

Briefly . . .

International

New Heritage Parties

The UK, Mexico, South Yemen and Zambia have all become Parties to the World Heritage Convention, bringing the total to 82.

CNPPA Newsletter, No. 27

More World Heritage Sites

The 7th session of the World Heritage Committee, held in December 1983, elected 29 new sites to the list, 10 of which were natural areas: Srebarna Nature Reserve and Pirin National Park, Bulgaria; Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada; Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves, Costa Rica; Comoe National Park, Ivory Coast; Sangay National Park, Ecuador; Great Smoky Mountains National Park, USA; Cape Girolata, Cape Porto and Scandola Nature Reserve in Corsica, France; Machu Picchu Historical Sanctuary, Peru; and Vallee de Mai Nature Reserve, Seychelles.

CNPPA Newsletter, No. 26

Ramsar Convention: new members

Three more countries—Belgium, Costa Rica and France—are to join the Ramsar Convention, bringing the total number of Contracting Parties to 38. Six others, including the USA, are 'giving careful consideration' to ratifying the Convention in the near future.

Wetlands: a gain and some losses

At the Second Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention in May 1984 it was announced that the protection of the Dutch sector of the Wadden Sea had been given international legal status. There were also reports of wetland losses: Malawi has lost five of its 11 important wetlands in the past three years; the Djoudj National Bird Park in Senegal, a World Heritage Site, is in danger of drying up. The Conference called for action to set up a clearing house to channel money, training and equipment to wetland conservation projects, especially in areas of Africa prone to drought.

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86 for CITES

Benin became the 86th member of CITES, on 28 May 1984.

Airline refuses illegal ivory

SABENA, the Belgian airline, which last November was accused by WWF of carrying ivory of suspect origin from Burundi to Belgium, has announced that it has now ceased to handle ivory shipments that contravene CITES.

Japan imports endangered tamarins

Of 14 endangered golden lion tamarins *Leontopithecus spp.* imported into Japan from Guyana between August and November 1983, five were identified as golden-headed lion tamarins *L. rosalia chrysomelas*, three of which were re-exported to Hong Kong. The tamarins were imported on export documents allegedly issued by the Guyanese Minister of Agriculture recording the animals as *L. rosalia*, 'captive-bred', but Guyana has since confirmed that no such export permits were issued.

Traffic Bulletin, VI, 1

US restores Japan's fish allocation

Because Japanese fishing companies threatened severe retaliation against US fishermen, from whom they purchase millions of dollars worth of fish, the US restored the allocation of fish to the Japanese in the US 200-mile zone in April 1984. In previous months the US had withdrawn fish allocations because of the latter country's objection to the whaling moratorium.

Monitor, 26 March 84

A lonely ecologist

The World Bank, which finances many projects that are destroying tropical ecosystems, signed a UN Declaration in 1980 pledging to assess the environmental effects of its projects. In 1984 its staff comprise 2500 economists, technicians and engineers and only one full-time professional ecologist.

Greenpeace Examiner, Spring 1984

Interpreting our heritage

The First World Congress on preserving, presenting and interpreting the World's natural and historic resources is to be held at Banff National Park in Canada, 30 September–4 October 1985. Details: The Society to Promote the First World Congress on Heritage Presentation and Interpretation, Old St Stephen's College, 8820–112 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2P8.

Are you planning an expedition?

The Expedition Advisory Centre's annual seminar is to be held on 27–28 October 1984, at the Royal Geographical Society, London. The programme covers all aspects of expedition planning and equipment and includes lectures, discussion groups and displays. Application forms: Joanna Cecil-Wright, Expedition Advisory Centre, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR (Telephone: 01 581 2057).

Very advance notice

The XIXth ICBP World Conference will be held at Kingston, in Canada, in June 1986.

Europe and North Africa

Water's Edge Campaign achievements

In Ireland the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry has set up a 386-ha nature reserve at Coole-Garryland in County Galway, which he has dedicated to the Council of Europe's Water's Edge Campaign. In Portugal the same campaign has resulted in a decree to give protection to water's edge ecosystems and the proposed Sagres and Aljezur Nature Reserve on the country's southwest coast. Spain has opened its first marine nature reserve in the Columbretes Islands.

Council of Europe Newsletter, No. 84–4

Europe needs babies?

The European Parliament, concerned that, if present trends continue, the population of the European Economic Community will account for only 4.5 per cent of the total world population by the year 2000, as opposed to 8.8 per

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cent in 1950, decided that more babies were needed. But the move was strongly opposed by Labour members.

Cod catch low

Iceland's 1983 cod catch was the lowest for 37 years. Some biologists suggest that the cod's scarcity is due to the decline in capelin, which is eaten by cod, while others point to a recent drop in the average temperature of Iceland's coastal waters.

