

# Briefly...

## International

### Crane update

At the International Crane Workshop in India in 1983 China reported that the eastern population of Siberian cranes *Grus leucogeranus* numbered 230 but the western wintering figures (38 at Bharatpur in India and seven in Iran) continue to show the species's peril. Red-crowned cranes *Grus japonensis* are down to 1000 and agriculture threatens the East Asian breeding grounds. The worst news was that fewer than 500 black-necked cranes *Grus nigricollis* remain (before the workshop the population was believed to number several thousands): a working group for this species is now intensifying the annual censuses and examining the possibilities for captive-breeding. *ICBP Newsletter*, 5, 2

### US lists foreign reptiles as endangered

Seventeen foreign reptiles have been listed as endangered or threatened under the US Endangered Species Act. The main threats include habitat destruction, introduced predators, exploitation by humans for food, vandalism and over-collection. The list is dominated by iguanas of the genus *Cyclura* (12 species and subspecies) but also includes the Serpent Island gecko *Cyrtodactylus serpensinula*, the Central American river turtle *Dermatemys mawii*, the Aruba Island rattlesnake *Crotalus unicolor*, the Lar Valley viper *Vipera latifii*, and the Round Island skink *Leiolopisma telfairii* (see page 38 of this issue).

*Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, VIII, 7

## Europe and North Africa

### Berne Convention update

The following 12 states have now ratified the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the Berne Convention) since it came into force on 1 June 1982: Austria, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

### Call for ivory import ban

The European Environmental Bureau  
*Briefly*

(EEB) is demanding that the EEC proposes a regulation banning ivory imports into the community. *Traffic Bulletin*, V, 2

### EEC acts to safeguard shellfish stocks

To counteract the increasing pressure on fish and shellfish stocks the EEC Commission has proposed increasing the legal minimum landing sizes for lobster, spider crabs, scallops, clams, and certain fish species in some regions. *Fishing News International*, 22, 7

### Bird cliffs made sanctuaries

Norway has designated 14 cliffs used by breeding sea-birds in the northern part of the country as sanctuaries; a total of 126 sq km are protected. *Council of Europe Newsletter*, 83-7

### New Swedish park

Tiveden, 1240 ha of forest on the borders of Västergötland and Närke, between lakes Vättern and Unden, was designated Sweden's 18th national park on 22 June 1983. *Sveriges Natur*, June 1983

### Tougher Danish hunting legislation

As a consequence of the EEC bird directive the Danish Game Act revisions include a ban on shooting oyster-catcher, lapwing, grey plover, golden plover, black-tailed godwit, bar-tailed godwit, spotted redshank, redshank, greenshank and knot. *ICBP*, Danish section

### Conservation effort pays off

A new dyke in the southernmost part of the Danish Waddensea threatened a site of international importance to about 15 bird species. As a result of pressure from the ICBP's Danish section, which opposed the building of the dyke, a shallow saltwater lagoon is to be established behind the dyke with the EEC paying half the cost. The lagoon is expected to remain of international importance to seven species, primarily ducks and geese.

### Black grouse numbers increasing

The small Danish population of black grouse *Lyrurus tetrix* was declining until

1980 but since then intensified management by the forestry office in its most important area has resulted in a twofold increase in its population. *ICBP*, Danish section

### Denmark's saltmarshes protected

The Danish Act on Nature Conservation has been amended so that owners of heaths or saltmarshes can no longer cultivate them without local government permission. *ICBP*, Danish section

### More plants on Estonia's protected list

The list of protected plants in Estonian SSR was increased in 1983 to 119 species; the 1958 list comprised 55 species. *Eesti Loodus*, July 1983

### Scotland's seals safe

No licences for the killing of grey seals *Halichoerus grypus* will be issued in Scotland this breeding season except for killing at salmon nets where seals are causing exceptional damage. A three-year government research programme showed that reducing the seal population would not benefit commercial fishermen.

### Return of a damselfly

The scarce green lestes *Lestes dryas*, a damselfly not seen in Britain for several years (although still surviving in a few localities in west Ireland), reappeared in Essex in 1983. It was formerly found in marshy, shallow ponds and ditches in Essex, the Fens and Romney Marsh.

