

Briefly . . . Compiled by Richard Fitter

The items under this title continue the service formerly supplied by the newsletter *Kingfisher*.

INTERNATIONAL

Bad News on Whales

The Japanese and Russian Governments have used the 90-day rule to denounce some of the agreements made by the International Whaling Commission at its meeting in London in June. Both governments adopt an anti-conservation stance in objecting to the quota of 5000 minke whales in the Antarctic and to regulating the southern hemisphere sperm whale catch by geographical areas. Japan additionally objects to the proposal to phase out fin whale hunting by 1976.

USA & USSR Co-operate

Under the joint Russian-American scientific programme Soviet and American scientists are to work out means of conserving endangered species that migrate between the two countries, such as polar bears and swans. They will also co-operate in the study and protection of such ecological analogues as the American buffalo and the European bison.

Ford Grant for IUCN

The Ford Foundation has awarded a further grant of \$300,000 to IUCN for the years 1973 and 1974. Ford's previous \$650,000 grant to IUCN terminated at the end of 1972.

New IUCN State Members

The adherence of Australia and Bangladesh to the IUCN Statutes, and the re-adherence of Venezuela, brings the number of State Members of IUCN up to 36.

A Change of Name

The Conseil International de la Chasse, the international hunting organisation, has changed its name to Conseil International de la Chasse et de la Conservation du Gibier, which they translate as International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation.

Przewalski Horses Increase

On January 1, 1973, there were 206 Przewalski horses in 16 zoos in eleven countries, according to the latest edition of the *Pedigree Book of the Przewalski Horse*, published by Prague Zoo. This represents an increase of ten animals during 1972. Thirty foals were born during the year.

Studbook for Golden Marmosets

The first edition of the Golden Lion Marmoset Studbook has now been issued by Marvin L. Jones, the Studbook Keeper on behalf of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, Oglebay Park, Wheeling, W.Va 26003. Animals are kept in 39 zoos, 23 of them in the United States. In June twin golden marmosets were born at Los Angeles Zoo, the second occurrence of second-generation births of this species at the zoo in 1973.

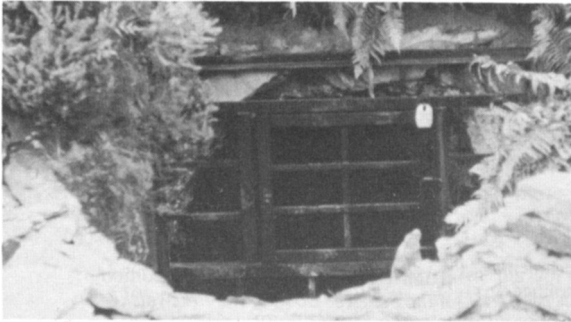
Zoo Co-operation

When Lion Country Safari of Los Angeles succeeded in identifying a strange ape sent to them in error as a siamang gibbon, it turned out to be a female dwarf gibbon *Hylobates klossii*. This rare species is confined to the Mentawai Islands off Sumatra, where it is gravely threatened by forest destruction. The only other dwarf gibbons known to be in captivity are at Basel Zoo in Switzerland, where the Los Angeles specimen has now been sent to join the breeding group.

BRITISH ISLES

The New Conservancy

Sir David Serpell's colleagues on the new Nature Conservancy Council have now been announced. They are Mrs Jean Balfour, Chairman of the Countryside Commission for Scotland; Dr D. A. Bassett, geologist; Professor



PROTECTION FOR BATS: several naturalists' trusts in Britain have erected grilles to protect roosting bats in caves. This one was put up by the Scottish Wildlife Trust at the entrance to their Aberfoyle Bat Reserve. *Carmen Placido*

A. D. Bradshaw, botanist; H. A. Maxwell, forester; Sir David Montgomery, landowner; Dr J. Phillipson, zoologist; A. E. Smith, Acting Chairman of the old Nature Conservancy; Hew Watt, farmer; and Professor G. P. Wibberley, planner.

