



Briefly . . . Compiled by Richard Fitter

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

INTERNATIONAL

Dumping Radioactive Waste

Last summer a co-ordinated operation to dump radioactive waste from the UK and three other West European countries took place in a deep-sea area (4.5 km. deep) of the NE Atlantic, approximately 46° N. and 17° W., south-west of Ireland. Some 4500 tonnes of concreted and bituminised low-activity wastes packed in metal drums were disposed of in accordance with the recommendations of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the implementation of the London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping.

Sir Frank Fraser Darling Honoured

At the IUCN Assembly in Zaïre the John C. Phillips medal was awarded to Sir Frank Fraser Darling 'for his inspired and unassuming guidance in developing ecological thinking, and his manifold contributions to the modern concept of conservation grounded in ecological principles'.

WWF Honours

At the annual meeting of the WWF Trustees at Lausanne, Switzerland, in October, M. Michel Anna, lately Director of National Parks in Chad, was awarded the WWF Gold Medal for 1975. Three new Members of Honour were appointed: Dr Enrique Beltran (Mexico), Dr Rocco Knobel (South Africa) and Sir Landsborough Thomson (U.K.). Three leading conservationists who died earlier in 1975 (all incidentally vice-presidents of FPS) were added to the International Conservation Roll of Honour; Professor Jean Baer (Switzerland), Lord Hurcomb and Sir Julian Huxley.

International Trade Convention

Ghana was the 22nd country to ratify the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, which came into force on July 1st, 1975.

BRITISH ISLES

Eutrophication in the Broads

Local naturalists are seriously concerned at the decline of aquatic wildlife in the Norfolk Broads, apparently largely due to an excess of nitrogen, phosphorus and other nutrients in the water, arising probably from either agricultural fertilisers or sewage effluent, or both. For instance, Barton and Alderfen Broads, both SSSIs, have completely lost the luxuriant flora and range of invertebrates that used to flourish in their clear water, and instead only support a heavy crop of algae. When botanists from the University of East Anglia surveyed 28 broads, eleven appeared to be completely devoid of aquatic higher vegetation and in eleven more the plants showed poor growth.

Sonic Booms and Wildlife

The two major hazards to wildlife from sonic booms are the 'startle' response on hearing it and the result of overpressure on the animal's body, says veterinarian Roger Ewbank in *Roebuck*, journal of the Northumberland Wildlife Trust. So far we know all too little about the actual effects of either on wildlife in the field, but he suggests that wildlife may be particularly vulnerable to boom disturbance on migration, while hatching eggs and at other critical times in their life cycle.

Dutch Elm Disease

Some six million out of a total population of 23m elms in the southern half of England are now estimated to have perished in the current outbreak of Dutch elm disease. Between one and two million trees are believed to have died during the summer of 1975, the deaths being hastened by the dry conditions.

New Threat to Badgers

Some farmers have taken to killing badgers by a particularly revolting method, pouring gallons of liquid farm slurry

(manure) down their earths, thus drowning them and their cubs. It is partly to prevent farmers taking the law into their own hands in this way that the Minister of Agriculture has taken powers to gas badgers (this being agreed to be the most humane method of killing them) in those areas where the cattle and badgers are cross-infecting each other with TB.

It is still, however, only legal to gas badgers under licence from the Minister of Agriculture or the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Common Seals Increase

The number of common seals counted on sandbanks in the Wash by a UFAW airborne team on June 28th, 1975, was 2076 compared with 1628 a year before. UFAW attributes this largely to the cancelling of the cull in 1974. There was no cull again in 1975.

Sea Eagles for Rhum

The Nature Conservancy Council is attempting to reintroduce the white-tailed or sea eagle, extinct as a British breeding species since 1916 when the last pair nested on Skye. The experiment is taking place on the neighbouring island of Rhum, a national nature reserve, where four half-grown Norwegian eaglets have been released.

London Wildlife Refuge Saved

A public inquiry has rejected the British Waterways Board's plan to build 115 flats on a site that would have overshadowed a 20-acre marshy wildlife refuge at the head of the Brent Reservoir in Middlesex. Twenty-one species of birds nest at the site.

Tasks achieved

During its first five years the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers has worked 63,313 man-days to carry out 1294 tasks in the field.