### Large blue reintroduction plan

The large blue butterfly *Maculinea arion* which became extinct in Britain in 1979 is to be reintroduced by the WWF. It plans to use butterflies from a continental population very similar to the British one.

### Salmon released in Rhine

Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* have been released in the Rhine near Basle in the hope that they will return to the river, where the species has been absent since 1958, after their migration to the sea. *Council of Europe Newsletter*, 83-7

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## Buzzards incidentally poisoned

A campaign to eradicate the water vole *Arvicola terrestris* in parts of Switzerland where it was damaging high-altitude pastures has caused fatal poisoning in predators, buzzards and foxes being most affected. Nature conservation organisations have demanded an immediate halt to the operation. *Council of Europe Newsletter*, 83–6

## Andorra protects game birds

In Andorra the capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* has been classified as a protected species, and shooting of rock ptarmigan *Lagopus mutus* is no longer allowed. Hunting has been restricted to two days per week throughout the country. *Council for Europe Newsletter*, 83–6

## Mink cause desman decline

Escaped American mink *Mustela vison* are believed to be responsible for the decline in numbers of the Pyrenean desman *Galymys pyrenaicus* and its subspecies *G. p. rufulus* in the mountain streams of the Central Pyrenees in Spain. The subspecies has not been seen since the mink ran wild two years ago. *Council of Europe Newsletter*, 83–7

## Imperial eagle's precarious situation

It is feared that the Spanish imperial eagle *Aquila heliaca adalberti* is in danger—only 83 breeding birds have been recorded. Its situation in Morocco is also reported as precarious. *Council of Europe Newsletter*, 83–6

## Black vulture habitat to be bombed?

A private estate (Cabañeros) in Spain where many bird species live, including 22 breeding pairs of black vultures *Coragyps atratus*, is to be taken over by the military for a bombing range. Forty-four nature conservation organisations are campaigning against it. ICBP, Spanish section

## Cretan date palm

The only stand of the famous endemic Cretan date palm *Phoenix theophrasti* at Vai in Crete has long suffered from beach fires and vehicle pressure which prevented regeneration. In 1983 the

Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature fenced the grove, employed wardens and installed fire-fighting facilities.

*Threatened Plants Newsletter*, No. 11

## Deer reintroduction in Cyprus

Fallow deer *Cervus dama* are to be reintroduced into Cyprus by the Cypriot forest authority; they were hunted out in medieval times.

*Council of Europe Newsletter*, 83–6

## Africa

### Ivory hoard discovered

In August 1983 members of Kenya's anti-poaching patrol uncovered 336 elephant tusks hidden by ivory smugglers in thick coastal forest. *Los Angeles Times*, 18.8.83

### Parrots die in transit

When a consignment of 980 African grey parrots *Psittacus erithacus* on the way from Ghana to Saudi Arabia was intercepted at Nairobi International Airport the birds were found to be very cramped and without drinking water: 488 have since died. The shipment contravened CITES transport guidelines and there is no information as to whether Ghana issued a CITES export permit (the species is on Appendix II). *Traffic Bulletin*, V, 2

### Last northern white rhino population numbers low

The only viable population of the northern white rhino lives in Zaïre's Garamba National Park and an intensive aerial survey, aided by ground counts involving 150 guards, has revealed only 15–20 individuals. The Elephant and Rhino Specialist Group of IUCN recommend immediate action to prevent further poaching. *WWF News*, 24

### Liberia's Sapo National Park

Sapo National Park was the first to be established, in May 1983, of Liberia's three parks and four nature reserves selected in 1978–79. The Park covers 505 sq miles of primary lowland rain forest in the south-eastern part of the country. Its fauna includes Jentink's duiker *Cephalophus jentinki*, Ogibly's duiker *C. ogibyi*, zebra duiker *C. zebra*, bongo *Syncerus caffer nanus*, forest

elephant *Loxodonta africana cyclotis*. Chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes*, and Diana monkey *Cercopithecus diana* are among the ten primate species that live there.

