

Briefly...

International

World Heritage Convention

Burundi, Malawi, Peru and Spain ratified the World Heritage Convention in 1982, bringing the total number of parties to 65 countries, still not including the UK.

IUCN Bulletin, July/September 1982

One More for Ramsar

Spain has acceded to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) bringing the number of contracting parties to 32.

IUCN Bulletin, July/September 1982

World Charter for Nature Adopted

On 28 October 1982, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the World Charter for Nature, originally instigated by President Mobutu of Zaire at the IUCN General Assembly in 1975, by a vote of 111 in favour and 1 against, with 18 abstentions. The Charter, prepared by IUCN in cooperation with UNEP, lays down universal principles of conservation stating the function and responsibilities of states, corporations and individuals and provides an important complement to the 1980 World Conservation Strategy.

IUCN Press Release, 4 November 1982

CITES Meeting

The fourth meeting of the parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is to take place 19–30 April 1983 in Gaborone, Botswana.

Biosphere Reserves: International Congress

The International Congress on Biosphere Reserves will be held in Minsk, USSR, 24 September–3 October 1983. Details: MAB Secretariat, Division of Ecological Sciences, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75015, Paris, France.

The Extinction Alternative: International Symposium

The Endangered Wildlife Trust is holding an international symposium, *The Extinction Alternative*, 19–20 May 1983 in Pretoria, South Africa. Details: PO Box 645, Bedfordview 2008, South Africa.

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Ecoculture Group

Ecoculture was set up by IUCN in 1981 to try to ensure that development and conservation policies benefit indigenous people and make use of those aspects of traditional land use and management which are ecologically sound. Ecoculture's membership includes professional conservationists, ecologists and anthropologists. Details: The Co-ordinator, Ecoculture, 16 Stanley Gardens, London W11 2NE, UK.

Society for Mystery Animals

Dr Bernard Heuvelmans is the President of the International Society of Cryptozoology, formed to promote scientific enquiry, education, and communication among people interested in animals of unexpected form or size, or unexpected occurrence in time and space, such as the yeti, the sasquatch and the various lake monsters of the world. The Society publishes a journal and a newsletter. Details: J. Richard Greenwell, International Society of Cryptozoology, PO Box 43070, Tucson, Arizona 85733, USA.

Rolex Awards

Original projects in Applied Sciences and Inventions, Exploration and Discovery, and the Environment may be submitted for the 1984 Rolex Awards for Enterprise. There will be five awards each of 50,000 Swiss Francs and a gold watch.* Application forms: The Secretariat, The Rolex Awards for Enterprise, PO Box 178, 1211 Geneva 26, Switzerland. Closing date: 31 March 1983.

*Previous winners include Rodney M. Jackson for his project on radio-tracking the snow leopard in the Himalayas.

Mammal Slides Available

The Mammal Slide Library is a non-profit service set up by the American Society of Mammalogists to enhance teaching in mammalogy, vertebrate biology and natural history courses at all levels and to provide a service for other non-commercial educational purposes. The 1982 catalogue, describing approximately 750 slides, may be obtained by sending \$4; slides cost 80¢ each. The library is seeking donations or loans of high-quality slides; contributors retain publication and commercial

rights, photo credits appear on slide mounts and in the catalogue. Enquiries: Dr J.A. Lackey, Mammal Slide Library, Department of Zoology, State University of New York, Oswego, New York 13126, USA.

Briefly is compiled by the Editor from reports in journals and newspapers, and from ffpS correspondence. Contributions are welcome. The Editor would also be pleased to hear from anyone, preferably London-based, who is willing to scan journals in languages other than English, French, German and Spanish.

British Isles

New Trust for Wales

The Montgomeryshire Regional Group of the North Wales Trust has been set up as an independent trust in response to the threat of afforestation of the moorland there. The new Trust's first acquisition is a 400-acre prime heather moorland reserve—Glaslyn moors.

Natural World, Autumn 1982

Spruce Plantations at Risk

Spruce *Picea* spp in some parts of Wales and England is infested by the great spruce bark beetle *Dendroctonus micans*. Although this has killed only a few trees legislation restricting movement of spruce wood from affected counties has been introduced to attempt to control its spread.

