

Society pages

Gifts and Grants to ffPS

ffPS is most grateful for the gifts of £25 and over listed below, and also for many smaller donations (whose publication is unfortunately prevented by lack of space) between 24 March and 30 June 1983.

Mountain Gorilla Project

	£
Total donations under £25	2769.99
Sarah Jackson Trust	400.00
R.N. Turver	400.00
I.M. Redmond's lecture sales	164.50
English School, Salwa, Kuwait	110.00
Peregrine Holidays/Town and Gown Ltd	100.00
A. Ashford	90.00
Woodside School	74.14
R.G. Hayter	70.00
F. Rossi	60.00
L.J. Allen	55.00
L.B. Button	50.00
J.F. Crump	50.00
C.W. Dean	50.00
E. Money	50.00
Mr Wright	50.00
R. Simons	45.00
D.A. Rossi	40.00
C. Harrington	30.00
G. Howarth	30.00
T. and M. Ridgley	30.00
F.M. Armstrong	25.00
G. Baker	25.00
J. Entwistle	25.00
B.C. Pearson	25.00

Birdwatch 1983

C. Zeiss (West Germany)	185.00
Goldcrest Films	150.00
B. Coleman	144.00
Philips Electrical Ltd	144.00
Eurobooks Ltd	100.00
National Westminster Bank Plc	100.00

Oryx 100% Fund

St Katherine's Fund (earmarked for East African Wildlife Soc.)	800.00
Anon.	500.00
Hagley School	59.19
A. Ahlers	50.00

E.D. Medcalf	50.00
D. Goode (earmarked for urban conservation)	25.00

Bat Fund

Anon.	50.00
J. McGregor-Smith	25.00

Gifts and Legacies

Consolidated Gold Fields (Oryx Reserve Fund)	10,000.00
The Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust (Oryx Reserve)	2000.00
St Katherine's Fund	500.00
Cadbury Trust	50.00
W. Francis	50.00
M. Norton	45.00
National Federation of Zoological Gardens	31.74
Donation of Royalties per Academic Press	25.21

Oryx 100% Fund Grants

At its meeting on 12 July 1983 the ffPS Council approved a grant of **£500** to Dr Peter G.H. Evans for a three-month survey of the relative abundance of imperial parrot *Amazona imperialis* and red-necked parrot *A. arausiaca*, both endangered, endemic species, in Dominica, West Indies. He aims to identify more precisely their spatial distribution on the island, the relative importance of different food plants, and centres of concentration.

Ecology Building Society

The Ecology Building Society was founded in 1981 to lend on energy-saving and otherwise ecologically desirable properties, whether houses, village shops, small businesses, small-holdings or even just land. The Society at present pays only the Building Societies Association recommended rates because, as a recently founded small business, it has to keep its costs to a minimum. It has, however, built up its assets to £420,000 and has lent on 20 mortgages.

They have a scheme whereby interest earned by investors is automatically credited to certain

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organisations, including ffPS. Obviously ffPS cannot formally recommend or guarantee the Ecology Building Society but we do understand that there are £50,000 worth of deferred shares which are totally responsible for the first payment out of any loss which may accrue.

Further information may be obtained from the EBS at 43, Main Street, Cross Hills, via Keighley, West Yorkshire BD20 8TT (Tel. 0535 33719). If you do decide to open an account you simply mark the box on the application form which asks for details of your bank account with ffPS and the EBS will do the rest.

80 years ago

The Society celebrates its 80th Birthday in November 1983. In 1904 it published Volume I of the *Journal of the Society for the Preservation of the Wild Fauna of the Empire*. Many of the problems discussed then remain with us—though attitudes may have changed.