## Chad war further endangers antelopes

The war in Chad may have had serious consequences for the endangered scimitar-horned oryx *Oryx dammah* and addax *Addax nasomaculatus*. John Newby, a British biologist, has failed to discover any survivors of either species in their last stronghold close to the Chad/Niger border. There is still hope that Niger will establish reserves and there are plans, in conjunction with ffPS, to restock the wild with captive-bred animals from the Zoological Society of London and Marwell Preservation Trust who jointly own all the scimitar-horned oryx and addax in Britain.

## Fund to save drought-stricken animals

A fund has been launched to help ensure the survival of wildlife hit by the two-year drought in Zimbabwe. There are plans to translocate animals to highveld farms for breeding and eventual restocking of denuded areas at low altitudes. Especially hard hit are white rhino, sable antelope *Hippotragus niger*, and Lichtenstein's hartebeest *Alcelaphus lichtensteini*. *The Conservationist*, No. 37

## Bophuthatswana's new Act

Under Bophuthatswana's new National Parks Act a National Parks Board is to control the country's parks and game reserves. On 1 September 1983 two areas were handed over to the Board: 9000-ha Borakalalo Nature Reserve and 3000-ha Maria Moroka Nature Reserve. *Tshomarelo News*, No. 12

## Rare, wild succulents enter trade?

Although most succulents of the genus *Haworthia* (family Liliaceae) on sale in Britain are from cultivated stock, an examination of 15 nursery catalogues suggests that some of the rarer ones may be collected from threatened wild populations in South Africa. For example, only about 30 individuals of

*Oryx Vol 18 No 1*

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Scimitar-horned oryx (Zoological Society of London).

*H. marginata* remain in the wild and this species is among the plants offered for sale by a UK nursery. It is listed in *Threatened Plants of Southern Africa*\* and is difficult to cultivate, as are *H. lockwoodii* and *H. pulchella* which are also rare and also on sale. *Haworthia* spp, along with many other rare succulents, have no protection under CITES as yet.

Sara Oldfield, Threatened Plants Unit, Kew

\*Hall, A.V. et al. (1980) *Threatened Plants of Southern Africa: South African National Scientific Programme Report No. 45*, issued by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

## Asia (excluding Indo-Malaya)

### Captive-breeding of Asian wild ass

Jordan is setting up captive-breeding programmes for the endangered onager (wild ass) *Equus hemionus*. Thirty animals in the Shaumari reserve have been joined by a breeding pair from Montpellier Zoo in France. There are plans to reintroduce the onager to its native desert habitat.

WWF News, 24

### François' monkey in China

For the first time China has published population figures for François' monkey

Briefly

*Presbytis francoisi*. Discovered in 1966 in the remote mountains of the South Chinese province of Guangxi, there are 600 in the wild and a few in Chinese zoos.

Tier, May 1983

### China to let in foreign hunters

China is to make a 200-sq-km area in the Chinese province of Hailongjiang available to hunters from other countries. It is estimated that 1200 brown bears and 15,000 wild pigs live there.

Tier, May 1983

### New frog in China

A new frog species *Rana wuchuanensis* has been discovered in Guizhou Province in China.

Acta Zoologica Sinica, 29, 1

## Indo-Malaya

### Cheer pheasant reintroduction

More than 300 eggs, laid in Britain by captive cheer pheasants *Catreus wallichii* were flown to Margalla Hills National Park in Pakistan in 1983 to be hatched for release into pine forests once occupied by this endangered bird. The project is a joint venture of the World Pheasant Association and the Capital Development Authority in Islamabad. Elsewhere in their range hunting and habitat destruction still

threaten this species and probably fewer than 5000 remain in the foothills of Nepal and India.

### Captive-breeding to save a tragopan

Two pairs of Blyth's tragopans *Tragopan blythii* have been lent to the World Pheasant Association in the UK by the Indian State of Nagaland for breeding, with the eventual aim of releasing the offspring into the wild. The birds inhabit moist high-altitude forests in northern Burma and eastern India where they have suffered badly from the effects of logging: probably no more than 1000 remain.

