

Briefly . . .

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The items under this title continue the service formerly supplied by the newsletter *Kingfisher*

INTERNATIONAL

Nearly 100 Arabian Oryx

The total number of Arabian oryx in captivity is now estimated at nearly 100 by Maurice Machris, who recently returned from a visit to Arabia. There are 41 animals in the World Herd (34 at Phoenix, 7 at San Diego), 24 in Sheikh Qasim's herd in Qatar, 18 at Los Angeles Zoo, 5 at Riyadh Zoo, Saudi Arabia, and probably 2 in the small zoo in Abu Dhabi. The Machris expedition confirmed the conclusions of David Henderson in the February *Oryx* that if there are any Arabian oryx left in the wild, their numbers must now be so few as to preclude the possibility of their surviving as a wild stock.

More Pandas for Zoo

Two young giant pandas, presented by China arrived at the London Zoo in September, to replace Chi-Chi, who died two years ago.

Boycott for the Whales

Friends of the Earth have launched a boycott of Russian and Japanese goods in defence of the great whales currently threatened by these two countries' failure to adhere to agreements made by the International Whaling Commission. It is claimed that the Russians feed much of their whale meat to animals on fur farms.

AFL/CIO Supports Whales

The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations has called on Japan and Russia to abide by world opinion and cease the hunting of whales.

Help for Threatened Plants

IUCN has set up a special Committee on Threatened Plants, under the chairmanship of Professor J.

Heslop-Harrison, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The committee will identify and define the threats to the survival of local and regional floras, groups of plants and individual species, and will propose action to conserve them. It will also advise on the plant volume(s) of the Red Data Book.

No El Dorado in the Jungle

It is useless to try to support the increasing populations of the world by opening up the tropical rain forests, report 28 scientists and anthropologists to the Smithsonian Institution. The luxuriant vegetation is only 'a façade, an outward magnificence cloaking the poverty beneath'. The soil is surprisingly deficient in nutrients, and its fertility falls so rapidly after the vegetation is cleared that a site usually has to be abandoned after the third harvest.

Growth Mania

The average US citizen uses up seven times as much energy as the average Japanese, four times as much as the average German and three times as much as the average citizen of the United Kingdom. The average American will use as much energy in the next seven days as the average citizen of the world will use in the next year.

Agent Orange: No Sale

IUCN recently protested at the proposed sale to Latin America of Agent Orange, the herbicide (a 50-50 mixture of 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D) which did so much damage to the environment of Vietnam. The Union has now been advised by the US Environmental Protection Agency that this substance is not registered for domestic use in the United States, and that the State Department will not authorise overseas sale of stocks which cannot be used at home.

Environmental Co-operation

An Environmental Coalition was formed by the leaders of ten major European and North American organisations at a meeting of the Sierra Club in England in February. They agreed to work together on common issues and to take joint action on environmental matters at the UN Law of the Sea Conference in Caracas.

NGO Centre in Nairobi

More than 150 representatives of non-governmental organisations, assembled in Nairobi, Kenya, before the meeting of the Governing Council of UNEP, decided to create a permanent, independent international Non-Governmental Organization Environmental Centre in Nairobi. The Centre will develop a focus of activity among NGOs on environmental matters and will liaise with UNEP. The meeting also constituted itself as a permanent International Assembly of NGOs concerned with the Environment.

US/USSR Co-operation

The marking with bright green neck collars of 24 wild-caught snow geese marks the beginning of a co-operative research project between the US and the USSR. The birds winter in California but nest in Siberia. In the next phase of the project Soviet biologists will mark 800 lesser snow geese before they migrate from Siberia.

Next IUCN Meeting

The dates for the 12th General Assembly and 13th Technical Meeting of IUCN at Kinshasa, Zaire, have been fixed for September 8-18, 1975. Three days in the middle of the conference will be devoted to an excursion to the Virunga (formerly Albert) National Park.

New Primate Protection Body

The International Primate Protection League was founded recently to seek the conservation of all primate species and the protection of indivi-

dual primates and groups of primates. It is concerned especially with the illicit trade in primates and the conditions in which they are kept in captivity. Inquiries to 1224 Bonita, Berkeley, Calif., 94709, USA.