Forestry Commission, October 1982

Wild Cattle Safe

Northumberland pastures grazed by the 65 wild white cattle of the famous Chillingham herd, are safe. When the Knott Trust recently bought the 330 acres of pasture they extended Chillingham Wild Cattle Association's lease from the 33 years remaining to 999 years.

S.J.G. Hall.

Salmon and Seals in Ireland

Commercial salmon fishermen in Ireland, particularly in County Mayo, claim that seals are damaging stocks. The Department of Fisheries and Forestry will agree to a cull if investigations establish this to be so even

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though seals are protected in Ireland under the 1976 Wildlife Act. The Irish Wildlife Federation points out that, even if evidence is produced relating levels of damage to numbers of seals, there may be other reasons for the salmon decline. Most salmon fishing regulations are broken: legal net length is often exceeded; nets are left unattended and used at weekends; people are fishing without licences and passing fish to legal fishermen.

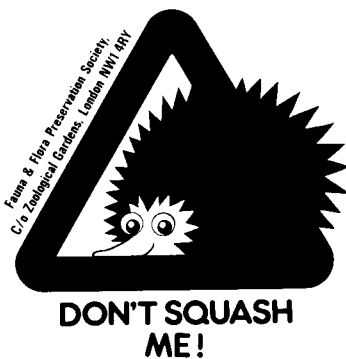
Fishing News International, September 1982 and *Badger*, September 1982

Deer Symposium

A symposium organised by the British Deer Society and the Nature Conservancy Council on deer research and its relationship to management is to be held on 22 June 1983. Details: The Director, The Mill House, Bishopstrow, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 9HJ.

Hedgehog Society Acts

The Hedgehog Society, concerned about the number of hedgehog deaths in cattle grids, aims to fit escape ramps throughout the country. Membership details: Adrian Coles, Knowbury House, Ludlow, Shropshire (SAE please).



The original idea for this sticker came from Dr Walter Poduschka, Chairman of the SSC's Insectivore Group, a member of the Society and a passionate campaigner for hedgehogs, shrews, moles and other small insectivorous animals. The English version was designed and donated to fFPS by Jan Pienkowski. Available from fFPS at 70p (inc. p & p).

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A Good Year for Ospreys

The ospreys in Scotland did better in 1982 than in any other year since their return in 1959. Of the 24 pairs recorded, 20 reared 43 young. RSPB

Barn Owl Survey

There may be only 6000 barn owls in Britain now compared with 12,000 in 1934. The Hawk Trust is conducting a survey to investigate the causes of the decline and determining whether it is possible to help the species to recover. Details: *Hawk Trust*, Freepost, Beckenham, Kent

Europe

New, Safer Wintering Grounds for Geese?

Breeding lesser white-fronted geese *Anser erythropus* have decreased in Finland, Norway and Sweden from more than 10,000 at the beginning of the century to fewer than 500. They are shot on migration through south-east Europe and large parts of their wintering grounds in Iran have been destroyed. In 1981 a project for saving the Nordic stock began, using barnacle geese as foster parents which it is hoped will teach the young lesser white-fronts to migrate to safer winter grounds. *Sveriges Natur Yearbook*, 1982

Finnish Beavers Threatened

Beavers *Castor fiber*, so near extinction in Finland in the mid-19th century that Canadian relatives *C. canadensis* were introduced to boost the population, are declining in numbers again. In northern Finland there were 6000 beavers in 1975, now there are 3000; conservationists blame hunting and are demanding restrictions. *Tier*, July 1982

Protected Plants in France

More than 360 plant species are now fully protected in France where botanists say that 700 require protection. Thirty more are partially protected and can only be gathered or sold with special permission. Habitually cultivated land is exempt from the regulations. *Council of Europe Newsletter*, No. 82-6

Snail Collecting Controlled in France

In France new restrictions on snail collection have been introduced: Roman snails *Helix pomatia* may be collected only between July and March and only snails with shells over 3 cm in diameter may be taken; garden snails *Helix aspera* may be collected at any time on the condition that the shells are bordered; and any *Zonites algirus* taken must have shells larger than 3 cm diameter.