International Wildlife, 14, 3

A huge problem with salt

The Russians are looking for a way to remove a million tons of salt from an artificial lake behind a dam on the Dniester River about 300 miles northwest of Odessa. The problem arose in September 1983, when, in the 'largest ecological disaster in Soviet history' millions of gallons of concentrated waste salts from a fertiliser plant near Lvov in the Ukraine accidentally spilled into the river, destroying animals and vegetation for 300 miles until the flow was stopped by the dam.

The Washington Post, 28 March 84

Holiday village will spoil Gotland

Plans for 30–40 weekend cottages, artificial lakes, a golf course and a camping site threaten an unspoilt area of Gotland in the Baltic Sea. The Swedish authorities have not to date objected to the projected development, which would border the Hall-Hangvar Nature Reserve.

Sveriges Natur, Nr 2, April 1984

Eagle owl recovery

Eagle owls *Bubo bubo*, down to four pairs in western Sweden in the early 1970s, occupied 78 territories in 1983, thanks to a programme in which 737 eagle owls have been reared and 599 released since 1967.

Sveriges Natur, Nr 2, April 1984

New national nature reserve for UK

The Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) has declared 110 acres of woodland in the Wye Valley, known as Lady Park Wood, a national nature reserve. It

will be managed by its owner, the Forestry Commission, in conjunction with the NCC. The mixed deciduous woodland has been monitored for 40 years and is believed to be similar in composition to the original native woods of the valley. The trees include the rare large-leaved lime *Tilia platyphyllos*.

Barn owl survey: help needed

The Hawk Trust's survey of the barn owl in Britain is now in its second and final year. A mention in *Oryx* in January 1983 brought in a high response and the honorary project co-ordinator Colin Shawyer has invited *Oryx* readers to send in further records. Preliminary findings of the first year's returns indicate some contraction in the barn owl's range and a major overall decline of about 30 per cent in numbers in England and Wales over the last 10 years. Data are required from all counties and especially from Devon, Berks, Oxon, Notts, Cambs, Lincs, Lancs, North and mid-Wales, Dumfries and from Ireland. Recording cards and conservation leaflets are available from The Hawk Trust, FREEPOST, Beckenham, Kent.

Orchid in a cage

Endangered orchids in many parts of the UK were protected this year by 24-hour wardening schemes, and in Kent a protective cage was erected over the site of the monkey orchid, one of Britain's rarest plants. The project is co-ordinated by the RSNC and is the first UK project in the IUCN/WWF International Plants Campaign launched in 1984.

Reserve for Jersey orchid?

The Jersey orchid *Orchis laxiflora* occurs in two locations in Jersey and it is unknown elsewhere in Britain except for Guernsey. One of the Jersey sites is owned by the National Trust, but the future of the second site, *Les Pres Dormants*, is less secure. The Jersey Conservation and Naturalists Society is involved in the management of *Les Pres Dormants* and has secured agreement with the local landowners and the Island Development Committee. A management plan has been prepared for an important area where agreement has not been reached and it is hoped that



Monkey orchid (Peter Wakely).

this portion can be incorporated into an overall nature reserve.

Sara Oldfield

Overwhelming kelp

The collection of many thousands of sea-urchins in the summer around the

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Scilly Isles (UK) is upsetting the balance of the marine ecosystem by allowing the unchecked growth of giant kelp.
Marine Pollution Bulletin, 15, 6

Battle on the Danube

The riverine forest on the Danube at Hainburg outside Vienna is threatened by a hydroelectric plant, which is meeting with strong and organised protest within Austria and in the rest of Europe. The seasonally flooded forest contains 40–50 tree and shrub species, and supports many rare and endangered species.
WWF News, No. 29

Razorbills drown in Spanish nets

Several hundred razorbills *Alca torda* drowned last winter in fishing nets near Chiponia and other towns round the Bay of Cadiz in Spain. Some Chiponia fishermen, now aware of the harm they are doing by setting nets in areas where razorbills are seen to be feeding, are taking steps to avoid doing so, but they are still in a minority.
BTO News, No. 132

Two island lizards on US list

The Hierro giant lizard *Gallotia simonyi simonyi*, native to the Canary Islands and believed extinct until recently, has been added to the US list of endangered species. The Ibiza wall lizard *Podarcis pityusensis* has been added to the US list of threatened species—it is found on the Balearic Islands and Mallorca Island in the Mediterranean. Both species suffer from reduced habitat, competition with and predation by introduced animals, over-collection by researchers and for the pet trade.
AAZPA Newsletter, XXV, 5

Africa

Drought stops waterfowl hunt

The drought in Senegal led the Government, after a request from ICBP, to ban waterfowl hunting from 12 February 1984. Other hunting quotas have also been reduced.
ICBP Newsletter, 6, 1