World Heritage Convention

Iraq and Bulgaria have become the third and fourth countries, after the USA and Egypt, to ratify the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

New IUCN Members

Iran and New Zealand have joined IUCN as its 36th and 37th state members.

Without Comment

The son of a Ceylonese doctor and sometime keeper at Dudley Zoo, Rama Samaraweera, is based now in rural Wales. He travels widely to study his subjects and leaves soon for Finland in search of snow leopards. (*Sunday Telegraph*, June 2).

BRITISH ISLES**Channel Tunnel Survey**

The new Nature Conservancy Council is to survey the areas of the proposed Channel Tunnel works at Folkestone and Dover. The survey, asked for by the Department of the Environment, will assess the animal and plant communities and physical features in these areas, and suggest ways of protecting them.

No Wash Seal Kill

The Home Office refused to issue any licences for harvesting young common seals in the Wash this year. This was despite the advice of the Natural Environment Research Council that there was no scientific reason why the kill should not take place. The RSPCA had opposed it.

Protecting Bats in Caves

The National Caving Association has issued a leaflet explaining



the problems of protecting bat colonies in caves, and urging co-operation by cavers in plans to seal by grilles small caves and parts of larger caves where bat colonies are liable to be disturbed. These sites are in the main small mines and tunnels of little interest to cavers. Bat colonies in larger caves are not disturbed by the passage of cavers and have shown no decline in numbers.

Badger Hunters Fined

Four men were recently fined at Winsford, Cheshire, magistrates' court, for badger digging, which is now illegal under the Badgers Act, 1973.

Pollution Helps Waterfowl

Some of the biggest winter concentrations of wildfowl off the British coasts feed off large sewer outfalls. The Scottish Ornithologists' Club is organising a survey of those off the coast of Scotland. In the Tay estuary several hundred goldeneyes are particularly dependent on the sewage outfalls, but mute swans and tufted ducks were more attracted to vegetable wastes from a food factory.

Seaweed Nuisance in Kent

Unprecedentedly large deposits of drift seaweed on the Thanet coast, giving a particularly obnoxious smell as they decompose on the beach, are attributed to the increased algal growths caused by the large amounts of sewage discharged into the sea off the south coast each year.

Scottish Pollution Survey

A team of biologists from Paisley College of Technology is to study the degree of pollution in the principal Scottish rivers, under a grant from the Scottish Development Department.

Code for Sub-Aqua Men

The Welsh Association of Sub-Aqua Clubs has issued a useful code of conduct for underwater swimmers, to

ensure the minimum damage to marine animals and plants. It is obtainable from the Welsh Association of Sub-Aqua Clubs, Dale Fort, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire.

EUROPE

Acidified Swedish Lakes

Acidification of lakes on the west coast of Sweden has increased considerably in recent years. Half of the 400 lakes investigated in 1970-72 had pH values below 6.0, and in autumn and spring many had values below 5.0. In some lakes the pH has fallen by 1.8 in the past two or three decades. Most of the diatoms and green algae disappear below 5.8, and most of the daphnians disappear below 6.0. Many fish, including roach, minnow, arctic char and trout, have gone from the acidified waters. Their reproduction is affected below pH 5.5. Even perch and pike are influenced. The trend to acidification is spreading north and east.

The Unpolluted Mediterranean

In 1971 an area off Castellabate, 100 km south of Naples, was found to be relatively unpolluted, and was declared a national marine park, so that it could act as a site for monitoring the health of the Mediterranean in that region. It is of some interest that there are no mussels in the park area, though they thrive in the polluted waters off Naples (where they were recently accused of causing the cholera epidemic).

Network of Protected Areas

The Council for Europe has launched a drive to set up 'a truly European network of protected areas intended for the conservation of landscapes, habitats and species and for recreation and research'.

Pelicans and Herons

Some 6000 white and 1900 Dalmatian pelicans breed in the wetlands of Europe, according to estimates published by the

International Wildfowl Research Bureau. Corresponding figures for other marsh birds are 2000 spoon-bills, 6650 glossy ibises, 350 great white egrets, 6000 cattle egrets, 7000 squacco herons and 2000 pygmy cormorants.

