



Briefly . . .

INTERNATIONAL

Expanding Limits

About one-third of the world's seas are now subject to 200-mile limit declarations by coastal states. The UK declared such a limit in January 1977. Almost all the continental areas, which are the main fisheries, are included.

1979's Spilled Oil

The Center for Short-Lived Phenomena reports that in 1979 more than 328 million gallons of oil were burned or spilled in major pollution incidents, a 56 per cent increase on 1978, which itself had been the worst year ever. More than 50,000 birds and 270,000 fish were killed, as well as 250 people.

Fluoride in Krill

Research in Norway on the edibility of krill *Euphausia superba* has revealed fluoride levels 7 to 24 times the maximum allowed in food for sale in the US. The researchers, Tore Soevik and Olav Brackkan of the Institute of Vitamin Research in Bergen, doubt that krill can ever be rendered safe for human consumption. The West German National Marine Fisheries Service confirmed the findings.

China Joins IWC

China has joined the International Whaling Commission.

Rwanda Joins CITES

Rwanda has become the 62nd member of CITES, the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora.

Japan's Reservations

Japan, which ratified CITES in August, has entered nine reservations: fin whale, musk deer (Himalayan populations), saltwater crocodile, three sea turtles and three monitor lizards.

Unwanted Import

One-fifth of Europe's acid rainfall is caused by air pollution in North America.

Pheasant Breeding Programme

The World Pheasant Association is organising a worldwide captive-breeding programme for pheasants. More than 40 of the 48 species are

threatened or endangered. The situation is especially serious in the Himalayas through forest destruction.

Siberian Cranes Follow Whoopers

Following the successful whooping crane captive breeding programme in America, Russian scientists collected 16 Siberian crane eggs in the summer of 1980. Twelve were sent to the Oka State Nature Reserve, USSR, and four to Vogelpark Walsrode in West Germany. From these 14 chicks fledged. There are now 28 Siberian cranes in captivity: 13 at Oka, 9 at the International Crane Foundation in Wisconsin, 3 at Walsrode, two at Peking Zoo and one at Ube Zoo, Japan.

Parks Conference in Bali

The third World National Parks Conference will be held in Bali October 11-12 1982.

AID Firsts

A puma born at London Zoo is the first large cat to be conceived by artificial insemination, and Memphis Zoo in Tennessee has announced the birth of what may be the first AID-conceived gorilla.

BRITISH ISLES

Transatlantic Oaks

Oak mildew, which attacks the seedlings of Britain's two oak species, is encouraged by the scarcity of lignum in the seedlings' leaves, according to studies at Lancaster University. Seedling leaves of American red oaks contain more lignum and are thus more resistant to the mildew, and researchers suggest that a breeding programme might create a hybrid with British beauty and American mildew-resistance.

Thistle Repaired

The Thistle Pipeline in the North Sea has been repaired at a cost of £5m; it spilled 460,000 gallons of crude oil after being ruptured by an anchor.

The Travelling Bird Cleaner

The RSPCA has built a mobile bird reception unit that can be taken wherever it is needed to cope with birds polluted by oil. The cost, £35,000, was paid by Shell.

Otters Need Woods

Most of the otters on the River Clyde in Scotland frequent the most wooded stretches

even though these are near and actually penetrate the Glasgow suburbs, according to Jim and Rosemary Green reporting on the Otter Haven Project in *Scottish Wildlife*. There are few signs of otters on the bare banks of the middle Clyde.

Invertebrate Register

The NCC is compiling a register of sites important for conserving invertebrates, to ensure that they are given proper consideration.

Calamian Deer at Howletts

The four Calamian deer at Howletts Zoo in Kent have increased to eight – four males and four females.

