

## News in Brief

### The Queen Accepts an Oryx Brooch

Her Majesty the Queen, Patron of the FPS, was graciously pleased to accept an oryx brooch, emblem of the Society, in gold. The brooch was presented by our President, the Marquess of Willingdon, to HRH the Duke of Edinburgh after a meeting at Buckingham Palace at which other officials of the FPS were present, including the Hon Treasurer and the Hon Secretary.

### Death of Maxwell Knight

Maxwell Knight, OBE, who died suddenly in January, was a member of the FPS for 22 years and a member of the Council from 1957 to 1960. A contributor to *ORYX* and an enthusiastic and knowledgeable supporter of the Society's work, he was a stimulating all-round naturalist who did much in his lectures, broadcasts and books for the conservation cause and particularly in arousing the interest of the young.

### Gift to FPS

The Tryon Gallery generously gave to the FPS the proceeds from the sale of catalogues and donations during their exhibition of wildlife paintings last autumn; this amounted to £118 15s 6d. We are most grateful to both the Tryon Gallery and to the FPS members who helped with the selling.

### Biological Station in Jordan

Thanks to a grant by the Leverhulme Trustees it has been possible to send out Dr Bryan Nelson as first Director of the Jordan International Biological Station at Azraq, the remarkable oasis rich in bird life in the desert east of Amman. (See *ORYX*, April 1967.) It is hoped to send other workers in the autumn.

### Conservation Awards

The Council of Europe's diploma for nature conservation for 1967 was awarded to four national parks – the Swiss, the Abruzzi (Italy), and the Sarek and Padjelanta (Sweden) – and to the Krimmler waterfalls in Austria and the Lüneburg Heath in the German Federal Republic.

### Spain and Iran Join SSC Scheme

Two more countries have adhered to the Survival Service Commission's Ultimate Responsibility Scheme, by which governments are asked to accept responsibility for the conservation of rare and endangered animals in their territories. Spain has accepted for the Spanish lynx and Iran for the Persian fallow deer, the Persian wild ass and the Asiatic cheetah. The first government to accept was Cyprus for the mouflon. A reduced facsimile of the certificate issued by the SSC was reproduced in *ORYX*, December 1967.

### National Parks in Tanzania

In Tanzania the Ngurdoto Crater National Park, comprising Momela and Ngurdoto and the forest reserve between them, has become the Arusha National Park with the inclusion of the Meru Crater. The area is under 50 square miles in extent, but the range in altitude is over 10,000 feet, from the Momela lakes to the summit of Meru, the fourth highest mountain in Africa, and still has much cedar

and podocarpus forest. The wildlife is abundant, as members of some of our FPS East African tours can bear witness. The proposal for a national park on Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, the highest mountain in Africa, has been favourably reported on by a survey team from the US National Park Service. The indigenous forest on the mountain slopes provides a refuge for wildlife but poaching has been serious and the report urges research in developing a sound management programme.

### **Aeroplane for Ngorongoro**

The Zoological Society of Frankfurt, with money collected by Dr Bernhard Grzimek from his television audiences, has given a small aeroplane to the Ngorongoro Conservation Unit, in Tanzania, to help especially in the control of poaching, illegal settlement and overgrazing.

### **Protection for Barren Ground Grizzlies**

Protection for the barren ground grizzly bear in the Canadian Northwest Territories, which was removed in 1963 against the advice of the Canadian Wildlife Service and the protests of conservationists all over the world, including the FPS, was restored last year.

### **Caribou Numbers Up**

Recent surveys of the caribou in northern Canada by the Canadian Wildlife Service indicate a population of between 350,000 and 375,000 in the mainland Arctic. This compares favourably with the figure of 278,900 calculated in 1955, which shocked federal and provincial governments into stepping up funds for caribou research – see ORYX, August 1964.

### **Farmer Buys Buffaloes**

A small herd of 22 cows and three bull plains buffaloes from Elk Island National Park in Alberta has been sold to a farmer in Quebec, who wants to breed a sizeable herd for conservation on his 500-acre game farm. This is the first sale of bison to a private person since the Canadian National Parks Service took over the management of the almost extinct buffalo in 1908.

### **Wallaby Returns to Australia**

The Parma wallaby *Macropus parma*, recently re-discovered on Kawau Island in New Zealand, where it is believed to have been introduced by Sir George Gray in the 1870s but had since apparently become extinct, is now being reintroduced in Australia by the Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia. Thirty-two were taken for quarantine to the Jock Marshall Zoological Reserve at Monash University, Melbourne, where they are being studied so that a management programme can be drawn up.

### **A New Wild Cat**

A hitherto unknown wild cat has been discovered in the Ryukyu Islands, south of Japan, and two are exhibited in a Japanese zoo. Said to look rather like a leopard cat, and to be most nearly related to *Felis guigna* of South America, it has been named *Mayailurus iriomotensis*, and a law has been passed protecting it.

### **Zoos and Education Conference**

An international conference on the educational use of zoos, The Use of Living Creatures in Education, is to be held at Paignton, Devon, from September 4th–13th, organised by the Herbert Whitley Trust and based on the Paignton Zoological and Botanical Gardens. Details from the Trust, 190 Totnes Road, Paignton.