A long memorandum was sent to the Earl of Cromer and Sir Reginald Wingate (Governor General of the Sudan) protesting at the likely loss of a reserve in the Sudan. The signatories included most of the most eminent naturalists of the day and the report published in the *Journal* is reproduced below:

This Memorial was signed by: The Duke of Bedford; The Duchess of Bedford; Sir John Kirk K.C.B.; Sir Edward Grey, M.P.; P.L. Sclater; S.H. Whitbread; C. Adeane; Professor Ray Lankester; John G. Millais (Author of 'A Breath from the Veldt'); Richard Lydekker, F.R.S.; Oldfield Thomas; F.C. Selous; E.N. Buxton; The Earl of Rosebery; Sir H.H. Johnston, K.C.B.; Sir Henry Seton-Karr, M.P.; H.A. Bryden (Author of 'Kloof and Karroo'); Henry Woodward, LL.D., F.R.S., etc.; A. Chapman (Author of 'Wild Spain'); Lord Avebury; P.B. Vander Byl; Sydney Buxton, M.P.; The Marquis of Hamilton; Sir W. Lee Warner, C.S.I.

On July 30, a meeting of the signatories took place at the House of Commons, and Mr. Buxton laid before them the correspondence. It was suggested that the signatories should form themselves into a society to encourage the protection of the larger game animals within the Empire, and invite others interested in the subject to become members.

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In December a circular was issued in these terms:

"The Memorial to Lord Cromer and Sir Reginald Wingate relating to the Game Reserve in the Sudan has, we are happy to say, been entirely successful. The intention of abandoning that reserve has been given up, and it has been determined to retain it, and above all to constitute it for the first time a genuine sanctuary. This is a good instance of the value of bringing the public opinion of persons at home who are interested in the preservation of the African fauna to the notice of the officials on the spot. It seems desirable that those who have taken an interest in the matter should continue to act together.

"It has been suggested that a small association should be formed for the purpose of disseminating among its members information which is to be found scattered in a great number of official reports, and in other sources, dealing with game reserves, game laws, the amount of game killed, the gradual disappearance of species, etc., throughout Africa.

"The great object of the association is to further the formation of game reserves or sanctuaries, the selection of the most suitable places, and the enforcing of suitable game laws and regulations. At the present time the principal officials in the several departments in charge of the various sections of British Africa are impressed with the importance of immediate steps being taken for the preservation of African game, and have shown a readiness to receive suggestions from private individuals which encourages us to think that a society formed of persons interested in the subject, and, in many cases, possessing a knowledge of the districts, might render useful service.

"Where a contrary spirit prevails it may be desirable to take joint action.

"A subscription of 10s. per annum would cover the cost of printing. This is the only expense the society would have.

"It is proposed to hold a meeting at the Natural History Museum on December 11, at 4 p.m. to discuss the matter.

"Knowing that you take an interest in this subject, we trust that you will become a member of the Society and be able to attend the meeting."

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A meeting was held on December 11, at the Natural History Museum, with Mr. Buxton in the chair.

Great satisfaction was expressed on hearing from the chairman that the memorial to Lord Cromer and Sir Reginald Wingate had been entirely successful, and that he had received a telegram from Lord Cromer stating that the Order had been made constituting an absolute sanctuary.

It was resolved that a society be formed for encouraging the preservation of the fauna throughout the British Empire, and that the principal officials in districts where game abounds be invited to become honorary members. . . .

It was decided to collect and print for circulation among the members all information from government reports and from correspondence abroad relating to the protection of wild animals. . . .

It is very gratifying to learn that Lord Milner, notwithstanding the pressure of work since the declaration of peace, has found time to set apart a considerable area in the Transvaal as a game reserve, that an efficient game-warden has been appointed to superintend the reserve and to look after the carrying out of the regulations as to the killing of game, and that money is not being spared in paying for watchers.

The Society has been formed for the purpose of encouraging the protection of the wild fauna in all British possessions. The members regard it as one of the heritages of the Empire, which, if it be once lost, can never be replaced; at the same time they are anxious to avoid the impression that the principal administrators of our Colonies and Protectorates are indifferent to the subject. On the contrary, they are well aware that most, if not all, of these servants of the Crown, wherever animal life abounds, share their views of the importance of the question, and have already in most cases initiated measures for its protection.

The Society appeals to them to assist it in disseminating information on the question by furnishing the honorary secretary from time to time with facts bearing on the protection of species, the causes of their increase or diminution, and the measures taken to counteract the latter.