Flamingoes in Zoos

According to a survey of British zoos, conducted in the last half of 1978 by the Association of British Wild Animal Keepers and TRAFFIC, there are 1121 flamingoes in 34 collections: 274 Caribbean *Phoenicopterus r. ruber*, 139 greater *P. r. roseus*, 528 Chilean *P. r. chilensis*, 64 lesser *P. minor*, 40 Andean *Phoenicoparrus andinus*, 16 James's *P. jamesi* and 6 unidentified. Of the only 267 captive-bred birds, 194 had been hatched at the Wildfowl Trust in Slimbridge, and 164 were still exhibited there.

Farming and Wildlife Award

Country Life magazine's first annual £500 Farming and Wildlife Award has been presented to Roger Marshall Smith of Batherton Hall Farm, Cheshire, who was judged to have 'done most to preserve wildlife on his farm during the past year'.

EUROPE

EEC to Ban Whale Imports

The EEC Council of Ministers has agreed to ban the import, from January 1982, of all primary whale products except sperm whale teeth and ambergris. Leather treated with sperm oil is included in a secondary products ban, but not cosmetics. At present the EEC imports about 17 per cent of the world's sperm oil and 14 per cent of baleen oil.

Ozone Conference

A conference on aerosol spray propellants (chlorofluorocarbons – CFCs) held in Oslo in

April concluded that their continued use would eventually result in a 13-16 per cent reduction in the earth's ozone layer, causing skin cancer, reduced crop yields, the death of micro-organisms at the base of the marine food chain and of the larval forms of many fish, and higher global temperatures. Only the US, Canada, Sweden and Norway have banned CFCs in sprays, and net world use appears to be increasing. The EEC has called for a 30 per cent reduction by 1982.

Cottontails for Europe?

Hunters in Italy and France are believed to be introducing (surreptitiously) the cottontail rabbit *Sylvilagus floridanus*, in the expectation that it will multiply rapidly – in which case it could become a serious pest. The Po valley is one area mentioned.

PCBs Make Seals Abort

Studies of infertility in grey seals in southeastern Sweden, where the population has declined drastically since the 1940s, found that only 27 per cent of females of reproductive age were pregnant, instead of the normal 80-90 per cent, and that the pregnant seals had consistently lower PCB levels in their tissues. Many non-pregnant seals had conceived but aborted. Some 130 different chlorinated compounds have been found in Baltic seals, but only the PCBs appeared to affect reproduction.

Estonian Game Increase

Since 1939 elk in Estonia have increased from 320 to 8500 (13,000 before the hunting season), and roe deer from 26,000 to 80,000. Wild boar, which between 1908 and 1939 had been sighted only 21 times, now number 8000.

Bavarian Heron Increase

Commercial fishermen in Bavaria want protection of the grey heron *Ardea cinerea* lifted; since protection began the population in Bavaria has increased from 400 pairs to 1150, approaching the maximum the habitat can support.

Chimps Die for Tourists

The International Primate Protection League reckons that at any one time more than 200 baby chimps are being used by photographers to pose with customers on Spain's Mediterranean and Canary Island beaches. Replacements and the incidental toll involved in capture suggest that at least 1000 chimps are killed each year to maintain the supply. Spain is not a member of CITES.



Dr George Balazs photographed this Hawaiian monk seal in the French Frigate Shoals. The band was polypropylene of the kind used on crates. He could not get it off the animal but believes it would eventually break and fall off. Entanglements like this, however, could be a serious threat to these very rare seals.

Predators and Pheasants

In Spain, where many predators are poisoned or shot to protect the red-legged partridge *Alectoris rufa*, a study of the feeding habits of 72 predator species showed that 33 did not eat game birds, and in only six species did they comprise more than eight per cent of the diet. Of raptors, the largest consumers were Bonelli's, golden and booted eagles (23, 22 and 12 per cent), and of mammals polecats (8 per cent) and weasels (7 per cent). Hunters and farmers agreed about the most likely predators but exaggerated the importance of game birds in their diet.

Award to Greek National Park

The Council of Europe has awarded the European Diploma to Greece's Gorge of Samaria National Park.