### Indian wolves need sanctuaries

In India it is illegal to kill the grey wolf *Canis lupus pallipes*, which is listed on Appendix I of CITES, but they are often killed nonetheless. According to a recent survey only 500–800 remain\*. Wolf sanctuaries are needed, introducing native prey species if necessary and providing compensation for any loss of livestock. Potential sanctuary areas exist in Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

\*Shahi, S.P. (1982) Status of the Grey Wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes* Sykes) in India—a preliminary survey. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 79(3), 493.

### Snow leopard research brings results

As a result of Rodney Jackson's research on the snow leopard *Panthera uncia*—he was the first to radio-collar one in the wild in April 1982—the Nepalese Government is planning to incorporate the snow leopard study area into the new Shey-Phuksundo National Park. Its 800 sq miles (2070 sq km) will extend to the Tibetan border and protect up to ten snow leopards. Despite official protection in Nepal they are still hunted for their fur and their low density (one animal to 100 sq km) makes conservation difficult. fFPS is supporting this project through its Oryx 100% Fund.

### Dam could extirpate endemic fishes

The Kenyir dam on the Trengganu river system in Malaysia (due to be completed in 1984) threatens about three-quarters of its 101 fish species. The con-

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ervation status of most of them is not known—but most are endemic to Peninsular Malaysia and becoming rare because of increasing pollution. Among the 25 per cent that could adapt to the new lake conditions is the endangered golden dragon fish *Scleropages formosus*.

*Malayan Naturalist*, 36, 4

## Protected species for sale

Despite being a protected species in Malaysia, Rajah Brooke's birdwing butterflies *Trogonoptera brookiana* are widely available in curio shops. A number of shops there are also selling lacquered whole hawksbill turtles *Eretmochelys imbricata* (on CITES Appendix I).

*Traffic Bulletin*, V, 2

## Orang-utan sanctuary established

In March 1983 Malaysia established Lanjak-Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary, the country's largest protected area. It covers 168,760 ha of rugged hill country in Sarawak, home of the orang-utan *Pongo pygmaeus*. The Sanctuary will also protect Sarawak's state emblem, the rhinoceros hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros* and the catchments of eight major rivers.

## Australasia/Antarctica

### Farmers remove plover's nests—temporarily

Farmers near Wyperfeld National Park in Victoria, Australia, temporarily shift nests and eggs of the spurwing plover *Vanellus miles novaehollandiae* out of the path of cultivating machinery. Sitting birds accept this disruption and the practice is probably highly significant in maintaining the small local population.

*Wildlife in Australia*, 20, 2

### Ski development and conservation clash

A proposed reserve for the rare mountain pygmy possum *Burramys parvus* on Mt Hotham in the Victorian Alps in Australia has not been established because of opposition by some local ski interests and the Ministry of Tourism although it is supported by the Minister of Lands and by three major ski clubs. Opponents of the reserve want to clear boulders and snow gums, where the

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pygmy possum lives, for ski runs. Conservationists are calling for the proposed Alpine Resorts legislation to be abandoned in favour of Alpine National Park management which would create a better balance between conservation and ski resort development.

*Australian Conservation Foundation Newsletter*, 15, 8

### Success story for noisy scrub bird

Twelve noisy scrub birds *Atrichornis clamosus*, one of the world's most endangered species, are to be captured from their present habitat—a 4500-ha reserve at Two People Bay near Albany in Western Australia and relocated 25 km away at Mt Manypeaks. The Western Australian Department of Fisheries and Wildlife has been working to protect the species since it was rediscovered in 1961 after having been believed extinct for 70 years. The population was dangerously low then but now there are 80 breeding pairs.

### Addition to New Zealand's parks

In 1983 38,000 ha were added to Nelson Lakes National Park in the Glenroy and Matakiki catchments in New Zealand. The principal features are glaciated finger valleys, the Matakiki Valley being claimed by some as the most beautiful valley outside present national parks. The Minister of Lands decided to add 2070 ha of beech forest, on the west bank of the river Dart, to Mount Aspiring National Park.