Helicopters v Eagles

In France helicopters on military training flights are exterminating the local raptors, golden, short-toed and Bonelli's eagles, and buzzards, by preventing them from nesting. The helicopters manoeuvre in the gorges of southern France, where the eagles nest, to such an extent that not only can the birds not breed but their daily life is becoming more and more difficult, according to Laurent Yeatman in the annual report of the Hawk Trust.

Eagle Owls in Sweden

The project for releasing captive-bred eagle owls in south-west Sweden, to augment the endangered native stock, has increased the number of breeding pairs in the region from two in 1965 to 28 in 1974, and the number of young reared in the same region from none in 1965 and 1966 to 34 in 1973. The number of young eagle owls released since 1970 totals 42. This region now holds some three-quarters of Sweden's breeding stock.

Finnish Raptor Surveys

In Finland out of about 145 known golden eagle eyries, 95 were checked in 1973. Eggs were laid in 38, 31 nests produced 41 young, and 25 sites were uninhabited. It is estimated that the total production of eaglets was about 60. Two-thirds of the 900 Finnish osprey sites visited in 1973 were inhabited, and about two-thirds of the active nests produced young, an average of 1.47 per nest. Only 17 pairs of peregrines nested in 1973.

To Feed the Wolves

Red and roe deer are to be reintroduced to the Abruzzo National Park and the Maiella mountain

group in Central Italy, to increase the number of prey species available for the now very rare wolf. Only 100–120 wolves are believed to survive in the whole of central and southern Italy, scattered in small isolated groups throughout the central and southern Apennines.

Lynxes for Yugoslavia

Three pairs of lynx have recently been released in Slovenia, where the animal became extinct in the late 19th century.

Geneva Bans Shooting

Following a referendum in June, all shooting has been banned in the Swiss canton of Geneva (population 330,000). Last year some 500 shooting licences were issued mainly to people living in the city of Geneva.

Egg Collectors Caught

Following complaints from villagers, two Austrians and a German were caught and fined £40 each for stealing birds' eggs in Finnmark, North Norway. Their collection of 300 eggs was confiscated.

NORTH AMERICA

Park before Power Line

An Ohio court has made what is believed to be the first court ruling in the US setting the public interest in park land over the proprietary interest of a utility. An Ohio electricity company wanted to run a 345,000-volt transmission line across the proposed 23,000-acre Cuyahoga Valley Park and Preserve, exercising its right of eminent domain. Probate Judge Ralph Locher refused permission, saying that the line would violate the natural area needed by 'the soul of man, which has very significant, almost insatiable psychological needs which only nature can satisfy'. He pointed out that safe and feasible alternative routes exist.

Another Alaska Pipeline?

The Interior Department has granted a permit for test borings for a natural gas pipeline from Prudhoe Bay,



PACIFIC RESERVE. 18-acre Rose Atoll, a reef of pink coral in American Samoa, has been declared a National Wildlife Refuge to protect green and possibly hawksbill turtles, and more than a dozen breeding birds. These include red and blue footed boobies, frigates, fairy and Hawaiian noddy terns and tropic birds. The reserve will be used for scientific studies especially by Samoan biologists. *Photograph by Don Graf.*

Alaska, through the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to connect with a Canadian pipeline up the valley of the Mackenzie River.

The Department also has plans to more than double the acreages of the national park and national wildlife refuge systems in Alaska by adding 64m. acres of federal lands. In addition 18.8m. acres would be added to the national forest system and 20 new units to the national wild and scenic rivers system. Mount McKinley National Park, for instance, would be more than doubled, and Katmai National Monument upgraded to a national park.

Rewards for Smuggling Information

The US Bureau of Customs has announced that it will pay liberal rewards, up to \$50,000 per investigation, for information leading to the arrest of persons engaged in smuggling live animals. The Bureau urges animal dealers and importers to report such information as a matter of self-protection.

US Bans Pet Imports

The United States banned the import of exotic animals for pets as from February 18. In 1972 Americans purchased 120 million wild animals. It is estimated that three-quarters of the animals destined for the US exotic pet market used to die in

transit or be killed or maimed in the process of capture. In 1972 exotic pets bit at least 163 people in New York city alone, and in the whole United States an estimated eight people are bitten by poisonous snakes every year. Small turtles bought in pet stores are believed to cause 40,000 cases of salmonella poisoning a year.