Le Courier de la Nature, May/June 1982

Montagu's Harriers Increase

The Lorraine population of Montagu's harrier *Circus pygargus* has quadrupled in the three years since the Fonds d'Intervention pour les Rapaces and WWF-France acquired a 50-ha nesting area in 1980, saving it from destruction. In 1981, 150 pairs reared 350 young—the equivalent of the combined populations in Belgium, Denmark, West Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

Council of Europe Newsletter, No. 82-8/9

Lynx in France

Two male and one female lynx, all vaccinated against rabies, are to be released in the Vosges region of France as part of a reintroduction project undertaken by WWF-France and the Alsace Lynx Group, and financed largely by the Ministry of the Environment.

Le Courier de la Nature, July/August 1982

Conservation for Swiss Bats

In Zurich three threatened bat species are the focus of new conservation efforts. In conjunction with the Swiss WWF, the Swiss Office of Conservation and the Swiss Forestry Office, the Governing Council of the Canton of Zurich will ascertain the distribution of the large mouse-eared bat *Myotis myotis*, the common long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus* and the common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and construct a sanctuary for them.

Tier, July 1982

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Italy Protects Migratory Birds

The Italian Prime Minister has signed a decree, effective from 6 June 1982, protecting 13 species of migratory birds. It is now illegal to kill, trap, or trade in the following species: bar-tailed godwit, water pipit, tawny pipit, tree pipit, meadow pipit, crested lark, woodlark, chaffinch, brambling, hawfinch, greenfinch, linnet and corn bunting. *ICBP Newsletter*, September/October 1982

North America

New Canadian Sites for Ramsar

Canada has selected ten new sites for designation under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. The new sites, covering 9.7 million hectares, are Mary's Point, New Brunswick; Long Point, Ontario; Alaksen National Wildlife Area, British Columbia; Whooping Crane Summer Range, north-eastern Alberta and adjacent part of the NWT; Dewey Soper Bird Sanctuary; Queen Maud Gulf Lowlands, McConnell River Bird Sanctuary, Polar Bear Pass, Bathurst Island and Rasmussen Lowlands, near Spence Bay, all in NWT. *Nature Canada*, October/December 1982

Endangered Species Act

On 13 October 1982 President Reagan signed the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1982 reauthorising the Act until 30 September 1985. The Act has generally been strengthened but its effectiveness depends on adequate funding which seems unlikely. *Endangered Species Act Reauthorization Bulletin*, No. 9, 26 October 1982

More Plants for Endangered List

Two more plants have been listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The small whorled pogonia *Isotria medeoloides*, an orchid, is reduced to 500 individuals in ten states in the eastern US and Canada through loss of habitat and being picked, and *Phacelia formosula*, is known only from two populations in Colorado and faces threats from motorcycles and cattle trampling. *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, September 1982

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Two More Fishes Believed Extinct

The Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed the removal of the blue pike *Stizostedion vitreum glaucum* and the longjaw cisco *Coregonus alpenae* from the US List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife. The blue pike which inhabited Lakes Erie and Ontario and the Niagara River has not been seen since the 1960s. The longjaw cisco has not been reported from its native Lakes, Michigan, Huron and Erie since 1967. *Animal Keepers Forum*, August 1982

Too Many Bullfrogs Eaten

Ontario's bullfrog *Rana catesbeiana* is becoming rare and so the State's Ministry of Natural Resources has changed the harvesting regulations. Now the season is three weeks shorter and a licence is required to take bullfrogs for personal consumption. To prevent people taking immature bullfrogs, those taken in certain parts of eastern Ontario must have a lower-leg length of at least 5 cm. *Nature Canada*, October/December 1982

Snake Pits Protected

A 128-ha den site where red-sided garter snakes *Thamophis sirtalis* hibernate in their thousands in the Narcisse snake dens, Manitoba, has been added to the Narcisse Wildlife Management Area. The Manitoba Department of Natural Resources is also reviewing its policy of allowing commercial harvesting of snakes in the area. *Nature Canada*, October/December 1982

Good Year for Whooping Cranes

Whooping cranes benefited from the good weather and water conditions in 1982 at Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada and Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Idaho. Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland was also successful with its captive flock. Of 27 eggs transferred to Grays Lake from Patuxent and Wood Buffalo, 19 hatched. Two eggs transferred from Wood Buffalo to Patuxent hatched, the first whooping cranes to augment the captive flock from that area since 1974 and, since they are from territories previously unrepresented, they add

genetic diversity.