Captive Breeding Awards

At the annual meeting of the Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland awards were made to ten zoos and wildlife parks for breeding successes of outstanding merit and interest. The

28 mammals and birds involved included lowland gorilla (Jersey), white-winged wood duck (Wildfowl Trust), scimitar-horned oryx (Marwell) and cheetah (Whipsnade).

EUROPE

Metals in the Rio Tinto

Very high concentrations of copper, lead, zinc and lesser amounts of mercury have been found in the Rio Tinto in south-west Spain. At the mouth of the estuary the concentrations of these metals fall very sharply towards the natural levels prevailing in organisms on the coasts of this part of the Atlantic. The Rio Tinto cuts through rocks whose very rich copper deposits have been mined for many centuries, and has given its name to the well known industrial company Rio Tinto Zinc (RTZ).

Nature Protection in Spain

Spain has a new law on the creation of integral reserves, areas of exceptional scientific interest, national parks, and natural areas of cultural, educational, recreational or aesthetic interest.

More Ice for Iceland

During the last two weeks of July 1975 a substantial tongue of the Arctic pack ice extended south to the coast of north-west Iceland near Cape Horn and made sailing difficult or impossible. The cold had a catastrophic effect on the vegetation there.

Conservation in Iceland

The recently founded Icelandic Association of Nature Conservation Societies brings together five regional societies that cover the whole of Iceland.

Sea Eagles in Finland

In 1975 four young white-tailed sea eagles were successfully hatched from three nests in the south-west archipelago of Finland. The only other nests in Finland were three in Ostrobothnia which failed to hatch. In 1974 twelve eaglets were hatched from ten nests in Finland.



NORTH AMERICA

Florida Panther Soon Extinct?

There may be no more than ten Florida panthers or cougars left in the area around Lake Okeechobee and southward in Florida, according to Roy McBride and Ronald Nowak, who have been studying them for WWF. Their best remaining habitat is the dense and inaccessible Fahkahatchhe Strand, part of which has recently been acquired as a state park. Their survival will, however, depend on restriction of public access here and in the proposed Big Cypress National Preserve. The researchers believe that a detailed study of the animal might prove fatal to its chances of survival.

Break for the Whooping Crane

The US Air Force is closing down its bombing range at Matagorda Island, adjacent to the Aransas national wildlife refuge, where the whole world population of wild whooping cranes winters. It is hoped that the Interior Department will be able to add it to the refuge.

Fostering Whooping Cranes

The Fish and Wildlife Service is experimenting with a new technique for boosting the wild whooping crane population. Fourteen second eggs from nests in the Wood Buffalo National Park in northern Canada, its only breeding place, have been placed in the nests of greater sandhill cranes in Idaho in the expectation that the sandhills will hatch and rear the young whoopers as their own.

Salmon Back in the Connecticut

An 11-lb salmon has been caught in the Connecticut River, first fruits of the restoration programme in four major rivers in the north-eastern United States. Many fishery biologists believed it would be impossible to re-establish the Atlantic salmon in any river south of Maine, where they have already returned to the Penobscot and Union Rivers, thanks to this programme.

Trout Too Begin to be Saved

Two subspecies and one species of trout, *Salmo clarki henshawi*, *S. c. seleniris* and

S. apache, from the south-west have the distinction of being the first animals to be regraded from endangered to threatened. Captive breeding and habitat restoration schemes have re-established them in several streams and they are no longer regarded as being in immediate danger of extinction.

Alligator Resurgent

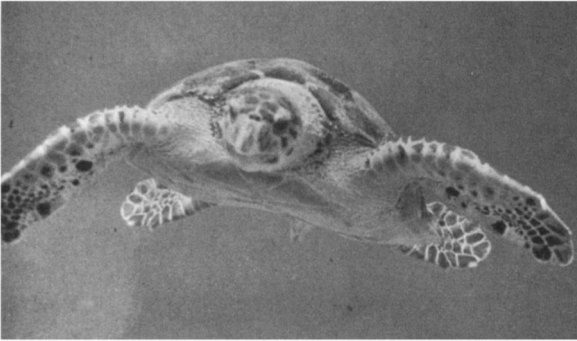
The alligator population of the United States has made such a good recovery from the low level to which unbridled hide-hunting had brought it that in three counties of Louisiana the Fish and Wildlife Service has been able to remove it from all Federal lists. In seven states where the population is no longer in a critical condition (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas and the rest of Louisiana) it has been upgraded from the endangered to the threatened list. Only in Arkansas, Oklahoma and North Carolina is the alligator now officially recognised as an endangered species.