Florida's Invaders

Asian walking catfish are spreading through Florida's inland waters—80,000 acres of which are choked by the South American water hyacinth—from a release point near Palm Beach. South American giant marine toads, poisonous and a foot long, are spreading from a release point around Miami. Unwanted exotic pets, from jaguarundis and ocelots to full-grown jaguars and American elk, roam uninhabited areas. Parrots, parakeets, mynas and other escaped cage birds queue up at the bird tables.

Another Californian Invader?

A breeding pair of black-hooded parakeets *Nandayus nenday* from southern South America, which escaped from an aviary in Yucaipa, California, in a storm in the fall of 1969, may have started a new alien bird population in the state. There is good evidence that these birds have now successfully reared young in the wild.

Endangered in BC

The following animals are listed by David Stirling, of the British Columbia Threatened Species Committee, as being endangered in British Columbia: white-tailed jack-rabbit, Vancouver Island wolf, yellow badger, Roosevelt elk, white pelican, ferruginous hawk, prairie falcon, peregrine falcon, barn owl, flammulated owl, burrowing owl, spotted owl, sharp-tailed grouse, mountain quail, sandhill crane, Lewis's woodpecker, skylark, purple martin, canyon wren, sage thrasher and western bluebird.

. . . and in Ohio

The Ohio Chapter of the Wildlife Society has produced a list of rare and endangered vertebrates in the state that includes 10 mammals, 62 birds, 10 reptiles, 4 amphibians and 33 fishes. Most critically endangered are the Indiana myotis bat, the northern bald eagle, the northern copperbelly snake and 13 fishes.

More Wolves for Michigan

Apart from the famous Isle Royale pack, there are believed to be only half a dozen wolves left in northern Michigan. Up to ten wolves will be caught in Minnesota and released in the Huron Mountains to reinforce the small existing stock.

Sea Otters Increase

The number of sea otters off the coast of California has reached a new high of 1700, according to an aerial census by the Fish and Game Department. The otter has also extended its range by more than 40 miles.

Gray Whales Increase

The 3492 gray whales counted off the California coast last winter represent the highest total since the count began seven years ago.

Almost Extinct

A new and extensive search for the Florida panther or cougar *Felis concolor coryi* by Ronald M. Nowak

and Roy McBride has revealed only 10–20 individuals in what is known to be the animal's primary range: the scrub forests and marshland of the Big Cypress swamp and of the northern parts of the Everglades National Park in Florida. A contributory factor to this plight has been the increasing use of swamp buggies and air boats and the construction of a road, known as 'Alligator Alley', into the heart of Big Cypress.

No Longer Extinct

The Amargosa meadow vole, believed extinct for more than 50 years, was refound in swampy areas along the Amargosa River, in California, in the summer of 1973. It is hoped that it will benefit from the Bureau of Land Management's measures to restrict the use of the Amargosa Canyon to help save the desert pupfish.

Hunting Zoo Jaguars

A man has been arraigned by a Federal Grand Jury in New Mexico after an investigation revealed that trophy hunters were being tricked into killing jaguars from zoos and animal dealers. The hunters paid \$3500 each to kill jaguars in south-western New Mexico, unaware that their guide was releasing bought animals from hidden cages.

Bighorns Back to Zion

The National Park Service is co-operating with the states of Nevada and Utah to reintroduce the desert bighorn sheep to Zion National Park, part of its former range. A dozen sheep from Lake Mead national recreation area, Nevada, have been released into a holding enclosure in Zion, where it is hoped they will breed and provide the stock for release.

Hot Springs and Bison

The famous hot springs of the Yellowstone National Park may be partly responsible for the survival there of the only herd of the plains bison with a continuous history in



the wild. In 1901 the herd was down to 23 animals, but was later reinforced by animals that had been bred in semi-captivity. The thermal areas 'probably represent the margin for survival' of the bison in some parts of the park, according to the latest research.