Dieldrin out at last!

Supplies of aldrin and dieldrin to the trade ceased on December 31, following consultations between the Government and the chemical industry, and on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides and Other Toxic Chemicals.

Lost East Coast Fisheries

At one time the estuaries of the Thames, Medway, Humber and Tees were all sites of important shrimp, eel, flounder and smelt fisheries, and some had mussel and oyster beds. Even twenty years ago an inshore vessel could catch 1000 bushels of pink shrimps in a single haul. Today all these fisheries have gone, thanks to pollution, and the Director of Fisheries Research at Lowestoft points out that we are becoming so accustomed to their absence that we forget that these resources once existed. If the pollution could be stopped, they would come back.

Mercury in British Fish

Some fish caught in the Thames estuary contain up to 2.5 ppm (parts per million) of mercury, according to a survey published by the Ministry of Agriculture, and so are unfit for human consumption, especially for pregnant women. In Sweden levels above 1 ppm are regarded as unfit for human

consumption, and in Canada and the USA the recommended figure is 0.5 ppm.

Cleansing the Tees

The lower reaches of the River Tees are grossly polluted, lethal to fish and visually repulsive. Teesside Council has publicly dedicated itself to purifying the river so that fish can once more swim in it. They will be spending millions in the next few years to treat domestic sewage. Yet the public sewers contribute only 13 per cent of the pollution. Industry, mainly petrochemical works and ironworks, puts in the rest in the form of phenols, suspended solids, cyanides, arsenic and heavy metals. Industrialists have promised to halve their effluents by 1975, but do not appear actually to have done anything yet.

Polystyrene in the Severn

Polystyrene spherules of 1 mm diameter, similar to those reported widely from New England, have been found in several parts of the Severn estuary. Spherules have been found in the stomachs of flounders and in mud and sand samples in Bridgwater Bay, where many polychaete worms have constructed dwelling tubes almost entirely from them. Larger fragments, along with fragments of paraffin wax, up to 3 gm in weight, have been found in several places along the North Devon coast.

High Cost of Weeding

Nearly a quarter of the 99,000 miles of main rivers, dykes and ditches in Great Britain are being managed to control



aquatic weeds. The cost of removing them by hand is about £140 a mile, compared with £40 a mile for treatment by herbicides. The East Suffolk and Norfolk River Authority is to introduce grass carp into the Norfolk Broads to control the weeds. The fish will be reared at the Authority's own fish farm.

Cyanide from the Roads

The present methods of de-icing British roads in winter are poisoning the rivers with cyanide. The rock salt used for clearing roads of ice is treated with ferrocyanide to reduce caking. The salt is washed off the roads through the storm-water drains into the rivers.

North Sea Gas Kills Trees

More than 500 trees are estimated to have been killed by leaking North Sea gas in various parts of Britain, and hundreds of others appear to be at risk. They are mostly in suburban streets close to gas mains. At Bridlington, Yorks, a rosebed was killed. North Sea gas is not more lethal than the town gas it has replaced, but as it is circulated at double the pressure, it is more likely to escape.

Dutch Elm Disease

Dutch elm disease continued to spread during 1973. Of some 14 million elms in England and Wales, 1.8m are dying or recently dead, 600,000 are long dead, and a further 1.2m are slightly affected. The proportion of dying and dead trees has risen from 5.6 per cent in 1971 to 17.5 in 1973. A further 3 per cent has been felled over the past few years, mainly because of the disease. The worst affected counties are Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Kent, Somerset, Surrey, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. Gloucestershire alone has nearly 400,000 dead or dying elms.

Loch Strathbeg Reprieved

The Gas Corporation has announced that the proposed development of Loch Strathbeg, Aberdeenshire, for natural gas exploitation will not now take place, because a vital Ministry of Defence radio station is to be built there. The Corporation's spokesman has pointedly said that the considerable

pressure brought on the Corporation by conservationists had no influence in the decision.