New Protected Areas in Greece

Nine wetland areas in Greece, including the deltas of the rivers Louros and Aracthos and lakes Mitrikou and Kotyhi, and 520 hectares of virgin forest, important for birds of prey, have been given legal protection. Two reserves are set aside for the monk seal, and the island of Marathonissi and two sites on Zakynthos island protected for loggerhead turtles *Caretta caretta*.

NORTH AMERICA

Endangered List Lengthens

Between January 1979 and June 1980 77 species were added to the list of animals and plants protected under the US Endangered Species Act, bringing the total to 773: 310 mammals, 215 birds, 77 reptiles, 16 amphibians, 54 fishes, 8 snails, 25 clams, 1 crustacean, 9 insects and 58 plants. Of these 276 are native and 497 foreign; 705 are endangered and 68 threatened.

Trade Figures

In 1978 the US imported 20,000 live CITES-listed mammals, 10,000 birds, 150,000 reptiles and 400,000 plants, as well as almost four million dead mammals or their products,

300 stuffed birds and two million reptile products; 3829 imports violated CITES, resulting in 59 prosecutions with 38 convictions.

New Bird Import Rule

Birds illegally imported into the US will be sold at public auction rather than destroyed, as hitherto, and endangered species, which by law cannot be sold, given to zoos.

Three Shrew Deaths

The total of animals dead either on arrival or soon after in four shipments of tree shrews *Tupaia glis* from Thailand's Siam Zoo to US universities between February 1978 and February 1979 was 541 out of 600. US law requires that a 'substantial ratio' of animals in a shipment be alive on arrival, but no action was taken against either dealers or airlines.

Acid Rain Disaster Predicted

Plans to expand coal-fired energy development in the Ohio River basin will mean 'near disaster', according to Orié L. Loucks, science director of The Institute of Ecology (TIE). Acid rain resulting from inadequate emission controls in power stations is already sterilising lakes in the North-east, the Great Lakes region and the Rocky Mountains. Federal plans for large-scale coal conversion, if implemented, will increase emission by 15-20 per cent by the year 2000. The US and Canada have agreed to negotiate a treaty by 1982 on acid rain, which is largely caused by US coal-fired power stations but falls indiscriminately on both sides of the border.

\$11 Million Private Grant

Katharine Ordway, who during her lifetime established the Ordway Prairie Reserve System, bequeathed \$11 million – thought to be the largest grant ever made for a private conservation effort – to the Nature Conservancy, to establish a prairie wilderness reserve on Nebraska's Niobrara River, which is threatened by a \$230 million dam project. The existence of a private reserve cannot in itself stop the dam, but it might help persuade Federal authorities to declare the Niobrara, an

almost pristine prairie river, part of the National Wild and Scenic River system, which would preclude all such projects.

Plants Die in Mystery Fog

All plants, including deciduous and coniferous trees, on a 100m x 10m strip of Vancouver Island coast were killed after being doused in a bank of fog that rolled in from the Strait of Georgia on May 25 1980. People and animals were unaffected. The Canadian Department of Agriculture is conducting tests on the dead vegetation.

Florida Bans Fish Traps

Florida has banned the use of wire-mesh fish traps, which were blamed by conservationists and anglers for severely depleting marine life on the state's offshore reefs. The bill, after a highly emotional debate, passed by 103-7.

Progress on the Farm

The use of chemical pesticides on US crops has increased ten-fold since 1950, but crop losses to insects have nearly doubled – mainly because of the continuing evolution of pesticide-resistant strains. The President's Council on Environmental Quality reports that as farmers become more accustomed to saturating their land with chemicals they neglect cheaper and more traditional tactics like crop rotation, thorough tillage, development of pest-resistant varieties and biological control.

Otter Trapping Increase

Before 1976 fewer than 20,000 river otters *Lutra canadensis* were trapped each year in the US, but the catches since then have been 32,846, 27,031 and 29,665. Domestic demand for pelts is small and most are presumed to be exported to Canada and Europe, but only 9 per cent of the 1976-7 take and 40 per cent of the 1977-8 take were reported to CITES.