Grizzly Bear a Threatened Species

The grizzly bear has been officially listed as a threatened species in the lower 48 United States. Virtually all the remaining grizzlies in this area live in three relatively small ecosystems: the Selway-Bitterroot in Idaho and Montana, the Yellowstone in Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, and the Bob Marshall in Montana. Most of these ecosystems are composed of federal lands.

Brown Pelicans: a New Threat

The brown pelican is already gravely endangered by pesticide residues in the environment, although the ban on DDT in the United States is helping to stem its decline. Two new threats have been identified, plastic six-pack rings and discarded fishermen's gear. Birds whose bills become ensnared in the plastic rings starve to death, and those which become entangled in anglers' monofilament lines may either starve or lose a foot. One research worker has found more than a hundred dead pelicans in Florida in the past three years, hanging by monolines from mangrove trees.



Green turtle swimming underwater in the Red Sea *Peter Vine*

More Threatened Turtles

The Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to add to the official List of Threatened Wildlife three more turtle species, the green, loggerhead and Pacific ridley. The leatherback, hawksbill and Atlantic ridley are already on the list.

New Fish Already Endangered

A new species of snail darter, *Percina* sp., a three-inch fish, discovered in the summer of 1974 by a skin-diver in the Little Tennessee River, where it occupies a twelve-mile stretch in Loudon County, has been proposed by the Fish and Wildlife Service for endangered status in the US.

Endangered Butterflies

Six species of Californian butterfly, four blues, the San Bruno elfin and Lange's metalmark, have been proposed by the Fish and Wildlife Service for inclusion in the endangered species list. They are mainly threatened by development.

Two butterflies confined within the United States to the Florida Keys, the Schaus and Bahaman swallowtails, may become the first insects to be listed as threatened species in the US. They are threatened by habitat destruction and overcollection.

Threatened Crustaceans

The Fish and Wildlife Service is to study the status of 57 species of freshwater Crustacea to determine if any of them should be added to the endangered or threatened species list. Ground-water pollution, dam construction, strip mining and lowered water tables are among the

threats to these species, some confined to only one stream or spring.

Sandhill Crane Emergency

A highway construction project in Mississippi threatens the existence of the endangered Mississippi sandhill crane, so the Fish and Wildlife Service has issued emergency regulations declaring a tract of land which constitutes the cranes' living space 'critical habitat'.

Transplanting Bald Eagle Eggs

Maine bald eagles are failing to hatch their eggs, due to pesticide contamination, so in 1974 some eggs from Minnesota and in 1975 four eggs from Wisconsin were placed in nests in an area in Maine where the eagles had not hatched any young for a decade. In 1975 two of the Maine eggs removed for laboratory study unexpectedly hatched, giving rise to the hope that pesticide pollution in Maine may be subsiding.

Threat to Wood Buffalo

The Canadian Government is considering a transfer of 41,824 acres of land from Wood Buffalo National Park, including a parcel in the heart of the park which would be strip-mined for gypsum by the Fort Chipewyan Indian Band. Fortunately land can only be transferred from a national park with the approval of Parliament.

Impact Statements for Grazing

As a result of a court case brought by environmental organisations, the Bureau of Land Management must now prepare 212 detailed environmental impact state-



ments on 150m acres of public grazing land. The first, to be ready by July 1976, will deal with the Challis Planning Unit in the Salmon, Idaho, district.

More Hunters and Fishermen

Despite the twin pressures of inflation and recession, a record 43 million Americans spent \$270m on State hunting and fishing licences in 1974. There were some 2,300,000 paid fishing licence holders in California, and Michigan, Minnesota, Texas and Wisconsin also topped the million mark.

To One Eagle \$1500

A Kansas man has been fined \$1500 for killing a golden eagle near Sitka, Kansas. The Kansas Game Commission spent eight months tracking him down.

WWF's New Address

The US National Appeal of WWF has moved to 1319 Eighteenth St, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Another Extinction by Cats

Feral cats have chalked up another success in their war on endangered species by exterminating the Little Swan Island hutia *Geocapromys brownii thoracatus*. Dr Garrett Clough of the University of Rhode Island, after a fortnight's survey of the island, which is 145 km. north-east of Honduras, could find no trace of the rodent (a race of a species, also endangered, found in Jamaica) except a single skull. The probable agent of extermination was a colony of cats, dumped there when a radio station on an adjoining island closed down. The Jamaican hutia still survives precariously, harried by man, dogs and mongooses.