Whooping Crane Egg Airlift

The joint Canadian/US effort to save the whooping crane continued with the collection of 13 second eggs (the second chick is rarely reared) from nests in Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada's Northwest Territories in May. They were flown by Canadian Air Force jet to the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center at Laurel, Maryland, where those which hatch successfully will add to the existing captive flock of 17. It is hoped that this flock will eventually produce young birds for release in the wild.

Bald Eagle Experiment

To shore up the bald eagle population in Maine while pollutant levels are declining and before the existing adults die out from natural causes, two bald eagle eggs from Minnesota were placed in eagle nests in Maine, and hatched successfully. The Maine nests proved to contain one addled egg each, with shells 31 per cent thinner than healthy eagle eggs, an indication of pesticide pollution.

Electrocuting Eagles

Some 300 eagles, most of them golden, are believed to be electrocuted by power transmission lines in the western United States each year. In Moffat County, Colorado, 37 dead eagles were discovered in a short stretch of 88 utility poles. In Utah 47 electrocuted eagles were counted beneath twelve miles of powerlines. In Texas six eagles fell victim to a line bringing electricity to an oilfield.

Peregrines Still Downwards

Only three young were fledged from 14 active peregrine nests in the south-

ern Rocky Mountains in 1973. This was due partly to DDT/contamination, which thinned the eggshells, and partly to raids on the nests by falconers.

Kirtland's Warbler Up Again

The decline in the number of breeding pairs of Kirtland's warbler in its sole world range in Michigan appears to have been stemmed. The census for 1973 showed 216 pairs, an increase of 16. This may reflect the effectiveness of controlling the numbers of the brown-headed cowbird, which parasitises the warbler. Control began in 1972, and it is hoped that the 1974 census will show a much larger increase.

Rare Fish Saved

The endangered cui-ui sucker, *Chasmistes cujus*, a fish endemic to Pyramid Lake, Nevada, has been given a new lease of life with the awarding by the Interior Department of a contract for a fishway on the Truckee River. This will allow the surviving post-glacial cui-ui to spawn on ancestral upriver grounds, which very few of them have been able to do since a dam was built in 1905.

Another Name Change

The name of the US Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife has been officially changed back to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, as it was called between 1939 and 1956.

LATIN AMERICA

Venezuela Hunting Ban

All sport hunting has been banned in Venezuela for two years from April 1, 1974, as a result of the 'alarming diminution of wildlife'.

Poachers Kill Guards

In April a party of game guards, led by Dr Rudolf Hofmann, a leading expert on the vicuña, encountered a party of poachers who had killed some 40 vicuña in the Pampa Galeras reserve in the

Peruvian Andes. In the ensuing fight one guard was killed and two were wounded.

The Cuban Solenodon

Dr Luis S. Varona reports that the Cuban solenodon *Atropogale cubana* still occurs in the Oriente province, both in the Sierra Maestra in the south-west, where 14 individuals were seen recently, and in the mountains on the north, to the west of Toa-Baracoa, where its continued existence has been known for some time. He adds that there is also a recent report of the ivory-billed woodpecker from Baracoa.

Mona Island Saved

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico has abandoned plans to build a deepwater port on Mona Island, which has a distinctive flora and fauna and important seabird nesting colonies.

AFRICA

Ethiopia: Good News and Bad

The Swiss park warden of the Simien Mountains National Park, P. Staehli, reports that there are now nearly 200 walia ibex in the park with a few more outside. Poaching has nearly stopped, but agricultural development (which is likely to exhaust the fertility of the soil within a year or two) continues on the animals' dry-season feeding grounds. The Simien fox is now rarely seen, and there may be only half a dozen left. It is killed by farmers because of its alleged attacks on sheep.

Elephants and Railways

The consequences of routing a railway line through a game reserve did not apparently occur to the designers of a new rail link in Mozambique till they realised that in putting it through the Maputo Game Reserve they were running right alongside the Xingude Lagoon, a favourite resort of elephants. They are now thinking again.

Giant Sable Increase

Not long ago numbers of the giant sable antelope *Hippotragus niger variani* in Angola were estimated at no more than 500–700. Now the estimate lies between 1000 and 3000. It is the only large mammal that enjoys total protection in fact as well as in law in Angola. A recent revised game law imposes the enormous fine of R72,000 for killing a giant sable. The resident human population of its Luando Reserve—18,000 of them—help to protect it from poachers, but their practice of shifting cultivation cannot help its habitat. The giant sable also occurs in the small national park of Cangandala.