Grus Americana, September 1982

Puffins Return to Eastern Egg Rock

Attempts to re-establish a colony of Atlantic puffins *Fratercula arctica* at Eastern Egg Rock in the Gulf of Maine, where they were hunted out in 1887, have met with success. Puffin chicks, flown in from Newfoundland, have been reared on the island every year since 1973 and in 1981, puffins returned to breed. Five pairs fledged their young and four pairs were birds originally reared on the island. *The Living Bird Quarterly*, Summer 1982

One California Condor Chick Captured

A California condor chick *Gymnogyps californianus*, taken from the wild in August to start a captive-breeding programme at San Diego Wild Animal Park, is the first condor to be trapped since the controversial Cooperative California Condor Conservation Program began in 1979 (see *Oryx*, October 1982, page 455). *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, September 1982

Santa Barbara Song Sparrow

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed the removal of the Santa Barbara sub-species of the song sparrow *Zonotrichia melodia graminea*—which has not been seen for 20 years—from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife. The reasons for its probable extinction include destruction of native vegetation for farming, by introduced goats and rabbits, and by a large fire in 1959.

American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, September 1982

Ocelot Listed

The US population of ocelots *Felis pardalis*, which only occurs in extreme south-eastern Texas and in Arizona, has been added to the List of Endangered Fish and Wildlife. It was inadvertently omitted in 1973 when the Endangered Species Act was passed although populations in foreign countries were included.

Animal Keepers Forum, September 1982

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Lead v. Steel Shot: More News

In *Oryx*, October 1982, page 399, we reported that a study had found steel shot to have a higher crippling rate than lead shot when used to hunt ducks. Since then more encouraging results of another study have been brought to our notice. In an experiment where hunters were not told which kind of shot they were given, they bagged 1967 ducks with 10,587 shots. There were no significant differences in bagging, crippling or missing rates. Despite this, hunters showed negative attitudes towards steel shot: when they were asked to evaluate shotshell performance those who believed they had used lead reported better performance than those who felt they had tested steel.

Humburg, D. D., Sheriff, S. L., Geissler, P. H. and Roster, T. (1982) *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 10, 121–126.

A Place for the Butterflies

A San Francisco company had to put forward a plan to protect three butterflies, two endangered, before it could go ahead with building 3300 houses on San Bruno Mountain. The plan, now awaiting approval, gives 218 ha of the 369-ha building site to the butterflies and provides for the company and house-owners to set aside \$50,000 a year in perpetuity to maintain them. *New York Times*, 31 October 1982

Poaching on the Increase

Throughout the USA poaching of almost every kind of wildlife is increasing. The problem is so serious in Yellowstone National Park, where park officials suspect that organised rings are poaching grizzly bears, that the Audubon Society has offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to arrests. The Interior Department estimates that illegal trade in wildlife is 10–25 per cent of the legal trade, which was more than \$500 million in imports and exports in 1980, the last year for which complete figures are available. *New York Times*, 31 October 1982

Latin America and Caribbean

Hawksbill Turtle Habitat Protected

The Fish and Wildlife Service has designated several beaches on islands off

Puerto Rico as Critical Habitat for the endangered hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata*. Federal agencies must now ensure that these are not destroyed or modified in any way detrimental to the turtle.

Animal Keepers Forum, August 1982

Land Iguanas Released on Isabela Island

Land iguanas *Conolophus subcristatus* have been returned to their ancestral home near Cartago Bay on Isabela Island in the Galapagos. In 1976, when extinction threatened them there and on Santa Cruz, adults were rescued from both islands for captive-breeding at the Darwin Station. The feral dogs responsible for the decline have now been eliminated from Cartago Bay and many of the 37 juvenile iguanas released there last year have taken up residence in old iguana burrows. If the dog eradication programme for Santa Cruz proves as successful as the Isabela effort, iguanas will be released there in 1983.

Noticias de Galapagos, No. 36, 1982

Giant Pied-Billed Grebe in Danger

The giant pied-billed grebe *Podilymbus gigas*, found only on Lake Atitlán in Guatemala, had been protected for 14 years by a dedicated game warden, Edgar Bauer, until last year when he was killed, a victim of political violence. In the current political situation a successor is unlikely to be appointed and the 60 remaining birds are vulnerable to poaching and unchecked building around the lake.

