

Annual Report for 1976

Vice-Presidents

Five new Vice-Presidents were elected at the Annual General Meeting on June 16: Professor A. G. Bannikov, the leading Soviet wildlife conservationist and a Vice-President of IUCN; the Earl of Cranbrook, veteran legislator for wildlife conservation in the British Parliament; Dr Kai Curry-Lindahl, distinguished international conservationist from Sweden, who has lately been working for the United Nations Environment Programme; Major Ian Grimwood, sometime Chief Game Warden of Kenya and leader of the Society's Operation Oryx in 1962, who has since carried out many conservation missions in various parts of the world on behalf of IUCN and other bodies; and Dr Lee M. Talbot, whose association with the Society dates back to the famous 'Look at Threatened Species', published in *Oryx* in 1960, and who is currently a Vice-President of IUCN and Chief Scientist to the US Council for Environmental Quality.

Council

Three new members were elected to Council: Dr Malcolm Coe, lecturer in Zoology at Oxford University, who returns for a second term; Miss A. G. C. Grandison, head of the Reptile Section at the British Museum (Natural History); and Dr John MacKinnon, a primate specialist, best known for his work on orang-utans in Sabah. They replaced Sir William Collins, who sadly died only a few weeks after retiring, Lt. Col. J. P. Grant of Rothiemurchus and Major W. N. Scott.

International Meetings

The number of international meetings at which it is necessary for the Society to be represented if it is to do its job properly increases every year. In 1976 FPS was represented by one or other of the Hon. Secretary, Hon. Editor and Assistant Secretary at the following meetings: IUCN Survival Service Commission at Morges, Switzerland, and Bahia de Kino, Mexico; FAO Consultation on Marine Mammals, SSC Steering Committee and TRAFFIC at Bergen, Norway; WWF Fourth International Congress at San Francisco, USA; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species at Berne, Switzerland; International Whaling Commission in London; International Primatological Congress at Cambridge, UK; and Trustees of the World Herd of Arabian Oryx at Phoenix and San Diego, USA.

Oryx

Two enlarged issues of *Oryx* were published, in February and July, instead of the normal three, largely because the Editor had to rest on medical orders. David Helton has now been appointed Assistant Editor, and we are resuming normal publication intervals.

Membership

Despite the substantial increase in subscription from January 1 1976, membership rose to 3482, an increase of 52.

Captive Breeding Conference

The Second World Conference on Breeding Endangered Species in Captivity was organised by Dr Michael Brambell on behalf of the FPS and the Zoological Society of London, as part of the ZSL's sesquicentenary celebrations. This highly successful conference, attended by 167 people from 18 countries, was held at the ZSL's meeting rooms on July 6–8, with a distinguished list of speakers headed by our President, Lord Zuckerman. The proceedings have been published in the 1977 edition of the International Zoo Yearbook.

Red Data Book (Mammals)

The Hon. Secretary, in his capacity as Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the Red Data Book (Mammals) has been given by IUCN the responsibility for the book's revision, and the Society has contributed by allowing the use of its offices and secretarial facilities, as well as by a special grant of £1000. A further grant of \$5000 from the World Wildlife Fund (USA) and valuable co-operation by the British Museum (Natural History) enabled good progress to be made during the year. Miss Jane Thornback MSc, a graduate of Birmingham and California Universities, started work in August.

Oryx 100% Fund

Gifts to the Fund in 1976 totalled £5494.88, of which £2300 was earmarked. In addition, £344.84 in royalties from *Breeding Endangered Species in Captivity*, the proceedings of the 1972 Jersey conference edited by Dr R. D. Martin, were devoted to the Fund. Especially generous gifts were £300 from St Katharine's Fund, £100 from Dr C. P. Groves, £100 from F. W. Bernard, £50 each from K. Richards and Mrs A. M. Jackson, £30 each from Thomas Forman & Sons Ltd and Dr Ruth Gipps, £29 from W. D. Francis, and £25 each from Tom Cretain and B. Prescott. Earmarked donations included £1000 from Sir Herbert Bonar, £500 from the ICL Discretionary Trust, £400 from St Katharine's Fund, £225 from the Zoological Society Sports and Social Club, and £100 from Walter J. Foster. The Fund aided projects in Ascension Island, Bolivia, Brazil, Chad, Chile, Crete, Cyprus, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Galapagos, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Seychelles, St Vincent, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The species helped included Tana mangabey, Simien fox, African hunting dog, cheetah, huemul, giraffe, Kafue lechwe, scimitar-horned oryx, addax, Nilgiri tahr, Cyprus mouflon, St Vincent parrot, green and leathery turtles, radiated tortoise and caimans.