Japanese Seaweed Invades

The Japanese seaweed *Sargassum muticum*, which can grow at a rate of 2cm a day, has gained a foothold in Bembridge Harbour in the Isle of Wight. Some fronds are already 3m long, and it is feared that if it spreads it may oust indigenous species and foul fishing nets and the propellers of small boats. Attempts, led by scientists from Portsmouth Polytechnic, who discovered it in February 1973, are being made to eradicate it.

A Helleborine Saved

Derbyshire Naturalists' Trust has co-operated with Laporte Industries to save some dark red helleborine *Epipactis atrorubens* plants that were threatened by fluorspar mining. The plants were successfully transplanted to an enclosure next to one which Laporte fenced off some years ago to protect another small colony of these attractive orchids.

EUROPE

Belgian Bird Trapping Again

The Belgian Government has given in once again to pressure from the bird-catching interest, and has relaxed its total ban on bird-catching, allowing 120,000 birds to be netted in autumn 1973.

Botulism on the Coto

Botulism, a deadly bacterial disease, has been established as the cause of the mass deaths of thousands of water and wading birds, of 52 species, in the area of the famous Coto Donaña reserve at the mouth of the Guadalquivir river in southern Spain. It is estimated that 80 per cent of the resident spoonbill population has been wiped out.

Stelvio Park Threatened

The Stelvio National Park in the Italian Alps is threatened with being broken up into three provincial parks. One of the three provinces in which it lies is trying to establish provincial autonomy in the area of the park which includes the highest summits, including Mt Cevedale, 3769 m.

Sweden's Dead and Dying Lakes

In a survey of 1100 lakes in the Stockholm area, 80 were found to be dead, 100 dying, and 90 more at risk if nothing is done to save them within 3–5 years.

Britain Kills Norway's Trout

The catch of salmon has been seriously reduced in the rivers of southern Norway in the past twenty years, and in many of them first the salmon and then the trout have disappeared. Trout have also become extinct in several thousand lakes in southern Norway, and attempts at restocking have failed. The cause seems to be the increasingly acid rain falling over Scandinavia in recent years, due to atmospheric pollution from industrial north-west Europe, especially Britain.

Reoxygenating Lac Lemay

16,000 tons of pure oxygen is to be pumped into the Lake of Geneva at a cost of £1m to revive this heavily polluted lake.

Fewer Polar Bears Hunted

A big decrease in the number of polar bears killed by hunters in Spitzbergen, from 129 in 1970/71 to 60 in 1971/72 is reported. The quotas for these years were 300 and 171. This is the result of the banning of the so-called Arctic safaris as well as of professional hunting.

Finland Protects Wolves

A presidential decree in Finland has declared the wolf, of which only ten are believed to survive in the whole country, a protected species, except in reindeer pastures in the north.

Cretan Wild Goat Study

The Zoological Societies of New York and San Diego are jointly financing a field project by Nicolaos Papageorgeiou to study the ecology of the endangered Cretan wild goat. Only a few hundred are believed to survive in the wild.

Peregrines in Sweden

The number of peregrines in Sweden continues to decline sharply. In 1973 the number of pairs nesting (7–8) was nearly 50 per cent down on 1972, and they reared only 11–13 young.

Avocets Threatened

Three-quarters of the entire north-west European avocet population feeds on the Dollard mudflats, part of the Ems estuary which separates Germany from the Netherlands. These feeding grounds are currently threatened by Dutch plans to reclaim the Dollard. Dutch conservationists have advanced alternative plans.

WWF Appeal Revived

A new French National Appeal of WWF was launched in October under the title, Association Française du World Wildlife Fund, with M. Claude Foussier as President and M. Claude Collard as Hon. Secretary.