Tree Becomes Forest

Residents of Newman and Orogrande, New Mexico, have declared the single tree that stands between their towns – 40 miles apart – a National Forest, but the US Forest Service has yet to make the designation official.

Over and Out

The US Coast Guard station in Boston recently radioed the following notice: 'MAINE – Gulf of Maine Penobscot Bay – INNER LEDGE DAYBEACON 3 . . . installation of radar reflector has been cancelled due to osprey nest.'

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Vicuñas in Chile

The vicuña population in the Lauca Reserve, Chile, is estimated to be up to almost 7500.

Award for Latin Americans

The Director of Brazil's Division of National Parks, Angelina Tresinari Bernardes Quintao, is the first recipient of the Florida Audubon Society's Latin American Conservation Award. The \$1000 Award from funds given anonymously is to be made twice a year to a Latin American under 35 who has made a notable impact on conservation. The first recipient has been involved in preparing management plans for national parks and establishing five new national parks and reserves.

Brazil Bans Whaling

Brazil has banned whaling within its 200-mile territorial limit.

Puerto Rican Precedent

Puerto Rico has successfully sued the owners of a tanker whose captain had deliberately dumped 1.5 million gallons of crude oil in order to free his grounded ship, damaging a mangrove swamp. The \$6.1 million award, a precedent, was in addition to compensation for fishermen and the cost of cleaning up the oil, and the Federal Appeals Court ordered that it be used for 'acquisition of comparable lands for public parks'.

Putting it Right in Panama

A major project has been launched to rehabilitate the Panama Canal watershed, where soil erosion as a result of deforestation has resulted in serious silting of the Canal and affected Panama City's water supply. The project is directed by Panama, assisted by US AID and the Tropical Centre for Research Training based in Costa Rica.

Pesticide Act

Trinidad and Tobago's new Pesticide Act enables the Government to control the use, storage and transport of toxic chemicals and, through a Toxic Chemicals Board, to ban or control any substance deemed socially or environmentally harmful.

New Hummingbird

A new species of hummingbird has been discovered in the Peruvian Andes by Gary



Graves, a graduate student at Louisiana State University, and named *Metallura odomea*.

Canopy Man

A network of ropes and pulleys devised by biologist Donald R. Perry allows him to explore the rain forest canopy almost as easily as the forest floor. Using a parachute harness, he glides among the tops of trees more than 100 feet tall, taking notes and photographs and recording many life forms that exist only in the canopy. In his first experiment, in Costa Rica (described in the November-December *International Wildlife*), he found bees and other insects never seen at lower levels, a new edible bean, what may be the New World's first flying lizards, and the first Costa Rican record – and first photograph in the wild – of the great potoo *Nyctibius grandis*.

AFRICA

Rhino Sanctuary for Sudan

IUCN has earmarked about \$300,000 to help Sudan establish an 800-sq-km national park for the country's 1000 northern white rhinos, the only significant population outside Zaire. A further £250,000 will go towards protection of black rhinos in Tanzania's national parks and reserves.

Gorilla Sanctuary to be Upgraded

Uganda's Chief Game Warden, John Bushara, has made the Kigezi Gorilla Sanctuary the Department's first priority, including clearing the reserve of poachers and encroachers and raising its status to that of national park. Two Land Rovers to be sent by WWF/IUCN will be allocated immediately to the sanctuary.

Bravery Medal for Park Guards

IUCN has established a 'Park Valour Award' for game wardens and park guards who have shown 'acts of unusual courage involving a high degree of personal risk in the face of danger'. The first two recipients are Yanya Danfa and Insa Diatta, both of whom have been involved in gun battles with ivory poachers in Senegal's Niokolo-Koba National Park.

Lake Nakuru Park Shrinks

6800 acres of Kenya's Lake Nakuru National Park have been excised for settlement of some 600 families.