Rare West Indian Parrots

Of the five rarest *Amazona* parrots of the West Indies, *A. versicolor* of St Lucia now numbers only 125, followed by *A. imperialis* from Dominica at 200–300, *A. arausiaca* also from Dominica at 500–600, and *A. gouldingii* of St Vincent at a little over 600. The Puerto Rican parrot *A. vittata* is almost extinct. Both

it and *A. arausiaca* suffer greatly from competition from the pearly-eyed thrasher *Margarops fuscatus*.

Threat in Martinique

A range of ecologically important salt-marshes and lagoons in Martinique is threatened by a massive tourist development, including six hotels, more than a thousand villas and numerous associated facilities, according to *Le Courrier de la Nature*.

Vicuñas at Pampa Galeras

The vicuña population of the Pampa Galeras reserve in the high Andes of Peru has increased from 2000 when the reserve was founded in 1966 to about 14,000, and today forms the largest single population of vicuñas in the world.

The Huemul in Chile

A small group of huemul *Hippocamelus bisulcus* recently located in the region between the Navedos de Chillan and Volcan Antuco may represent the last of these rare deer to be found north of Aysen. All the other survivors appear to be confined to the southern provinces of Aysen and Magellanes. It is hoped to designate the new site as a huemul protection zone.

Conservation in Mexico

The Consejo Estatal para la Proteccion de la Naturaleza has recently been set up with the support of the state government of Chiapas, with the aim of selecting and protecting several virgin forest reserves. For further information: Prof. Miguel Alvarez del Toro, Director, Instituto de Historia Natural, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, Mexico.

AFRICA

The Atlas Lion Restored?

A group of lions in the Rabat Zoo in Morocco have been found to have characteristics very closely resembling those of the Atlas or Barbary lion *Panthera leo leo*, hitherto believed to have been extinct for about fifty years. The last individuals in the wild were apparently in the Grand Atlas in the 1920s. Professor Paul Leyhausen, Chairman of the IUCN Cat Specialist Group, inspected 23 lions at

Rabat and considered that, although all still clearly had many of the right genes in their make-up, eleven showed only minor differences from *P. l. leo*, and it is hoped to breed back the Barbary lion from these.

Threatened Birds in East Africa

The twelve most threatened bird species in East Africa have been listed by the East African Wildlife Society. They comprise two scops owls, *O. irenae* and *O. pumbaensis*, a pipit, a bush-shrike, two aloues, a warbler, four sunbirds and a weaver, *Ploceus golandi*. Four of these are found in the threatened Arabuko-Sokoke Forest on the Kenya coast near Malindi, and three in the Uluguru Mountains in Tanzania.

Flamingos Return to Nakuru

More than half a million flamingos returned to Lake Nakuru, Kenya, in August, after an absence of many months that had puzzled naturalists. Their return follows abundant seasonal rains and supports the theory that low water levels were responsible for their disappearance in the first place.

Nigeria Restocked

Kenya is sending large numbers of its larger game animals – 500 is the eventual target – across Africa by air, to help restock the national parks of Nigeria.

White Rhino in Uganda

White rhino continue to be seen in the Kabalega (Murchison Falls) National Park in Uganda, especially in the Pakuba area, where a female was recently seen with very young calves.

White Buffaloes at Kidepo

No fewer than six white wild buffaloes have now been located in the Kidepo Valley National Park in Uganda. The white cow discovered last year now has a white calf.

New Journal

NYALA is the new journal of the National Fauna Preservation Society of Malawi. Its editorial address is PO Box 5135, Limbe.

ASIA

The Kouprey Survives

The kouprey *Bos sauveli*, the world's rarest wild ox, which was feared to have been exterminated in the course of the fighting in Cambodia, still survives, according to Harvey Neese, an envoy of the New York Zoological Society. A herd of more than a dozen was sighted in southern Laos, and another is reported from northern Cambodia. It appears that the animals cross the border to use water holes and mineral licks in Laos, where one was reported shot by a hunter in June 1974. The same source reports the sighting of a one-horned rhinoceros (?Javan) in southern Laos.