World Heritage Site in danger

The Zaire Government has requested that Garamba National Park be placed
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on the list of World Heritage in Danger due to the decimation of the population of northern white rhino, which has been reduced to about 20 individuals.
CNPPA Newsletter, No. 26

Anthrax kills rhinos

Nearly 1000 animals, including elephants, buffaloes and rhinos, died of anthrax in northern Tanzania's Lake Manyara National Park in March. Poachers are suspected of poisoning the animals for their tusks and horns.
The Washington Post, 1 April 1984

Mollusc-collecting causing spiny and boring problems

Mollusc-collecting for the export trade in shells has already depleted many of Kenya's popular shores, and now remote parts of the coast are coming under attack. Since many of the molluscs removed are carnivorous, their prey species are increasing in numbers. On some beaches there are massive plagues of long-spined black urchins and rock-boring urchins; both deter tourists and, in the case of the latter, perhaps weaken the reef which protects the shore.
Wildlife News, 19, 1

Kenya: a cull not a hunt

In the July 1984 issue of *Oryx* (page 168) we reported that Kenya was going to permit hunting, which had been

banned since 1977. It seems, however, that Kenya intends only to cull certain species—impala, Grant's and Thompson's gazelles, wildebeeste and zebra—closely supervised and monitored by the Government. Populations of these species have apparently increased so much that they are damaging crops adjacent to the parks and game reserves.

Thousands of crocodiles being trapped

A crocodile farm is being set up on the outskirts of Mombasa in Kenya. It is expected to house 20,000 crocodiles by 1986 and 650 crocodiles have already been trapped along the Tana River. The farm expects to trap thousands more over the next four years and to eventually kill 3000 animals a year for skin exports.
The New York Times, 4 May 1984

Animal hospital for Kenya

The Elsa Trust, founded by the late Joy Adamson, is seeking funds to set up the Joy Adamson Memorial Animal Hospital. There has been an urgent need for a hospital in the Nairobi National Park for many years, but administrative difficulties and lack of government funds have impeded progress. Now the Elsa Trust, in response to a request from the Austrian Society of Friends of Kenya, have plans for a fully-equipped hospital with facilities for research and



This sticker has been produced by the Ornithological Society of Malta as part of its campaign to save Buskett Reserve from the depredations of hunters (see *Oryx*, April 1984, page 107).

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public education. School visits will be especially welcomed. Further information from and donations to: The Elsa Trust, c/o Livingstone Registrars Ltd, PO Box 30029, Nairobi, Kenya.

Cedar needs help

Mulanje cedar, whose major stronghold is on Mulanje Mountain in Malawi, has become a prestige timber and is in greater demand than ever. Despite the Government raising the royalty rates for timber in the round, in February 1982, there is no shortage of buyers and pit-sawyers are now working in parts of the mountain to which 20 years ago it was considered so difficult to gain access that exploitation was uneconomic. No re-planting of cedar is being done: an immensely valuable, potentially renewable resource faces local extinction. *Nyala*, 9, 1/2

Nuisance rhinos removed

Two white rhinos, which were to be killed because they were trampling crops and dominating the scarce water in the Lephephe area 100 km north of Gaborone in Botswana, were instead translocated to Chobe National Park 1000 km away in February. The rescue was carried out by the Natal Parks Board, with assistance from Helicopters Botswana and Botswana's Department of Wildlife and National Parks. A safari company, Hunters Africa Botswana (Pty) Ltd paid all costs.

Kalahari Conservation Society Newsletter, No. 4

Concern for wattled crane in South Africa

The wattled crane *Bugeranus carunculatus*, down to only 6000 in the wild, is causing concern amongst conservationists in South Africa, where 300 of the birds survive. Its wetland habitats are being drained for pastures, dammed to make reservoirs for trout, surrounded by pine and eucalyptus plantations or burnt in the winter. Of the 110 breeding pairs left in South Africa, 105 are on private land. Conservationists have drawn up a comprehensive plan to try to prevent the crane becoming extinct in South Africa by the end of this century. *Quagga*, No. 5



Mulanje cedar (from a postcard: photograph by Tarcisio van Raaij).

Another Kruger tusker dead

Mafunyane, one of the seven great elephant tuskers of the Kruger National Park (which were radio-collared for their safety) died in November 1983 of natural causes, aged about 57 years old. Only three of the legendary tuskers are now alive.

African Wildlife, 37, 6

Reserve for elephants and suni

The KwaZulu Government has declared a 29,000-ha game reserve in the Ingwavuma district of Tongaland in South Africa, to be known as Tembe Elephant Park. Its sandveld forest holds a breeding herd of the last surviving wild elephants in Natal and provides refuge for the largest suni *Neotragus moschatus* population in South Africa. A 59-km electric elephant-proof fence will protect local people and their crops from elephant raiders and the Tembe tribal people will share revenue from the park and be represented on the management board.

