



Briefly . . .

INTERNATIONAL

Onassis Prize for IUCN

In Athens on World Environment Day, June 5, President Karamanlis of Greece presented the Onassis Foundation Olympia Prize to IUCN. Professor Kassas, IUCN's President, accepted the \$100,000 prize, given for the Union's important contribution and effective action in the protection and conservation of the environment world-wide.

Omani Gift to IUCN

A cheque for 250,000 Swiss francs was presented to the IUCN President at the 15th General Assembly last October in Christchurch, New Zealand, by HE Salim bin Nasir Al Bu Saïdi on behalf of HM the Sultan and the Government of Oman, to be used to forward the work of five IUCN commissions: Species Survival (SSC), Education, Environmental Planning, Ecology, and National Parks.

IUCN Honorary Members

Six distinguished conservationists were made Honorary Members of IUCN at the 15th General Assembly in Christchurch, New Zealand, in October. They are L.W. McCaskill, New Zealand; Sir Peter Scott, UK; Salim Ali, India; Professor A.G. Bannikov, USSR; Dr David Munro, Canada; and Professor S. Dillon Ripley, USA.

Development Centre

The new Development Centre at IUCN headquarters is designed to promote urgent projects for problems linking environment and development. The Director is Michael J. Cockerell.

Two Conservation Atlases

The IUCN Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas is preparing an Atlas of Biogeography for Conservation to be published commercially. A similar atlas for marine biophysical provinces is planned.

More Work for the Wang

A Protected Areas Data Unit, is operating at Kew alongside the Threatened Plants Committee and sharing the Wang computer. It was set up by the IUCN Commission on National Parks aided by the US Nature Conservancy and UNEP. The TPC, which is

collecting plant lists for reserves and protected areas throughout the world, appeals for any unpublished lists: TPC, The Herbarium, Kew Gardens, Richmond, Surrey.

The TPC has provided the EEC with a detailed report on Europe's threatened plants with recommendations for their protection.

To the Rescue for Bats

ffPS has launched Bat Conservation International under the direction of Council member Dr R.E. Stebbings, who is Chairman of the IUCN/SSC Chiroptera Group, to raise funds for bat projects. See page 211.

Threat to World's Mangroves

The mangrove forests of the world, of which some 20m ha still exist, are being steadily destroyed, a disastrous development for local fisheries, according to the IUCN Ecology Commission, meeting in Singapore. In India alone some 16,000sq km have been lost during this century, and it is believed that their widespread destruction has led to catastrophic flooding in South Asia.

Threatened Cacti

Seven cactus species, all Mexican endemics, and one South African *Pachypodium* were transferred from CITES Appendix 2 to 1 at the New Delhi meeting of the parties in March last year, and four insect-eating plants, all threatened by commercial collectors, were put on Appendix 1.

Bear Symposium

The Eurasian Bear Group, an affiliate of the Bear Biology Association, which co-operates with the IUCN/SSC Bear Group, is holding a symposium in Helsinki, August 15-20 1982. Details from Dr Hans U. Roth, 1-38010 Spormaggiore (TN), Italy, or Dr C. Jonkel, School of Forestry, University of Montana, Missoula, MT59812, USA.

BRITISH ISLES

Cairngorms at Risk

More than 150 objections have been received to the proposals for large-scale expansion of the ski-lifts and towing facilities on Cairn Gorm, using three undeveloped corries. The IUCN General Assembly in New Zealand urged the IUCN Council to ensure adequate protection for the internationally important mountain massif of the Cairngorms.

RAMSAR Sites

Six wetlands have been added to the UK list of sites attached to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, making a total of 19. They are Abberton Reservoir, Essex; Rostherne Mere, Cheshire; Cairngorms Lochs, Grampian; Cliaish Moss, Highland; Loch Lintrathen, Tayside, and Silver Flowe, Dumfries and Galloway.

Coypus Destroy Reedswamp

Grazing by the introduced hystricomorph rodent coypu *Myocastor coypus* is believed to be largely responsible for the dramatic decrease in reedswamp in the Norfolk Broads, from c120ha to c50ha in the past 35 years. Grazing by wildfowl, however, especially feral geese, could explain the present limitation of reedswamp on certain broads.

Bird Crime Increases

The number of crimes connected with birds – poisoning, killing, nest robbery and illegal sale – reported to the RSPB last year was 523, an increase of more than 170 compared with 1979. Limitation of resources prevented more than 25 ending up in court, and even then the Society rather than the police had to initiate and pay for most of the prosecutions. There were five successful cases concerned with peregrine robberies.

Kites in Wales

There is no firm evidence that increasing afforestation of the hill sheepwalks of mid Wales has influenced the distribution of kite territories. The recent increase in kite numbers is attributed to a decrease in human persecution.