*Parks and Reserves*, No. 3, June 1983

### Record for black stilt

A record 18 endemic black stilt *Himantopus novaehollandiae* chicks were raised in the wild in New Zealand, helped by cross-fostering of early clutches to nests of pied and hybrid stilts by the Wildlife Service. The enclosures used for cross-fostering were extended using funds from the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand.

*Forest and Bird*, 14, 6

### Chatham Island robin up to 11

The number of the endemic, critically endangered Chatham Island black robin *Petroica traversi* has been increasing, but very slowly, since the last remaining five birds were moved from

Little Mangere Island to better habitat on Mangere Island in 1976–77. The robin formerly occurred on four islands of the Chatham group, which lie 800 km east of New Zealand. In 1980–81 the New Zealand Wildlife Service started transferring the first egg clutches of the year to the nests of Chatham Island warblers and tomits for foster-incubation and rearing. Now the population stands at 11—lower than hoped because of unusual weather last season—but the Service is still 'quietly optimistic' about the bird's future.

*Forest and Bird*, 14, 6

### Rare rail makes comeback

The Lord Howe wood rail *Tricholimnas sylvestris* has been brought back from the brink of extinction. In May 1980 15 birds were left; in April 1983 there were 120, due to the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service captive-breeding project. By April 1983 62 chicks had been raised from rails airlifted from Lord Howe Island (off the east coast of Australia) and 57 have been released back into the island. Survival of these has been so good, with hand-raised birds producing their own chicks in the wild, that the intended five-year project will probably finish halfway through the fourth breeding season.

*ICBP Newsletter*, 5, 2

## North America

### Mining company donates land to park

A mining company, Cooper Industries, has donated mining claims for 10,000 acres in the centre of Wrangell-St Elias National Park in Alaska to the National Parks Service. This action removes one-third of mining claims in this park and 20 per cent of all mining claims in Alaskan national parks.

*National Parks*, 57, 7–8

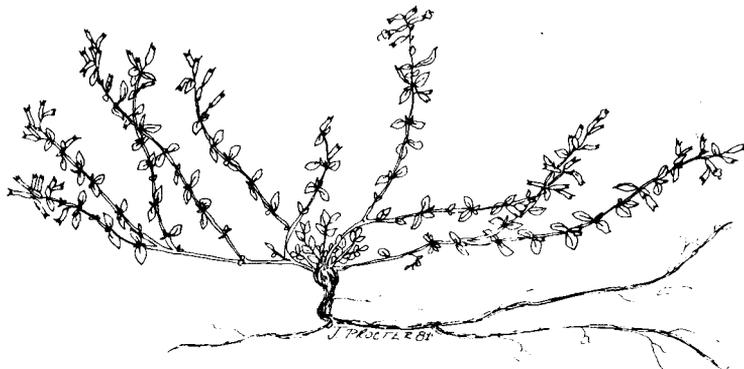
### New land for Great Smoky Mountains National Park

The National Parks Service has bought, after 30 years of attempting to do so, more than 2300 acres to complete the land acquisition for Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The land, which was once mined for copper, was sold by Cities Service Oil and Gas Corporation with all rights for \$1073,000.

*National Parks*, 57, 7–8

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Flagstaff pennyroyal—a tiny member of the mint family—is proposed for addition to the US Endangered Species List (by permission US Fish and Wildlife Service).

## Improved water management for Everglades

Recognising the untenable water situation at Everglades National Park, the South Florida Water Management District has approved National Park Service proposals to mitigate the unnatural disruption of water flowing into the Everglades which is caused by taking or releasing water according to the needs of the surrounding developed areas. Previous management policies have drowned the habitats of Everglades deer and nesting areas of wading birds. *National Parks*, 57, 7–8

## Oil refinery threatens right whales

A proposal to build an oil refinery and deep-water port on the coast of Maine, USA could put an important population of North Atlantic right whales *Eubalaena glacialis* at risk. The species is critically endangered, the whole population numbering no more than a few hundred. *WWF Monthly Report*, July 1983

