

Briefly . . .

International

World Heritage Sites

The 8th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Buenos Aires in 1984 accepted seven new sites for the World Heritage List, bringing the total natural sites to 52; Iguazu, Argentina; Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks; Lake Malawi NP; Royal Chitwan NP, Nepal; Yosemite NP, USA; Salonga NP, Zaïre; and Mana Pools N Park/Sapri and Chewore Safari Areas, Zimbabwe. Three nominations for the list of World Heritage Sites in Danger were also accepted: Djoudj NP, Senegal; Garamba NP, Zaïre; and Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania.

CNPPA Members' Newsletter, 29

Singapore to join CITES

Singapore is to join CITES; this step will close a significant loophole and should effectively reduce the illicit trade in ivory, pelts, reptile skins and live birds.

Animals International, IV, 15

More plant groups for SSC

The Species Survival Commission of IUCN set up 13 major plant groups and one task force in 1984, covering a range of subjects from cycads to orchids and from Australasian to European flora. Previously IUCN/SSC emphasis has been on the animal kingdom.

Species Survival Commission Newsletter, 4

Arctic pollution

Scientists at a meeting in Alaska last October agreed to hold an international conference in 1985 on the problem of air pollution in the Arctic. It is probable that the Soviet Union and Europe are the major sources of airborne pollutants, which have been found as far north as the North Pole.

The New York Times, 7 October 1984

Salmon stocks low

The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation has reduced the catch quota of Atlantic salmon off Greenland by almost one-third in the first international effort to stem the species's decline; overfishing in spawning grounds and the ocean has led to a 40 per cent drop in catch since 1967.

International Wildlife, 14, 6

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Saving birds from gillnets

A top priority for the US-based Entanglement Network in 1985 is the seabird problem; 750,000 die annually by being trapped in nets when feeding, particularly in the North Pacific where there is a profusion of gillnets—some up to 25 miles long.

Monitor

Trail blazing for elephants

The International Foundation for the Conservation of Game has proposed two kinds of action to stop the illegal trade in ivory. Firstly, elephant populations should be evaluated for each African country, reasonable harvest quotas set, management models built, export documents and marking systems for ivory refined, and stocks in circulation through customs across the world monitored using computers connected to the central data-bank of CITES. Secondly, a Transafrican running relay race—'The Trail of the Elephants', from Douala in Cameroon to Bangui in Central African Republic—would call media and public attention to elephant conservation and raise funds for the programme. The race is scheduled to start in December.

A century of cheetahs

By the end of 1984 a total of 104 cheetahs had been born at the Zoological Society of London's Whipsnade Park. The breedings have involved seven males and eight females who have produced 31 litters since 1967. Many of the offspring have been sent to zoos throughout the world and there is now a Joint Management of Species Group in the UK.

New centre for ocean studies

An International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD) has been set up in Canada. Its aim is ocean resource management and it hopes to collaborate with individuals, institutions and governments. Details: ICOD, Suite 203, 323 Chapel Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7Z2, Canada.

Easier recapture of collared mammals

A radio-triggered anaesthetic dart collar

has been developed by L. David Mech and four colleagues to simplify the recapture of large mammals that have been radio-collared. Drug-filled dart assemblies on the collar can be fired by remote control from a helicopter or from the ground, using radio frequencies set up so that the darts cannot be activated by mistake.

Audubon, 86, 5

Europe and North Africa

Bunting protection proposed

The EEC Commission is to propose adding the ortolan bunting *Emberiza hortulana* to Appendix I of the Directive on bird protection because its habitat of open woodland and scrub is disappearing.

Council of Europe Newsletter, 84–10

Antelopes die in canal

In 1984 thousands of saiga antelopes *Saiga tatarica* drowned in a canal in the Kalmytski region near the Caspian Sea in the USSR because it had been built across their traditional migrating route.

The Guardian, 3 October 1984

19th park for Sweden

Skule Forest in Västernorrland County, Sweden, is to become the country's 19th national park. It covers 2500 ha (6178 ha) on the Baltic coast and is untouched boreal forest.

CNPPA Members' Newsletter, 29

Ecological town

Övertorneå is aiming to become Sweden's first ecological municipality by supporting all activities that do not employ toxins, large quantities of energy or other methods jeopardising the ecological balance.

Sveriges Natur, 5/84

Finland's newest park

Finland's newest national park, Urho Kekkonen, established in May 1983, covers 2530 sq km (977 sq miles) of mountains, rivers, lakes and birch forest adjacent to the Soviet border. Its management plan, which includes provision of visitor centres, and huts, has now been approved.

CNPPA Newsletter, 28

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Swan wins election

An election organised by Danish Television resulted in the mute swan *Cygnus olor* being chosen as Denmark's national bird. The species has been protected there since 1926.

Council of Europe Newsletter, 84–10

Scottish forests show acid rain effects

At the Acid Rain conference organised by the Scottish Wildlife Trust in September 1984 the Forestry Commission reported that damage to trees in south and west Scotland, detected for the first time in March that year, was severe, widespread and remarkably similar to that seen in Continental Europe. Norway and Sitka spruce were showing shoot death and needle loss and grand fir, lodgepole pine, Scots pine and Douglas fir show 'foliage browning.'

Friends of the Earth, 8 October 1984

Geese habitat destruction: will European Commission intervene?

Despite objections by conservationists, including the RSPB and the NCC, the Secretary of State for Scotland is allowing Scottish Malt Distillers Ltd to extract peat from Duich Moss on the island of Islay, an important haunt of Greenland white-fronted geese *Anser albifrons flavirostris*. Since the habitat of this rare bird should be protected under the EEC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, the RSPB have asked the European Commission in Brussels to intervene.

Birds, 10, 4

Goldeneyes expand

The goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*, a rare breeding species in the UK, was first recorded breeding in Scotland in 1970, when one pair bred. The breeding population has since increased and is firmly established; 23 young hatched in 1982, due it is believed largely to the provision of nest boxes.