FROG Rescues Frogs

Garden ponds, where many frogs and toads have been breeding in the suburbs of London, are rapidly being filled in by parents who fear their young children will fall into them. The Frog Rehabilitation Organisation Group, headed by Charles Landells of Ilford, Essex, has organised numerous rescues of frogs and frogspawn from threatened and overcrowded garden ponds to Epping Forest, Essex, and various sites in Cheshire, Kent, Suffolk and Middlesex, where the natural frog populations are depleted.

Friends of National Parks

A new membership body with this name has derived from the Council for National Parks and will work to uphold the principles and purposes of national parks in Britain, the

conservation and enhancement of natural beauty and the provision of public access for recreation. Details from the Secretary, Fiona Reynolds, 4 Hobart Place, London, SW1.

WAGBI = BASC

The Wildfowlers' Association of Great Britain and Ireland has changed its name to British Association for Shooting and Conservation.

EUROPE

Counterweight

The four representatives of industry on the West German CITES Scientific Authority are the Executive Director of the German Fur Trade Association and the Frankfurt Fur Trade Fair; a major importer of furs from Paraguay; a member of a leading firm engaged in tanning reptile hides, and the manager of one of the largest big-game hunting agencies.

Sweden Conserves Forests

Some 142,500ha of forest has been set aside in Sweden to develop freely into virgin forest in national parks and other forest and nature reserves. Half this area lies on or near mountains and almost all of it is in the northern part of the country.

Declining Otters

Otter populations in Finland are thought to be stable, with numbers around 400, but in Sweden, Norway and Denmark they are declining, according to Magnar Norderhaug, of the Norwegian Environment Ministry. In Sweden numbers were under 1500 in 1978/79, in Denmark under 1000, and in Norway they are unknown. In the Netherlands, with about 600, they are declining; Spain has under 200, Austria under 50, Italy under 100, and in Luxembourg and Lichtenstein they have probably disappeared. In France numbers are unknown but decreasing.

Harp Seals Drown in Gill Nets

Harp seals in the Barents Sea now number over one million and are increasing despite a large annual kill (1960 quota 60,000) and drownings in gill nets of fishermen – 10,000 between 1979-81.

The Saimaa Seal

The latest aerial count of the Saimaa seal *Pusa hispida saimensis* in Finland totalled 90. Seals were seen in Puravesi lake for the first time for decades. The city of Mikkeli is protecting the small rocky islets it owns in Luonteri because



Saimaa seals frequent them, WWF Finland has financed the production of 5000 educational stickers, which have been distributed in the region where the seals live.

Norway Reduces Grey Seals

The Norwegian Government is trying to reduce its grey seal population – estimated at between 300 and 10,000 – by 10-20 per cent over five years. Licensed hunters will take 50-75 per cent of the seals at specified colonies. Codworm infestation seems to be much more serious in Norway than Britain.

Wolves in Finland

The wolf population of Soviet Karelia is believed to have reached saturation point at 300, representing a density of 2.5 wolves per 1000 sq km. This has led to several incursions of wolves across the frontier into Finland, but as Finland withdrew protection from the wolf in 1977, they are not likely to establish themselves.

Lynx Increase in Czechoslovakia

Lynx have been increasing in Czechoslovakia since the mid-1950s, and have spread into Central and Northern Moravia, thanks to protection and the increased numbers of deer.

Reindeer in Finland

The woodland race of the reindeer has recently increased in Finland, having reappeared there in 1940. Total numbers are now about 500, all near Kuhmo in North Karelia.

Helicopter Poaching

In April 1981 two ibex were poached by helicopter in the canton of Valais, Switzerland. Each was worth 4000 Sw.Fr. There are some 2800 ibex in the Valais.

Forestry and Invertebrates

Because modern forestry prevents trees from completing their ageing process many insects suffer in the absence of the dying and dead trees, while the ones that use young trees flourish and become pests. In Sweden, 19 species of beetle have disappeared from forests in the last 150 years and many more are nearing extinction.

Orchid Decline in USSR

The Soviet Red Data Book lists 35 varieties of orchid. Numbers and distribution area have significantly decreased in recent years due to picking, especially near large cities, the collecting of tubers used for medicinal purposes and habitat destruction.

Annual Kill of 200,000 Birds

The European Committee for the Prevention of Mass Destruction of Migratory Birds, based in West Germany, estimates that 200,000 birds are shot and trapped in southern Europe every year.

Artificial Reefs in the Med

Rocks, building materials and slabs of concrete have been used to make artificial reefs in an underwater reserve off the coast of Monaco. They were quickly colonised by many species of algae and also fish, including the dorade *Sparus auratus*, thrush wrasse *Labrus turdus*, scorpion fish *Scorpaena scrofa* and rainbow wrasse *Coris julis*.

Garden for Mediterranean Species

A new French botanic garden, established by the Government at Porquerolles in 1979 for plant conservation, is concentrating on Mediterranean species, which are particularly threatened by tourism, industry and agricultural improvement. Cultivated crops, which will be included, will help to get the conservation message over to the general public. Seed of threatened Mediterranean plants will be redistributed in the wild.