Quagga, No. 5

Plan for Mauritius

A comprehensive wildlife research and conservation programme, which was drafted by ICBP, was officially agreed by the Mauritius Government, ICBP

and Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust in March 1984.

ICBP Newsletter, 6, 1

Release of pink pigeons

A pair of captive-bred pink pigeons *Nesoenas mayeri* has been released at the Botanic Gardens of Pamplemousses in Mauritius as a first step towards increasing the wild population of about 15–20 birds. There are at present 90–100 birds in captivity, 40 in Mauritius and the rest in Jersey, New York, Albuquerque and Walsrode—all the property of the Mauritius Government.

ICBP Newsletter, 6, 1

Captivity for the last echo parakeets

The remaining wild echo parakeets *Psittacula echo*, the most threatened bird species on Mauritius, are to be taken into captivity for breeding. A recent survey found only eight birds, only two of which are female, and there has been no sign of successful breeding for several years. The endangered Mauritius kestrel *Falco punctatus* has an estimated six pairs in the wild; it is hoped that three will nest in 1984 and eggs of first clutches will be removed for artificial incubation. There are 10 kestrels in captivity on Mauritius, at least two pairs of which are expected to nest in 1984.

ICBP Newsletter, 6, 1

Asia (excluding Indo-Malaya)

New desert reserve for Israel

The Regional Planning Committee in charge of the last unspoiled area of the Arava Valley, the Sheizaf Hills and the plains east and west of them, agreed to delay for five years a decision to establish an agricultural settlement there after pleas from conservationists. The Nature Reserves Authority can now develop a reserve: plans include establishing a centre for breeding desert plants and animals in danger of extinction.

Israel—Land and Nature, 9, 3

China's reserve for cranes

The government of Jiangxi Province, China, has set up a 22,000-ha nature reserve at Lake Poyang to protect the world's largest flock of Siberian white

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cranes *Grus leucogeranus*. In the winter of 1982–83 two Chinese scientists, Dr Zhou Fu-chang and Dr Ding Wen-ning, from the Institute of Zoology in Beijing, counted 230 of these birds, which they had first discovered there in 1980, when they counted 100. The new reserve attracts more than 130 species, including 450 white-naped cranes *Grus vipio* and 150 hooded cranes *Grus monacha*. The Poyang flock of Siberian white cranes is probably the one that breeds between the Lena and Indigirka Rivers in the Yakutia region of Siberia.
The ICF Bugle, 10, 1



Map showing location of China's new reserve for cranes at Lake Poyang

Lesser panda radio-collared

For the first time a lesser panda *Ailurus fulgens* has been radio-collared in China, where it is protected but its status is unknown.

China's reefs boost fisheries

China has created more than 300 artificial reefs, from stones, wood, concrete, used tyres and steel bars, since 1979. They have helped improve coastal fishing by increasing the plankton density in their locality by 50–500 per cent.

Fishing News International, 23, 6

Reserves for camels and argali

Reserves for camels, red deer and argali, totalling 23 million acres (9.3 million ha) are to be established in north-west China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

The Washington Post, 12 April 1984

New national park in Mongolia

The Mongolian People's Republic has declared its second national park in the southern part of the Ar-Toul Game Reserve. Its 93,500 ha are uninhabited primary taiga, but it is relatively accessible to the capital Ulan-Batar.

CNPPA Newsletter, No. 27

International Foundation for the Conservation of Game

Thailand to involve villagers in park protection

Khao Yai National Park in Thailand is the focus of a WWF/IUCN-supported scheme integrating elephant research and the development of a park management plan involving local villagers

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seeking help from these governments in obtaining some animals.

Elephants in trouble

About half of north-eastern India's elephants, estimated to number 10,000–12,000, face extermination in the next 10–20 years, according to Dr D.K. Choudhury, because of lack of habitat protection.

WWF Monthly Report, March 1984

Marine animals symposium

A Symposium on Endangered Marine Animals and Marine Parks will be held in Cochin, India, 12–16 January 1985. Details: The Convener, Symposium on Endangered Marine Animals and Marine Parks, Marine Biological Association of India, Post Box No. 1244, Ernakulam, Cochin-682 011, Kerala, India.

World's largest bee

The world's largest bee *Chalicodoma pluto* has been rediscovered in the rain forests of Indonesia by Adam Messer of the University of Georgia, USA. The bee, which is 45 mm in length, had not been seen since Alfred Wallace first collected the species in 1859.

BBC Wildlife, July 1984

Milky storks

Malaysia's population of milky storks *Mycteria cineria* is now estimated at 115 (previous reports were of 15–45) after a recent aerial survey. The Malaysian Wildlife and National Parks Service is employing wardens to discourage poachers and is interested in starting an education programme for the mangrove swamps where storks are still found.

ICBP Newsletter, 6, 1

Elephant rescue

In March the Malaysian Army rescued 15 elephants stranded by rising waters at a new dam.