In Thailand a herd of about twenty kouprey is reported to have been sighted by a hunter in Sri Saket province, in the north-east, according to Schwann Tunhikorn, assistant chief wildlife officer, in *Tiger Paper*.

Sumatran Rhino in Malaya

The Sumatran rhino population in West Malaysia is estimated at 25–40, of which 15–20 may be in the southern area of Endau-Rompin, where they were recently located by Peace Corps volunteer Rodney Flynn. This area is on the borders of Pahang and Johore and is dominated by virgin lowland dipterocarp rain forest.

Less Living Space for Orangs

At least half the distribution area of the orang-utan in Sumatra will be logged for commercial timber or primitive agriculture within the next ten or fifteen years, which will rob an estimated 7500 orangs of their natural habitat by 1990. There are no signs that this can be prevented.

Javan rhino

The number of Javan rhinos in their last known locality, the Udjung Kulon reserve in western Java, is now estimated at somewhere between 41 and 52, indicating a continuing small increase.

Seladang Threats

The seladang, the native ox of Malaya, is threatened by increasing development of its lowland grassland habitat. The



proposed Tembeling Dam will inundate the lowlands in the Taman Negara national park used by seladang, and proposed logging operations in the Krau game reserve will disturb and break up the herds there. When seladang herds are broken up, they scatter and more easily fall prey to carnivores.

The Great Saiga Trek

When drought in Central Kazakhstan recently drove herds of many thousands of saiga antelopes northwards in search of food and water, the authorities had to take quick action to prevent them ravaging the crops on the state farms along their route. To divert the saiga towards a natural lakeland area teams were mobilised by lorry from the state farms and armed with all kinds of noisy instruments, rattles, horns, loud musical instruments and even one brass band. These succeeded in channeling the saiga on to an old cattle track that led towards the lake, thus saving the crops. The whole operation took a week, one noise-making column handing over to another at each regional border.

Mudumalai Saved

The Government of Tamil Nadu has saved the Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary from destruction by abandoning a hydro-electric power project. The reservoir involved in this would have submerged a fine bamboo forest, much used by the threatened gaur, and obliterated the wildlife trek routes between Mudumalai and Bandipur Sanctuary, one of the original nine areas in India scheduled under Operation Tiger. The decision is particularly praiseworthy because the scheme would have produced 150 megawatts of much needed electricity and 50 sq. m. of irrigated farmland.

National Park Saved

The Maharashtra Government has agreed to abandon its plans to build a major highway through the Borivli National Park on the outskirts of Bombay. Several thousand trees had already been felled in preparation of the route, and WWF has offered to help the State Forest Department with the necessary replanting.

Pollution in the Gulf of Aqaba

A general decline in the marine macro-

fauna, particularly among the coral reef tables, have occurred in the neighbourhood of Eilat. Although this cannot be linked with any specific pollutant, a rapid decline in the numbers of living corals appears to be due to a number of factors, including crude oil, solvent emulsifiers, phosphate contamination and low tides.

Getting Used to It

Tourists using the oil-contaminated beaches of the Israeli coast at Eilat have become accustomed to making regular use of the facilities provided by local authorities for removing oil residues from their bodies and clothing. At Ashkelon outside investment in tourist amenities is declining as a result of pollution from the new oil terminal and transfer facilities.

Leopards in Bangladesh

The Government of Bangladesh has imposed a total ban on the killing, hunting, and trapping of leopard and clouded leopard, and has also forbidden the export of their skins. The clouded leopard is the rarer of the two, but both species are considered to be endangered in Bangladesh.

Underwater Hunting Banned

The Government of the Maldives has banned underwater hunting in certain areas.

ANTIPODES

Conservation and the Unions

Trade unionists in Australia often help conservationists, according to C. Schlinder in *Wildlife in Australia*. They have at one time or another banned all services for an oil drilling rig near the Great Barrier Reef, banned working on an area in Queensland needed as a national park, and asked the Australian Council of Trades Unions to call a conference of unions involved in the energy industry to draw up a programme for the proper use of Australia's energy resources.

Progress in Queensland

The Premier of Queensland, in a sudden reversal of policy, has announced the formation of a new National Parks and

Wildlife Service, and the creation of a national park or conservation area near every city or town. Also to be preserved are the 1200-mile long Great Dividing Range, an international marine park of 10,000 sq.m. in the Torres Straits, and the whole of the Cape York Peninsula which is to be a 140,000-sq. m. wildlife reserve.