'Tourists' Raid Morocco's Reserves

CITES executive officer Jacques Berney

reports that, despite a blanket refusal by the Moroccan Administration des Eaux et Forêts to issue collecting permits, West German wildlife collectors, entering as tourists, are raiding the country's reserves.

Poachers in Meru

At least six of the 21 black rhino in Kenya's Meru National Park have been lost to poachers.

Bateleur Decline

Zimbabwe Wildlife reports a steep decline in bateleur eagles *Terathopius ecaudatus*, once a common sight in the country's skies. In 70 bird counts registered by the Matopos Black Eagle Survey in 1978, only one bateleur was seen, and no study has yet been made to establish the reasons for the bird's disappearance, although the Zimbabwe Ornithological Society is now appealing for information about its former status.

Golden Cats Seen

In 1979 there were two reliable sightings of the rare and elusive golden cat *Felis aurata* in Kenya.

Oiled Penguins

Of 150 oiled penguins taken over 3½ years from St Croix Island, South Africa, for cleaning, 32 per cent died, but 87 per cent of those released at sea returned to the island and bred normally. Since 1968, 6551 oiled penguins have been taken for cleaning by SANCCOB (South African Foundation for Conservation of Coastal Birds).

Cowries in Zanzibar

June and David Halsted, who during their 18 months' residence in Zanzibar studied the local cowrie trade, report that the shells, though widely available in markets, do not seem to be over-collected, but that some of their mud-and-sand habitats are damaged by large groups of people digging for edible molluscs. Also, oil is becoming increasingly noticeable on the reef that fringes the island's east coast.

ASIA

Last Straw for Siberian Crane?

Iran is allowing hunting in the previously protected staging areas of the highly endangered Siberian crane *Grus leucogeranus*. The International Crane Foundation fears that this may be enough to kill off the species.

Siberut Masterplan Accepted

The Conservation Masterplan for the Indonesian island of Siberut, one of the Mentawai Islands, described in *Oryx* November 1979, has been accepted by the Government and the new 55,000-hectare reserve 'processed' – although some logging in the reserve was not stopped in time. The Governor of West Sumatra has appointed a committee to monitor and guide the island's development that includes political leaders, police, military, conservationists and local village chiefs, and a symposium to co-ordinate all development is planned.

World Bank Helps Park

The World Bank has made a loan of US\$700,000 for the development of the Dumonga National Park in North Sulawesi, Indonesia.

More Giant Civet Sightings

Since being seen in the Gunung Ambang Reserve by Dr John MacKinnon in 1978, the giant (or Sulawesi palm) civet *Macrogalidia musschenbroeki* has been sighted three more times in the Lore Lindu National Park, and at least six are known to have been killed while raiding chicken roosts in nearby villages. This and analysis of scats indicate that the animal may be widespread in central Sulawesi and in the past was probably mistaken for the common palm civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*, which in fact may not even occur on the island.

Three Java Tigers Killed

Three Java tigers, one pregnant, have been killed by villagers in the past two years. Only four are now known to remain.

Indonesia Bans Primate Exports

Indonesia, which had originally planned to allow 25,000 monkeys to be exported in 1980 – mainly for medical research – banned exports entirely in February, after reports of high mortality in transport. Malaysia and the Philippines are now the largest Asian suppliers. In 1979 Japan imported 8136 monkeys, mainly from Indonesia, which sent 3428, followed by Bolivia (2436) and Malaysia (1164). Nineteen other countries were involved, including seven without native monkey populations.

Detergents Cause Red Tide

All 50 of Japan's major lakes have been affected by a 'red tide', a plague of plankton that thrives on synthetic detergent, tainting drinking water

and suffocating fish. One of the worst hit, the large Lake Biwa in the centre of the country, supplies water to 13 million people, and the provincial government in the area has banned the sale of detergents.