Endangered Plants

In Sweden 170 of the 2000 native plants are believed to be endangered.

AFRICA

Resources Conference in Zimbabwe

Dr Lee Talbot, Director-General of IUCN was invited to Zimbabwe to discuss with Prime Minister Mugabe the holding of an international conference on natural resources, especially among the neighbouring states of southern Africa. The conference is scheduled for September 1983.

The Sahara Advances

The southern limit of the Sahara Desert in Africa is now 199 km further south than it was in 1963.

Lions Leave Reserve, Get Shot

Lions in the central Kalahari should be considered vulnerable, according to Mark and Delia Owens, who are working in the Kalahari Game Reserve in Botswana. They put radio collars on 16 lions of five prides, all holding territory in one valley, and ear-tagged several

others. Each lion was at least 45km inside the reserve boundary when collared, but in the dry seasons all dispersed outside following the antelope on which they preyed, and a quarter of the collared and ear-tagged male lions and many females were shot outside the reserve.

Nyala Increase in Lengwe Park

Since 1967, following strict anti-poaching measures and an increase in water supplies, nyala *Tragelaphus angasi* in Malawi's Lengwe National Park have increased from an estimated 400/500 to an estimated 3000, according to annual counts at the waterholes in August by the Malawi Fauna Preservation Society. The area of the park used by the nyala suffered severely in the drought at the end of 1980, and the National Parks Department has decided some culling is necessary.

Giant Sable seen in Angola

A visitor from South Africa reported seeing 20 giant sable in Angola in September last year.

Captive Bred Oryx

The National Zoological Gardens of Pretoria has bred 61 scimitar-horned oryx in 13 years, starting with three animals, in its 5000-ha breeding reserve near Lichtenburg.

To Save an Ivory Coast Forest

Boundary markers are being erected round the Ivory Coast's Tai Forest to define the core area, a distance of 500km, and a buffer zone in an effort to stop its destruction by a combination of illegal settlement, tree-felling and poaching. The 350,000ha of original tropical forest is the last significant one in West Africa. IUCN/WWF are supporting the project, directed by Dr Harald Roth.

Protests Against Ngong Centre

Conservationists in Kenya are protesting at a proposal by the late Louis Leakey's Primate Research Centre to utilise 100 acres of the Olulua Forest Reserve at Ngong to develop the Centre's facilities. It is proposed to clear a large area of forest in order to construct an electrified chain-link fence and to erect numerous buildings, including staff quarters and a conference centre.

Laboratory Destroyed

The former Baharini laboratory in the Nakuru Wildlife Sanctuary in the Lake Nakuru National Park has been destroyed by a grass fire, which swept into the sanctuary from the

park. It had been hoped to develop the lab, which was funded by WWF, into a limnological lab for the Rift Valley lakes.

ICBP in Kenya

A national section of ICBP has recently been formed in Kenya.

Sierra Leone Ban

President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone announced last September that the opening of the new Outamba-Kilimi National Park in December would coincide with a total ban on the export of all wildlife and wildlife products from Sierra Leone. The new park, in the north of the country, has 12 species of primates, at least one of the last herds of forest elephant and possibly also pygmy hippo. There will also be a ban on hunting many rare species.

Magombera Forest Protected

The Magombera Forest in Tanzania has been incorporated into the Selous Game Reserve, as had been recommended – see *Oryx* December 1980, page 491. Surveys of the very rich forests in the Uluguru, Usambara and Uzungwa mountain blocks are now being done and hopefully will result in new nature reserves.

Quick Work

The East African Wildlife Society used the £600 gift from St Katharine's Fund via the Oryx 100% Fund to make Uganda's three grounded anti-poaching aircraft airworthy; within a month they had been used to capture 18 poachers.

Wildlife Week in Uganda

The 150 Wildlife Clubs of Uganda (for young people) held a Wildlife Awareness Week in three towns – Kibale, Jinja and Kampala the capital – and raised over 200,000 Ug. shillings.

Zambia's Wildlife Clubs

Wildlife Clubs have been formed in almost a third of Zambia's primary schools and two-thirds of the secondary schools.

President Patron of Zimbabwe Trust

The President of Zimbabwe, HE the Rev. C.F. Banana, has agreed to become Patron of the Conservation Trust. The Minister of Natural Resources, the Hon. J.W. Msika, has assured the Trust that the Government is wholly committed to the conservation of the country's natural resources.

NORTH AMERICA

America Loses its Farmlands

Every hour there are 200 new Americans to feed and in the same hour the United States loses 220 acres of food-growing land to urban and industrial development. Every 24 hours some 26 square miles of topsoil wash and blow away from the farmland that is left. If these trends continued there would be no farmland left in the US in less than a hundred years.

Petition Against Watt

In October environmental groups led by the Sierra Club presented Congress with a petition signed by 1.1 million people, urging the removal of the Secretary of the Interior, James G. Watt.