Destroying Fraser Island

The Australian Government has given the go-ahead to the destruction by sandmining of Fraser Island, Queensland, the biggest sand island in the world (see *Oryx*, Oct. 1975, p. 141). The necessary permits were given before the promised public environmental inquiry into the island's future had even begun.

Tasmanian Kangaroo Endangered

The race of the grey kangaroo found on Tasmania is threatened with extinction through clear-felling for the wood-chip industry. There is no national park in which it is safe.

Latest WWF Appeal

The latest WWF National Appeal was launched in New Zealand in May, with Air Marshal D. F. St George as Chairman and Selwyn Field as Executive Officer.

NEW NATIONAL PARKS

Iceland has accorded modified national park status to Lake Myvatn and the River Laxa over its 60 km. course down to the sea, together with 150 sq. km. around the lake and a 400 m. strip along the river.

The new Huascarán national park in the Department of Ancash, Peru, protects some 350,000 ha. of the Cordillera Blanca. It includes the two highest mountains in Peru and such endangered species as the vicuña, spectacled bear, and condor, and many plants.

A national park has been created in the Arequipa district in southern Peru, to protect the flora and fauna, including the rare Andean deer.

Mongolia is to establish one of the largest national parks in the world in the western Gobi Desert. It will cover some 4m. ha. and will help to protect such

endangered species as Przewalski's horse, the wild ass and the wild camel.

NEW NATURE RESERVES

The latest bird sanctuary of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is its new reserve at Tetney in North Lincolnshire, 120 acres of saltmarsh and foreshore with a colony of 75 pairs of the decreasing little tern.

Mallydams Wood, Fairlight, East Sussex, a reserve of the RSPCA, now has its own education and field studies centre.

Coedydd Aber, a wooded valley about five miles from Bangor, Gwynedd, is the 30th national nature reserve in Wales.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust has bought Balgavies Loch, an important lowland eutrophic loch in Angus, which together with the neighbouring Rescobie Loch provides a winter roost for 2½ per cent of the world population of the pink-footed goose.

About 100 sq. m. off Key Largo, Florida, is to be designated as the United States's first marine sanctuary.

Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, 10,000 acres of fine wildfowl habitat in western Minnesota, has been transferred from the US Army Corps of Engineers to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Chilean Section of ICBP has appealed to the Minister of Education to establish at the Laguna de Torca, which has a resident population of 300 black-necked swans, what would be the first bird sanctuary ever created in Chile.

A 400-acre private reserve for the quetzal in northern Guatemala has been named after the leading Guatemalan ornithologist, Dr Jorge Ibarra, Director of the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural.

Paracas was declared a national reserve by a Peruvian supreme decree in September 1975.

The Meghalaya State Government in India is to create a 220-sq. km. wildlife sanctuary at Balpajkram in the Garo Hill District.



A tundra reserve of 3.5m acres is to be established on the Taimyr peninsula on the Arctic coast of western Siberia. It will contain over a million wild reindeer.

The New Zealand Government has bought 114 acres on the western side of Arapawa Island in the Marlborough Sounds as a reserve, mainly for recreational purposes.

PERSONALIA

Mervyn Cowie, lately Director of Kenya National Parks, Dr M. F. Mörzer Bruyns, a leading Dutch conservationist, Dr John Owen, lately Director of Tanzania National Parks, and Mme Christiane Linet, of the Belgian National Appeal, have been awarded the Order of the Golden Ark by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands.

Esikandar Firouz (Iran), A. A. Johnson (Sweden), A. W. Nielsen (Denmark) and Dr F. K. Vegas (Venezuela) are new WWF Trustees in the place of the Aga Khan (Iran), Dr C. R. Gutermuth (USA) and H. F. Tiarks (UK) whose term of office has expired.

The Linnean Society has awarded its Gold Medal for Botany to Dr A. S. Watt FRS, doyen of Cambridge ecologists, and its Gold Medal for Zoology to Professor P. M. Shepherd FRS, for his work on the genetics of mimicry. The Bloomer Award for amateur naturalists was awarded to E. S. Edees, the leading British batologist, as experts on the difficult bramble genus *Rubus* are called.

Maurice Strong, Executive Director of UNEP (UN Environment Programme) since its beginning in 1972 following the Stockholm Conference, which he also directed, resigned in December to take a position in Petro-Canada, a new state-owned corporation for research and development of Canada's energy resources.

