

Briefly . . .

Reprieve for the Vanoise

A victory for French conservationists is the refusal of the government to allow a major skiing development to be built in the Vanoise National Park in the Savoy Alps.

Arabian Oryx at Phoenix

Four Arabian oryxes have been born in the herd at Phoenix Zoo, Arizona, this year, two females and three males. The herd now stands at 30, eleven of which belong to the FPS.

Black Sea Dolphins

A census of dolphins in the Black Sea by Soviet scientists shows that numbers have doubled since 1965 when a ban on hunting them was introduced. Most were found near the Crimean coast.

Chillingham Numbers

The Chillingham wild white cattle herd in Northumberland stands at 36 animals, of which 26 are cows or heifers. Six heifer calves born last season all survived.

Where Tigers Have Increased

Russian scientists report an increase in the numbers of the Amur tiger. Thirty years ago the number was estimated at 20-30; today at 130.

Puerto Rico Parrot Decline

The research biologist working on the WWF project for the highly endangered Puerto Rico parrot reports that numbers continue to decline. Each year the largest single flock of birds is smaller than the previous year's largest, and he thinks that there may be as few as 15-20 remaining in the wild in Puerto Rico.

Eagle Slaughter in Italy

The Italian WWF reports that the golden eagle is becoming very rare in the Alps and even rarer in the central Apennines, due in part to hunting and partly to poison. Efforts to get the government to renew and enforce the existing protection laws for eagles and vultures have failed.

White-winged Wood Duck Success

Nine ducklings of the highly endangered white-winged wood duck of Assam are being reared after a successful hatch this summer at the Wildfowl Trust's grounds at Slimbridge. In January 1970 six birds had been sent to Slimbridge by the Indian Government and WWF. As with the nene goose, the Trust hopes to build up a stock and then return some to the wild.

Correction

The tiger in the photograph on page 39 of the last issue of *Oryx* (May, 1971) was wrongly described as a Javan tiger. It was in fact a Bali tiger, believed to be now extinct. We much regret the mistake, which was not the fault of Mr C. H. J. Maliepaard, who very kindly made the photograph available, and who thinks that this is the only existing portrait of a Balinese tiger.