

Oryx 100% Fund

The following are the latest grants from the Society's Oryx 100% Fund: all are concerned with endangered species:

- £500** to the Charles Darwin Foundation in the Galapagos Islands for the giant-tortoise rearing and reintroduction programme. Several island races are endangered because introduced rats, dogs or pigs destroy the young. By rearing them in captivity until they are big enough to withstand the predators the population can be saved. On Hood Island 19 captive-reared tortoises have been returned and are flourishing, and 82 have been taken back to Pinzon.
- £350** to a study of the ecology, conservation and management of the river terrapin *Batagur baska* in Malaysia. Important as protein in south-east Asia, numbers have declined greatly and its future depends on prompt and good management.
- £250** to Dietrich Schaaf towards the expenses of his survey of northern swamp deer in Nepal.
- £240** to William E. Rainey and Dr Edward L. Towle to study the status and distribution of the endangered lizard *Cyclura pinguis*, found only on the small island of Anegada in the British Virgin Islands in the Caribbean.
- £200** to David M. Taub to advise the UNDP on a national parks programme and conservation in Morocco where Mr Taub recently reported on the status of the Barbary ape *Macaca sylvanus* – see Note on page 229.
- £160** to E. R. C. Davidar for surveys of the last two unsurveyed Nilgiri tahr areas in India, described in *Oryx*, October 1975, page 205.
- £100** to Durham University Langtang research project for studies of endangered species in proposed national park areas in Nepal.

Mexico-USA Wildlife Agreement

Mexico's wildlife agency, Fauna Silvestre, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service are to set up joint investigating teams to find out the status of three highly endangered mammals that straddle their mutual frontier: jaguar, Mexican grizzly bear and Mexican wolf, and to devise conservation measures for each one. This is one result of the recently concluded wildlife agreement between these two neighbours which covers also migratory birds, law enforcement, wildlife management training and unique ecosystems. The two organisations will also exchange information on bighorn sheep, Sonoran pronghorn antelope, and California condors. There is some

Legacies and Gifts

FPS is very grateful indeed for the following legacies and gifts over £25 received in the period July–December 1975. We are equally grateful for many gifts under £25:

Legacies

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| C. L. Forrester | £5000.00 |
| Miss F. E. Messiter | £3200.00 |
| M. C. Bell | £400.00 |

Gifts

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|----------------------------------|----------|
| New Moorgate Trust Fund | £1000.00 |
| St Katherine's Fund | £250.00 |
| Mrs P. Bickersteth | £50.00 |
| J. D. Constable (US \$ equal to) | £40.00 |

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| St Katherine's Fund | £350.00 |
| Ofenheim Charitable Trust | £200.00 |
| W. D. Francis (lecture fees) | £141.00 |
| Munich International School | £100.00 |
| M. A. Tozer | £100.00 |
| J. D. Constable (\$200) | £91.20 |
| Dr Mary C. Dawbarn | £30.00 |
| K. Richards | £30.00 |
| I. M. L. H. Forde | £25.00 |
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| | £11,007.20 |

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evidence that a few condors are to be found in Baja California, a province to which Mexico gives top priority for its conservation, but a new 1100-mile road running the length of the province has brought in a rush of tourists (from the USA) and immense pressure from developers.

Elephant Rescue in Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka the Department of Wildlife Conservation managed to drive 21 of the 35 remaining elephants stranded at Uda Walawe (by surrounding farms and cultivations) into a forested area where they will be left in peace. (A description by David Jones of the attempt to rescue some of these elephants was published in *Oryx*, October 1975, page 185.) The drive took five days and involved not only officials and rangers but 100 young people; at one point 200 villagers had to be organised to get the scared elephants to go in the right direction, while exasperated farmers tried to force them back away from their crops. The operation is described by Gamini G. Punchihewa in *Loris*.