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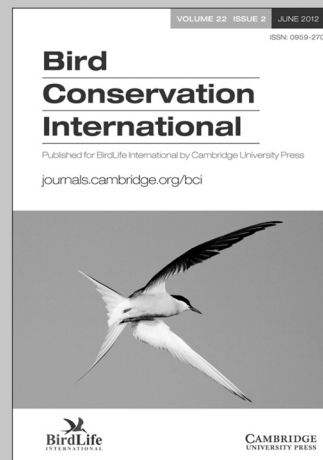
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- 467 The fall of the wild, *David P. Mallon & Mark Stanley Price*
- 469 Briefly
- 479 Conservation news
- Forum**
- 483 On taxing wildlife films and exposure to nature, *S. Wunder & D. Sheil*
- 486 Should the wildlife media pay for conservation? A response to Wunder & Sheil, *P. Jepson & S. Jennings*
- 488 Wildlife film fees: a reply to Jepson & Jennings, *S. Wunder & D. Sheil*
- Carnivore conservation**
- 490 Beyond ritual and economics: Maasai lion hunting and conservation politics, *M.J. Goldman, J. Roque de Pinho & J. Perry*
- 501 Review Trophy hunting and lion conservation: a question of governance? *F. Nelson, P. Lindsey & G. Balme*
- 510 Prioritizing threats to improve conservation strategy for the tiger *Panthera tigris* in the Sundarbans Reserve Forest of Bangladesh, *A. Aziz, A.C.D. Barlow, V.C. Greenwood & A. Islam*
- 519 Media coverage of management of the black bear *Ursus thibetanus* in Japan, *R. Sakurai, S.K. Jacobson & J.S. Carlton*
- 526 Bat conservation in China: should protection of subterranean habitats be a priority? *J. Luo, T. Jiang, G. Lu, L. Wang, J. Wang & J. Feng*
- 532 Domestic and CITES regulations controlling the international snake trade in China, *Z. Jiang, Z. Zhou, Z. Meng, X. Meng, L. Li, X. Ping et al.*
- 535 Human activity negatively affects stone tool-using Burmese long-tailed macaques *Macaca fascicularis aurea* in Laem Son National Park, Thailand, *M.D. Gumert, Y. Hamada & S. Malaivijitnond*
- 544 A baseline survey of ungulate abundance and distribution in northern Lao: implications for conservation, *C. Vongkhamheng, A. Johnson & M.E. Sunquist*
- 553 Riparian old-growth forests provide critical nesting and foraging habitat for Blakiston's fish owl *Bubo blakistoni* in Russia, *J.C. Slaght, S.G. Surnach & R.J. Gutiérrez*
- 561 Status, distribution and recommendations for monitoring of the Seychelles black parrot *Coracopsis (nigra) barklyi*, *A. Reuleaux, N. Bunbury, P. Villard & M. Waltert*
- 569 Crop-raiding deterrents around Budongo Forest Reserve: an evaluation through farmer actions and perceptions, *S.S. Hsiao, C. Ross, C.M. Hill & G.E. Wallace*
- 578 Demographic decline of the last surviving Moroccan dorcas gazelles *Gazella dorcas massaesyala* in M'Sabih Talaa Reserve, Morocco, *M.A. Ait Baamrane, M. Znari, C. Loggers, S. El Mercht & M. Naimi*
- 584 Evidence-based management to regulate the impact of tourism at a key marine turtle rookery on Zakynthos Island, Greece, *K.A. Katselidis, G. Schofield, G. Stamou, P. Dimopoulos & J.D. Pantis*
- 595 Using pingers to reduce bycatch of small cetaceans in Peru's small-scale driftnet fishery, *J.C. Mangel, J. Alfaro-Shigueto, M.J. Witt, D.J. Hodgson & B.J. Godley*
- 607 Not just any old pile of dirt: evaluating the use of artificial nesting mounds as conservation tools for freshwater turtles, *J.E. Paterson, B.D. Steinberg & J.D. Litzgus*
- Publications*
- 616 Biodiversity Conservation and Poverty Alleviation: Exploring the Evidence for a Link
- 616 The Kingdom of Rarities
- 617 Churning the Earth: The Making of Global India
- 619 Acknowledgements
- Cover* Populations of the African lion are declining, with the species' survival in some areas linked to levels of tolerance by rural communities. In Tanzania and Kenya several of the remaining lion populations outside protected areas lie adjacent to rural communities, and are hunted. As many of these communities are Maasai, understanding and curbing hunting has focused on an explanatory model of Maasai lion hunting as either a cultural ritual or a retaliatory behaviour against predation on livestock. Data from both countries demonstrate, however, that lion hunting by Maasai is related to overlapping motivations that are simultaneously social, emotional and political. For further details on this and other aspects of carnivore conservation, see pp. 490–525. (Photograph © Hugh Sitton/Corbis).