Oil Eaters Found

Soviet scientists surveying the ecology of the Arctic coast of the USSR, mainly in the Barents and White Seas, have found more than 300 types of micro-organisms capable of decomposing oil slicks.

Pollution in Malaysian Rivers

In Malaysia 42 rivers are said to be heavily polluted, 23 seriously threatened, and one, the Klang, ecologically dead.

Good Mothers Lose Out

Eggs of saltwater crocodiles *Crocodylus porosus* on North Andaman Island have only a three per cent chance of hatching, mainly because of egg collectors, who account for 85 per cent of all nest predation. B.C. Choudhury and H.R. Bustard, in a report in the *Journal* of the Bombay Natural History Society, say that the collectors have also inadvertently made their own task easier by selecting for poor mothers: a crocodile that defends her nest is usually killed, while passive ones live to transmit the passive characteristics to the next generation (such as it is), and now many of the mother crocodiles on the island appear indifferent to the fate of their eggs.

Queen Gives Island to Turtles

The Queen of Thailand has given Mun Nai island in the Gulf of Thailand to a Department of Fisheries green turtle breeding project.

Tigers and Leopards in Gujarat

Seven tigers and seventy leopards were counted in the 1979 Gujarat census, a decline of one tiger since 1972 (when leopards were not counted). Forest exploitation, fires and deer poaching prevent tigers increasing.

Threatened Plants in India

The Botanical Survey of India has published an illustrated booklet describing 134 *Threatened Plants of India* by the Director Dr S.K. Jain and A.R.K. Sastry. India is estimated to have some 15,000 plant species.

Dholes and Deer Coexist

A. J. T. Johnsingh, who has been studying dholes *Cuon alpinus* (hunting dogs) in India's Bandipur Tiger Reserve, disputes the popular notion that dholes thwart tiger conservation by



Pack of dholes

A.J.T. Johnsingh

chasing prey animals, particularly deer, away from tiger habitat. In the April 1980 *Tigerpaper*, he recounts watching dholes kill and eat a sambar *Cervus unicolor* fawn and then lie down to sleep still surrounded by the rest of the sambar group. Far from running away, the sambar eventually tried to chase the dholes, which responded almost playfully. At the end of the day dholes and sambar were still together.

Educating Decision-makers

Thailand's Mahidol University offers a seminar for senior civil servants and army officers on 'The Impact of Natural Resources and Environmental Quality on National Security', and one for Health Department officials entitled 'Role of Sanitarians in Environmental Conservation'.

Farmers Solve Pollution Problem

Farmers from Banjara, Java, have burned down a local chemical factory, ending years of efforts to persuade the plant's owner to control toxic wastes, which they claimed had destroyed their fields.

ANTIPODES

Kangaroo Trade Ban Lifted

Australia's seven-year prohibition on the export of kangaroo meat has been allowed to expire, and the US has lifted its ban on imports.

Lower Gordon Still Unspoilt

South-western Tasmania's Lower Gordon region, much of which would be flooded by a proposed hydroelectric project, appears to contain no exotic birds or mammals, according to two recent surveys, indicating that it may be an absolutely pristine wilderness.

Hard-Pressed Plants

About 2000 of Australia's 16,000 endemic plants are in danger of becoming extinct, and a further 1000-3000 have yet to be scientifically described.

Rare Duck Helps Save Rare Plant

The first population of rose banksia *Banksia laricina* ever discovered north of Western Australia's Moore River was on land adjacent to the Namming Lake Nature Reserve, which had been created primarily to protect the freckled duck *Stictonetta naevosa*, a rare and endangered species thought to resemble the common ancestor of ducks, geese and swans. The stand of banksia, whose fruit looks like a rose, had already been discovered and partially destroyed by commercial collectors, but a slight extension of the duck reserve's boundary was enough to give the plants complete protection.

More Noisy Scrub-Birds

The noisy scrub-bird *Atrichornis clamosus*, which until its rediscovery in 1961 was thought extinct, numbers 72 breeding pairs and 20 non-breeding males at Two Peoples Bay Nature Reserve near Albany, Western Australia. Until 1973, when wildlife officials abandoned the practice of regularly burning the bird's habitat, the population had never exceeded 50 pairs.