The New York Times, 26 March 1984

North America

Harp seal hunt reduction

The annual seal hunt in the Gulf of St Lawrence in Canada took 2200 harp seal *Pagophilus groenlandica* pups in

and helping them to derive economic benefits from the park without destroying it. The previous emphasis of the Royal Forest Department has been to improve law enforcement.

WWF Monthly Report, April 1984

Japanese hills: for rare species or for US military homes?

A plan for 1000 homes for US military forces in Japan would destroy 27 per cent of the Ikego Hills, the last remaining large tract of wild land south of Tokyo, whose 290 ha of virtually untouched forested hills and grasslands are home of rare and endangered birds, insects and trees. The area is also a wintering ground for migratory birds from China and Siberia. Citizens of nearby Zushi, led by the Citizens Group for the Protection of Nature and Children, have been fighting the plan and want Ikego Hills to be designated a natural park. They are supported by conservationists outside Japan, including the US National Audubon Society, WWF and ICBP.

Monitor/Chikyu-no-Tomo/Friends of the Earth, Japan, March/April 1984

Indo-Malaya

Cheetah might return to India

India is attempting to re-establish the cheetah, which has not been seen in any Indian, Pakistan, Bangladeshi or Sri Lankan forests for over 60 years. The most closely related species is found in Soviet Central Asia and Iran; India is

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1984 compared with about 20,000 in 1983. The total Canadian hunt could take fewer than 20,000 this year, which is one-third of that in 1983 and one-tenth of that in previous years. The Canadian Government and fishermen are worried that the International Fund for Animal Welfare's boycott will cripple the fish export industry and the Canadian Cabinet continues to debate an official ban on sealing.
Monitor, 26 March 1984

Tourist boycott of Yukon

A tourist boycott of Yukon Territory in Canada has been instigated by the Fund for Animals to try to stop the Government's 'predator reduction programme' under which 60 grizzly bears are to be shot by trophy hunters. Wildlife biologists have criticised this programme, as being without scientific basis, and also the shooting of 200 wolves by government hunters; there is no scientific evidence that wolves are responsible for the moose population decline.

Monitor

Killer whales—capture resisted

Sea World's plan to capture 100 killer whales and keep 10 in captivity, which was approved by the US National Marine Fisheries Service in autumn 1983, has met with resistance from Alaska, which opposes the capture of the whales in its waters. The Sierra Club, representing a consortium of opposers, has asked for the Sea World permit to be declared invalid because it was given without the benefit of an environmental impact statement.

Monitor, 29 May 1984

Research on nuclear winter

The Reagan Administration may fund a national research programme to discover if a nuclear war could trigger a world-wide 'nuclear winter' (see *Oryx*, April 1984), a possibility that was first raised by a group of scientists using mathematical models.

The Washington Post, 29 May 1984

Invertebrate candidates

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed 1000 invertebrate species as possible candidates for the US list of endangered and threatened species. The candidate list is dominated by 335

species endemic to the Hawaiian Islands.

Department of the Interior

Prime wetlands gift

Following years of discussion with the Nature Conservancy, a private national non-profit conservation organisation, the Prudential Insurance Company of America has given nearly 120,000 acres (48,564 ha) of prime wetlands and forest lands in North Carolina to the National Wildlife Refuge System. The area, which is used by migratory wildfowl, is excellent bear, deer and bobcat habitat and is the northernmost limit of the American alligator, is on the Pamlico-Albermarle Peninsula.

Department of the Interior

Stricter wetland protection

Proposals to fill US wetlands prior to development will in future be subject to stricter state and federal scrutiny as a result of a new agreement between the Army Corps of Engineers (who last year proposed regulations to diminish wetlands protection), the Environmental Protection Agency and a group of 16 conservation organisations.

International Wildlife, 14, 3

Ash Meadows: a wildlife refuge

Ash Meadows in Nevada has been purchased by the Nature Conservancy to save it from development. Congress is to reimburse the Conservancy and make Ash Meadows part of the Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge System. Due to its isolation by desert, the Ash Meadows thermal springs contain the highest concentration of endemic species in the continental US.

Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, IX, 3

Goldfish invasion

Biologists have so far been unsuccessful in their attempts to remove goldfish *Crassius auratus* (introduced in 1983) from the Point of Rocks Springs, where they might invade the habitat of the endangered Ash Meadows Amargosa pupfish *Cyprinodon nevadensis mionectes* and the Ash Meadows speckled dace *Rhinichthys osculus nevadensis*. The US Fish and Wildlife Service wants public access into Ash

Meadows in Nevada controlled to prevent such problems.

Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, IX, 4

Poultry disease threat to wild birds

A highly virulent strain of avian influenza that has infected domestic poultry in Pennsylvania since October 1983 is still a threat to wild birds. Wildlife disease specialists are carrying out research and advising state wildlife agencies on precautions that may be taken to combat the spread of the virus in wildlife populations.