Bird Study, 31, 3

SSSI devalued

Creag Meagaidh in Scotland is to be afforested at public expense despite the

fact that it is an SSSI, of national and international importance, and that commercial tree planting will seriously diminish its wildlife value.

NCC Press Notice, 28 September 1984

100 bird reserves

With the acquisition of the Wood of Cree in Scotland the RSPB now has 100 reserves covering more than 122,500 acres (49,613 ha).

Birds, 10, 4

UK's new raptor regulations

UK's Department of the Environment announced last November that it will continue the moratorium on imports and exports of gyrfalcon *Falco rusticolus* and peregrine falcon *F. peregrinus*. It has also introduced a moratorium on movement between the UK and Germany in all species of diurnal birds of prey.

New bird reserve in UK

The RSPB bought Old Hall marshes, 1134 acres (459 ha) in the Blackwater Estuary in Essex, UK in September 1984. It is hoped that avocets, bitterns and marsh harriers will return to breed there.

Daily Telegraph, 25 September 1984

Money for walls and flowers

In an experiment at Monyash, a village of 271 people in the Peak District of England, 14 farmers (half of those in the village volunteered) are being paid £40 a year for each mile of dry stone wall they maintain and £1 a year an acre for every species of wildflower they preserve in their meadows. In return they give up the right to government grants that would damage the environment. In all 96 meadows and 50 miles of stone wall have been preserved under the scheme, which began two years ago. It is organised by a wide range of government and other bodies under the leadership of the Peak District National Park.

The Observer, 23 September 1984

Estuary saved

When Associated British Ports (ABP) applied to dump dock refuse on 36 acres (15 ha) of shore and mudflats at Pyewipe on the Humber Estuary pro-

tests from local conservationists were so strong that ABP withdrew its application. The area, which is nationally important for grey plover, redshank, dunlin and curlew and internationally important for shelduck, had been proposed as an SSSI. Another plan to reclaim the entire 900 acres (365 ha) of Pyewipe using colliery spoil has been rejected by Humberside County Council.

Birds, 10, 4

Petition to save estuary

British local and national conservation bodies are petitioning against a parliamentary bill to expand the docks at Felixstowe at the mouth of the River Orwell in Suffolk. The estuary is an internationally important wintering site for redshank and nationally important for grey plover, ringed plover, turnstone and dunlin. A BTO wader count last winter showed a peak number of 20,000 birds.

BTO News, 135

Plan to drain swan lake

The owners of Granian Estate, Co. Donegal in Ireland, plan to drain 250-ha Inch Lake and adjacent wetlands. The site is part of the Lough Swilly Important Bird Area, which is of international importance for Bewick's *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* and whooper *C. cygnus* swans and Greenland white-fronted geese *Anser albifrons flavirostris*. Irish government authorities are powerless to prevent the devastation because the site does not have reserve status under the Wildlife Act but the issue was to be debated by the Bern Convention Standing Committee in December.

ICBP European Continental Section News, 2

UK Conservation Programme Centre

The UK Centre for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED) has been set up to support, co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the *Conservation and Development Programme* for the UK, which was launched in 1983 in response to the World Conservation Strategy. CEED is based at 10, Belgrave Square, London SW1. Telephone 01-245-6440. Its Director is Michael Bown.

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From the new humpback whale exhibit at the National Museum of Wales, UK.

Humpback whale exhibit

The only humpback whale ever known to have been stranded on the coast of Britain is the focus of a new exhibition at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, UK. It was washed ashore at Aberthaw in Wales in 1982 after being killed by a huge piece of timber thrown against its head in a storm. It took two years to prepare the skeleton for exhibition and the display, called *Song of the Dying Whale*, incorporates photographs, a video presentation and whale song.

Introduced beetle to prey on introduced pest on introduced trees

A predatory beetle *Rhizophagus grandis* has been introduced into the UK from Belgium in an attempt to control the great spruce bark beetle *Dendroctonus micans*, which has been destroying Britain's plantations of Norway and Sitka spruce.

The Observer, 11 November 1984

Zoo goes organic

An organic farm has been set up at the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, with the aid of a grant of £5000 for each of the next three years from the ZYX Trust. The farm's six acres (2.4 ha) will support a wide selection of plants to provide a more natural and varied diet for the Trust's collection of endangered animals.

Species Survival Commission Newsletter, 4

More ponds for frogs

Over the past seven years 200 ponds have been restored in the province of Zuid-Limburg in the Netherlands as part of a scheme run by the Werkgroep Amphibien en Reptilen Nederland. The group plans to dig 500–600 new ponds in the next 10 years.

Council of Europe Newsletter, 84-8/9
Briefly

Golden eagles in Italy

A survey of golden eagles *Aquila chrysaetos* organised by WWF-Italy with the co-operation of ornithologists and financial assistance from Branca (an Italian spirits company whose symbol is

the golden eagle) found about 310 breeding pairs in the country. Probably about 180 young are reared successfully each year, sufficient to compensate for adult mortality. The accompanying map shows the distribution of the birds.



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Dune-crushing fears

There are fears that the remaining dunes of the French north coast will be destroyed by motorcycles and other vehicles. The dunes of Le Touquet are already devastated; the first motorcycle 'scramble' was held in 1975 and in 1984, after bulldozers widened the tracks, 1100 motorcycles and 300,000 spectators crushed the dunes, despite a directive banning traffic there.

Council of Europe Newsletter, 84-10

Court victory for conservation

WWF-Austria took the Government of Lower Austria to court over its decision to build a dam on the Danube near Hamburg, and won. The court granted WWF-Austria an injunction to halt the cutting of the riverine forest, which began last December, for two months. Since Austrian law prohibits cutting forests between 31 January and 1 December, all work on the dam is effectively halted until December 1985, by which time it is hoped that negotiations will convince the Government to abandon the project.

Small country: 383 threatened plants

A red data book of Liechtenstein's rare and threatened flowering plants lists 383 of the country's total of 1600 species; 63 species are already extinct in the county. Marsh plants account for a quarter of the threatened species, and mountain species in the Rhine valley area are considered relics in need of protection.