Legacies and Gifts

Three legacies were received: £27,697 from Miss H. K. Jillard, £250 from Dr J. L. Linzell and £132 from C. A. Forrester. Gifts of £10 and over included £2000 from an anonymous donor; £100 from Ernest Kleinwort; £100 from the Ofenheim Charitable Trust; £80 from Mrs D. Tyrwhitt; £50 each from Mrs M. J. Hayne, Mrs F. Merz and K. Richards; £30 from Mr and Mrs James Cadbury; £30 from Mrs P. Sheridan; £25 from Mrs A. Ahlers; £20 each from A. E. Cole, S. Marchant and Mrs V. H. Williams; £13 from Mrs M. A. E. Balston and Mrs J. A. Southby; and £10 each from Dr E. T. O. Slater and Mrs Diana Spearman.

Sales

Sales activities have been considerably curtailed. It was decided that staff time could be better used and that, when this was costed in, sales were making little profit, largely due to the heavy costs incurred dealing with VAT.

International Trade Convention

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna, signed in Washington in 1973, came into force in the UK in 1976, and the Society has been actively involved. Four Council members – Dr Brambell, Dr Corbet, Miss Grandison and the Hon. Secretary – sit on the Government's Advisory Committee in their private capacities, and the Assistant Secretary has represented the Society at the joint meetings held by the Department of the Environment with the conservation bodies.

Traffic in Wildlife

FPS, with RSPB, RSPCA and National Audubon Society, provided a grant for Tim Inskipp to investigate international trade in wildlife in Britain. The Assistant Secretary, John A. Burton, was appointed Chairman of TRAFFIC (Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce), the Survival Service Commission's trade study group, which plays an important part in monitoring the implementation of the international trade convention and held its first meeting in Bergen, Norway, in September 1976.

Wildlife Tours

Two Oryx Tours visited Madagascar, Mauritius and Réunion in 1976, the first in April, led by Dr James O. Juvik of the University of Hawaii, and the second in November led by Sir Hugh Elliott. Both were accompanied by Mrs Hedda Lyons.

Arabian Oryx Herd

There are now 82 Arabian oryx in the World Herd at Phoenix and San Diego Zoos. In 1976 seven male and ten female calves were born, and five male and four female deaths recorded. Two meetings of the World Herd Trustees were held during the year: one at Phoenix, Arizona, in May, and the second at the Wild Animal Park of San Diego Zoo, California, in November. As a result of the growing surplus of animals at Phoenix, two pairs have been transferred to Brownsville Zoo, Texas, four more pairs to San Diego, and two pairs offered to the London Zoo. It was also agreed to offer a number of surplus male oryx to Jordan, for their breeding facility at Shaumari, in the hope that females would also become available before long. (Four males were accepted and expected to be airlifted later in the year.)

Office Work

1976 saw a considerable increase in the activities of the Society's office. Incoming mail in a sample week amounted to 250 letters from all parts of the world. In addition we receive about 1500 issues a year of over 330 different journals, all of which are carefully screened. Over the past two years the number of letters sent out has roughly doubled. This has naturally necessitated some increase in staff. John A. Burton became Assistant Secretary in November 1975 and Mrs Kay Gordon joined as Office Manager in April 1976, replacing Susan Sweeting, who resigned. In addition we now have three full-time assistants headed by Miss Vivien Gledhill, instead of two full-time and one part-time.

Film Library

180 bookings were made in the year and the films shown to audiences totalling over 13,500. Hiring charges were revised to simplify administration and make the films more widely available. Two new films were bought and added to the library: *At the Crossroads* and *The Last Stronghold*. Two films, *Ceylon Wildlife* and *Operation Oryx*, have been taken out of the library because of deterioration.

Members' Meetings

Three Members' Meetings and the Annual General Meeting were held. On March 24 Philip Wayre spoke on otters and showed a 50-minute BBC film. Madagascar was the topic for a meeting held on September 29, with Dr R. D. Martin in the Chair and guest speakers Jon Pollock and Dr Alison Jolly, when a BBC film, *Ghosts at the End of the Earth*, was shown. The November 10 meeting was chaired by Dr Malcolm Coe, and Daniel Freeman spoke on Bushbabies; the film was FPS's new *At the Crossroads*, dealing with endangered species in America. At the Annual General Meeting on June 16, the President, Professor Lord Zuckerman, took the chair. Sir David Serpell, Chairman of the Nature Conservancy Council, was guest speaker, and a 50-minute colour film of gorillas was shown by courtesy of Aubrey Buxton and Anglia Television.

Christmas Cards

We are most grateful to our President Emeritus, Lord Willingdon, for permission to use the delightful painting of jackass penguins which Sir Peter Scott painted specially as a gift from FPS members to Lord Willingdon on his retirement as President. The card was shared with the South African National Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds. We are also most grateful to Bruce Lattig for permission to use his dramatic painting of a Texas ocelot, and to Robert Gillmor for his beautiful drawing of a sparrowhawk, which was produced jointly with the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Naturalists' Trust. Over 30,000 cards were sold.

Zoological Society of London

The Society continues to be most grateful for the invaluable help and facilities offered by the Zoological Society of London throughout the year.