Lord Craigton has become Chairman of the Zoo Federation in succession to Lord Donaldson.

Charles de Haes, who was largely responsible for the success of the WWF 1001

scheme, has been appointed Joint Director General of the World Wildlife Fund International, alongside Dr Fritz Vollmar, who has been Director General since the Fund began. He will deal with fund-raising, public relations, finance and administration, leaving conservation and relations with governments, international organisations and conservation bodies to Dr Vollmar.

Lord Donaldson, Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has succeeded Robert Dougall as President of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Dr John Guise, Deputy Chief Minister of Papua-New Guinea, was knighted in the Birthday Honours in part for his services to wildlife conservation as a former Minister for Wildlife and Conservation.

Dr Francis O'Connor, Senior Lecturer on Zoology at University College London, has been appointed Deputy Director of the Nature Conservancy Council in succession to Ian Prestt, who has become Director of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds on the retirement of Peter Conder.

Tim Sands, Secretary of the Council for Nature and Editor of *Habitat*, has been appointed a Joint Assistant Secretary of the Society for Promotion of Nature Reserves. He was succeeded for a short period by Colin Macintosh, the Assistant Secretary, who has since left to take up a post with the Scottish Education Department.

Arnold Thorne has retired as Director of the British National Appeal of WWF, and is succeeded by Robert Adams, the Deputy Director.

Charles Tunnicliffe RA has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

OBITUARY

Dr Helmut K. Buechner, Emeritus Senior Scientist at the Smithsonian Institution and a well known wildlife ecologist, died on October 7th. His best known research was on the Uganda kob.

What is going on

The quotations here are from a letter sent by an animal trader in South-east Asia to an enquirer in the USA:

'We can supply most of our animals from countries outside (this country) for which we are connected with our own trappers. Due to the fact that most of the animals are protected, and many of the south-east countries have associate with the World Wildlife. This making it difficult for us to bring the animals into our country.

'Therefore, we can export the animals from the countries through our connection direct to your destination. For this we would require full payment or part in advance depending on the type of animals we are offering you. As we have to fly to certain countries make contacts and to obtain the required permits and export documents for which we have to pay large sums. In certain cases you will have fly over take delivery of the animals we will put on board the plane with all the required documents and to pay us the full balance.

'From Sierra Leone, West Africa, we can airfreight to you with proper export documents the following animals'.

The list of twelve is headed by 'chimpanzees 1–2½ years old £300 each'.

'From Surabaya, Indonesia. We have for immediate shipment 1 pair Anoa (*Anoa depressicornis*). We are able to obtain the export permit and documents under the name as DEER, as this is a protected animals and cannot be exported. The price is US\$3000 each' . . .

'From Sumatra, we can offer you 2 to 3 pairs of Orang Utans in one shipment and we can get export documents under the name of Macaque Monkeys. The size is about 18 inches to 30 inches in height, when standing. Our price for each F.O.B. Sumatra US\$3500. These orang utans are now being offered to Europe at the price of US\$15000 and we are giving a special price for the lot in one shipment and we can repeat the shipments as many you require. . . . So that we can make several repeat shipments, and we will offer these animals to you alone and no one else. As we want to keep this business very confidential.

'We are also in the position to offer a pair of baby one-horned rhinoceros (sumatran) but will only do this at a later stage, after we have gone through with the above offers, as we have a very good connection in Sumatra'.

The final offer is of 'gibbons, siamangs, black panthers, spotted leopards, Sumatran Tiger cubs (US\$1000 each), Malayan tapirs (US\$2600 each)'.

India's Reptiles

All India's three species of crocodiles – the seriously endangered gharial *Gavialis gangeticus*, the mugger *Crocodylus palustris*, and the salt-water *C. porosus*, all totally protected since 1972 – are being captive bred in Orissa, where all occur, under a scheme devised by the FAO adviser, Dr Robert Bustard, and assisted by the Indian Government with nearly a million rupees. Three Indian PhD students are now doing research on the three species. The 43 young gharials hatched in June, as described in the last *Oryx*, are doing well and are to be released into the new Satkosia sanctuary. Another gharial sanctuary has been established near Lucknow UP, and also one for the salt-water crocodile.

Several export quotas in India were reduced last year; lizard skins have been banned, (two years ago the quota was 1½ million), and snake skins are completely banned in 1976.