Council of Europe Newsletter, 84-8/9

Italian bid to stop illegal hunting

The Lega per l'Abolizione della Caccia is planning several court cases in Italy demanding immediate suspension of hunting practices that are in direct conflict with the EEC bird protection directive and the Paris and Bern International Conventions. There are about 1,620,000 hunters in Italy, who kill 200 million birds each year, half of them migratory.

ICBP Newsletter, 6, 4

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Pollution education proceeds

The Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMPEPA) has launched a major education programme aimed at preventing marine pollution. HELMEPA was formed two years ago by the Panhellenic Seamen's Federation and the Greek Shipping Industry and has already run training programmes for officers and crew members.

Maltese ornithologists attacked

A protest staged by the Malta Ornithological Society Youths last September resulted in the young people being attacked by a group of 80 hunters. Nine people including a policeman were injured.

ICBP Newsletter, 6, 4

Call for tourist boycott of Cyprus

About half to three-quarters of all birds, except aquatic species, migrating across Cyprus die there. Cypriots kill probably 20 million birds each year, mainly using mist nets. Cyprus has signed but not ratified the 1982 Bern Convention, which forbids the use of mist nets, and has ignored the Cyprus Hunting Advisory Committee's petition to ban the import of nets. The situation is now so bad that ICPB has now urged governments, travel agents and its four million members in Europe to apply a tourist boycott to Cyprus.

The Economist, 17 November 1984

New North African park?

The Gebel Elba massif on the Red Sea is being considered for national park status by the Governments of Egypt and Sudan. The sea's proximity to the mountains brings enough moisture for an exceptionally large number of trees, which attract a variety of bird life, and a park here could embrace mountains, wadis, desert, semi-desert, and a coast rich in coral reefs and islands.

The Guardian, 14 June 1984

Africa

Chad bans ivory export

Chad announced that no ivory export permits were going to be issued after 13

August 1984, until further notice.

Traffic Bulletin, VI, 3/4

Estuary needs joint protection

Most of the Saloum Delta is situated in Senegal and protected as a national park and the rest, in Gambia, should also be declared a national park, says Senegal, to ensure the future of the entire ecological unit.

CNPPA Newsletter, 28

Safe way to eradicate tsetse

Traps baited with acetone and carbon dioxide and with acetone and octenol respectively eliminated populations of two species of tsetse fly—*Glossina pallidipes* and *G. morsitans* in an experiment on an island in Lake Kariba in Zimbabwe. The flies and 35 head of cattle had been introduced there in 1979; two years later, by which time the fly populations had expanded rapidly, trapping began and resulted in the eventual elimination of both species.

The system is simple, cheap, can use local labour and is specific for tsetse flies. *Zimbabwe Science News* 18, July/August 1984 *New Scientist*, 1424

Buffalo die for EEC beef

Two-and-a-half thousand buffalo have been killed in Zimbabwe since 1978 when the buffalo elimination policy was started in an attempt to control foot-and-mouth disease. The policy affects all buffalo outside national parks that could mix with beef cattle herds. An outbreak of the disease would mean an end to the financially important beef exports to the EEC. The Department of Veterinary Services has tried to reduce the number of buffalo killed by fencing off some populations and creating a breeding nucleus of disease-free buffalo, but it will take time to build up the herd.

Zimbabwe Wildlife, 37

Reserve in Zimbabwe's capital

A nature reserve has been set up in Harare, capital of Zimbabwe, with the aim of encouraging conservation awareness. It is open to the public and runs courses for both children and teachers. Its 277 ha (684 acres) includes closed canopy woodland not represented in any other protected area in the country.

Mukuvisi Woodland Association

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Farmer fined

A South African farmer has been fined R300 and sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment for taking flowers of threatened *Protea* species from two farms owned by conservation-sympathetic farmers. Between 1980 and 1981 he sold a total of 25,894 flowers of *Protea holosericea*, which was rediscovered only in 1965 after an absence of records since 1801, and is confined to two separate populations totalling about 1500 plants in mountains in the south-west Cape, to two companies Kapflor and Honingklip Dryflower Exporters for export.

African Wildlife, 38, 4

St Helena ebony update

St Helena's endemic ebony *Trochetia melanoxyloides* which was believed to have become extinct in the 1850s until two bushes were rediscovered in 1980 (see *Oryx*, February 1982, page 206) has now flowered at Kew Gardens in the UK from cuttings taken in 1983. There are now plans to plant several hundred back on the island.

Asia (excluding Indo-Malaya)

New park for China

China plans to establish a one-million-hectare (25-million-acre) protected area adjacent to Pakistan's 226,913-ha (560,700-acre) Khunjerab National Park. Snow leopards and Marco Polo sheep live in the area, which is on the western flank of the Himalayas.

WWF News, 31

Better news for pandas

China's giant pandas are surviving the mass flowering and subsequent die-off of bamboo better than expected. At least some species that pandas eat were available in most areas and pandas were found to range further than was expected.

WWF News Release, 6 October 1984

Panda team studies bears

The China/WWF Panda Project team has radio-collared for the first time ever, an Asiatic black bear *Ursus thibetanus* in Tangjiahe Reserve. This will allow

comparative studies to be made between the behaviour of pandas and bears in periods of food scarcity.

WWF Monthly Report, September 1984

China to reintroduce Pere David's deer

The Chinese Government wants to reintroduce Pere David's deer *Elaphurus davidianus*, which is extinct in the wild. The 1500 in captivity in Europe are descendants from about 16 taken from the Imperial Hunting Park near Beijing in the late 1800s. Woburn Abbey, which has the largest group, Chester Zoo and the Zoological Society of London are willing to donate animals to China for a breeding herd, and a reintroduction site in the delta area of the Yangtze River is being surveyed and prepared.