NORTH AMERICA

The Pipeline Goes Ahead

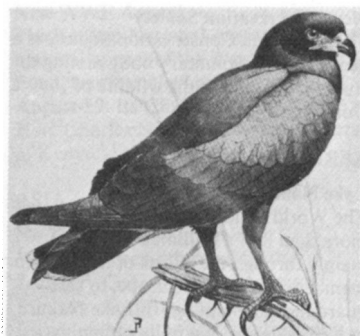
The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System finally won its way through the US Congress in August. Oil will be piped from the North Slope to Valdez in southern Alaska, and thence moved by tanker to Puget Sound, Washington. Great fears are now being expressed for the future of the north-west coast's valuable salmon fisheries.

Florida Cougar in Danger

Ronald M. Nowak of Kansas University and Roy McBride, a professional panther hunter from Texas, have challenged the recent estimate of 100 or more individuals for the Florida cougar *Felis concolor coryi*. They are the first people for many years to make a full-time attempt to estimate the size of the population, and they find a striking lack of sign. They estimate the regular population from Lake Okeechobee southwards to be about 20–30, and for the rest of Florida and adjoining states far fewer. They therefore regard the Florida cougar as in imminent danger of extinction.

Key Deer Problem

The key deer, once an endangered animal, is well on the way to perhaps too successful recovery. This diminutive race of the widespread and common white-tailed deer is confined to the Florida Keys, where in 1947 less than



Everglade kite *Fenwick Lansdowne*, from *The Red Book (Collins)*

50 remained. Today there are estimated to be 750, and biologists are beginning to worry about what will happen when numbers exceed the estimated carrying capacity of 1200–1500 deer. Traffic accidents and poaching, the latter vigorously combated, are currently the only threats to the deer.

Saving the Everglade Kite

Management of selected areas to encourage the prime food of the Everglade kite, the apple snail *Pomacea paludosa*, offers hope that the subspecies may be saved on the brink of extinction. On March 2, 1973, as many as 15 kites were seen in the management area, where 5000 snails had been released.

Kirtland's Warbler Recovers

The world population of Kirtland's warbler, which all breeds in one corner of Michigan and winters in the Bahamas, appears to have risen by 10 per cent between 1972 and 1973, as a result of intensive control of the brown cowbirds which were parasitising their nests. In 1971 there were 201 singing males.

Rare and Endangered Plants

The Smithsonian Institution is compiling a list of rare and endangered plants of the United States, including Hawaii, Alaska and the Aleutians, but not including Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam.

Airline Pays Up

Pan American, pleading guilty to shipping mislabelled cargo, the endangered hawksbill turtle, has been allowed to contribute \$2,500 to IUCN in lieu of paying a fine of \$1000, by a Los Angeles court. The Federal Government has also impounded £100,000 worth of tortoiseshell jewellery from New York shops, as part of the same campaign to save the hawksbill.

To End Lead Poisoning?

A new 50-per-cent lead-iron shotgun pellet, developed for the Canadian Wildlife Service by the National Research Council, will, it is hoped, help to solve the problem of lead poisoning in wildfowl. At present three million waterfowl die every year in North America from eating lead shot lying around in their feeding areas.

Another DDT Ban

The Ontario Government has banned the use of the combination DDT for car licence plates because of its undesirable connotations. The Federal Department of Agriculture, on the other hand has relaxed its ban on DDT to allow authorised exterminators (presumably the latest euphemism for ratcatchers) to use DDT to kill mice.

More Noise Pollution

A University of Montana study has found that snowmobile noise causes temporary deafness in 87 per cent of riders, with children affected most seriously. Prolonged or repeated exposure could cause permanent deafness.

A Million Enjoy Wildlife

Well over a million people, more than 80 per cent of them neither hunters nor fishermen, visited wildlife areas owned or operated by the California Department of Fish and Game during 1972. Sight-seeing was the largest use, totalling 733,040 days followed by hunting and fishing with 238,281 days, camping with 20,553 days, and nature study 15,915 days.

New Trust Launched

Heritage Canada, the first national trust for the preservation of Canada's

historic and natural heritage, has been officially launched with a contribution of \$12m from the Federal Government. Its address is Box 1358, Station B, Ottawa.