Audubon, November 1982

Protection for Brazilian Tamarin

The habitat of the endangered pied bare-face tamarin *Saguinus bicolor bicolor*, found only in the vicinity of Manaus, is to receive additional protection (see *Oryx*, June 1982). Two Forest Reserves where it occurs, Adolfo Ducke and Walter Egler, are to be upgraded to Ecological Stations and administered by the Special Environment Agency of The Ministry of the Interior, to commemorate the tenth Anniversary of the Stockholm Conference.

Agenda CNPq (published by the Brazilian National Science Council), June 1982)

Basse Mana Reserve to become Rice Fields

The Basse Mana Reserve in Guyana is to be used for rice cultivation, following a decision by the Ministry of Agriculture. These marshes are well-known for their marine turtles and wildfowl, large numbers of migratory birds and the scarlet ibis *Eudocimus ruber*.

La Courrier de la Nature, March/April 1982

Africa

White Rhino in Uganda

The white or square-lipped rhinoceros, considered extinct in Uganda (see *Oryx*, June 1982) appears to be still present. According to the Government, three have been discovered by game wardens in Kabalega Falls National Park.

Tier, November 1982

Uganda's Reserves from the Air

Preliminary results of an aerial survey of Uganda's ten game and forest reserves indicate that perhaps three—Kigezi and Katonga Game Reserves and Kaiso-Tonya Controlled Hunting Area—are empty of wildlife or too heavily settled to be rehabilitated. One-third of Semliki Forest Reserve (Ituri Forest)*—the only true representative of West African lowland forest in Uganda—has been felled. News of other reserves is better and it is suggested that Bwindi Forest and Game Reserve (the Impenetrable Forest) should be regazetted as a national park; there has been no encroachment and it is the home of 120 mountain gorillas, one-third of the world's population. Mgahinga Forest and Gorilla Game Reserve should be regazetted so that their boundaries coincide and are continuous with the national park boundaries in Zaire and Rwanda. In this way Uganda would support the efforts of its neighbours in protecting the mountain gorillas of the entire Virunga range.

Swara, May/June 1982

*Ituri Forest is the home of the okapi *Okapia johnstoni* made known to science by Sir Harry Johnston, one of the founders of the Society, when he was Special Commissioner for Uganda—Ed.

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Zambezi Dam would Destroy Grazing

The proposed Mupata Gorge dam on the Zambezi river would submerge Mana Pools whose flood plain provides grazing for elephants, rhinos and other animals. Ecologists are opposing the dam on the grounds that both Zambia and Zimbabwe could meet anticipated power needs by tapping other sources. (ffPS gave a £250 grant to support an environmental impact assessment of the dam)

Swara, July/August 1982

Flamingos Return

Flamingos are returning to Lake Nakuru, Kenya. Eight years ago the two million flamingos were forced to desert the polluted lake for other less desirable saline/alkaline waters in the Rift Valley. Then West Germany lent Nakuru funds to build a modern sewage system and the town moved its rubbish tip away from the lake. Last year 500,000 flamingos were counted on the lake.

Audubon, September 1982

Giant Sable Survives

Dr Richard Estes, Chairman of the SSC Antelope Specialist Group, reports that 150–200 giant sable *Hippotragus niger variani* are known in Angola, and that they are well guarded. He recommends the formation of an enlarged Giant Sable National Park, incorporating Kangandala National Park, a good part of Luando Reserve and a connecting corridor where several herds of sable persist. The main threat to the future welfare of the giant sable is the human population within the reserve and park. *Gnusletter*, IUCN/SSC Antelope Specialist Group, September 1982

Asia

Yemen Bans Rhino Imports

A decree made in October 1982 bans the import of rhino horn into Yemen, where it is prized as a hilt for the ceremonial daggers worn by 80 per cent of adult males. According to Dr Esmond Bradley Martin, Yemen imported 22,645 kg of rhino horn between 1969 and 1977, equivalent to the deaths of 8000 rhinos. Robert P. Smith, President of the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation, who played a key role in

persuading the Yemeni Government to introduce the ban, hopes that it will shut down the pipeline through which poached horn crosses the Red Sea from Africa.