CITES: Botswana

The Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was held in a tent in Gaborone, Botswana on the 19–30 April. It sounds an unlikely venue for an international convention but it is literally true. However, the circus-sized marquee, complete with multilingual interpretation, was the only way that the tiny capital of Botswana could cope with the several hundred delegates.

With over 80 Parties and still growing, CITES is a convention now reaching maturity. It was also noticeable at this meeting that the less developed countries are rapidly becoming the driving force in many aspects of the convention.

Among the proposals discussed was one to list all seals on Appendix II (which would require all countries to monitor trade, and issue export licences). Much of the original material for this proposal was produced by ffPS, but unfortunately, largely due to a substantial lobbying by the Canadian Government, the proposal was rejected. Many other changes were made to the animals and plants listed in the appendices, and we hope to publish a detailed listing in a later issue of *Oryx*.

The convention is largely financed by subscriptions from the contracting Parties, but a resolution was also passed requesting non-governmental conservation organisations to provide support wherever possible. ffPS, at the Gaborone meeting, provided a substantial part of the minuting service, with Vivien Burton working as one of the two *rapporteurs*. The Society's official observer at the meeting was John Burton, but several other members of the Society were there in other capacities. Council member Gren Lucas was on the delegation of the UK, and Dr Gerard Bertrand, a director of ffPS (Inc.) was also present, representing Massachusetts Audubon Society.

One of the worrying features of the reports submitted to CITES is the non-correlation of the import and export statistics summarised by the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Unit—for instance only about one per cent of the recorded plant exports of one country agree with the imports

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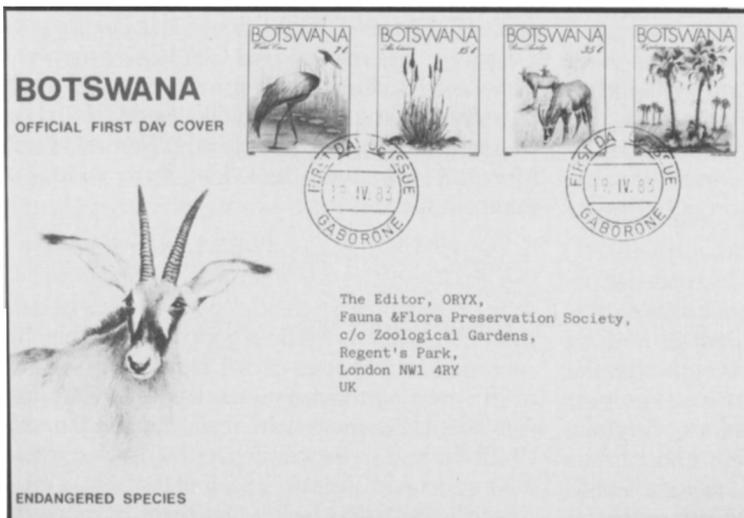


Marquee for 300 delegates to the CITES Meeting at Gaborone (Janet Barber/WWF).

recorded by another. It was agreed that a special working group be set up to examine the problem. ffPS will keep a close involvement since John Burton had acted as *rappporteur* for the Plants Screening Committee at the meeting, and ffPS was nominated for the Working Group.

Another feature which emerged, which does not seem to have been seriously considered by the

Parties is the lack of 'teeth' in the Convention. Many conventions have an Infractions Committee, to which information on irregularities can be submitted, and whose job it is to ensure compliance by the countries concerned, and in the period leading up to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties scheduled to be held in Colombia in 1985, ffPS will be pressing for an Infractions Committee to be established.



First day cover to commemorate the 4th Meeting of the Parties subscribing to CITES held from the 19th to 30th April 1983 in Gaborone, Botswana. The stamps depict wattled crane, *Aloe lutescens*, roan antelope and ivory palm *Hyphaene ventricosa*.

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Members of the ffPS Record Birdwatch team. *Left to right:* Cliff Waller, John Gooders, Bill Oddie and Tim Inskipp.