Acid Rain Kills Lakes

Half the 2800 high-altitude lakes in the Adirondack Mountains of New York State are now devoid of fish, and 10 per cent of them are completely dead, with neither fish nor plant life. The killer is acid rain, from sulphur dioxide emissions from coal-burning power plants as far away as Ohio.

Burros v Bighorns

Two American zoologists have recommended the removal of burros (feral donkeys) from areas where they overlap with bighorn sheep and also from areas where bighorn sheep might be reintroduced. The burros eat so much of the vegetation which is the potential feed of the sheep that they occupy all the joint habitat except areas that are too rugged for them to exploit efficiently. The risk to the bighorn, a threatened species, is therefore too great to risk coexistence with burros.

Manatee Death Toll

In the first half of 1981 alone more than 90 manatees were killed in Florida, mainly by collisions with power boats. The total population is only about 1000, and the estimated birthrate one calf per female every 2-4 years.

Bald Eagle Bounces Back

The annual bald eagle count of the National Wildlife Federation found 13,709 eagles in the lower 48 states, an increase of five per cent over the previous winter. The top states were Washington (1611), Missouri (955) and Florida (920). Most of the birds are migrants from Alaska and Canada.



Black-footed Ferrets

A farmer's dog killed a male black-footed ferret *Mustela nigripes* in Wyoming in late September, the first to be seen since the spring of 1979. A month later a male was caught by officers of the Fish and Wildlife Service, fitted with a radio collar and released. They hope to find a healthy breeding colony.

Bald Eagle Roost Threatened

Illinois conservationists are fighting a proposal to route the Central Illinois Expressway through Napoleon Hollow in the 150-year-old Wade Wildlife Sanctuary in Pike County Conservation Area. For the past 80 years at least bald eagles have roosted here in winter.

Peregrine Day in New York

June 30 was so proclaimed at City Hall Park to honour the recovery of the peregrine falcon in the eastern United States. Young birds were released and later took up residence on two sky-scrapers, where they were fed and monitored by student observers until they could fend for themselves. One of four young birds similarly released in 1980 returned last summer and was seen soaring over Broadway.

Now 77 Whooping Cranes

The whooping cranes had a bad year in 1981. Only three chicks survived in the main breeding flock in Canada, and of twelve eggs taken from the flock for hatching under sandhill cranes – which the previous year produced 20 young birds – five hatched but none survived. Of the 20 year-old birds, 16 survived the winter, and most have been seen since. The main flock now numbers 77 birds. The Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, the flock's wintering grounds, is still under threat of being transferred from the Fish and Wildlife Service to the state of Texas, as part of Interior Secretary Watt's policy on federal lands management.

Photo above by US Fish and Wildlife Service

Lead Shot Toll

In the 1980/81 winter 3000 Canada geese died in Wisconsin marshes and lakes as a result of ingesting lead pellets from ammunition used for shooting waterfowl. This followed the State's lifting of the ban on lead shot shortly before. The efforts to phase out lead shot in favour of steel have met enormous resistance in the US. According to *Audubon*, more than 6 million lb of spent shot are deposited every year in lakes and marshes, and perhaps 2½ million ducks, geese and swans die every year from lead poisoning – about three per cent of the entire waterfowl population.

Booming Bird Trade

At least 7.5 million exotic birds are caught each year for the American pet trade, including a quarter of a million parrots, of which 80 per cent die before getting to an owner's home. For a blue and yellow macaw a South American trapper is paid \$4; it can be sold in the US for \$1500. A television show featuring a talking cockatoo touched off a demand that had a devastating effect in their native New Guinea.

Fish by the Million

The estimated number of fish caught by anglers in US waters in 1979 were 2,332,599,000 in fresh water and 326,035,000 in salt. The Sport Fishing Institute describes these as best guesstimates.

Alligators in Louisiana

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has reclassified the American alligator as threatened, as distinct from endangered throughout Louisiana. This means that the State of Louisiana now has an option to institute a limited harvest of alligators again.

State Endangered Plants Lists

All states in the USA have prepared their own endangered plant species lists, and only nine have not published their reports.

Plant Research

The New York Botanical Garden is setting up three new research institutes: Ecology, to study and prevent the destruction of ecosystems; Economic Botany, to study methods of increasing the world food supply; and Urban Horticulture to identify ways of keeping plants as part of the urban environment.

Osprey Foundation

The newly created International Osprey Foundation welcomes enquiries: Mark A. Westall, PO Box 250, Sanibel, Florida 33957-0250, USA.

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Caribbean Plan

A conservation action plan for the whole Caribbean, from Venezuela in the south to Haiti, was approved by 23 of the 27 Caribbean states, territories and islands, at a meeting in Jamaica last year, promoted and assisted by IUCN. This includes 66 projects. It is planned to raise \$8.2 million in three years and produce a Caribbean environmental treaty ready for signing in 1983. IUCN has produced a Caribbean Data Atlas, obtainable from 1196 Gland, Switzerland, \$36.00.