WWF News, 30

Captive-breeding centre for rare ibis

There are perhaps only 17 crested ibis *Nipponia nippon* left in the wild, including two pairs, which raised five young in the summer of 1984, in the Qinling Mountains in China's Shaanxi Province. The Chinese Government has entered into a co-operative venture with the WWF Brehm-Fund for International Bird Conservation and a propagation centre is to be built at Beijing Zoo.

Flying Free, 2, 2

Green mayor for Zushi

An environmentalist, Kiichiro Tomino, campaigning against three major political parties, has been elected mayor of Zushi, a coastal town 30 miles (48 km) south of Tokyo, where feelings are running high over the Japanese Government's plans to build 950 houses for US naval personnel on the Ikego Hills, a wildlife sanctuary (see *Oryx*, October 1984, page 245).

USA Today, 13 November 1984

More rails than expected

A survey of the Okinawa rail *Rallus okinawae* by M.A. Brazil, who used recorded calls on five consecutive nights (the cicada noise is too loud during the day) as he worked his way through the forest of North Okinawa in Japan,

elicited more than 150 responses, even though the species is not nocturnal. This leads to a much more optimistic view of the bird's plight; previous surveys had produced known totals of 20–30 birds.

ICBP Newsletter, 6, 4

Too much hunting on Hokkaido

The brown bear *Ursus arctos* on Hokkaido is being hunted to extinction, claim the wildlife research team of the Hokkaido Exploration Memorial Hall, whose recent survey revealed only 1900 bears. Hunting, over which there is no control, kills about 350 annually, while only 330 are born each year.

Mainichi Daily News, 27 August 1984

Taiwan's first parks

Taiwan has recently established its first four national parks, which cover 226,430 ha (559,508 acres). Ken-Ting National Park stretches from limestone tableland to coral reefs and sandy beaches; Yushan National Park, in the heart of the central mountains has rare and endangered species including the Formosan serow *Capricornis crispus swinhoei*, Asiatic black bear *Ursus thibetanus formosanus*, Taiwan macaque *Macaca cyclopis*, Chinese pangolin *Manis pentadactyla* and Mikado pheasant *Syrnaticus mikado*; Yamingshan National Park is in volcanic mountains north of Taipei; and Taroko National Park has a spectacular limestone gorge and is in high mountainous country.

Tigerpaper, XI, 3

Indo-Malaya

Bangladesh turtle exports rocket

Freshwater turtle exports from Bangladesh increased from virtually nothing in 1975 to \$950,000-worth in 1981, according to an FAO-sponsored survey by Dr Charles Fugler. The turtles, mainly *Trionyx gangeticus*, *T. hurum* and *Lissemys punctata*, are all on Appendix I of CITES and most go to Hong Kong and Singapore for food and medicinal preparations.

IUCN/SSC Freshwater Chelonian Group Newsletter, 6

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Two new parks for India

In India the Manipur State government has declared 18 sq miles (47 sq km) of Sirohi Hill Ranges on the borders of Upper Burma as Sirohi National Park and the Arunachal Pradesh Government has given the Namdapha Wildlife Sanctuary, whose 1800 sq km (695 sq miles) holds 29 tigers, national park status.

Parks, 9, 2

Grant to rear turtles

The Madras Crocodile Bank has received a grant from the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust to build a captive-breeding facility for endangered Indian freshwater turtles.

IUCN/SSC Freshwater Chelonian Group Newsletter, 6

Sanctuaries for florican

The lesser florican *Sypheotides indica* is to be protected in two sanctuaries—the Sardapur (350 ha, 865 acres) and Silama (1000 ha, 2470 acres)—set up by the Madhya Pradesh Government in India.

Parks, 9, 2

India makes effort for rare crane

Between 14 and 16 black-necked cranes *Grus nigricollis* survive in eastern Ladakh, India. The Department of Wildlife of the State of Jammu and Kashmir plans to station guards at each wetland used by the species in 1985. One egg will be collected from each nest with two eggs, hatched under domestic chickens, hand-reared and released in one of the wetlands recently abandoned by cranes near the Indus River. Wild-reared chicks will be ringed in an attempt to locate the wintering area of the Indian flock—in China or Bhutan. A total of 300–400 of these cranes remain in the wild.

ICBP Newsletter, 6, 4

Proboscis monkeys to be captive-bred

A plan is going ahead for a captive-breeding project for proboscis monkeys *Nasalis larvatus* in the orangutan rehabilitation centre at Sepilok Forest in Sandakan, Sabah, Malaysia. The monkeys will be captured from the wild where protection is impossible or

Drawing from a pamphlet produced by the Green Indonesian Foundation in an effort to discourage Japanese consumption of turtles. English and Japanese versions are available.



habitat is being destroyed. The project involves Bronx, San Diego and Los Angeles Zoos in co-operation with Sabah's Department of Forestry.

AAZPA Newsletter, XXV, 8

Ban on export of small cockles

Malaysia banned the exports of cockles less than 31.8 mm wide on 1 June 1984 to conserve resources and maintain Malaysia's position as the world's largest cockle producer.

Malayan Naturalist, 38, 1

Orang-utan numbers good but outlook poor

Possibly more than 150,000 orang-utans *Pongo pygmaeus* still survive, mostly in Borneo, according to the latest censuses, which is 30 times more than believed 15 years ago. But logging and forest clearance for agriculture continue to destroy the species's habitat and nearly 5000 individuals are being lost each year.

WWF Monthly Report, September 1984

Important move in Sarawak

Sarawak State Legislature, after a debate that occupied an entire afternoon, passed a private member's bill to set up a select committee to look into the

reasons for the decline in the State's fauna and flora. It is very rare for a private member's bill to be passed and the passing of this one reflects considerable public and government concern over the issue.

Rain-forest training in Sabah

On 10 October 1984 three bodies in the Malaysian State of Sabah—the Forest Department, the National University and the Sabah Foundation—with the Royal Society, London, signed an agreement to develop a co-operative programme of research and training in rain-forest ecology. The programme will be centred in the 438-sq-km Danum Valley Conservation Area, an undisturbed part of the Sabah Foundation's timber concession. It is perhaps the most important refuge for Sabah's lowland flora and fauna, including endangered species such as orang-utan, Sumatran rhinoceros, banteng and elephant. The Foundation is building a Field Studies Centre, which will also be open to school groups and other visitors by mid-1985.

