

## News in Brief

### New FPS Vice-President

Colonel Mervyn Cowie, who retired as Director of National Parks in Kenya early this year, has accepted the invitation of the Council of the FPS to become a Vice-President of the Society. Col. Cowie will be in England in September and will speak at a meeting of the Society on September 13th, and show a film of northern Kenya. Details of the meeting are on page 325.

### What About the Land Stations?

The International Whaling Commission, at its meeting in London in June, agreed to measures which will complete the protection in all seas of the blue and humpback whales from pelagic whaling by its member nations. Last season, however, 26 land stations and seven factory ships caught nearly 30,000 whales outside the Antarctic, of which 593 were blue and 452 humpback.

### Royalties Gift to FPS

Mrs Diana Spearman, a member of the FPS Council who has just retired on rotation, has edited *The Animal Anthology* to be published in November by John Baker at 30s. Mrs Spearman has most generously donated all the royalties to the FPS, and we hope that members will do all they can to help the sales of the book. It will be reviewed in the December issue of ORYX.

### Water for the Everglades

The United States Army Corps of Engineers has put in hand an emergency plan to channel water to the Everglades National Park in Florida, following the uproar last year over the drying out of the park as a result of their drainage operations. The plan involves an extensive system of channels and pumps costing about 3½ million dollars.

### Wild Cattle Increase

The Chillingham wild cattle herd has increased by four to 36 animals, of which five are calves, with the sexes now equally divided.

### Dolphin Hunting Stopped

The hunting of dolphins in Russian waters has been forbidden by the Soviet Ministry of Fisheries.

### No Polar Bear Shooting

Germany's largest travel agency, the Deutsche Reisebüro, has announced that it will no longer advertise or accept bookings for tours to Norway to shoot polar bears, following a letter from Dr Grzimek, who is President of the 2-million strong Deutsche Naturschutzring.

### WWF Launches AID

AID—Animals in Danger—is the name of the new fund-raising campaign of the Wildlife Youth Service of the World Wildlife Fund, launched by Peter Scott last May. Young members are given a badge and a record card for donations.

### Games not for National Park

The International Olympic Committee's decision to award the Winter Games of 1972 to Sapporo, Japan, is to some extent a victory for conservationists. It was expected that the choice would be Banff, Canada,

which had offered to hold the Games in its famous national park, where it was prepared to fell several acres of 200-year-old forest trees. Conservationists protested against the bad example that Canada would set to the rest of the world by alienating a national park for a short-term interest.

### Correction

The white rhino in Uganda, which has given birth to a calf (see *ORYX*, April 1966, page 220), is in the Murchison Falls National Park, and is one of those brought in 1961 in the operation partly financed by Anglia Television and described in *ORYX*, September 1961, page 184.

### Elephant Gourmet

A bull elephant climbed over the fence (without flattening it) into the Senior Warden's vegetable garden in the Murchison Falls National Park, in Uganda, and ate all the sweet corn together with a few melons, beet and egg plants. On his next visit he finished off the egg plants, and tackled the sweet peppers. Not to his taste apparently were tomatoes, lettuce, carrots or passion fruit.

## National Parks of the World

**T**HE detailed catalogue of the national parks and equivalent reserves of the world, on which Professor Jean-Paul Harroy has been working for the last four years, revising and adding to the initial, much smaller list published by IUCN in 1961, is now complete, and will be published in French this year for the United Nations. It is a remarkable achievement. Some 1200 areas are included which satisfy the strict definition of a "national park or equivalent area": that it must be over 500 hectares (1235 acres) in a settled country or 2000 hectares (4942 acres) in an under-developed one, in which the natural resources, including the wildlife may not be destroyed, degraded or transferred in any way by human exploitation or occupation, and in which adequate steps are taken to prevent such exploitation. Seventy-four British nature reserves qualify under this definition, but no national park. The list excludes China and other non-members of the United Nations, and also the few countries which did not reply to the 134 questionnaires sent out; nevertheless it is an invaluable tool for all conservationists.

At a meeting of the Terrestrial Conservation section of the International Biological Programme at Brunnen in Switzerland in July, presided over by its convener Mr E. M. Nicholson, there were discussions on the value of this catalogue as a basis for the Section's main task, which is to produce an inventory of the natural habitats or ecological systems of the world—savanna grassland, deserts, coastal marshes, and so on—so that adequate samples of each can be conserved for science before it is too late. Using this list, and in collaboration with IUCN, detailed ecological information about such habitats will now be collected, processed on computer tape, and later, it is hoped, published in loose-leaf form similar to the Red Books on endangered mammals and birds just published by the Survival Service Commission of IUCN.