A Hartebeest Returns

The translocation of 70 Lichtenstein's hartebeest from Mozambique to Rhodesia, where the animal was almost extinct is now regarded as having succeeded. They are doing well in the Gona re Zhou reserve, and there has been a good calf crop.

Wildlife in Tanzania

A Government body, to be known as Tanzania Wildlife Services, is to be set up to exploit Tanzania's wildlife resources under a full monopoly and on an integrated basis. It will manage and promote hunting, sight-seeing and photo safaris, and trade in live animals, skins and game meat. Professional hunters will not be allowed to resume their operations when the present hunting ban is lifted. Special regulations will allow villagers to hunt for meat.

Rothschild's Giraffe in Kenya

About 100 Rothschild's giraffes, the last in Kenya, are to be moved to Lake Nakuru National Park from a farm a few kilometres west of Eldoret, which has been bought by an African co-operative.

Tourism in Uganda Again

Uganda, reopened for tourism in September 1973, prefers tourists to arrive direct by air to Entebbe



airport rather than by road from Kenya. Professor Grzimek has visited Uganda since then, and reports that the hotels, including those in the national parks are well run and clean, and offer good food. He found the people of Uganda very friendly towards visitors.

Somalia Bans Hunting

The Somali Republic has completely banned hunting throughout its national territory. Sporting safaris, the killing of leopards for their skins and of elephants for their tusks are all forbidden. The export of charcoal has also been prohibited, as a means of preserving the country's forests.

Frankfurt's Ninth Aircraft

The aircraft recently provided for the Tanzania National Parks by the Frankfurt Zoological Society was the ninth the Society has sent to Africa. Kenya, Malawi, Senegal and Uganda have also benefited.

ASIA

The Kouprey Survives

Dr P. Pfeffer has learned that the kouprey survives in both Cambodia and Laos. In northern Cambodia the war has put a stop to the motorised poaching organised by government officials.

Persian Fallow Deer to Iran

Seven Persian fallow deer (2 male, 5 female), all of breeding age, have been flown back from the Kronberg Zoo in West Germany to Iran. At the end of May 1973 two female fawns were born to the group. They are now in an 18,000 ha reserve on the edge of the Caspian Sea, but will eventually be transferred to the Dez and Karkheh parks in south-western Iran, where the small remaining wild stock of the species still survives.

Wildlife in Taiwan

Professor Dale McCullough of the University of Michigan, who has

been surveying the status of the larger mammals of Taiwan, reports that the Taiwan race of the sika deer appears to be extinct, though stock from deer farms is available for restocking if a suitable reserve can be found. Clouded leopards still exist in the mountainous centre. These and the pangolin, black bear, otter, small Chinese civet, Chinese leopard cat and yellow-throated marten are in need of complete protection.

Sumatran Rhino in Thailand?

Footprints believed to be of the Sumatran rhino were seen in Khao Soi Daow game sanctuary in Chantaburi Province, central Thailand, in January and February, by a Peace Corps volunteer.

Leopard in Turkey

The leopard, now very rare in Turkey, is fully protected there. Nevertheless one was killed near Ankara in January 1974. There are estimated to be no more than ten pairs in the whole country.

An Endangered Tarsier

Horsfield's tarsier *Tarsius bancanus borneanus* must be considered an endangered subspecies, according to Carsten Niemitz in the *Borneo Research Bulletin*. Although it is relatively numerous where it is found—at least 100 individuals per square mile of primary jungle in parts of Sarawak—its extreme territoriality places it at risk wherever there is extensive clearance of the rain forest.

A Triton Unfrozen

A male triton *Hynobius keyserling* that was found frozen in the permafrost at a depth of 11m in northern Yakutia, Siberia, lived for six months after it was thawed out and even produced healthy offspring. Its age was determined by radiocarbon analysis as 90 years. Hitherto it was believed that amphibians could not live for more than 20–30 years in this state of frozen anabiosis.