Compensation

A new dam in north-east Argentina will flood 200 kilometres of gallery forest along the River Parana. In compensation the Government has been asked to give total protection to all gallery forest that survives in the region.

Where do the Hatchlings Go?

2000 hatchling green turtles *Chelonia mydas* were tagged at Tortuguero nesting beach in Costa Rica as part of an SSC Marine Turtle Group project to find out whether they spend their first year in the rafts of weed drifting in the open sea. The first-year whereabouts of hatchlings are not known for any of the seven species of marine turtle. 'It is hoped', says Dr Archie Carr, 'to be able to corroborate that hatchlings picked up in sargassum off Panama or Colombia have travelled with the weed from Costa Rica.'

Leatherback Discovery

The discovery of what may be the world's largest leatherback turtle nesting area on an isolated stretch of Mexican coast has tripled the estimate of the number of leatherbacks in the world. The discovery was made quite accidentally by Peter Pritchard, Vice-President of Florida Audubon, while returning from a visit to another turtle beach.

Turtle Eggs in El Salvador

Despite a government ban on their sale, marine turtle eggs have again appeared on sale in the streets of San Salvador.

Giant Tortoise Slaughter

The carcasses of 27 female Galapagos giant tortoises were found last year near Punta Albemarle, on Isabela, presumably killed when they came down to the coast to lay their eggs. In future the Point will be continuously guarded in the nesting season.



For the Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey

Two areas in the Peruvian Andes have been proposed as a 'reserved area' and a national park respectively to protect the yellow-tailed woolly monkey that was rediscovered in 1974 after being presumed extinct. They would also protect spectacled bear, giant armadillo and several endemic birds.

Will the Money be There?

President Carazo has allocated funds to buy 7000 hectares of the 9000-ha Palo Verde National Park that were in danger of being lost to the park, but US conservation bodies fear that actual funds may not be available.

New Galapagos Job

Dr Hugo Loza of Quito Central University has been appointed to the staff of the Charles Darwin Research Station in Galapagos to make plans 'to reconcile the interests of conservationists, scientists, settlers and tourists'.

New Voluntary Organisation

The Fundación Natura has been founded in Ecuador to promote scientific studies and public awareness of wildlife conservation and liaison between WWF/IUCN and the Ministry of Agriculture. The President is Sr Roque Sevilla.

A National Symbol

St Lucia in the Caribbean has declared the extremely endangered St Lucia parrot (numbers down to about 100) a national symbol, and a 15-sq-km reserve has been created to save some of the remnants of the tropical forest it needs.

ASIA

Protected Area for Iriomote Cat

To protect the Iriomote cat the Japanese Government Environment Agency has set aside an area in the middle of Iriomote Island.

China's Tree Loss Brings Floods

Chinese scientists blame the severe floods in Shaanxi province last August, which drowned over 700 people and much livestock, made 20,000 people homeless and nearly inundated Shanghai, on deforestation in the upper reaches of the Yangzi and other large rivers. The floods they say will be repeated until the forests have been replanted and the serious

erosion their disappearance caused has been halted. Also blamed is the 'grain first' policy of the last 30 years and the methods used to achieve it, notably bad terracing that led to erosion.

Wildlife Goods in Japanese Shops

A survey of Tokyo department stores in January 1981 showed an abundance of goods made from wildlife products, says Tom Milliken – turtle shell, skin and leather, crocodile and alligator skins, ostrich, lizard, snake and shark skins, vicuña and furs, including spotted cats which were being 'pushed' by the fashion industry. Japan had ratified the CITES two months earlier, but made reservations on nine Appendix 1 species; fin whale, musk deer, green, hawkbill and olive ridley turtles, yellow, Bengal and desert monitors and saltwater crocodile.

Protected Land in Madhya Pradesh

More than four per cent of the land area of the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh is now protected in national parks or sanctuaries: over 18,000 sq km out of a total area of 443,168 sq km. The protected areas include five national parks (4245 sq km) of which two, Sanjaya and Kutru, are newly declared, and 23 sanctuaries, three of them new. Four more national parks and two sanctuaries have been proposed to the Government.

Protecting Nusa Barung

Indonesian conservationists are hoping that the Indonesian Directorate of Nature Conservation will shortly act to protect the green turtles of Nusa Barung, a neglected island nature reserve off Java, both by ending the concession under which up to 60 per cent of the eggs are being taken, and by posting more guards and equipping them properly.

No Tigers in 1980

Because of the problems caused by poaching of forest products – especially bamboo, rattan and timber, but also fruits, palm thatch, firewood and honey – in the Meru Betiri Wildlife Reserve in East Java, home of the last remaining Javan tigers, a buffer zone is being planned which includes both land outside the reserve and 1400 hectares inside, where villagers can collect these products. No signs of tigers were seen in 1980.