Stuffed endangered species popular

Indonesia has a massive illegal trade in

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endangered species and many Indonesian families possess several animals, alive or stuffed. The most popular are siamangs, genet cats, fruit-eating bats, birds and turtles, which are sold by door-to-door salesmen.

Animals International, IV, 15

Indonesia produces Japanese pamphlet

Because of the large amount of turtle products going to Japan from Indonesia, the Green Indonesian Foundation, with aid from the Frankfurt Zoological Society, has produced a pamphlet in Japanese in an attempt to discourage the consumption of turtle products there.

Marine Turtle Newsletter, 29

North America

Restoration of Aleutian island goose

A decade-long struggle to restore the Aleutian subspecies of Canada goose *Branta canadensis leucopareia*, which was listed as endangered in 1974, has resulted in an increase—to 4000 birds. Nesting birds have been reintroduced to three islands after removing the foxes, which are descendants of those introduced by the now-defunct fur industry. *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 25 November 1984

St Matthew Island saved

Plans to use St Matthew Island, which is part of the Bering Sea Wildlife Refuge, as an oil-drilling base have been thwarted. Seven conservation groups took the US Interior Department to court because in August 1983 it gave three Alaska native corporations land on the island in exchange for wilderness property elsewhere in Alaska (see *Oryx*, April 1984, page 68). The corporations were then going to lease part of the island to oil companies. The judge ruled the exchange invalid, a serious error of judgement, a misapplication of federal law and a failure to act in the public interest.

The Washington Post, 2 December 1984

Canada: 31 national parks

The North Slope of Yukon is to be

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Canada's 31st national park. Its 10,000 sq km (3860 sq miles) are contiguous with the Alaskan International Range in the US and are habitat for grizzly, black and polar bears, a major waterfowl breeding area and a migration route for one of the Arctic's largest caribou herds. *CNPPA Newsletter*, 28

Hunt may be allowed for endangered bison

The wood bison *Bison bison athabasca* numbers 1200; 30 years ago it was believed extinct. The Government of the Northwest Territories in Canada may now allow a hunt in its only home, the Mackenzie Sanctuary, a practice that reduced it to near extinction in the 1800s. The species is still listed as endangered. *Nature Canada*, 13, 4

Caribou drown

About 600 caribou *Rangifer tarandus* drowned last October as they tried to cross swollen rivers in Quebec on their migration to their winter grazing grounds. Some say Hydro-Québec allowed too much water to spill over the dam that controls the flow of the rivers; Hydro-Québec says that the river conditions were due to unusually heavy September rain and that the dam actually reduced river flow. As more caribou headed for the crossings the Quebec Government arranged to build a fence to divert the herds. *Time*, 15 October 1984

Crackdown on illegal animal trade

Operation Trophykill, organised by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, resulted in 20 arrests last October. Thirty-four people faced charges of illegally taking numerous protected animals including golden eagles, mountain lions and big-horn sheep.

The New York Times, 5 October 1984

Vandals destroy endangered tree

The recovery of the Virginia round-leaf birch, the first tree placed in the US endangered species list, was dealt a serious blow when vandals destroyed 25 of the 30 naturally regenerated young seedlings. Only 12 mature trees

remain in the wild. *International Wildlife*, 14, 5

Swallowtail on brink of extinction

The Schaus swallowtail *Heracles (Papilio) aristodemus ponceanus*, listed by the US as threatened in 1976, now on the brink of extinction due primarily to habitat loss in Florida, is now classified as endangered. This is the first time that the status of a US-listed species has been changed from threatened to endangered.

Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, IX, 9

Planting for butterfly

A 1.5-acre (0.6-ha) remnant of sand dune is being restored by Chevron USA in co-operation with the Sacramento Endangered Species office to help conserve the endangered El Segundo blue butterfly *Euphilotes* (= *Shijimiaeoides*) *battoides allyni*, which lives on dunes bordering Los Angeles International Airport. Chevron is planting seeds of the butterfly's food plant at its refinery site and removing competing plants.

Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, IX, 9

An endangered catfish

The smoky madtom *Noturus baileyi*, a small rare species of catfish native to eastern Tennessee, has been listed as endangered by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The only known population lives in 6.5 miles (10.5 km) of Citico Creek in the Cherokee National Forest, where it is potentially threatened by any disturbances to the watershed.

Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, IX, 11

Yaqui River fish listed

Three species of fish, Yaqui chub *Gila purpurea*, Yaqui catfish *Ictalurus pricei* and beautiful shiner *Notropis formosus* have been added to the US list of endangered and threatened species. Once widespread in the Rio Yaqui Basin of south-eastern Arizona and Mexico, these species have declined due to habitat modification and the introduction of foreign fish species.

Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, IX, 9

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Reserve for lizard

A firm of developers who were building around Palm Springs, California, have agreed with conservationists to a 14,000-acre (5670-ha) \$25 million reserve to protect the threatened Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard. The species needs a large open sand-dune area to survive.

International Wildlife 14, 6

Coal waste and turtles do not mix

The US Environmental Defense Fund has formally petitioned the Secretary of the Interior to list the flattened musk turtle *Stemotherus depressus* as threatened. The species's decline in numbers and range led the US Fish and Wildlife Service to consider proposing it for listing in 1982, but this was successfully opposed by the coal industry, which feared more stringent environmental controls on its activities. One of the most damaging causes of the turtle's decline is run-off from the extensive strip mines in Alabama's coal-mining district. Media attention at the time drew commercial collectors to the area, which further depleted the population.

IUCN/SSC Freshwater Chelonian Group Newsletter, 6

Mexico gives US 2000 turtle eggs

In 1984 Mexico donated 2000 eggs of Kemp's ridley turtle *Lepidochelys kempii* to the US Fish and Wildlife Service to establish a nesting colony at Padre Island in Texas.

Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, IX, 8

Setback for whooping cranes

Seven members of the captive flock of whooping cranes *Grus americana* at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center died towards the end of 1984 as a result of eastern equine encephalitis, a virus spread by an uncommon species of mosquito *Culiseta melanura*. This is the first time that this virus has been recorded in whooping cranes and a search of the 4700 acres (1900 ha) of the research centre has revealed no likely habitat for the mosquito, which breeds in swampy land beneath tree roots. The rest of the flock appear healthy and vaccinations are being considered.

Department of the Interior

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New method of sexing birds

A new technique developed at the Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species will enable chicks to be sexed without touching them, vital in captive-breeding for eventual release of birds in which both sexes look identical. Faecal material collected from the shell remains of female chicks contains a much larger concentration of estradiol than that of male chicks. The technique, already successfully tried with California condors, is now being extended to other endangered species. The American Federation of Aviculture has funded a pilot study in the Puerto Rican parrot, whose world population is fewer than 36.

CRES Report, 2, 4

Ponds for wood storks

The US Department of Energy's Savanna River Plant has agreed to provide artificial foraging ponds for a colony of endangered wood storks *Mycteria americana* near Millen in Georgia that would be adversely affected by restarting a reactor.

Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, IX, 10

Shrike numbers on San Clemente low

The total population of the endangered San Clemente loggerhead shrike *Lanius ludovicianus mearnsi* is estimated at between 22 and 30 birds. Feral goat grazing has limited nesting habitat on San Clemente Island off the California coast and feral cats and black rats are a problem.

Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, IX, 11

Move to save hummingbirds

A US company, North Central Plastics, has announced that it will now only make black insulators for electric fences. Its red insulators have been blamed for hummingbird deaths; the birds, attracted by the colour, explore the insulators and are electrocuted when they touch metal post and fence-wiring simultaneously.

Bird Watcher's Digest, 7, 1

Bald eagles still increasing

The bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, endangered in 43 states of the

USA and threatened in five others, continues to make a comeback. The 1984 survey of 42 of the continental states revealed 11,819 compared with 10,903 in the same states in 1983.

Outdoor News Bulletin, 38, 18

California condor: first release planned

A California condor *Gymnogyps californianus* chick was removed from the wild in September 1984 for captive breeding and to allow the parents to breed again in 1985. The captive population now numbers 16 and three birds are due to be released into the wild in May 1985. It will be the first time that captive-bred condors have been released.

Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, IX, 11

Three dusky seaside sparrows

A male dusky seaside sparrow *Ammospiza maritima nigrescens*, died in June 1984. This leaves only three, also males, which are breeding with dusky/Scott's females (*A.m. peninsulae*) at Discovery Island Zoological Park in Florida.

Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, IX, 8

Military exercises threaten endangered species

A \$250 million US Army National Guard plan to use 114,000 acres (46,135 ha) of land near McMinnville, Tennessee, for military training exercises and to use a further 60,000 acres (24,280 ha) for treetop level training flights, may be stopped because of bats. Hubbard's Cave, which is within the proposed area, is an important hibernating site for 250,000 grey bats *Myotis grisescens* and Indiana bats *M. sodalis*. Both species are on the US list of endangered species. The National Guard is preparing an environmental impact statement.

The Washington Post, 30 October 1984

No place for the red wolf

The lack of suitable reintroduction sites is confounding efforts to reintroduce the red wolf *Canis rufus* into the wild. The species was eliminated from its range, in the south-eastern US, by the late 1960s

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and early 1970s and the 50 individuals left are all in captivity.
Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, IX, 10

Problem of surplus horses

Feral horses and burros will cost the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) \$20 million more in 1985 than in 1984. This increase alone is far more than the \$16.1 million recommended for all wildlife conservation on BLM lands. There are 60,000 feral horses and burros on BLM land, biologists recommend 25,000, and it costs about \$435 to capture each one. When they are captured they have to be fenced and fed; there are too many for the adoption programme to absorb and federal law forbids that they be sold for slaughter. Conservationists have urged, to no avail, that the Congress pass a bill to allow human disposal of excess animals.
Outdoor News Bulletin, 38, 18

Grey whale deaths: PCBs suspect

In the early summer of 1984 eight grey whales *Eschrichtius robustus* were found dead in the Strait of Georgia, between Vancouver Island and the mainland, and in Puget Sound off Washington State. Tissue analysis of one young whale led to the conclusion that a variety of pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and heavy metals had led to death due to liver damage. Funds are not available for analysis of the tissues of the other whales. The species is endangered and occurs now only in the eastern North Pacific, migrating to Baja California to breed in winter and returning to the Arctic in spring. While most of the whales pass along the outer west coast of North America some venture into the Strait of Georgia and Puget Sound to feed from bottom sediments.
Marine Pollution Bulletin, 15, 10

Central America

Humpback whale sanctuary

A reserve to protect humpback whales *Megaptera novaeangliae* in their breeding grounds near the Turks Islands in the

Briefly

West Indies could be achieved by international agreement if the US Senate passes a recent resolution by the House of Representatives.

The Christian Science Monitor, 13 September 1984

US ratifies Caribbean convention

The US has ratified the Cartagena Convention (Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region), the first of the 20 nations in the region to do so.
Monitor

Sandy Point for turtles

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has purchased 327 acres (132 ha) of beach at Sandy Point, which had been zoned for various kinds of development, on the island of St Croix, US Virgin Islands. It is one of the most important nesting beaches known within US territory for leatherback turtles *Demochelys coriacea*. During 1984 28 leatherbacks nested there a total of 141 times. The threatened green turtle *Chelonia mydas* and endangered hawksbill turtle *Eretmochelys imbricata* also nest there.
Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, IX, 11

Snake in Bermuda causes concern

The discovery of a boa constrictor on previously snake-free Bermuda has aroused concern amongst conservationists. The snake, an escaped or abandoned pet, was captured by David Wingate, who said that introduced snakes could endanger native wildlife.
The Philadelphia Inquirer, 14 November 1984