No Pink-headed Duck

The evidence for believing that the pink-headed duck had been sighted in Nepal (*Oryx*, February 1974, p. 344) has now been examined by Dr Dillon Ripley, who considers it was one of the eastern subspecies of the spotbill duck *Anas poecilorhyncha*.

ANTIPODES

Conference Boycotted

The Australian Conservation Foundation decided to boycott a forestry conference sponsored by the Australian Government because of its obvious bias in favour of the advocates of timber production at any cost. Conference literature had suggested that the presence of conservation interests was likely to be used to imply that the conference recommendations had the support of Australian environmental interests. The New South Wales National Parks Association joined in the boycott.

An Endangered Fish

Some concern has been expressed for the survival of the endemic syncarid fish *Paranaspides lacustris*, which has a limited distribution on Great Lake and Shannon and Penstock Lagoons in Tasmania. It was thought to be extinct in Great Lake, but was seen there again at the area known as Little Lake in the autumn of 1973. It is also still reasonably common in weeds in shallow water in Shannon Lagoon.

National Park Threat

Kakadu National Park in Australia's Northern Territory is reported to be under serious threat of mining for uranium.

Emblems for W.A.

The Governor of Western Australia has proclaimed the numbat or banded anteater *Myrmecobius fasciatus* and the black swan as respectively the state's animal and bird emblems.

THE OCEANS

Amchitka Restored

The Aleutian island of Amchitka, a national wildlife refuge that was used for the detonation of a series of nuclear test shots three years ago, is being cleaned up, as promised, by the Atomic Energy Commission. Buildings have been removed, scrap buried, burned or removed by barge, and 150 acres seeded with grass. The World War II huts, however, still remain.

Aleutian Geese Released

Forty-one Aleutian geese, an endangered race of the Canada goose, were recently released into the wild on Agattu Island in the Aleutians. They had been reared for this purpose at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland. Sixty more will be released next year. Nothing is known of what happened to the 75 that were released on Amchitka Island in March 1971.

Goats in Hawaii

The National Park Service has fenced off two areas in one of the Hawaii parks and has virtually eliminated the goats that were devastating the native flora. Additional units are being fenced and will be treated the same way. This policy meets the protests of conservationists that the Service was preserving goats in the parks for the benefit of sport hunters.

New Bird Discovered

A new species of honeycreeper, allocated to a new genus, has been found on the Hawaiian island of Maui. It was found in a limited area of the rain forest high up on Haleakala volcano. The expedition from the University of Hawaii that found it also saw two more birds that had not been sighted more than five times since the turn of the century, the Maui parrotbill, in surprisingly high numbers, and the Maui nuku-pu'u, several times.



NEW NATIONAL PARKS

Brazil has established the new Amazonian National Park of 1m ha, in the Itaituba region about 250 km south-east of Manaus.

The Prespa Lakes region has been declared a national park by presidential decree in Greece. It includes two of the most important wetlands in Europe, Lakes Mikra Prespa and Megali Prespa.

Kaziranga Sanctuary has been declared a national park by the Government of Assam.

Mauritania has established a national park in the Banc d'Arguin archipelago, just south of Cap Blanc.

The Government of Rwanda has decided to declare the forests of Rugege, Nyungwa and Bigogwa as national parks.

Sri Lanka has added 25.7 square miles to the Ruhunu (Yala) National Park and 83 square miles to the Wilpattu National Park, the latter giving the park a sea frontage of nearly 30 miles.

NEW NATURE RESERVES

The 378-acre Nagshead Plantation in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, leased from the Forestry Commission, is the RSPB's latest reserve. It is an oakwood, planted in 1814 as a strategic reserve for the Navy, and is rich in woodland nesting birds, including pied flycatcher, redstart, wood warbler, hawfinch, lesser spotted woodpecker and woodcock.

West Germany has banned hunting and shooting on the east coast of the Waddensee, recently declared as a reserve to protect the large herds of seals. This 350,000-acre reserve will be included in a future national park.

The new 120-ha wildlife reserve in a bend of the River Oglio near Calvatone is not only the first such

reserve in Lombardy, but is also claimed to be the first inland reserve in Italy.