SOUTH AND CARIBBEAN AMERICA

New Drug for Vampire Control

An anticoagulant drug, heparin, has been found very effective in controlling the vampire bats that cause thousands of cattle deaths from rabies in South America every year. It is either smeared on captive bats, which are released and return to be licked by their fellows, or is injected into cattle, so that bats which bite them die. In tests a nearly 100-per cent reduction in bat bites has been reported. Hitherto control methods have included gassing and destroying the bat caves with dynamite, which also destroyed many harmless or beneficial bats.

Amazonian Hunting Ban

Supreme decree no. 934-73-Ag of October 3, 1973, places an indefinite ban on hunting all species of wild animals in Peruvian Amazonia.

Priest as Poacher

A Dominican priest in the backblocks of Manu Province, in Amazonian Peru, has been found to be selling jaguar skins regularly, in the full knowledge that the Indians who hunted them were breaking the law.

Vicuña at Ulla Ulla

Thanks to effective protection by the guards of the Ulla Ulla reserve in Bolivia, the vicuña population has increased from 100-150 in 1969 to at least 300 in 1973, when nearly a quarter of the population consisted of lambs.

Wildlife Sanctuary Threatened

The proposal to route a waterway through the Caroni Swamp Wildlife Sanctuary, Trinidad, famous for its scarlet ibises, presents a severe threat to the future of the reserve. The waterway would be used by motor barges to transport oil and gas to a distributing centre, which is already served by a road. Pollution from these barges would in the long run destroy the ecology of the swamp.

New Conservation Society

The Dominica Conservation Society is a newly formed voluntary body aiming to study and conserve the wildlife of Dominica.

AFRICA

Lake Nakuru Safeguarded

The World Wildlife Fund has raised more than half a million dollars, mainly through the efforts of its children members in Western Europe, to safeguard the surroundings of Lake Nakuru in Kenya, home of a million flamingoes. The money has been handed over to the President of Kenya by the President of WWF, to enable Kenya National Parks to purchase additional land to augment the Lake Nakuru National Park. A serious threat to the lake has been averted by the decision of the West German Government to finance the building of a sewage plant for the town of Nakuru.

Poaching in Uganda

There has been serious elephant poaching by armed poachers in Uganda, chiefly in the Kabalega (Murchison) and Ruwenzori (QE) National Parks, due largely to the very high price of ivory, according to the Parks Director. There has been a great increase in illegal activities in general in the Kabalega Park, and Sudanese refugees returning home continue to cause disturbances in the Kidepo Park.

Crocs on the Awash

A 7-man American expedition recently made the first descent of previously untraversed sections of the Awash and Omo rivers in Ethiopia. On these two trips they counted 405 crocodiles and 1677 hippos.

Turtles in Mozambique

The nesting population of leatherback turtles in Mozambique is doomed to extinction, and the outlook for the loggerhead is equally poor, if protective measures are not taken. George R. Hughes, the South African turtle expert, urges protective measures, including the declaration of the Primeras islands as a sanctuary, in his report to WWF.



New WWF Appeal

The Kenyan National Appeal, the 21st national appeal of the World Wildlife Fund, was launched in Nairobi on August 29. Its Chairman will be the Hon. Charles Njonjo, Attorney General of Kenya.

ASIA

No Tiger Hunting in Malaya

WWF has been informed by the Secretary General of the Malayan Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries that although tigers are not included in the list of animals prohibited from being hunted, it is the Ministry's policy not to issue any licences for tiger hunting, and to intensify its campaign against the trapping of tigers and other wild animals in Malaya.

Siberian Tigers Increase

The latest census of tigers in the Maritime territory of the Soviet Far East, 110–120, shows an increase of three or four times since the 1940s, thanks to effective protection. The tigers are beginning to adapt themselves to greatly increased human use of the area, and although they still avoid people they use timber roads and hunt quite close to settlements.

More Indian Lions

The latest census of the Indian lion in the Gir Forest reserve, Gujarat, suggests that numbers have increased to over 200 from the 177 recorded at the last full census five years ago. The lions' natural prey, deer and pig, have also increased.