Outdoor News Bulletin, 38, 7

Wood stork on decline

The US population of the wood stork *Mycteria americana* has been determined as endangered. The present population is about 10,000 adults, a 75 per cent decline since 1930. The species's annual five per cent decline since 1975 has been attributed to disturbance in nesting and feeding areas. Conservation effort aims to manage the remaining habitat to provide the water levels needed by the storks at nesting time.

AAZPA Newsletter, XXV, 5

Condor losses

Two wild California condors *Gymnogyps californianus* have died; one death, last November, of a young female, has been attributed to cyanide poisoning from a coyote control device and the second death, of a 5–6-year-old male in March 1984, was apparently due to lead poisoning—perhaps from a bullet fragment picked up from the carcass of a shot animal.

Los Angeles Times, 12 April 1984

Audubon, 86, 2

Only four dusky seaside sparrows left

One of the five remaining male dusky seaside sparrows *Ammodramus maritimus nigrescens* died last year. The four left will continue to be mated with Scott's seaside sparrow females as part of the hybrid programme. One hybrid sparrow—offspring of a half-Scott's and a male dusky, i.e. three-quarters male dusky—hatched in 1984.

Bird Watcher's Digest, 6, 3

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Peregrines may return to Maine

Maine, USA, is importing 15 captive-bred peregrine falcons *Falco peregrinus* in an attempt to reintroduce a breeding population. They have been absent from that state since the 1950s.

International Wildlife, 14, 3

Agreement to protect ospreys

Several US timber companies have signed agreements with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to protect osprey *Pandion haliaetus* nests during timber operations by leaving a buffer zone around each active nest. The companies own the land on which 16 of the state's 18 osprey pairs breed.

Outdoor News Bulletin, 38, 6

Tax refund for barn owls

In Iowa, USA, 43,000 residents chose to donate \$2,000,000 of their state tax refund in 1983 to the State Fish and Wildlife Protection Fund. Part of the money has been used to fly in 71 barn owls from other states to try to restore depleted populations. There are only eight states in the US where taxpayers do not have the opportunity to donate part of their state tax refund to protect wildlife.

International Wildlife, 14, 3

One-third Florida's manatees dead

Florida's manatees suffered their highest mortality rate in seven years when 33 of the total population of 100 died in January 1984. Twenty deaths were due to unusually cold weather and three were caused by collisions with boats.

Florida Naturalist, Spring 1984

More redwoods protected

In California the Save-the-Redwoods-League has bought 149 acres of redwood land to add to the Portola Redwoods State Park.

CNPPA Newsletter, No. 26

Woodland caribou

The population of woodland caribou *Rangifer tarandus caribou* (the southern Selkirk Mountain herd) has been added to the US list of endangered species. It is found in extreme north-east Washington, north Idaho and south British

Columbia—the only herd now occurring in the US—and has declined to 30 individuals because of habitat destruction, poaching and possible inbreeding due to its extreme isolation from other populations in Canada.

AAZPA Newsletter, XXV, 5

Pronghorn versus coal dispute resolved?

A dispute that arose last winter when a rancher in Wyoming, USA, erected a fence to prevent pronghorns *Antilocapra americana* from reaching their traditional winter range on nearby public land may soon be resolved. The rancher excluded the antelopes because he wanted coal mining to proceed on the public land, and conservationists were objecting until precautions were taken to maintain the antelope's winter range. Now the parties involved have agreed that coal shall be mined from half the range and the other half will not be mined until the first half is reclaimed and suitable for antelope use. The agreement awaits approval by the US Bureau of Land Management.

Outdoor News Bulletin, 38, 9

Apartments might damage reef

Continental USA's only living coral reef, off the coast of Key Largo, would be severely damaged if permission is given to build 3500 luxury apartments along a 10-mile strip of beach. Also at risk would be endangered species, including the American crocodile *Crocodylus acutus*.

International Wildlife, 14, 3

US-protected butterfly feared extinct

The silvery blue butterfly *Glaucopsyche lygdamus* has 10 subspecies occurring between Alaska and Baja California. One of these, the Palosverdes blue (subspecies *palosverdesensis*) is now feared extinct. Its last two retreats on the Palos Verdes Peninsula south of Los Angeles were ploughed under in April this year. Although the butterfly was classified as Endangered with Critical Habitat under the US Endangered Species Act in 1980, and a recovery plan prepared in 1981, no effective action was taken.

Correction

On page 110 of the April 1984 *Oryx*, under the title 'Crane stops dam', it was stated that 700 whooping cranes used an area in Nebraska on their migrations. The figure should have been 70—there are only 106 in the wild.