New York Times, 31 October 1982 and WWF

Marine Sanctuaries Proposed for Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, a group headed by Lyn de Alwif, the Director of Wildlife Conservation is identifying possible marine sanctuaries. Proposals to extend Wilpattu and Yala National Parks to include the coastal strips are opposed by strong fishing lobbies.

Fishing News International, September 1982

Tougher Penalties Urged for Dynamiters

The Sri Lankan Government is being urged to impose tougher penalties on fishermen using dynamite and to reward informers. The maximum fine is at present Rs 2000 (£57). It is estimated that 30 per cent of the east coast catch is gained through the illegal use of explosives.

Fishing News International, September 1982

Sumatran Rhino: New Group Found

A survey of Sabah, West Malaysia revealed a new breeding population of Sumatran rhinoceros, but logging, hunting and agriculture threaten the 7–12 animals. There are only 43 Sumatran rhinos left in Peninsular Malaysia. Many are isolated individuals or in small groups.

WWF Monthly Reports, August 1982

Singapore Trade in Endangered Fish

In Singapore, which has not ratified CITES, the endangered golden dragon fish *Scelopages formosus* is traded

freely. Supplies come from Malaysia and Indonesia. Although Malaysia has ratified CITES there is no article concerning any animals in the Customs and Excise Enactment and the species is not protected under the Wildlife Act 1972 or under the Fishery Enactment.

Malayan Naturalist, May 1982

Elephants in Kedah

The wild elephant population in Kedah, Malaysia has halved in the last ten years as a result of development. Only 8–11 are left.

Malayan Naturalist, May 1982

Kouprey Sighted

Five kouprey *Bos sauveli*, Cambodia's national animal, which was feared extinct, were recently seen near the Cambodian border in north-east Thailand. The group, one adult male, two females and two calves, may be taken to a captive breeding centre north of Bangkok because the area is still in turmoil.

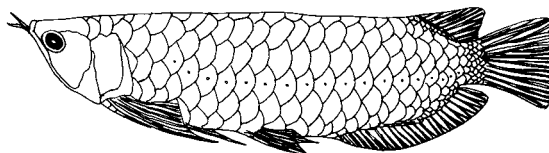
Deer in China

In *Oryx*, June 1982, page 315, we mentioned that spotted deer *Cervus axis* occur in a new reserve in China. This species however is indigenous to the Indian sub-continent and the deer in the Chinese reserve is probably a subspecies of sika deer *C. nippon*.

Live Reptile Trade in Japan

Tom Milliken of TRAFFIC (Japan) reports that the trade in live reptiles is increasing there; four large pet shops deal solely in reptiles. Although the pet turtle trade has been declining in most developed countries, its expansion in Japan may reverse the trend. Japan also imports, mostly from Thailand, terrapins *Cuora amboinensis* and *Cyclemys dentata* along with the tortoise *Geochelone elongata* for use in a variety of medicines as a source of calcium.

Freshwater Chelonian Group Newsletter, September 1982



Golden dragon fish

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Placating the Foresters

In Japan, serow or goat-antelope *Capri-cornis crispus*, which are fully protected, are very unpopular with foresters because they attack saplings in their plantations in the Japanese Alps of Nagano and Gifu. In a project promoted by the Nature Conservation Society of Japan, students have put net bags over the trees to foil these animals. This has relieved the tension between the conservationists and the foresters who would like to see the serow's protected status removed and hunting permitted. Tom Milliken: pers. comm.

Antipodes

Satellite Aids Orchid Search

Satellite technology has helped locate more than 100 specimens of one of Australia's rarest and most unusual flowers, an underground orchid *Rhizanthella gardneri*, which grows among the roots of the broom honey-myrtle *Melaleuca uncinata*. Only its flowers appear above ground. WWF-sponsored botanists used Landsat data to pinpoint areas of undisturbed bushland in the wheat-growing areas of West Australia, where honey-myrtle is most often found and searched these areas for the orchid—first recorded in 1928 and since then believed to be extinct for a time.

Threatened Plants Committee Newsletter, No 9, May 1982.

WWF News, September/October 1982



Underground orchid *Rhizanthella gardneri*; only its flowers appear above ground. WWF—Australia

Logging Ban Doomed

The reported moratorium on logging in the Cononadales, 140 miles north of Brisbane (*Oryx*, October 1982), is to

last a mere 18 months while logging roads are built.