The *Country Life* Record Birdwatch 1983

by Cyril Walker

For those members of the Society who are not familiar with this event, the *Country Life* Record Birdwatch originated in 1980 when David Tomlinson (an assistant editor of *Country Life* magazine) realised there was a possibility of raising funds for conservation by organising an attempt on the British 24 hour record, which was set by two East Anglian schoolboys in 1965 with 126 species. The experiment proved so successful, £1200 was raised in sponsorship, that John Burton, our Executive Secretary, offered a challenge on behalf of the ffPS, in the hope that two competing teams would stimulate more companies to sponsor the event, and at the same time advertise the Society through media coverage.

At this point, it was realised that some people would criticise a conservation body for participating in what could be described as nothing more than a glorified tick-hunt, even though the whole object of the exercise was to raise funds for conservation. Rules were, therefore, carefully formulated to prevent as much criticism as possible. For instance, both teams agreed that to minimise any disturbance to breeding species it

would be permitted to accept not only sight records, but also songs and call-notes. Further, rare breeding species were put off-limits, even though their nesting locations were known to the teams. To reduce the competitive element, the only major prize was to be an addled Hawaiian goose (*néné*) egg, which was kindly donated and signed by Sir Peter Scott—a sort of symbolic ‘Ashes’.

In 1983 the Society made the third attempt to wrest the trophy from the all-conquering *Country Life* team, who held the British record set last year with 153 species. Once again Bill Oddie, John Gooders, Tim Inskipp and Cliff Waller agreed to donate their weekend to represent the ffPS, as did members of the World Wildlife Fund, Royal Airforce Ornithological Society, and Natural History Museum who were asked to form a back-up team.

In the early hours of 14 May both teams were in the field looking for nocturnal species, and for those that sing and call during the hours of darkness. Both teams made a good start for they had recorded four species of owl, stone curlew, Cetti's and Savi's warblers before dawn. The *Country Life* team, however, was really ‘buzzing’ and by 06.30 hr had already reached the magical total of 100 species, thus winning the Barbour Trophy which is awarded to the first team to reach that

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total. It soon became obvious to both teams, however, that it was not going to be a day for breaking records, for the inclement weather of the preceding weeks had held up the movement of many migrant species. Further, many of the good wader spots were completely flooded, which meant that certain marsh waders were going to be very difficult to find. Indeed, this proved to be the case for our team failed to locate such bread-and-butter birds as ruff, knot, wood, green and curlew sandpipers, and little and Temminck's stints, all of which are normally reasonable certainties in East Anglia at this time of the year.

Shortly after midday, Bill and his merry men headed towards the reserves along the North Norfolk coast in the hope of finding some of those 'easy' waders. On their arrival at Cley—one of England's birding 'hot spots'—they were informed by members of our back-up team that a passing common crane had scared-off most of the waders in the morning, and they had failed to return. Undismayed they proceeded to the RSPB, reserve at Titchwell in the hope of finding the missing waders. They were not there however, and gloom descended upon our team, for they knew that this was the last area in which they could expect to find the elusive birds, especially as dusk was approaching. It was then that we had our first piece of luck, for while looking at the summering eiders a migrating osprey came into view, quickly followed by the news that our RAF colleagues had located a party of dotterel on some nearby fields. After seeing this rather rare migrant wader, plus a solitary whinchat on a farm in the vicinity, the team headed back towards the finish at Warbleswick (Suffolk). They decided to take the 'scenic' route in the hope of picking-up a barn owl and possibly a nightjar before the deadline. They failed on both counts, and at a few minutes to midnight our team crossed the finishing line with a total of 144 species for the 24 hours. Not a bad total under the circumstances, but was it good enough to wrest the coveted Néné's egg away from David Tomlinson and his team?

The atmosphere was electric as Crispin Fisher (from Collins, the publishers) checked through the two scores. He finally announced that our total of 144 had failed to beat *Country Life's* by some six species—a crushing defeat. Although very dis-

appointed in being beaten for the third successive year, it was accomplished by a well-organised team which out-manoeuvred us in every respect. All parties realised, however, that if we had been lucky enough to locate those missing waders, the result would have been much closer, or even reversed.