Soldiers for Conservation

A special nature conservation bulletin is produced for soldiers in the Israeli army, and they are asked to report any environmental damage they see on manoeuvres.

Field Study Centre in the Negev

Israel's Society for the Protection of Nature has established a Negev highlands field study centre.

Hunting in Mongolia

Hunters are now allowed to take snow leopard *Panthera uncia* in Mongolia (which has not ratified CITES). 300 argali, the big-horn sheep, and 300 ibex are being shot each year.

Home of Orang Utans

The Sarawak Forest Department is making a survey of the Laniak-Entimau Sanctuary, which may be the final refuge for the orang utan in Sarawak and is important for several other rare primates, in order to provide the basis for its long-term management. The Royal Malaysian Air Force is giving assistance.

Przewalski Horses Sighted

Eight different sightings of Przewalski's wild horse in the K-La-Mai-Li mountains on the border with Mongolia are reported from the westernmost Chinese province of Xinjiang.

Leopards in the Gir Forest

Leopards are numerous in the Gir Sanctuary, according to Sanat A. Chavan writing in *Tigerpaper*, and remarkably successful. Whenever there is a complaint of one attacking cattle from one of the many villages surrounding the sanctuary, a party of trackers and wildlife staff put out a baited cage to catch it and remove the animal well away into the forest, taking good care to inform every village what has been done. This seems to satisfy the villagers. Formerly many panthers were shot and poisoned by villagers, but removal of the offending animal has resulted in many fewer killings.

Clouded Leopards in Kalimantan

Skins and teeth of clouded leopards have been found in kampongs (villages) in the Sungai Kayan and Sungai Mentarang reserve along Kalimantan's border with Sarawak, by a survey party headed by John Blower. Clouded leopards were reported to be still fairly common in the reserve.

No Cheer for Cheer Pheasants

Habitat destruction, especially of the once thick undergrowth in the forests, is by far the greatest and most immediate threat to two rare Himalayan pheasants, – the cheer *Catreus wallichii* and the western tragopan *Tragopan melanocephalus*, according to researchers of the

Himachal Wildlife Project. The western tragopan is now the rarest of the Himalayan pheasants.

Beavers in Kamchatka

Canadian beavers *Castor canadensis* have been introduced in Kamchatka, in north-eastern Russia, and are breeding; 150 animals have been taken over a period of three years.

More Oryx for Oman

San Diego Zoo sent four more Arabian oryx last year to Oman, where at the end of the year there were 15 animals, waiting to be released into the wild. These included two calves born in Oman. The release was planned for January.

Brow-antlered Deer Birth

Because all three subspecies of brow-antlered deer are near extinction, a *Cervus eldi siamensis* female in the Thai Forest Department's Khao Khieo Wildlife Sanctuary was mated with a *C.e. thamin* from Washington and produced a healthy male calf.

When Man Parasitises Crocodiles

Dr H. R. Bustard reports that in the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary in Orissa, India, saltwater crocodiles *Crocodylus porosus* are liable to lose their prey kills, such as cheetah *Axis axis*, sambar *Cervus unicolor* and wild boar *Sus scrofa*, to villagers. The crocodiles cannot eat all their prey at one sitting, and the villagers find this a useful method of supplementing their own diet. Similar situations arise with the lions in the Gir Forest in north-west India.

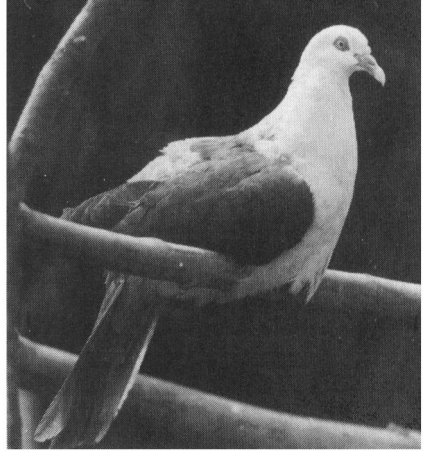
Snakes and Pet Trade

Snakes are heavily hunted for food and medicines in Taiwan, China, Japan, North and South Korea, Thailand and many parts of Indonesia and Malaysia, especially cobras, banded kraits, reticulated pythons, mamushis and amphibious sea snakes. Of the 106 endangered species listed in the 1981 revised Red Data Book, 86 belong to the family Boidae; these, being often large, and conspicuous, are good for the pet trade. Some of the little-known snakes, e.g. rain-forest species such as the uropeltids of India and Sri Lanka, may be seriously endangered without our knowing.