Gold mining damages park

Gold mining in Corcovado National Park in Costa Rica is degrading wildlife habitat, especially riverbanks, and causing heavy siltation. There are about 100 miners, who poach to supplement their diet. Species at risk include muscovy duck *Cairina moschata* and white-lipped peccary *Tayassu pecari*. Following an armed confrontation between police and park guards and the miners in April 1984 the Park Service is

now attempting to negotiate to resolve the problem.
BBC Wildlife, September 1984

South America

Some success for Hawaiian petrel

Protecting one of the Hawaiian or dark-rumped petrel *Pterodroma phaeopygia* breeding colonies, on Floreana Island in the Galapagos, by poisoning the rats that predate the chicks is continuing to be successful. In 1984 72 chicks were fledged from 100 nests; in 1982, before rat control, 13 chicks were fledged from 43 nests. Colonies in other parts of the archipelago continue to be decimated.
noticias de Galapagos, 40

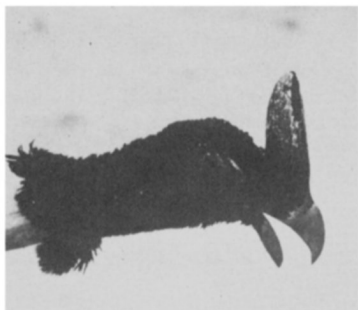
Tortoise releases on Hood Island

The future of the Española or Hood Island tortoise *Geochelone elephantopus hoodensis*, near extinction when the Darwin Foundation first arrived in the Galapagos in 1959, now seems secure thanks to captive breeding at the research centre. By 1984 145 had been released in Hood Island whose habitat had been restored by elimination of the introduced goats.
noticias de Galapagos, 40

Arrests at illegal animal market

Wildlife officers carried out a raid on the market place in Barranquilla, on the northern coast of Colombia and seized more than 700 illegally captured birds, imposing heavy fines on the offenders. The birds were released in Salamanca Island, a national wildlife refuge. Barranquilla is a major trading point for illegally caught wildlife destined for Europe and North America and the raid followed an investigative visit by John Walsh, Director of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) (and FFPS Inc. US Director). He found macaws, toucans, parrots, ocelots and a variety of reptiles on sale and WSPA reported the findings to the Colombian Wildlife Agency, which then acted.
Animals International, IV, 15

Briefly . . .



The head of the endangered horned curassow is still used in traditional dances.

Bolivian park established

The Government of Bolivia signed a decree to establish the Parque Nacional Amboró on 16 August 1984. Among the many endangered species there are spectacled bears *Tremarctos ornatus* and the horned curassow *Crax unicornis*. The latter bird is, unfortunately, good to eat and its head, mounted on a stick, plays a role in traditional dances. The Bolivian Wildlife Society is seeking funds to set up a base camp at the park entrance, to establish guard posts and to employ guards to combat the increasing number of hunters.

Sanderling site to be restored

Peru has officially designated Mejia Lagoon on its southern coast as a national sanctuary. The lagoon was recently discovered to be one of the largest wintering places for sanderlings *Calidris alba* in the world, but when Dr John Myers, project director of WWF's shorebird conservation research, revisited it in 1982 it had been drained for agriculture. Now the Peruvian Government and WWF-US are working to restore the sanctuary; the lagoons are being refilled and some shorebirds have returned.

Focus, 6, 5

Brazil frontier plan attacked

More than 25 environmental and anthropological groups from the US, Brazil and other countries have written to the President of the World Bank, saying that Brazil's programme to settle the Amazonian frontier is ill-planned, harming the forests and jeopardising Indian tribes. The Bank gave \$443 million in loans for the project and set stringent conditions for protection of the

environment and indigenous people, but these have been ignored.

The New York Times, 17 October 1984

Captive-bred tamarins released

Ten captive-bred golden lion tamarins *Leontopithecus r. rosalia* released in Poço da Antas Reserve in Brazil in 1984 have settled in well. Work to improve the 12,400-acre (5018-ha) reserve for tamarins includes planting seedlings of native trees and liming to correct soil acidity in degraded areas.

Focus, 6, 4

Additions to Brazil's parks and reserves

With the establishment of Serra do Cipó National Park (33,800 ha, 83,520 acres), Comboios Biological Reserve (833 ha, 2060 acres) and the Jamari National Forest on 25 September 1984, Brazil now has 26 national parks covering 9 million ha (22 million acres), 14 biological reserves totalling 2 million ha (5 million acres), and 14 national forests with about 900,000 ha (2,224,000 acres). Serra do Cipó National Park in Minas Gerais State includes gallery forest and broad-leaved savanna and is home to the endangered maned wolf *Chrysocyon brachyurus*. Comboios Biological Reserve protects leatherback turtle *Dermochelys coriacea* nesting sites.

CNPPA Members' Newsletter, 29

A living monument

The Argentine Congress has passed a law declaring the southern right whale *Balaena glacialis* Argentina's first living national monument.

WWF News, 31

Australasia/Antarctica

Island seabird slaughter

Thousands of seabirds are being killed on North Keeling (in the Cocos Keeling Islands) by sport-hunting parties from the main island in boats with outboard motors. Red-footed boobies *Sula sula*, great frigatebirds *Fregata minor*, lesser frigatebirds *F. ariel* and fairy terns *Gygis alba* are the main breeding species affected; the other 26 islands in the group have already lost most of their birds. The islands have recently been

incorporated into Australia and the killing is illegal, but the Australian Government seems to be ignoring the slaughter.

ICBP Newsletter, 6, 4

PM refuses to list forest

The Australian Government has dealt a blow to conservation by refusing to nominate the Daintree rain forest in north Queensland as a World Heritage Site without the co-operation of the State Government. Without such intervention a road is certain to damage the forest, which the Australian Heritage Commission says meets the four main requirements for listing. The Prime Minister has offered the Queensland Premier \$A1 million (£630,000) over three years for a management project, which would examine roads through the area and the impact of tourism as part of a plan to protect the area.