Our defeat in the field was more than compensated for by the fact that we had raised more sponsorship money than *Country Life*. The total raised by both teams amounted to a record £6000 for the event, with our share being well in excess of £3200. The latter does not include any royalties which may be forthcoming from Collins who are publishing a book this autumn on the 1983 Birdwatch.

The success of this year's sponsorship was due largely to Bob Ivison and Sharon Shute who—with a little help from their friends—raised about £1000 by organising a charity disco/dance, plus a sponsorship programme in support of the Birdwatch, within the Natural History Museum. The Society would also like to thank the following: Mrs Alexander, Loraine Cornish, Sue Crabb, Tony Hutson, Mrs Jessop, Penny Mayor, Cindy North, Sue Sutton, Jacqui Staerck and Fred Wanlass, who helped with the above. Further monies were obtained from sympathetic companies who either donated products or sponsored us in some form or another. Acquiring sponsorship by any means is no easy task, and I would therefore particularly like to thank Mark Carwardine (WWF), Bill Oddie, Robbie Chapman and Edward Wright who helped Tim Parmenter and myself in running this side of the event. Last, but most important, I would like to thank, on behalf of the Society, those companies who participated in the sponsorship of the 1983 event, and sincerely hope that they will be able to do so again next year.

Companies: Alecto Historical Editions, Bayer UK, Bovis International, British Petroleum, Bruce Coleman Ltd, Camera Care Systems, Collins, Dragon Entertainments Ltd, Eurobooks, Fuller's Brewery, Goldcrest Films, Gulf Oil, Ilford Films, *Living Countryside Magazine*, Lloyd's Bank, Methuen, National Westminster Bank, Pace Petroleum, Paul's Agriculture, Philips Lamps, RAF, Reader's Digest, Saab UK, Sabers of Norwich (Saab), Sanyo, Suntory Ltd, Van Den Berghs, *Wildlife Magazine* and Zeiss Binoculars.

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WILDLIFE Illustrator of the Year

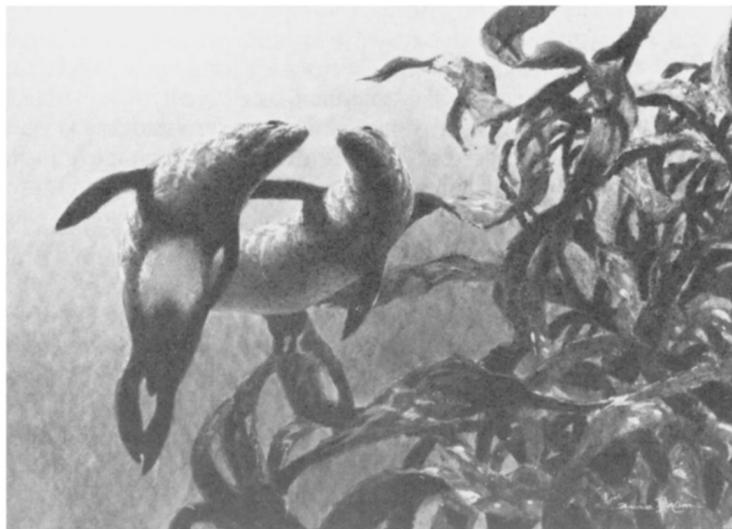


Sir Peter Scott (*right*) presents Bruce Pearson with first prize for his entry in the WILDLIFE Illustrator of the Year competition.

WILDLIFE Monthly Magazine's Wildlife Illustrator of the Year Competition was judged by Sir Peter Scott, Jonathan Kingdon, John Burton of ffPS, and Rosamund Kidman-Cox, the Editor of WILDLIFE. Each judge had a different favourite but after much debate the top award was given to Bruce Pearson. His prize is a walking safari for two in the Luangwa Valley in Zambia, donated by Twickers World, the wildlife holiday company.

Bruce chose to illustrate the Mediterranean monk seals, first because the species is endangered throughout its fragmented range—there are only 500–600 left in the wild—and second, because ffPS funded a project in the Northern Sporades in the Aegean Seas, in co-operation with the Greek fishermen, to protect a 50-strong colony.