Australian Conservation Foundation Newsletter, June 1982

Right Whales Return

Seven right whales *Eubalaena glacialis*, one with a newborn calf, have been seen at their old breeding grounds off Warrnambool, Victoria, Australia; this is the first record there for more than 100 years.

Fund for Animals, Australia, Newsletter, July 1982

Parrot Numbers Fall

At least half of Australia's 55 parrot species have suffered a decline in status since the beginning of the century, according to data collected by the Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union. The Fund for Animals is researching the parrot trade in Australia and its effects upon population levels.

Technical Bulletin: Fund for Animals, Australia, April 1982

Koala Illness

The koala *Phascolarctos cinereus* is threatened in several parts of Australia by a puzzling illness that affects breeding in females; 90 per cent are affected in some areas.

Tier, October 1982

Oceans

Hawaiian Endangered Plant

The 'Ewa Plains akoko *Euphorbia skottsbergii* var *kalaeloana* is the sixth Hawaiian plant species to be listed as endangered under the US Endangered Species Act. This shrub is known only from the 'Ewa Plains area of Oahu where industrial and agricultural development and invasion by exotic species have destroyed most of the native vegetation.

Elepaio, October 1982

Turning Turtles

In *Oryx*, October 1982, it was reported that turning turtles on their backs for tagging may be one cause of the low percentage that return to nest in later years. Karen Bjorndal has analysed data from the research programme at Tortuguero, Costa Rica, where turtles were turned in some years and not in others.

The results suggest that turning turtles does not affect the future reproductive performance of the colony, at least in so far as their reproductive periodicity is concerned.

Marine Turtle Newsletter, October 1982

Sea Turtle Tags

Because tags applied to turtle hatchlings slough off as the animals grow, live tags, in the form of slivers of white plastron transplanted to the carapace, have been tried with green turtle hatchlings and are still visible two years later.

Marine Turtle Newsletter, October 1982

Device to Prevent Turtle Deaths

A device to exclude turtles from shrimp trawlers' nets—which kill an estimated 10,000 turtles each year in south-eastern USA alone—is now being used by some US trawlers. In tests, a trawler towing a net fitted with a turtle excluder device (TED) and one without, caught 129 in the standard net and three in the net fitted with TED. As a bonus the shrimp catch was increased by seven per cent in the latter net.

Marine Turtle Newsletter, October 1982

Seabass Breakthrough

The white seabass *Cynoscion nobilis* has spawned for the first time in captivity at the Southwest Fisheries Center at La Jolla, California. The fish, prized by sport and commercial fishermen, is found from Alaska to Chile but its wild populations are low and declining. Little is known about its early life history and the breakthrough will help gain knowledge essential for the conservation of ocean stocks.

Sports Fishing Institute Bulletin, July 1982

Record Capelin Catch

A Norwegian purse seiner caught a record catch of 2500 tonnes of capelin in a new type of net made of hexagon mesh webbing which is very strong, retains its shape under strain and sinks faster and deeper because of less drag.

Fishing News International, October 1982

Hawaiian Geese

Contrary to the impression we gave that the build-up of Hawaiian geese in the wild is slow but sure (*Oryx*, October 1982, page 402), a 1980 survey in-

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icated that the population had declined by one-half in five years. W.S. Devick estimated that the Big Island population declined from 650 in 1975 to 300 in 1980; that of Maui peaked at 275 in 1977 and declined to 125 in 1980; only in the Volcanoes National Park had numbers increased, from 60 birds released since 1974 to 75 in 1980. Professor G.V.T. Matthews, The Wild-fowl Trust, Slimbridge, Gloucester

Flying Foxes on the Menu

At least one species of Pacific island flying fox, *Pteropus tokudae* on Guam, is believed extinct and others are close to extinction. Nicholas Payne's 7-month survey of islands where *Pteropus* bats occur, to which fFPS contributed £500 from its 100% Fund, has shown that Guam is the main utiliser of bats and imports virtually all the bats eaten there. According to Dr Robert Stebbings, the restaurant trade has resulted in over-exploitation.