Queensland Bans Longline Fishing

Queensland has banned longline tuna fishing, an almost exclusively Japanese activity allowed under the recently expired Japan/Australia Tuna Fishing Agreement, between Townsville and the tip of Cape York Peninsula within 140 miles of the coast, to protect not tuna, but black marlin, a major game fish in the area. In 1979 about 3700 black marlin, as well as numerous striped and blue marlins, wahoo, sharks and dolphins, were incidental victims of the indiscriminate longline system.

OCEANS

Monk Seals in the Bahamas?

The Caribbean monk seal *Monachus tropicalis* should not yet be regarded as extinct, say Dr David Sergeant, George Nichols and David Campbell, following their recent search of the south-eastern Bahamas. No seals were seen, but they collected further reports of sightings in the 1960s and 1970s. As all previous searches have been conducted in the Caribbean, they recommend a thorough survey of the Bahamas in December, when the animals would be on the breeding beaches.

Bells Warn Humpbacks

Humpback whales chasing capelin off the Newfoundland coast get entangled in cod traps and killed by fishermen, but a bell attached to the traps under water has greatly reduced the entanglements. Without bells 89 per cent of traps were hit by humpbacks; with bells only 30 per cent suffered whale damage.

Pollution and Sealions

Outbreaks of cancer, hepatitis, pneumonia and parasites in sealions along the southern California coast may be caused by pollutants in the animals' tissues that weaken their immune systems, say researchers from Los Angeles County's Marine Mammal Disease Surveillance Program.

Sealion Decline

Aerial surveys of northern sealions *Eumotopias jubatus* in the eastern Aleutian islands and the north coast of the Alaska Peninsula, made in 1975-7 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, show a population decline of more than 50 per cent since the early 1960s – from 50,000 to less than 25,000. In the same period US commercial fish catches also declined 50 per cent, following heavy exploitation of the Bering Sea and northern Pacific fisheries by Japan and the USSR.

Who Spilled It?

A method of linking spilled oil to a particular ship, worked out by Swedish scientists, involves adding minute particles of iron, nickel or zinc alloys in different quantities for each cargo. The amounts can be too small to affect the oil.

Paper Hulls

Arguing the need for oil tankers to have double hulls, Arthur McKenzie, of New York City's

Tanker Advisory Centre, said, 'When you scale down the large tanker to the size of a loaf of bread, the hull plates are about as thick as the (waxed paper) wrapping on the loaf. In my judgment, tanker cargoes need more protection than that.'

Tropical Fish Trade

The US imported 260 million tropical fish in 1978. Freshwater fish sold in pet shops are usually farm-bred, but 99 per cent of marine fish come from the wild. WWF-US is funding an investigation of the trade.

No New Ohe Trees

A correspondent to 'Elepaio, the Journal of the Hawaii Audubon Society, reports that after much searching through forests on Hawaii Island he has found only one young ohe tree *Tetraplasandra hawaiiensis*, about two years old. All others, except for two of about 15 years, appeared to be older than 45. Seeds were abundant but none seemed to be germinating. He asks if anyone knows whether the o'u *Psittirostra psittacea*, an extinct honeycreeper, ate ohe seeds.

Island Introductions

While he was making a survey of bryophytes on the Iles Crozet, in the sub-Antarctic, reports *BSBI News*, Graham Bell of ITE (Institute of Terrestrial Ecology) noted some 40 alien species recently introduced, probably in soil that had been imported from France for growing vegetables. On Ile Amsterdam on his way home he found an introduced European thistle *Cirsium vulgare* had colonised the beaches to the point of making the breeding fur seals uncomfortable.

NEW NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES

The NCC has designated the Wye a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – the first major river in England or Wales to be so designated along its entire length.