## Two small plants for endangered list

Two small plants with limited distributions have been proposed for the US Endangered Species list. Flagstaff pennyroyal *Hedeoma diffusum*, a member of the mint family, is endemic to the Flagstaff area of Arizona and remains only on ten sites. It is threatened by urbanisation and recreational pressure, collecting for rock gardens and for herb tea. The only known population of clay-loving wild buckwheat

*Briefly*

*Eriogonum pelinophilum* on private land in Delta County, Colorado is threatened by horse-grazing. It is a tiny shrub, 100 mm high, with clusters of white to cream flowers. *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, VIII, 7

## Agave down to three in wild

The Arizona agave *Agave arizonica*, a succulent from a small area in central Arizona, which is threatened by collectors, cattle grazing and trampling, has been proposed for listing as endangered. Only three plants remain. *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, VIII, 6

## Young endangered toads discovered

No adults of the Wyoming toad *Bufo hemiophrys baxteri*, which has been proposed for endangered status, have been seen since 1981 but a 1983 survey in the Laramie Basin yielded two juveniles which are now at the University of Wyoming. *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, VIII, 7

## Turtle hatchlings swallow tar

Over 50 hatchlings of the endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle *Lepidochelys kempii*, released into the Gulf of Mexico off Padre Island, Texas, were later recovered washed up on the beach with lumps of tar in their mouths and gullets. A few died but most were cleaned and re-released. Work is underway to investigate this threat to the US government ten-year project to restore the turtle. The Mexican Government donated 2000 eggs and 20 hatchlings to the project in 1983.

*Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, VIII, 7

## Green turtle project progresses

The East Pacific green turtle *Chelonia mydas agassizi* nesting grounds in mainland Mexico are protected by a five-year programme organised jointly by the Mexican Secretary of Fisheries and



The Western swamp turtle *Pseudemys umbrina* survives only in two winter-wet swamps, which were declared nature reserves in 1962, on the north-eastern fringe of Perth in Western Australia. In 1978 fewer than 100 turtles were left. The wild population is being monitored, the habitat is being managed and there is a captive-breeding programme. This species is included in *The IUCN Amphibia-Reptilia Red Data Book, Part 1* (1982).

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WWF/IUCN. Nahuatl Indians are paid to transplant eggs to hatcheries to protect them from poachers, pigs and dogs, and volunteers patrol beaches, collect eggs and tag turtles. To date 900,000 hatchlings have been released.  
*WWF Monthly Report*, June 1983

## Kirtland's warbler numbers up

The Kirtland's warbler *Dendroica kirtlandii* census in 1983 revealed 213 singing males, six more than in 1982. Jack pines are being planted for these endangered birds which breed only in the lower peninsula of Michigan in immature stands of the tree.  
*Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, VIII, 7

## Update on San Bruno butterfly affair

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is being sued for granting a permit to 'incidentally take' endangered species in the course of building houses on San Francisco's San Bruno Mountain (see *Oryx*, October 1983, page 163). Friends of Endangered Species have filed the suit, alleging that the permit violates the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act because it is based on inadequate information.

Mark Collins, Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, UK

## Bonytail chub population rejuvenated

About 45,000 bonytail chub *Gila elegans* fry were released in the backwaters of Lake Mohave in Arizona in an effort to maintain the only known wild population of this endangered fish; its individuals are believed to be at least 40 years old, well past breeding.  
*Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, VIII, 6

## New record for whooping cranes

Whooping cranes *Grus americana* made 24 nests in 1983, the highest previous count was 19 in 1978 and 1980.  
*Grus Americana*, 22, 3

## First captive female California condor

Blood tests revealed that one of the four California condor *Gymnogyps californianus* chicks hatched at San Diego 52

Zoo in 1983 is female—the only known female in captivity. If all goes well, she could breed in 6–10 years. In addition to the four in captivity two chicks hatched in the wild in 1983.

*Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, VIII, 7

## Unintended picnic for golden eagles

A programme to restore endangered peregrine falcons *Falco peregrinus* to Sequoia National Park in California suffered a setback in 1983 when two of three released fledglings were eaten by golden eagles. Biologists recaptured the third before the eagles could catch it.

*Outdoor News Bulletin*, 37, 16

## Prairie vole subspecies extinct

The Louisiana prairie vole *Microtus ochrogaster ludovicianus*, not seen since 1905 despite many attempts to trap it including a survey in 1983, is apparently extinct. Its extirpation is probably due to prairie destruction.

*Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, VIII, 7

## Prairie dog recovering in Utah

The Utah prairie dog *Cynomys parvidens*, classified as endangered in 1973, should be reclassified as threatened according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Although occupying only a small part of its historical range numbers have increased to 10,000 adults and two populations are now straining the carrying capacity of the available habitat, making them vulnerable to disease and conflicting with agricultural interests.

*Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, VIII, 6

## First antelope embryo transfer

A female African eland *Tragelaphus oryx* born in June 1983 was the result of the first non-surgical embryo transfer in any antelope species. It is also the first step in an extensive embryo transfer programme being developed by the Cincinnati Wildlife Research Federation to accelerate the reproduction of species threatened with extinction.

## Bison to be moved

Bison are to be moved from Colorado National Monument to Badlands

National Park in South Dakota because they have overgrazed the canyon bottoms allowing an exotic grass to take over. The 32 bison are descendants of three introduced in 1926 but the area, although within the bison's historic range, is not classic bison country and is too small to support them.

*National Parks*, 57, 7–8

## Nuisance pigs

Feral pigs are appearing in California's national parks and, by rooting up vegetation, have reached a nuisance level in Pinnacles National Monument. The National Parks Service wants to modify existing cattle fences to exclude pigs but funds are short. It is not known why feral pigs are increasing but possible factors are vegetation changes and a decrease in hunting pressure.

*National Parks*, 57, 7–8

## Wolf loses protection in Minnesota

The US Interior Department are allowing ranchers and hunters in southern Minnesota to kill 50–160 wolves *Canis lupus* each year. The Fish and Wildlife Service defend the decision on the grounds that the number of wolves in the state has been stable for many years despite radical changes in the law. The wolf was listed as endangered in Minnesota (where most of the remaining 1200 wolves in the lower 48 states live) in 1973 but after objections from ranchers and hunters its status was changed to threatened in 1978—allowing the state to trap wolves that had killed livestock.

## Community service for panther killers

Two men who killed one of Florida's 20 panthers *Felis concolor coryi* were ordered to pay \$500 each, serve six months probation and perform 100 hours of community service in wildlife and conservation projects.

## Central America

### Parks plan for Trinidad and Tobago

The National Parks System Plan for Trinidad and Tobago will involve designating 61 units of land, comprising 69,000 ha of state land and 16,000 ha

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of private land, for protection, recreation and interpretation. The plan, which has been developed over ten years, proposes eight national parks, eight natural landmarks, 13 recreation parks, 13 scientific reserves, 13 nature conservation reserves and six scenic landscapes.

*Naturalist Magazine*, 4, 10

## Search for lizard in fig forests

The Culebra Island giant anole *Anolis roosevelti*, a large brownish-grey lizard, has not been seen by biologists since 1932 and is known only from two preserved specimens. But a recovery plan calls for surveys to discover whether the species still exists and for efforts to protect the remaining patches of fig forest on Culebra until such time as the species is rediscovered or assumed to be extinct. Mr Dumas, who collected the lizard for Major Grant who described it in 1931, has been located and claims to have seen one as recently as 1978.

*Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, VIII, 6

## South America

### Colombian grebe probably extinct

A survey of Lake Tota in the eastern highlands of Colombia failed to discover any Colombian grebes *Podiceps andinus* listed in the ICBP *Red Data Book* and restricted to the area since the early 1960s. It has not been seen for nearly ten years and is almost certainly extinct, probably as a result of habitat alteration.