Elephants in Ceylon

The latest estimate of the elephant population of Sri Lanka (Ceylon) is 2150, widely scattered over the north and east of the island. At the beginning of the last century there are believed to have been 12,000 elephants in Ceylon.

Sea Otters Protected

There are now more than 2000 northern sea otters on Medny Island, in the Komandorsky archipelago in the Bering Sea, part of the Soviet Far East, compared with only 200 in 1924, when hunting was banned. It is planned to create a reserve for sea otters near

Petropavlovsk–Kamchatsky in the Kamchatka peninsula. It is expected that hunting of sea otters will continue to be banned in the USSR for many years.

Fur Seals Moved

Soviet scientists are to translocate some northern or Pribilof fur seals from the overcrowded colony on Tyuleni Island a distance of 80 km to Cape Terpenye, the easternmost part of Sakhalin.

Walruses Return to Kamchatka

Breeding colonies of 100 and 500 Pacific walruses have been found in northern Kamchatka, an area from which walruses had been exterminated by uncontrolled hunting earlier in the century.

Taiwan Pheasant Project

In his third report on this Project, Sheldon R. Severinghaus reports discovery of Swinhoe's pheasant in the long narrow coastal mountain range on the eastern edge of the island, where they had never been found before. These pheasants seem to require virgin broad-leaved forests for their habitat, and to be unable, as the Mikado pheasant does, to adapt to conifer plantations. Swinhoe's therefore seems to be the more threatened of the two, in view of the continuing destruction of virgin forests.

Bald Ibis Breeding Success

The bald ibis *Comatibis eremita*, a Red Data Book bird, raised 21 young in 1973, compared with only seven in 1972, at Biricek, Turkey, its last breeding place in Europe or Asia.

A Forest Reprieved?

The Commission appointed by the Sri Lanka Government to examine the case for the exploitation of the Sinharaja Forest in order to keep the wheels of the plywood factory at Kosgama turning, has recommended that the forest should be left intact.

Mudumalai Threatened

The greater part of the important Mudumalai Wild Life Sanctuary in Tamilnadu State, together with the forest lodges and rest houses constructed there by the Forest Depart-

ment, is threatened with flooding by a 30 megawatt hydroelectric project on the Moyar River. The sanctuary adjoins the Bandipur game sanctuary of Madras State, and was omitted from the list of tiger sanctuaries selected for Project Tiger only because of this hydroelectric threat. Other animals which will be lost if the scheme goes ahead, for the sake of a mere 30 MW, are gaur, elephants, leopard and cheetal and sambar deer.

To Gaol for a Tree

A new Iranian law provides for a three-year gaol sentence for anybody uprooting a tree more than four inches in diameter.

ANTIPODES

Kangaroo Conservation

The Australian Federal Environment and Conservation Minister has met with Ministers of the Six State Governments to discuss the kangaroo export ban. The Ministers agreed that they were opposed to uncontrolled harvesting of kangaroos, that selective harvesting, on the other hand, is a legitimate conservation practice, and that a working party should be set up to report on techniques of data gathering, management and conservation of kangaroos and related species throughout Australia.

Second Rarest Bird?

The Chatham Island black robin of New Zealand, *Petroica traversi*, may be the second rarest bird species in the world, after the Mauritius kestrel. Only 18 individuals are positively known to exist, and the total is thought unlikely to exceed 22. However, numbers are not known to have decreased in recent years.

Pacific Pollution

According to the *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, the Conzinc-Riotinto-Australia mining concern has refused to comment on a report that their operation of the world's largest copper and silver mine in Bougainville in the Solomon Islands, is causing major pollution problems. Karol Kisakau, an ecologist with the University of Papua-New Guinea, told the recent

Congress of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science that sludge from the mining operations flows down the Jaba River and turns the brilliant blue sea into a dirty grey. He claimed that fish have been killed, that the local tuna fishery is threatened, and that low-lying villages have been flooded.

