms for Christmas cards will be found in this number of *Oryx*.

#### WILD LIFE FILMS

The film library consists of the following 16 mm. films and one 35 mm. film strip. All are coloured unless otherwise stated. They may be borrowed by members.

*Silent Films*

- “The African Elephant.” 10 minutes.  
“Wild Life of East Africa.” 45 minutes.  
“Wild Life in Southern Rhodesia.” Elephants and other animals in the Wankie national park, with a commentary. 15 minutes.  
“Wild Animals of the Indian Jungle.” 20 minutes.  
“Foxes and Badgers.” 11 minutes.  
“Animals of Australia.” 10 minutes, black and white.

*Sound Films*

- “Kinship of the Creature.” By Bernard Kunicki. The animals of East Africa, with a plea for their preservation. 20 minutes.  
“South Africa’s Game Parks.” A tourist film of the Kruger National Park, and the Hluhluwe Reserve. 16 minutes.  
“Expedition Moose.” The protection of the moose in Ontario, Canada, 18 minutes.  
“Ring-necked Pheasant.” The life-history in Canada of the introduced ring-necked pheasant, 12 minutes.  
“Heritage of Natal and Zululand.” A tourist film of the Natal National Parks, 12 minutes.  
“Wild Life in Uganda.” 12 minutes.  
“Stronghold of the Wild.” East African animals and the work of the game departments, 35 minutes, black and white.  
“Down in the Forest.” Australia (Kangaroos), 6 minutes.

*35 mm. Film Strip*

- “Wild Life in East Africa.” Twenty-five coloured pictures of animals, together with written commentary, suitable for an hour’s talk.