*ICBP Annual Report 1982*

### Ibises die to make flowers

The scarlet ibis *Eudocimus ruber* breeding population in French Guiana dropped to zero in 1982. Hunting it for its feathers together with the associated disturbance are believed to be the reasons. In Sinnamary at least 20,000 artificial flowers are sold to tourists each year and one kind contains the black-tipped primaries of the scarlet ibis. Ben de Jong, ICBP representative for Suriname, who visited French Guiana to gather information on the effects of the flower industry, suggests that there should be a switch to dyed domesticated bird feathers.

ICBP

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## New Brazilian reserve

A new ecological reserve, Juami-Japurá of 1,400,000 ha, has been created between the Puruê and Mapari rivers in western Amazonia. The forested reserve is rich in primate species possibly including the red uakari *Cacajao calvus rubicundus*, the woolly monkey *Lagothrix lagotricha cana*, the black spider monkey *Ateles paniscus chamek* (all of vulnerable status in *The IUCN Mammal Red Data Book*) and the little known white-lipped tamarin *Saguinus labiatus thomasi*. It is the first South American reserve to protect known populations of the white uakari *Cacajao calvus*.

*A Noticia*, 22.7.83 and Anthony Rylands

## Caiman conservation

In the Pantanal area of Brazil caimans *Caiman crocodylus yacaré* have been hunted out from some areas although dense groups still exist in some protected areas and poaching is likely to decrease when numbers fall to an uneconomic level. Most hides go to tanneries in Bolivia and others probably to Paraguay. The Instituto Brasileira de Desenvolvimento Florestal is pushing law enforcement and investigating the potential for caiman farming as an option to cattle ranching. Oikos, a new conservation organisation in Brazil, declared 1983 the Year of the Pantanal and is trying to make the public aware of the need for caiman conservation.

*Crocodyle Specialist Group Newsletter*, 2, 2

## Oceania

### Focus on South Pacific

South Pacific islands with their numerous endemic birds are to be the focus of one of ICBP's nine principal conservation themes for the next four years.

*ICBP Newsletter*, 5, 2

### Plan for Hawaiian birds

Four endangered forest birds of Hawaii are the subjects of a recovery plan by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The species are the Hawaii creeper *Loxops maculatus mana*, Hawaii akepa *L.c. coccineus*, 'akiapola'au *Hemignathus wilsoni* and 'o'u, a honeycreeper, *Psittirostra psittacea*. Action will include securing high-altitude native forest

reserves which are safer from the threat of avian pox and avian malaria transmitted by introduced mosquitos, planting native trees, and controlling exotic plants and mosquitos.

*Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, VIII, 8.

## New shark

A new species, genus and family of shark *Megachasma pelagios* Family Megachasmidae, has now been described\* from a single adult male collected from the Hawaiian Islands. When it was discovered in 1976 it was dubbed the 'megamouth shark' because of its unusually large oral cavity.

\*Taylor, Leighton R., Compagno, L.J.V. and Struhsaker, Paul J., 1983. *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.* 43, 8, 87-110.

## People

Mario Andres Boza and Alvaro Ugalde, the first director and the present director of the Costa Rican National Park Service, were awarded the \$50,000 J. Paul Getty Award for conservation excellence in July 1983. Costa Rica's national park system is among the finest in the world: its parks cover 20 per cent of the land, from cloud-forest to sea-turtle breeding grounds.

Sgt Major Peter Logwe of Kidepo Valley National Park in Uganda has been awarded a medal of valour by the IUCN Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas in recognition of heroism in the fulfilment of duty. A ranger since 1969 and leader of a ranger force since 1976, he has frequently faced heavily armed poachers.

## Obituaries

Major Walter Scott MRCVS, who was a Council member of ffPS in the 1970s and Director of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare until his retirement in 1979, died on 29 December 1982.

Bill Vaughan, who organised the last ffPS joint meeting with the Mammal Society in 1982, was tragically killed in a helicopter crash while carrying out aerial census work on seals on the Wash. Bill had always worked with seals, both in the Antarctic and in almost all corners of the British Isles and had always made his extensive knowledge freely available. Our condolences are extended to his wife Jan and young daughter Emma.