

News in Brief

Public Relations Advisor to the FPS

Mr. Ian MacPhail, Campaigns Director of the World Wildlife Fund, has agreed to act as Honorary Public Relations Adviser to the FPS.

Memorial to a Conservationist

A Rachel Carson Memorial Fund for Research, in honour of the author of *Silent Spring*, who died on April 14th, has been established by the National Audubon Society in the U.S.A. It will be used for research into conservation problems, particularly land-use, ecology and the results of pesticide residues and other poisons in the environment.

Were They Steller's Sea-Cows ?

The crew of a Russian whaler in the vicinity of Cape Navarin, on the Bering Sea coast of Siberia, saw about six large animals at a shallow spot, 80 to 100 m. off-shore, that does not freeze over in the winter, which could only have been Steller's sea-cows, thought to have been extinct since 1768. Since 1800 there have been repeated reports of sea-cows in the north Pacific, hitherto dismissed as fantasies. The region in which the animals were seen is still largely unexplored.

A Hunting Tribe Bans Wire Snares

In March this year the Kgotla, the tribal parliament of the Batawana, a hunting tribe in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, decided to ban the use of snare wires throughout the 42,000 square miles of N'gamiland. Only a year ago this tribe, thanks to the persuasion of Robert and June Kay, created their own game reserve of 700 square miles in the Okavango Swamps, known as the Moremi Wildlife Reserve, where all forms of hunting are prohibited.

Russia to Breed Musk-ox

Russia has decided to import Arctic musk-ox from Canada to make breeding experiments on Wrangel Island, in the Arctic, which has the grasses and tundra brush suitable for them.

WHAT DO THE INITIALS STAND FOR?

THE following initials are frequently used among conservationists and naturalists, and in ORYX. We hope in a future issue to publish fuller details about these and other organisations :

IUCN : International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources ; in French, UICN, Union Internationale pour la Conservation de la Nature et des Ressources Naturelles.

SSC : Survival Service Commission (of IUCN).

ICBP : International Council for Bird Preservation ; in French, CIPO, Conseil International pour la Protection des Oiseaux.

WWF : World Wildlife Fund.

UNESCO : United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

FAO : Food and Agriculture Organisation.

IUDZG : International Union of Directors of Zoological Gardens.

AAZPA : Association of American Zoological Parks and Aquariums.