Central America

Emergency efforts for turtle

The Kemp's or Atlantic ridley *Lepidochelys kempii* is the most critically endangered of all marine turtles, with fewer than 500 females nesting each year compared with 40,000 in 1947. Despite reduction in the last four years of the slaughter of females for their meat and the taking of their eggs by humans and coyotes, numbers are not increasing. The Center for Environmental Education's Sea Turtle Rescue Fund (STRF) is giving emergency funds to provide increased protection on their nesting beaches at Rancho Nuevo, Mexico. In addition STRF will work to get shrimp fishermen to use Turtle Excluder Devices in their nets in the Gulf of Mexico and the Bay of Campeche where the last of the Kemp's ridleys still forage.

CEE Report, 2, 2

Guan protection is group's goal

Acquiring reserves for the endangered horned guan *Oreophaps derbianus*, which is being hunted out as more of its cloud-forest habitat is cleared, is one goal of a newly formed group in Guatemala, Defensores de la Naturaleza. A small population of the guan also occurs in Chiapas, Mexico, where there is progress for a reserve for the species.

Audubon, 86, 3

Help in Costa Rica

Individuals and organisations wishing to visit Costa Rica for research or to see sites of particular ecological significance are offered help, free of charge, by students and scientists of the National University. Details: Carlos Luis Sandi Chinchilla, 175 Mts. al Norte de la Noche Buena en Guadeloupe, San Jose, Costa Rica, AC.

Caribbean Conservation News, 3, 8

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South America

Ibis numbers lower than expected

Preliminary results of a 1983 aerial census of colonial nesting birds on the northern coast of South America and the central lowlands of Venezuela revealed only 20,000 scarlet ibises *Eudocimus ruber*; in a 1982 census of a much smaller area at least 28,000 breeding birds were counted. A 1984 census will cover the entire range of the ibis, including north-eastern Brazil and parts of Columbia, where colonies may still exist, and meanwhile the WWF's Working Group on Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills is recommending that the scarlet ibis be classified as vulnerable. *Naturalist*, 5, 4

Underwater park

The Curaçao Underwater Park, opened in December 1983, includes over 20 km of relatively undisturbed fringing reef and three bays along the leeward coast of the eastern part of Curaçao off the Venezuelan coast. Most of the island's reefs suffer from various degrees of pollution and over-exploitation. *Caribbean Conservation News*, 3, 8

National park of reef and forest

A new national park has been established on Gorgona Island off Colombia. It is reported to have the most extensive and mature coral reefs in that part of the world and also has 2500 ha of moist tropical forest. Prisoners on the island were to be evacuated by mid-1984. *CNPPA Newsletter*, No. 26

Galápagos land iguanas

Now that feral dogs have been virtually or completely eliminated on southern Isabela and Santa Cruz in the Galápagos, captive-bred land iguanas *Conolophus subcristatus* are being released in their ancestral breeding grounds. *noticias de Galápagos*, No. 39

Rats down, petrels up

To help numbers of the Hawaiian or dark-rumped petrel *Pterodroma phaeopygia* to recover, Felipe Cruz and Tina Beach worked throughout last breeding season to keep black rats out

of the largest and most concentrated breeding area on Floreana in the Galápagos. Despite food shortages because of the El Niño, no young were lost to predators and breeding success increased by 20 per cent, more than reversing the decline of recent years. *noticias de Galápagos*, No. 39

10 new anchovies

Michael Goulding, exploring the Amazon for the WWF, has discovered 10 new freshwater anchovy species, doubling the number of those known to science, and expects to find 200–500 new fish species in his explorations. *Science News*, 17 March 1984

Hummingbirds' future secured

The proposed deforestation of half the reserve in Espírito Santo State, Brazil, which threatened the future of three rare hummingbird species (*Oryx*, July 1984, page 173) has been prevented. The Governor of the state has decreed the 2700 ha as an area of 'permanent preservation'.

Reserve for fungi

A mycological reserve has been established in Argentina. The 60-ha forest contains species of fungi that are uncommon elsewhere in the country and is at the southernmost edge of their range. The reserve will be named in honour of Dr Carlos Spegazzini, first mycologist of Argentina. *Parks*, 8, 4

Exported dolphins die

Five of 12 Commerson's dolphins *Cephalorhynchus commersonii* died after being imported from Chile by Sea World in the USA in December 1983. Conservation groups had opposed the import permit application, partly because the dolphin is known to fare poorly in captivity. Six more Commerson's were imported in West Germany in early 1984, apparently illegally. *Monitor*, 26 March 1984

Reserve for chinchillas

Las Chinchillas National Reserve was established in February 1984 in Chile. The reserve's 4229 ha are home for a

remnant population of long-tailed chinchilla *Chinchilla laniger*. The proposal for the reserve followed years of negotiations with 100 co-owners of former co-operative grazing lands, who have all now agreed to exchange their land for an equivalent area of nearby government land where there are no chinchillas.

