

Briefly . . .

International

Human population figures

According to the World Population Institute based in Washington, DC, the world's human population reached 5,000,000,000 on 7 July 1986 and is growing by 1,000,000 people every four to five days.

International Primate Protection League, **13**, 2.

New World Heritage Sites and Parties

At the 10th Session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris, 24–28 November 1986, the following natural sites were added to the World Heritage List: Australian East Coast Temperate and Subtropical Rainforest Parks; Iguazu National Park, Brazil; Fiordland National Park and Westlands/Mt Cook National Park, New Zealand; Garajonay National Park, Spain; St Kilda and the Giant's Causeway, UK; and Skocjan Caves, Yugoslavia. With St Kitts/Nevis as the most recent signatory, the Convention now has 91 State Parties. *CNPPA Members' Newsletter*, **37**.

World Rainforest Network

The World Rainforest Network was formed at the Conference on Forest Resource Crisis in the Third World, which was held on 6–8 September 1986 in Malaysia. It will link groups and individuals involved in the effort to save the tropical rain forest.

Friends of the Earth, *Press Release*, 10 November 1986.

Singapore joins CITES

Singapore has finally joined CITES. The action followed heavy US sanctions—an embargo of all wildlife products imposed in October 1986, which was later partially lifted to exclude live fish, Singapore's major export to the US, after Singapore agreed to become a Party to the Convention. Dealers were reportedly rushing to import shiploads of wildlife products, which would be declared 'pre-CITES' with the implementation of the Convention on 28 February 1987 and would be entered into the trade as legal. The Singapore Government announced that it was

taking reservations on the New Guinea crocodile *Crocodylus novaeguineae*, the saltwater crocodile *Crocodylus porosus* and the caiman *Caiman*, spp., apparently after heavy pressure from Japan, which is the main customer for the hides of these reptiles.

Monitor, 6 and 20 October, 8 and 29 December 1986. *The Guardian*, 25 October 1986.

China and US co-operate in conservation

The People's Republic of China and the US will begin co-operative efforts in nature conservation under a special protocol. Activities will include: exchange of bird-ringing techniques and information; training of Chinese personnel in the implementation of CITES; joint research on certain species; and exchange visits for scientists and wildlife staff.

Department of the Interior, *News Release*, 19 November 1986.

Japan to import Icelandic whale meat?

Japan has said that it will import whale meat taken under Iceland's scientific permits, and the US has informed Japan that it will not enforce sanctions even though the trading violates a US/Japan agreement that Japan will not import whale products during the IWC moratorium on commercial whaling. *Monitor*, 6 October 1986.

Iceland whalers sunk

Two catcher boats in the Icelandic whaling fleet sank in dock in November, and saboteurs from the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society claimed responsibility for the sinkings as well as for damage to the whaling station 50 miles (80 km) north of Reykjavik. *Monitor*, 10 November 1986.

Europe and North Africa

Mysterious death of a seaweed

The seaweed belt, which is the spawning ground for herring and a source of food for fish, is dying along Norway's coast, between Alesund in central Norway and the Soviet border in

the Arctic. Pollution of the North Sea and hydroelectric dams, which reduce the flow of fresh water into the sea, causing an increase in the salinity of coastal waters, have been suggested as causes.

The New York Times, 3 December 1986.

British wildlife needs more protection

Britain's Nature Conservancy Council, which is conducting the first five-yearly review of the schedules protecting wild plants and animals of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), has recommended that 32 species of animal and 31 species of plant need further protection. Other recommendations include: extended protection to prevent deliberate killing and injuring of all species of reptiles; protection for four fish species, including the basking shark; monitoring of trade in rare and declining species of butterflies; and removal of the chequered skipper and two snail species from the protected list because they are no longer in danger.

NCC, *Press Release*, 28 November 1986.

UK's first marine reserve

The seas and shores around the 10 miles (16 km) of Lundy Island's coast, at the entrance to the Bristol Channel, have been declared Britain's first Marine Nature Reserve.

NCC, *Press Release*, 21 November 1986.

222nd NNR

Highbury Wood in Gloucestershire has been declared the UK's 222nd National Nature Reserve. Its 115 acres (46.6 ha) cover a mix of copice woodland and high forest.