THE OCEANS

Grey Whale Census

As the first joint scientific project undertaken by American and Russian scientists, the grey whale population of the Bering and Chukotsk Seas has been estimated at 7000 by an expedition mounted from the USSR Pacific Research Institute of Fisheries. The grey whales which winter off California spend five months of their lives in these northern seas.

Atlantic Pollution

Scientists surveying parts of the Atlantic Ocean for the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have calculated that at least 665,000 square miles of ocean are fouled by floating oil, tar and plastics. In some places the petroleum pollution is so heavy that clumps of oil were extruded 'like spaghetti' through the mesh of collection nets.

Bacteria as Oil Cleaners

Microbiologists at Tel Aviv University have used bacteria to clean out an oil carrier's tanks. A cupful of bacteria poured into 120,000 litres of ballast water multiplied a thousand-fold in four days and completely cleaned their part of the tank.

NEW NATIONAL PARKS

Les Ecrins is France's fifth national park, created in March. It protects the region around the Barre des Ecrins, a 4000m mountain, and the high mountain area south-west of Grenoble known as the Pelvoux. There are no roads or human settlements within the Park, but visitors will be welcome in a buffer zone of 180,000 ha.

Mount Carleton Provincial Park, 72



sq m of crown land in the north-central highlands of New Brunswick is the first really large park in the Province's system.

Peru's first national park, the Manu, was officially declared on June 9. It covers more than a million and a half hectares on the Amazonian watershed of south-eastern Peru, ranging from 200 m to over 4000 m, and consists largely of rain forest.

The long awaited declaration of the Lake Rudolf National Park in northern Kenya has now been made.

Three new national parks in Mozambique: Banhine, part of a unique arid zone; Zinave, on the Rio Save, in an important transitional zone; and Bazaruto Island off the St Sibaticao peninsula. An extension of the Gorongoza national park with natural ecological limits, to include the vital Sierra Gorongoza through to the coast, is being planned.

Mount Sagarmatha (the Nepalese name for Mt Everest) is the name of the new 480 sq m national park that includes Everest and the neighbouring upper Khumbu valley.

WWF has grant-aided the preparation of a management plan for the proposed Kirthar National Park in Sind, Pakistan, the bulk of which was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1972. The park area comprises a southern extension of the Kirthar mountain range, covering some 1200 sq m. It is famous for its wild goats *Capra hircus*.

The New Zealand Government has bought 4380 ha, including a coastline of 21 km, to add to the Te Pahi Coastal Park in North Auckland.

NEW NATURE RESERVES

The Rhine islands Mariannenaue and Rüdeshheimer Aue, including the surrounding static water, have been set aside as nature conservation areas in the Rhine District of Western Germany. They are important for wintering wildfowl.

In April the first 328 acres of the projected Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve in the Tilaran Mountains of western Costa Rica was acquired for the Tropical Science Center of San José, with financial aid from the Explorers Club of New York.

Aves Island, ten acres in extent and the site of the largest remaining green-turtle nesting colony in the eastern Caribbean, has been declared a faunal reserve, together with its territorial seas, by Venezuela.

Two new sanctuaries in Sri Lanka (Ceylon): Maimbul-Kande-Nittambuwa, a 58-acre island in Colombo district, with interesting mammals, birds and plants, and Paratitivu, a 46-acre island in the Indian Ocean off Jaffna district, well known for its bird life.

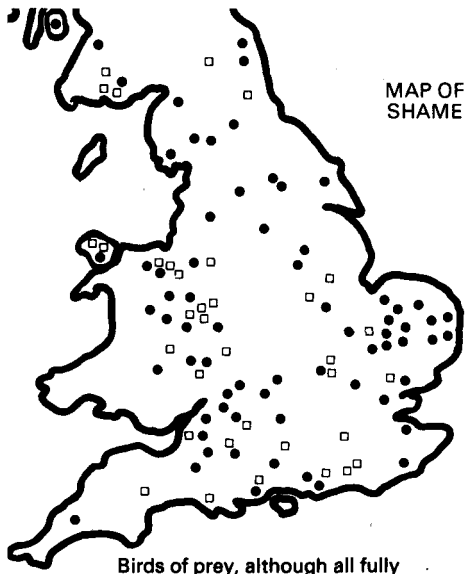
An area of 6½m acres in Kara Kalpakia, Uzbekistan, is to be set aside as a reserve for the saiga antelope.