Oena Armstrong based her illustration on a



Winner: Mediterranean Monk Seals by Bruce Pearson.

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Left: runner-up: Snow Leopard by Jim Channell. Selected for 1983 ffPS Christmas Card.

photograph of kittiwakes on the cliffs of Dunstanburgh Castle in Northumberland—a place she visited regularly with her family when she was a child.

Chris Shield's water colour and gouache picture was based on a combination of field sketches and photographs, with the young blackbird modelled on one rescued from a cat.

Of the three runners-up, Jim Channell's illustration of the snow leopard has been chosen for the 1983 ffPS Christmas card. He chose to illustrate this endangered species because of its beauty and appeal and because it has seldom been painted by other artists.



Below: Runner-up: Kittiwakes by Oena Armstrong.



Runner-up: Young Blackbird and Cricket by Chris Shields.

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Members' diary

London meetings

Friday, 14 November 1983 at 6.30 pm,
Birdwatching with a Difference

At this special evening meeting, Bill Oddie, John Gooders, Cliff Waller and other members of the ffPS and *Country Life* Record Birdwatch teams will host a bird identification slide quiz, organised by Peter Grant, an editor of *British Birds*. Tickets cost £4.00 each and as well as the wine and cheese buffet supper this includes quiz entry, and a chance to win a Sanyo Talk-book (tape recorder) as well as signed copies of the Birdwatch book—*The Big Bird Race* by Messrs Oddie, Gooders and Tomlinson, which will be published shortly before this date. Following the supper break we hope to show the film: *The Prince and the Pirate*—a new film in the TV South West series 'Secrets of the Coast', shown earlier this year. The film follows the comeback of the peregrine falcon and looks at its interaction with the raven. After being wiped out by the effects of pesticides in the early 1960s, the peregrines have now returned to previous nesting sites and are successfully breeding. (30 mins)

Wednesday, 1 February 1984 at 6.30 pm

Dr Chris Humphries, botanist at the British Museum (Natural History) and ffPS Council Member, will give an illustrated talk on his recent trip to Panama and Costa Rica, and Paul Goriup, Project Officer of the International Council for Bird Preservation and Co-Chairman of the ICBP Bustard Specialist Group will give an illustrated talk on the work of the Group entitled 'The Bustard Brigade'. A film will be shown after the buffet supper.

Tickets: £3.50 each available from the ffPS office (an SAE would be appreciated).

Both the above meetings will take place in the Meeting Rooms of the Zoological Society of London on the Outer Circle, Regent's Park, London NW1 (nearest tube, Camden Town; bus No. 74 to Primrose Hill).

ffPS Cambridge Group meeting
Friday, 18 November at 8 pm

Dr Norman Myers will give a talk entitled 'How Much Room in the Ark?'—a discussion on the priorities in conservation. The talk will be preceded by a buffet supper at 7 pm.

Tickets and full details from: Robert Burton, 46 West Street, Great Gransden, Sandy, Beds (an SAE would be appreciated).

Timing of meetings

Some members have indicated that they would prefer the meetings to begin at the later time of 6.30 pm. Consequently we have arranged the November and February meetings to comply with these requests. We would be pleased to hear from other members who attend ffPS meetings in order to please the most number of people. Unfortunately we cannot alternate the timing as this would lead to confusion all round. So, do please let us know whether you prefer 6 pm or 6.30 pm.

Back issues

We would be extremely grateful for any back issues from the last 3 years, in particular October 1981, and for all issues before Volume V, i.e. from 1956 and earlier. £1.00 plus postage for all parcels received will be paid.

Binders for *Oryx*

Binders to hold eight issues (two years supply) of *Oryx* are now available from the ffPS office. The binders are black, stamped with *Oryx* and the oryx head logo in silver on the spine, and cost £3.50 each, including postage and packing, if your order is posted on or before 31 December 1983, or £4.00 thereafter. (They will be sent second class for UK orders and printed matter/reduced rate for overseas orders.)