NCC, *Press Release*, 4 November 1986.

Weeds need reserves

Britain's traditional arable weed flora has declined rapidly over the last few decades due to changes in agricultural practices; 28 species are rare and endangered, and only 12 fields with good weed floras are known. The NCC, with the help of the Botanical Society of the

Oryx Vol 21 No 2, April 1987

Briefly . . .

British Isles, is conducting a survey of 25 weed species and says that there is an urgent need for arable weed 'reserves' on which non-intensive cultivation is practised.

NCC, Topical Issues, 2, 3.

Return of the large blue

The large blue butterfly *Maculinea arion*, which became extinct in Britain in 1979, has been reintroduced to a secret site in the West Country using eggs and larvae from wild Swedish colonies. It is hoped that 40–50 adults will emerge in summer, 1987, and if this initial trial is successful it is planned to introduce the butterfly to other suitable sites.

NCC, Topical Issues, 2, 3.



The large blue—back in Britain.

UK fish decline

The UK's Nature Conservancy Council has commissioned a five-year study to investigate the decline in several species of native fish. A survey of fish in national nature reserves will reveal how many of Britain's 55 freshwater fish species are protected in these and will identify the species that need special conservation attention.

NCC, Press Release, 27 October 1986.

Geese deaths: lead blamed

At the end of 1986 more than 200 greylag geese *Anser anser* were found dead at Loch Spynie, in north-east Scotland, and 90 per cent had up to 50 lead shotgun pellets in the gizzard. Some 400 greylags roost at the loch, which is an internationally important site for wildfowl. It was used for wildfowling until 1984, and lead shot still present in the loch sediment became accessible to

Briefly

geese when the water level fell due to deterioration in an embankment.

NCC, Press Notice, 10 December 1986.

Forestry Commission bans lead

The UK Forestry Commission has banned the use of lead weights by anglers on its land because of the serious threat to swans posed by lead in the environment. Nationwide, a ban on the supply and sale, though not on the use, of lead in fishing came into effect on 1 January 1987 under the Control of Pollution (Anglers' Lead Weights) Regulations 1986.

Forestry Commission, Press Notice No. 75/86.

New park in Netherlands

De Weerribben became the Netherlands' fourth national park in August 1986. It covers 3445 ha (8512 acres) and, with the De Wieden reserve, forms the largest wetland area in north-east Europe and has a great variety of fauna and flora.

naturupa-newsletter-nature, 86–10.

Poles fight for desert

Polish conservationists are campaigning to save the Bledowska Desert in southern Poland. Its 5 sq miles (13 sq km) of shifting sands are home to plants and animals that are usually found only in more southern deserts. It is threatened by the spread of introduced plants, which inhibit the characteristic dune formation, and by the extraction of sand required to fill spent coal mine shafts.

Los Angeles Times, 14 September 1986.

No more discos on turtle beach?

The Greek Government has banned further development along a 7-mile (11-km) stretch of beach on Zakynthos, which is the most important Mediterranean nesting ground for the loggerhead turtle *Caretta caretta*: 800 females nest there every summer. Tourist development—hotels, shops, restaurants and discos—on the beaches of Lagana Bay have halved the number of loggerheads nesting over the last 10 years. The Government decree provides for a 1100-acre (450-ha) zone of complete protection that runs the length of the bay and stretches inland for 222–

550 yds (205–503 m). It also limits building activity adjacent to this zone and stops development of those areas of the bay that are only accessible by boat at present. Developers have ignored zoning decrees in the past and municipal governments are opposed to restrictions on their chief source of income.

The Christian Science Monitor, 26 December 1986.

Cyprus bird killing worse

In the October 1986 issue of *Oryx* we reported that 18 million fewer migrating birds were killed in 1986 than in 1985 in Cyprus, following the drastic decline in the use of nets and lime. Unfortunately, during the autumn 1986 migration reports were being received that the bird-liming was worse than ever. The ICBP is making strong representations to the Cyprus Government.

ICBP, Cambridge, UK.