The New Zealand Government is to buy 198 ha at Puponga, 30 km north of Collingwood in the extreme north of South Island. This will extend the existing Farewell Spit coastal reserve.

Cape Kinau, Maui's most recent known lava flow, and its adjoining waters are proposed as Hawaii's first natural area reserve. The area includes unusual plants and aquatic animals, in addition to its geological interest.

With the approval of the French Polynesian Government, William A. Robinson of Papeete has made the Tahitian atoll of Taiaro available as a scientific sanctuary. A governing committee of scientists will screen applications from scientists who want to work on the atoll.

The Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves has acquired the 150-acre Seychelle island of Aride in the north of the archipelago. It is the second best seabird breeding island in the northern Indian Ocean, after Aldabra, and has important endemic plants and a first-class coral reef.



MAP OF SHAME

Birds of prey, although all fully protected, are still killed in Britain, and pole traps, illegal since 1904, are still used. This Map of Shame, published by the RSPB, shows sites of pole traps found (black circles) and birds of prey found dead by illegal killing (white squares) since May 1971.

Four new bird reserves announced by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds bring the Society's total to 50 reserves covering some 20,000 acres throughout Britain. The new reserves are 420 acres of reed marsh and saltings at Titchwell on the north coast of Norfolk; the 92-acre Wolves Wood, six miles west of Ipswich, Suffolk; and two areas in Orkney, 550 acres at Birsay Moor and 2000 acres at Hobbister, both including some cliffed coast.

Herts and Middlesex Trust have leased 62 acres of Hertford Heath from Haileybury College and have made an agreement with the owner for a reserve at Alpine Meadow, near Berkhamsted. Both are important botanically, the latter for its chalk flora.

Leicestershire Trust has leased two abandoned ironstone quarries at Holwell near Melton Mowbray from the British Steel Corporation. They are mainly of geological interest, but one has a colony of some thousands of bee, spotted and other orchids.

Yorkshire Naturalists' Trust has leased two new reserves from British Rail: 58 acres of woodland, reed and wet pasture at Potteric Carr, Doncaster, adjoining its existing Low Ellers reserve; and 20 acres of flooded pits with reed beds, at Saltmarsh Delph.

The Talich, 33 acres of alderwood and wet grassland at Rhynie, near Fearn in Easter Ross, is a new reserve of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, by agreement with the owners.

PERSONALIA

Dr Niko Tinbergen, of Oxford University, Dr Konrad Lorenz, of the Max Planck Institute, Germany, and Dr Karl von Frisch, all distinguished for their discoveries in animal behaviour, shared the Nobel Prize for Medicine for 1973.

Lt. Col. C. N. Clayden, Hon. Secretary of the Army Birdwatching Society, has been appointed to the new post of Services Conservation Officer.

Zafar Futehally has been appointed a Vice President of WWF India, on his resignation as Hon. Secretary, a post now filled by Col. T. K. Mukerji.

Ambassador Frank L. Kellogg has been elected President of WWF USA, in succession to C. R. ("Pink") Gutermuth. Godfrey A. Rockefeller and Christopher S. Dann are the new Executive Director and Deputy Director.

OBITUARY

Edgar Barclay, leading British authority on the deer of the world, died March 17.

Stanley T. Jermyn, Secretary of the Essex Trust for Conservation and a distinguished amateur botanist, died in July.

Robert Cushman Murphy, leading world authority on seabirds and President of the National Audubon Society 1937-40, died on Long Island, New York, on March 19, aged 85.