Two more reserves in Italy: 1000 ha at Orbetello on the Tyrrhenian coast of Tuscany, to protect the black-winged stilt and other nesting birds, and Palmarola, one of the Ponziene islands in the Golfo di Gaeta.

The Canadian Wildlife Service has bought out, for \$635,000, a duck hunting club that owned 620 acres of marshes on Lake St Clair, which will now be managed as a national wildlife area. The marshes are the most important staging area for migrating wildfowl in eastern Canada.

Two new sanctuaries of the Massachusetts Audubon Society: Flat Rock Wildlife Sanctuary, 250 acres at Fitchburg; and the Williams Endicott Bird Sanctuary, 20 acres at Wenham.

The Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary, 77 acres of northern hardwood forest at Harding, N.J., is the New Jersey Audubon Society's latest reserve.

The Lusitu Forest, adjoining the Chimanimani National Park on the Mozambique border is Rhodesia's latest protected area. Its fauna includes a galago, 9 species of bird and three frogs found nowhere else in Rhodesia.

Pakistan has declared three new sanctuaries, the Chashma Headpond, the adjacent Nammal Lake, and the Mangla Dam.

Sri Lanka announces three new wildlife sanctuaries: Honduwa, an important 20-acre bird island in Bentota lake; Horogolla, 37 acres of low country wet zone virgin jungle; and Kudumbigala, adjoining the eastern boundary of Ruhunu (Yala) National Park.

New reserves in the North Island of New Zealand include 37 ha near Tolaga Bay and 15½ ha of virgin bush, both on the east coast near Gisborne; and two areas of 28 and 82 ha of coastal headland near Coromandel.

The US Interior Department has declared its remotest national wildlife refuge, the tiny Rose Atoll in American Samoa, 2000 miles S of Hawaii. Its breeding birds include blue-footed boobies, noddy terns and frigate birds. Picture page 539.

PERSONALIA

Sir Peter Scott, Chairman of Council of FPS, as well as of the IUCN Survival Service Commission, and First Vice President of WWF International, has been elected Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, in succession to Lord Avon. On May 15 he conferred honorary degrees of Doctor of Laws on four distinguished conservationists: Sir Herbert Bonar, Professor Konrad Lorenz, Maurice Strong and Sir Landsborough Thomson.

Well known conservationists appointed to the Nature Conservancy Council's new advisory committees include for England Timothy Colman, Stanley Cramp, W. E. Lane, Dr Ernest Neal, Charles Sinker, Dr David Streeter and John Workman, and for Scotland Lord Dulverton and Professor C. H. Gimingham.

Michel Batisse, head of the Ecology and Earth Sciences Division of the Department of Environmental Sciences and Natural Resources Research in UNESCO, has been appointed Director of the Department.

Dr Hans Freundl, Hon. Secretary of WWF Austria, has been awarded the Order of the Golden Ark.

Chester Hogan, Director of the Los Angeles Zoo, one of the three American zoos with a herd of Arabian oryx, has retired.

G. H. Locket has received the Stamford Raffles Award of the Zoological Society of London for his lifelong distinguished contributions to arachnology.

Dr Craig McFarland of the University of Wisconsin is the new Director of the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos.

Dr J. G. Mosley has been appointed Director of the Australian Conservation Foundation.

Perez Olindo, Director of the Kenya National Parks, has been elected Executive Chairman of the East African Wild Life Society.

Francis Peel has resigned as WWF Deputy Director-General.

Russell W. Peterson, a former Governor of Delaware, has succeeded Russell Train as Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality.

Duncan Poore, third and last head of the Nature Conservancy in UK, has joined the IUCN staff as a Senior Ecologist, with particular responsibility for the conservation of flora.

OBITUARY

John H. Baker, President of the Audubon Society from 1934 to 1959, died on September 21.

Dr Clarence Cottam, Director of the Welder Wildlife Foundation, Sinton, Texas, and a well-known wildlife research scientist, died on March 30.

General Charles Lindbergh, an international trustee of WWF, died in August—see page 525.

Professor Renzo Videsott, the distinguished Italian conservationist who was for many years Director of the Gran Paradiso National Park, died on January 4. He helped to protect the ibex in the Italian Alps at a particularly difficult period of the war.