Sussex Trust for Nature Conservation has bought Ebernoe Common, near Petworth, 175 acres of woodland and a Grade 1 SSSI.

Recent purchases by county naturalists' trusts include 35 acres of Collinpark Wood, Glos., a Grade 1 SSSI; Tealham Moor in the Somerset Levels; and 60 acres of Redmoor, near Bodmin, Cornwall.



Spain's Council of Ministers has approved a decree establishing the 17,852-ha Montfrague Parque Natural to protect especially birds of prey.

The Canadian Government and the Province of British Columbia have jointly bought a 182-acre marsh on the south arm of the Fraser River estuary, a major staging and wintering area for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds and a rearing ground for salmon.

A 2920-ha wetland in the centre of Townsville, Queensland, has been declared an Environmental Park, a victory for local naturalists, who have been campaigning for years to preserve the area.

Queensland has declared the flatback turtle rookery on Wild Duck Island, off the state's central coast, a National Park.

PERSONALIA

Byron Antipas, Hon. Secretary of the Hellenic Society for the Protection of Nature, has been awarded the Council of Europe's Pro Merito Medal.

Russell Dickenson, former Northwest Regional Director of the US National Park Service, has been named Director, succeeding William J. Whalen.

Dr Paul R. Ehrlich, author of *The Population Bomb* and founder of the organisation Zero Population Growth, has received the John Muir Award, the Sierra Club's highest honour.

Dr A. H. Harcourt, co-ordinator of the Mountain Gorilla Project, has been appointed Director of the Karisoke Research Centre in Rwanda's Parc des Volcans.

Clive Jermy has received the Royal Geographical Society's Murchison Award for botanical field work with the Mulu (Sarawak) Expedition, of which he was Scientific Co-ordinator.

Dr Kai Friedmann Köster has been appointed Director of the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos Islands.

Margaret Murie, the wilderness advocate who pioneered conservation studies in Alaska and Wyoming, has been awarded the 1980 Audubon Medal.

The African Wildlife Leadership Foundation has presented its Conservation Award to Paul Ssali Naluma, Uganda's Chief Warden in charge of ranger training.

The Hon. Charles Njonjo, Chairman of the East African Wild Life Society, has been appointed Kenya's Minister for Home and Constitutional Affairs.

Dr Letitia Obeng, former head of UNEP's Soils and Water Task Force, has been appointed Director of the Regional Office for Africa.

Joseph M. O'Kane, a special agent with the US Customs Service in Philadelphia, received the National Wildlife Federation's Conservation Service Award for his work in exposing a wildlife smuggling ring, leading to indictments of 18 people in the US, Kenya, Singapore, Thailand, Australia, Switzerland and France, and exposing several prominent US zoos as co-conspirators.

The Medal of Freedom, the highest US civilian award, has been given to Roger Tory Peterson, author of the widely respected *Field Guide to the Birds*, and posthumously to Rachel Carson, whose *Silent Spring* alerted the world to the dangers of DDT.

Rafe Pomerance has been elected President of US Friends of the Earth.

ffPS Chairman Sir Peter Scott has been awarded the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Master Wildlife Artist Medallion.

Dr George M. Woodwell, Director of the Ecosystems Center at the Woods Hole Marine Laboratory, succeeds Dr S. Dillon Ripley as Chairman of the Board of Directors of WWF-US.

Fourteen new recipients of the Order of the Golden Ark, presented by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands for services to world nature conservation, are, by nationality: Australia, Judith Wright-McKinney; Belgium, Louis Franck; Netherlands, John H. Loudon and Jan Strijbosch; Norway, HRH the Crown Prince of Norway; Philippines, Jesus Alvarez; South Africa, Dr Rocco Knobel; Thailand, Dr Boonsong Lekagul; UK, Edward Brewer, Sir Hugh Elliott, Dr Jane Goodall-Bryceson and Guy Mountfort; and US, Dr Sylvia Earle and Lars-Erik Lindblad.