Lizards in Sri Lanka

Two of the three species of an endemic genus of lizards in Sri Lanka, *Ceratophora*, are reasonably safe, as sizeable tracts of their habitat, which includes the Sinharaja Forest, are protected; they are the rhino-horned lizard

C. stoddertii and the rough-nose horned lizard *C. aspera*. But the leaf-nosed lizard *C. tenmentii*, which is found only in the forest (8000 acres) and cardamom plantations in one range of mountains, has no protection, says F. Ranil Senanayake in *Tigerpaper*. Forest is being lost to the plantations every year, and the increasing use of pesticides for the cardamoms may already have caused the rapid decrease there in the number of lizards.



The endemic pink pigeons Nesoenas mayeri of Mauritius are down to under 25 in the wild, but 75 birds have been bred in captivity by the Mauritius Government and the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust. Philip Coffey

OCEANS

Not Finished in Palau

Although the proposal to turn the Pacific island of Palau into a huge supertanker port has been shelved, thanks to the change in the world oil situation, Palau has awarded oil and gas exploration rights for 25 million acres of surrounding shallow waters to a largely US-controlled firm.

'Hot Pursuit' of the Tankers

Sixteen West and Central African coastal countries have approved a treaty for mutual protection of their coasts and coastal waters from pollution, including 'a right of hot pursuit' to allow naval ships of one country to pursue tankers spilling oil in another country's waters.

Aldabra Sample Census

The bulk of Aldabra's giant tortoises are in the southern region where a recent estimate showed 87,300.

Rest for the Forest

In the Canary Islands the Cabildo Insular de Gran Canaria has agreed to close the last remaining area of laurel forest for 20 years to allow the vegetation to regenerate. Access will be by permit only.

Endemics for Medicines

The Mauritius Forest Service is studying the use of endemic plants for medicinal purposes.

New Site for Iguana

A second site has been found for the crested iguana discovered by Dr John Gibbons on a Fijian island in 1979, as a result of an American film. The film makers were filming in the Yawasas islands and captured a crested iguana; this appeared in the film but escaped before it could be identified. However, when the film was released a Cornell professor saw it and

confirmed that the iguana was indeed a crested one, and not the commoner banded iguana.

Fourteen Species New to Science

Marine algae collected in pools on three Galapagos islands – Hood, Fernandina and Mosquera – contained 26 species of ostracod (small primitive Crustacea), of which 14 are new to science, and one new genus which appears to be endemic. Two samples of algae collected on the Ecuador mainland, at Punta Canoa and San Pedro beach, produced nine species, four of which are new. Two species are the only ostracods so far known to be in both Galapagos and on the American coast.

Endangered Insects and Spiders

The Bishop Museum in Hawaii is making an assessment of endangered and threatened Hawaiian arthropods (insects and spiders) in order to assess their importance for the survival of native birds and plants.

ANTIPODES

Kangaroo Ban Lifted

The controversial ban on the import of kangaroo products into the United States has been lifted by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, which will review the position in two years' time. Australian conservationists have criticised as inadequate the data used by the F and WS to underpin its decision.

A New Zealand Centennial

The hundredth anniversary of New Zealand's

first national park will be celebrated as a Centennial Year in 1987. A gift of 2637ha, now forming the nucleus of the Tangariro National Park, was made to Queen Victoria by Maori chief Te Heuheu Tukino IV.

Rainforest Logging

The Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland has proposed the linking up of the small existing national park at McNamee with the whole Downey Creel catchment area and the adjacent Palmerston National Park, in order to avert the threat of logging in the catchment. Rainforest logging continues apace in Queensland, uncontrolled in many areas due to shortage of forestry staff.

Crocs in Northern Australia

The estuarine crocodile *C. porosus* is recovering slowly on several estuaries in northern Australia, but the total population is only about 15,500 animals and the number of large animals has not increased. Several hundred are drowned every year in fishing nets. A resolution of the IUCN General Assembly in New Zealand in October urged the Australian Government to enforce protection measures, support research, and in due course manage the species for sustainable use.

A Declining Tortoise

Captive breeding, involving hormone injections, is being tried to save the short-necked or western swamp tortoise *Pseudemys dura umbrina* whose numbers in the wild are now below 50. It is confined to a small area outside the Western Australia capital, Perth.

A New Snake

A new species of venomous snake 20in. long and the thickness of a man's finger, has been found near Lake Cronin, in Western Australia, and named *Brachyaspis atriceps*. Numbers are thought to be 'sparse'.

Toad Havoc in New South Wales

The introduced giant (cane) toad *Bufo marinus*, which is spreading down the New South Wales coast, has played havoc with local populations of native small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Its only successful predator is said to be the freshwater snake *Amphiesma matrii*.

Threatened Beetles

A beetle reserve has been created by the Western Australian State Government for jewel beetles (Buprestidae) round Lake Cronin, where there are several unique species. Increased farming threatens their food supply.

NEW NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES

Holton Heath, in Dorset is a new national nature reserve; 115ha were presented to the Nature Conservancy Council by the Rank Organisation. It borders on Poole Harbour and was once part of a munitions factory. It includes important habitat for the sand lizard *Lacerta agilis* and the smooth snake *Coronella austriaca*, both protected species in Britain.