Bat Conservation International, September 1982

New National Parks and Reserves

British Isles

Recent acquisitions by county naturalists' trusts in the UK include Glaslyn moors, 400 acres of heather moorland on the northern slopes of Plynlimon, Wales; Hope Valley, near Shrewsbury in Shropshire, 42 acres of oak woodland; Warleigh Point in Devon, 33 acres of broadleaf woodland and foreshore; Broadhead Clough in Yorkshire, 40 acres of oak, birch, alder and willow; Ancaster Valley in Lincolnshire, woodland and limestone grassland; Landford Heathfield Common, Somerset, 180 acres of woodland, scrub, grassland and heath; Llyn Eiddwen, West Wales, an unspoiled upland lake; and 33 acres of disused railway line adjacent to Powerstock Common reserve in Dorset.

Natural World, Autumn 1982

The RSPB have acquired 350 acres of Church Wood in the Blean near Canterbury, Kent, UK as part of their woodland Bird Survival Campaign. It is a nationally important site with a wide variety of woodland habitats including high forest of sessile oak *Quercus petraea*.

Natural World, Autumn 1982

Briefly

Europe

The Danish part of the Wadden Sea, covering 850 sq km, is now a nature reserve with hunting confined to specific areas and navigation limited to certain channels. The Wadden Sea is a major resting stage for millions of migrating birds.

Council of Europe Newsletter, No. 82-8/9

Le Thier des Carrières at Vielsalm in Belgium has been made a nature reserve. The flora of these seven hectares of old slate quarries includes 78 lichen and 98 bryophyte species, many of them rare.

Council of Europe Newsletter, No. 82-8/9

The Petite Camargue Alsacienne nature reserve (119 ha) established between the Vosges and the Black Forest at the southern end of the Rhine valley, comprises wetlands, dry moors and woods which are the home for a number of rare plants and a rich fauna as well as providing a staging post for migrating birds.

Council of Europe Newsletter, No. 82-8/9

Africa

Three new national parks have been set up in Burundi: Rusizi, north of Lake Tanganyika, will have a bird-ringing station for migration studies; Kibira, important for forest fauna; and Ruvubu, the largest, with tourist potential.

IUCN Bulletin, July-September 1982

The Government of the Malagasy Republic has declared the 5600-ha Ambohitantely Forest a special botanic preserve. This is the first stage of an IUCN/WWF project to protect one of the last forested regions of the high plateau of Madagascar.

IUCN Bulletin, July-September 1982

Antipodes

The new Mootwingee National Park, 160 km north-east of Broken Hill, New South Wales, Australia will protect the rare yellow-footed rock wallaby *Petrogale xanthopus*.

Australian Conservation Foundation Newsletter, July 1982

In New South Wales, Australia an 8000-ha park is to be established on the Tarlo River, Mimosas National Park is to be trebled in size and 14,000 hectares is

to be added to Morton National Park. *Australian Conservation Foundation Newsletter*, June 1982

Latin America and Caribbean

Belize, independent since 1981, has declared its first unit in a national park system; Half Moon Caye Natural Monument. This area of offshore reefs, islands, mangrove keys, and sandbars is also the only marine reserve among Central America's 26 national parks. *Animal Kingdom*, August/September 1982

Personalia

HRH Princess Alexandra, the Hon. Mrs Angus Ogilvy, GCVO, is the new President of WWF-UK. *WWF News*, Autumn 1982

Rom Whitaker, Director of Madras Snake Park Trust and Chairman of the new IUCN/SSC Snake Specialist Group, has been awarded WWF's commendation for conservation of reptiles. *Freshwater Chelonian Group Newsletter*, September 1982

Professor S. Dillon Ripley, President of the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) for 24 years, has retired and was succeeded by Dr Russell Peterson, President of the US National Audubon Society.

Corrections

Earlier Sightings of Humpback Whales in Antarctica

In this note by Peter Kinnear in *Oryx*, October 1982, page 430, an unfortunate typographic error occurred. On the second line of the second column 'fins' should have been 'flippers'.

Partula Snails not all Extinct

In *Oryx*, June 1982, page 209, we gave the impression that all the land snails in the genus *Partula* on Moorea were extinct. In fact only two of the nine species are probably extinct, *P. aurantia*, and *P. exigua*. But the introduced carnivorous snail *Euglandina rosea* is spreading across the island and Professor Bryan Clarke estimates that all the *Partula* snails could become extinct by 1986.