The Times, 13 September 1984

Introduced beetles solve dung problem

Dung beetles of 20 African species, which have been introduced in Australia since 1967 to cope with the cattle dung, which native dung beetles were not adapted to, have now become firmly established.

The Times, 30 October 1984

Australia's new proposals for CITES

Australia has proposed the following additions to Appendix II of CITES: stony corals, four species of tridacnid clams, broadheaded snake *Hoplocephalus bungaroides* and gastric-brooding frogs *Rheobatrachus* spp.

Dingo status needs upgrading

A draft Dingo Policy aimed at conserving the dingo *Canis familiaris dingo* and ending generations of misguided persecution has been adopted by the Australian Conservation Foundation. The Policy says that the dingo should be removed from all vermin lists and reclassified as protected wildlife, that large tracts of forests and national parks are vital for dingo conservation in eastern Australia, where hybridisation with feral dogs is a problem, and that non-lethal control measures should be used where

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dingo populations need managing.
ACF Newsletter, 16, 8

Payment encourages forest destruction

Government-supported woodchip mills are destroying thousands of hectares of native forest in New Zealand and threaten the proposed Catlins Coastal Park; one mill has been clearing land inside the proposed boundaries. Other grant schemes are paying for the destruction of native forest; the Forest Service pays 45 per cent of the cost of destroying native forest, provided the land is used to plant pines, and the Rural Bank pays to clear native forest to create pasture.

Bush Telegraph, 15

New protected areas for New Zealand

There have been some important recent additions to protected areas in New Zealand: the Forest Service has bought 381-ha (941-acre) Aislabies Forest near Rotorua, vital habitat for Kokako *Callaeas cinerea*, and 350 ha (865 acres) of virgin forest in the Makeretu headwaters in the Ruahine Ranges, to be added to the Ruahine Forest Park. The Wildlife Service has purchased 143-ha (353-acre) Whale Island in the Bay of Plenty as a bird sanctuary. A private individual, Mr Max Burrill, gave the Crown 4800 ha (11,860 acres) of Great Barrier Island, including 3500 ha (8650 acres) of forest supporting rare species of skinks, snails, frogs and the kokako.

Bush Telegraph, 15

Reserve for takahe

New Zealand's Land and Survey Department has declared a 3100-ha (7660-acre) reserve for red tussock and beech forest at Gorge Hill in Southland. Red tussock land was previously unrepresented in any reserves. In addition the Wildlife Service also wishes to use parts of Gorge Hill tussock lands to establish an additional population of takahe *Porphyrio mantelli*.

Forest and Bird, 15, 2

Conflict over tahr

A ban on commercial hunting of the Himalayan tahr *Hemitragus jemlahicus*, which was imposed because of pressure by hunters who want to retain tahr herds

Briefly

to hunt, is worrying New Zealand's conservationists. The animals, descendants of herds introduced in the 1900s, which now occupy 4400 sq km (1700 sq miles) in the Southern Alps of South Island, are destroying alpine vegetation, including that of Mt Cook and Westland National Parks.

Forest and Bird, 15, 2

Oceania

Snake answer to Guam bird puzzle?

The puzzle of why so much apparently suitable habitat on Guam is empty of bird life (see *Oryx*, July 1983, page 144) is not yet solved despite intensive research, but the primary cause of the huge declines in the populations of 12 of the 13 resident native birds that remain is suspected to be the brown tree snake *Boiga irregularis*. It was introduced in the 1940s and forages on the ground as well as in trees. Two of the endangered species, Guam rail *Rallus owstoni* and the Micronesian kingfisher *Halcyon c. cinnamomina*, are now being bred in captivity on Guam and in US zoos, but the outlook for the other 10 species is poor because so few remain.

ICBP Newsletter, 6, 4

Palau birds recovered

Three species of forest birds native to Palau in the western Pacific have been proposed for removal from the US Endangered Species List because their populations are stable. Their island habitats, which were damaged in World War II, have recovered. The three species Palau fantail *Rhipidura lepida*, Palau ground-dove *Gallicolumba canifrons* and Palau owl *Pyroglaux (= Otus) podargina*, are not sought for food and will continue to be protected by Palau's new laws, which include a ban on personal possession of firearms.

Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, IX, 10

Correction Manatees in Florida

On page 247 of the October 1984 *Oryx* it was reported that Florida had a total population of 100 manatees. In fact the population numbers about 1000.

People

Craig MacFarland is the new President of the Charles Darwin Foundation; Peter Kramer, the former President, has taken up the post of Director of Conservation for WWF-International.

The \$100,000 Olympic prize for achievement in the field of ecology and conservation was awarded jointly to Professor Francesco Nicosia of the Art Restoration Centre in Florence and to S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution from 1964 to 1984 and Founder Member of the Charles Darwin Foundation.

Dr M.K. Swaminathan was elected IUCN's new President at the IUCN General Assembly in Madrid in November 1984. He is currently Director General of the International Rice Research Institute.

Obituaries

Professor Frederico Medem died on 1 May 1984 in Bogota. He was Director of the Instituto Roberto Franco in Villavicencio. As a member of the IUCN/SSC Freshwater Chelonian Group and author of over 70 publications he was well known for his research and conservation efforts with crocodilians and turtles.

Professor Ralph M. Wetzel died in August 1984, aged 67. Perhaps best known for his discovery of the Chacoan peccary *Catagonus wagneri*, Professor Wetzel was a noted authority on Edentata as well as the Tayassuids. Although primarily an academic mammalogist he did much to cement good relations between academic and conservation bodies. He was an active member of the American Society of Mammalogists and in recent years was its representative to IUCN's SSC. He was also one of the most distinguished and active members of the IUCN/SSC Pigs and Peccaries Specialist Group. While spending most of his academic life at the University of Connecticut he 'retired' to the University of Florida in 1982 to become adjunct Curator of the Department of Natural Sciences in the Florida State Museum.

William L.R. Oliver, Chairman IUCN/SSC Pigs and Peccaries Specialist Group