CNPPA Newsletter, No 27
WWF Monthly Report, April 1984

Australasia/Antarctica

Thylacine sighting

A thylacine *Thylacinus cynocephalus*, a species feared extinct for 48 years, was seen by a ranger in forest country in north-west Tasmania 18 months ago, according to the Tasmania National Parks and Wildlife Service. *ACF Newsletter*, 16, 2

Investigation of penguin destruction

Following intense criticism from conservationists, the French Government is conducting an official enquiry into the construction of the airstrip at Dumont D'Urville Base in Adelie Land that is destroying a major penguin nesting colony. *Monitor*, 26 March 1984

Krill affected by El Niño?

Krill *Euphasia superba* numbers appear to have declined dramatically in the Southern Ocean in 1983–84; the Scripps Institution of Oceanography research vessel found that the water was 2–3°C warmer than usual and the nets that caught between 4 million and 80 million in a few minutes in 1981, caught two or three to fewer than 100 animals in the same time in 1983—all were adolescents, no larvae or adults. Other research ships report similar findings and the cause is believed to be the far-reaching effects of the El Niño of 1982–83. *Los Angeles Time*, 23 May 1984

Oceania

Whale sanctuary future uncertain

The proposal for a sanctuary for humpback whales in Hawaii met with opposition from commercial fishing and

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boating interests at a hearing recently, despite modifications in the proposal to respond to the concerns of these groups. The largest of the three humpback populations in the North Pacific winter in Hawaii and increasing development and tourism is exceeding the ability of existing state and federal programmes to protect the whale.
CEE Report, 2, 2

Bird halts US Air Force

On learning that the US Air Force proposed to clear one of the few remaining sites harbouring the Guam rail *Rallus owstoni*, the bird was given emergency listing as endangered. The Air Force has stopped clearing the site until it is discovered how to reconcile the needs of the birds and the need for base security.

Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, 1X, 4

Crash finding

Dick Watling, a British naturalist, rediscovered MacGillivray's petrel *Bulweria macgillivrayi* in Fiji in May, when it crashed into his head at night. The species was last seen 129 years ago.
The Economist, 19 May 1984

People

Dr George Archibald, Director of the International Crane Foundation, has been appointed Rider in the order of the Golden Ark by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, in recognition of his outstanding efforts on behalf of the world's endangered cranes.

Dr Joseph P. Linduska of Chestertown, Maryland, USA, has received the Aldo Leopold Memorial Award, the highest honour that the wildlife profession bestows, for his conservation achievements at national and international level over the past 40 years.

Mr Bakari Mbanjo is the new Principal of the College of African Wildlife Management in Tanzania; he was formerly Assistant Director of Tanzania's Wildlife Division.

Dr Richard Evans Schultes has been awarded WWF's Gold Medal for his

ethnobotanical work in the Amazon basin.

Among the five winners of the Rolex Award for Enterprise in 1984 were:

Kenneth William Hankinson, Flight-Lieutenant of the British Royal Air Force, who is a key member of a 24-strong expedition to Brabant Island in the Antarctic where he is surveying the island's biology and geography;

Donald Perry of the US, who proposes to study the tropical rain forest canopy with a unique new 'net';

Michel Terrasse of France, representing the Fonds d'Intervention pour les Rapaces, which is restocking the Massif Central mountains with griffon vultures, which had disappeared by 1940 due to hunting and poisoning.

Among the 26 'Honourable Mention' awards were:

Friderun Ankel-Simons, for her research on the aye-aye, Madagascar's rarest primate;

Satish Bhaskar, for his work with marine turtles on South Sentinel Island in the Andamans;

Bernard d'Abrera for his compilation of a series of comprehensive illustrated volumes of the world's butterflies;

Christopher Mason, for developing a strategy for the survival of the otter in the Mediterranean basin;

Thierry Robyns de Schneidauer for his five-volume work on the wildlife of the Indian Ocean;

Michael Sandlofer, for his development of beached whale rescue equipment;

Romulus Whitaker, for his project to provide the Irula tribe in India with a socially useful industry that uses their traditional snake-catching skills within the confines of the new law.

Fifty years ago

Just 50 years ago, in 1934, Jakob von Vexküll, a pioneer ethologist, published *A Stroll through the World of Animals and Men*, in which he described his now-famous 'Umwelt' theory. One chapter of this landmark work is called 'The Familiar Path,' and describes how many animals will travel by the most familiar path in their habitat—even though many other paths may be available to them. This theory is well-illustrated here by scimitar-horned oryx *Oryx dammah* at the Hai-Bar Arava wildlife reserve in Israel. Although these antelopes can wander for kilometres in any direction across their desert habitat, the entire herd follows a single, narrow path. If that path is blocked—for example by parking a tractor across it—the animals will walk around the obstruction and return to that 'familiar path' as quickly as possible (*Bill Clark*).

