These criteria are relatively simple to achieve in small animals and birds whose ecological requirements are not too highly specialised and these include literally hundreds of endangered species. The sheer physical dimensions of such species as gorilla, orang-utan, Sumatran rhinoceros, Indian lion and tiger, to mention a few, make them a much more difficult problem. Reserves in endemic habitats seem the obvious answer but political and economic pressures in the relatively undeveloped countries in which many of the species occur are so serious as to make them of doubtful long-term values unless they are large and attractive enough to be a national asset as a tourist attraction. With proper planning and organisation by the IUCn however, it should still be possible to fulfil the criteria set out above by using the world's zoos which, in return for the exhibition value, would surely accept some control. A pair of animals at each of twenty zoos could be managed as one colony.

To sum up therefore, I am suggesting that a practical attitude such as we are all accustomed to in the laboratory animal field might make more effective use of the resources of the IUCN than is currently being achieved. To my mind the important thing is to prevent the irretrievable loss of as many species as possible, and when this has been achieved it is time enough to consider more aesthetic, nationalistic and generally idealistic solutions to a problem of the utmost urgency.

Back to China

Early this year two pairs of Père David's deer bred at Whipsnade were sent to Peking in exchange for pairs of Manchurian and white-naped cranes by the Zoological Society of London. Since the original Père David's deer stock were killed in the Boxer Rebellion at the beginning of the century there have been none in China, apart from two pairs sent from London in 1956, of which only one animal survives. It is hoped that the animals sent this year will form the nucleus of a new herd in the enclosed park of the old Imperial Palace in Peking. They were sent by air to Hong Kong and thence by train.

Correction

John MacKinnon, author of the article on Orang-utans in Sumatra, in *Oryx*, October, 1973, asks us to correct mistakes in Table 1, Page 235. This should read:

Orang-utan densities in North Sumatra (minimal)

West Langkat (Berkail river)	more than 1 per sq.km.
Ranun south	about 1 per sq.km.
Ranun north	less than 1 per sq.km.
Sikundur	less than 1 per sq.km.
Ketambe	more than 1 per sq.km.