The Cotswold Commons and Beechwoods National Nature Reserve has been declared by the Nature Conservancy Council. Its 730 acres make major additions to the existing NNR in the Cotswolds. Next in line will be the Stiperstones in Shropshire, recently bought by the NCC, which is important for its geology.

The Ribble Marshes National Nature Reserve has been extended to 5688 acres by the addition of 297 acres of marshland by agreement with the landowner. The summer grazing will continue to be let to local farmers.

The Nature Conservancy Council and the National Trust have established a national nature reserve on 492 acres of Trust land at Stackpole, South Pembrokeshire, an area of lakes, woodland, scrub, sand dunes and limestone sea cliffs and a habitat for seabirds and rare plants. Otters also occur there.

A voluntary marine conservation area has been established along 6km of the South Devon coast at Wembury. It is supported by the Devon Trust, the National Trust, the Underwater Conservation Society and Fort Bovisand Centre, and includes the whole intertidal zone, offshore water to a depth of 10 metres and certain habitats above high water mark.

Lumbister, a 4250 acre stretch of moorland in the 'black hills' of Yell in the Shetlands has been bought by the RSPB. It contains 20 lochs and many smaller pools, many breeding waders and skuas and a stretch of high raven-haunted cliffs.

Three forest reserves have been created in the Walloon region of Belgium: Rurbusch in Elnsborn, the Attert reserve and the Ave-et-Auffe reserve.

A strictly protected reserve, to be managed by a co-operative of local fishermen has been set up on the Greek island of Samos to protect the



Mediterranean monk seals and also birds of prey. The Greek Government has also approved the establishment of a similar reserve on the island of Piperi.

The new Jotunheim National Park in southern Norway is the second largest of Norway's 14 national parks.

The Doñana and Daimiel national parks in Spain have now been included in the list of world biosphere reserves. The legal steps to create a national park of 14,000ha at Alto Tajo, Guadalajara, have started.

PERSONALIA

Dr Michael Balls has succeeded Mrs Dorothy Hegarty as Chairman of the Trustees of FRAME, the Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments. Mr Simon Gardiner succeeds Mr Hegarty as Hon. Treasurer.

Delmar Blasco of Argentina has succeeded Gary Gallon as Executive Officer of the Environment Liaison Centre in Nairobi.

Mary Briggs, Hon Secretary of the Botanical Society of the British Isles, received the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Stanley Cramp OBE has become a member of the Nature Conservancy Council.

Charles de Haes and Dr Lee Talbot, directors general of WWF and IUCN respectively, have been awarded the rank of Officer in Senegal's National Order of the Lion, the country's highest civilian honour.

Professor Dr Bernhard Grzimek, President of the Frankfurt Zoological Society and Editor-in-Chief of the wildlife magazine *Tier* (now published jointly with Heinz Sielmann's *Tierwelt*), has been appointed honorary professor of Moscow State University. In his acceptance speech he called on the Soviet Union to cease whaling.

Thomas L. Kimball, long associated with the National Wildlife Federation as its Executive Vice-President, has retired and is succeeded by Dr Jay D. Hair of North Carolina. At the same time C. Clifton Young of Nevada succeeded Dr Frederick R. Scroggin as President.

P. H. C. (Bing) Lucas, an IUCN Councillor, has been appointed Director General of the

New Zealand Department of Lands.

H.S. Panwar has been appointed Director of India's Project Tiger.

Richard H. Pough, a founder of the American Nature Conservancy and a past president of Defenders of Wildlife, has received the 1981 Audubon Medal.

Russell Train, President of WWF-US, has been awarded the Elizabeth Haub Prize, conferred by the University of Brussels, for his work in conserving the nature and natural resources of Central Africa and for his leading role in the development of environmental law in the US.

OBITUARIES

Len Hill, owner of Birdland at Bourton on the Water and of two islands in the Falklands, Grand Jason and Steeple Jason, died on December 3.

Major C.W. Hume, founder and for many years director of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (Ufaw), died on September 22, aged 95. He was for several years a member of the FPS Council.

H.G. Hurrell, the well known Devon naturalist, died on May 23.

Captain Collingwood Ingram, Britain's centenarian ornithologist, famous also as an expert on ornamental cherries, died on May 19 in his 101st year.

Dr Averil Lysaght, well known as an authority on the life and work of Sir Joseph Banks, died on August 21.

Fred Packard, who worked in the US National Parks Service and was Secretary of the IUCN International Committee on National Parks, died in December.

Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald, naturalist and author, died on October 23, aged 81. He was a former Editor of *The Field*.

Dr J.H. Westermann, Hon. Secretary of the Netherlands Foundation for International Nature Protection, has died age 74. He was also Hon. Secretary of WWF Netherlands.

C.B. Williams, pioneer researcher and author of the New Naturalist volume on insect migration, died in July aged 98.



THE NEW-BORN INFANT *Norman Myers*