Keep the drovers' roads

Two ecologists from the University of Madrid have made a plea for the conservation of Spain's drovers' roads, which were once used to move livestock between winter and summer grazing. They are now redundant and threatened by forestry, developers and rubbish tips, but a network of 125,000 km (78,000 miles) still survives and is of great conservation importance because of the specialized flora that has developed during centuries of grazing.

New Scientist, 30 October 1986.

Pesticide kills Spanish birds

About 30,000 birds died on the borders of the Doñana National Park in Spain after farmers sprayed rice fields with methyl parathion, an organophosphate, which kills most animals and which is illegal in Spain. The farmers were trying to get rid of edible crayfish *Procambarus clarkii*, which were introduced from North America in the 1970s and which create havoc in the rice fields by toppling plants and damaging dykes. Although the park itself has not been affected, it has other troubles: the park's Director resigned over the decision by the Spanish Vice-Prime Minister to permit the hunting of crab and crayfish in the park during the spring nesting

Briefly . . .

season—a practice that destroyed 300,000 chicks and eggs in 1986. The park is also still endangered by falling water levels, due to agricultural demands and drainage of private land within it, and rice farmers plan to dig even more wells.

New Scientist, 16 October 1986.

Wild barley site should be saved

Wadi Habis, west of Mersa Matruh, is the only known locality for wild barley *Hordeum spontaneum* in the western Mediterranean region of Egypt. It occurs along 800 m (875 yds) of the 3-km (2-mile)-long wadi, and has probably survived there until now because the wadi is small and has limited potential for agriculture. Now the area is being subjected to rapid development due to increased population pressure. Several dams have already been built across the lower reaches and the natural vegetation is being ploughed up for the cultivation of barley. Unless protective measures are taken soon, this important site will be lost.

Nabil El Hadidi, M., Abd El-Ghani, M., Springuel, I. and Hoffman, M.A. 1986. Wild barley *Hordeum spontaneum* L. in Egypt. *Biol. Cons.* **37**, 291–300.

Africa

Duiker decline: a vital study

Duiker populations are declining all over Africa and some are on the verge of extinction. A 10-year project was inaugurated in 1985 to study duikers in 40 African countries, and it is hoped that the results will help in providing effective conservation of the animals, of which there are about 19 species. The project is being run by Viv Wilson at the Duiker Research and Breeding Centre at Chipangali, Zimbabwe, and centres are planned elsewhere in Africa.

Zimbabwe Wildlife, **45**.

Tusks seized

Customs officers seized nearly 1000 elephant tusks valued at \$250,000 in October 1986 after finding them hidden in bags of wheat at the port of Mombasa, Kenya.

The New York Times, 2 November 1986.

116

Korup

Korup National Park has been formally established in Cameroon. It will receive a \$650,000 grant from the UK Overseas Development Agency and \$450,000 from the UK-based Earthlife Foundation.

CNPPA Members' Newsletter, **37**.

Weaver rediscovery

The golden-naped weaver *Ploceus aureinucha*, last reported in 1926, has been seen in good numbers in the Ituri Forest, Zaire, by three biologists working on okapis. The reason for the lack of records over the past 50 years is the lack of fieldwork in this forest to which the weaver is endemic.

World Birdwatch, **8**, 3.

Burundi ivory ban

Burundi has agreed to comply with CITES regulations and to stop allowing trade in ivory after more than 10 years of being a major conduit for illegal trade in elephant tusks. It is hoped that Burundi will decide to become a full Party to CITES; it has a large trade in other products of endangered species.

New Scientist, 6 November 1986.

Ivory ban

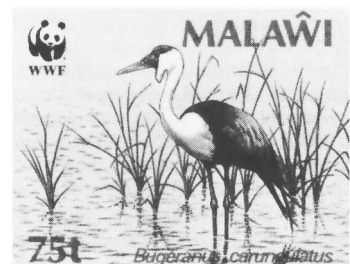
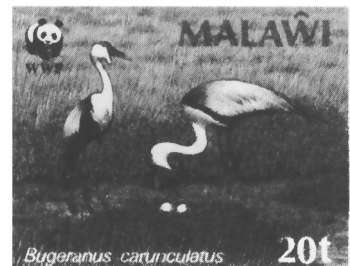
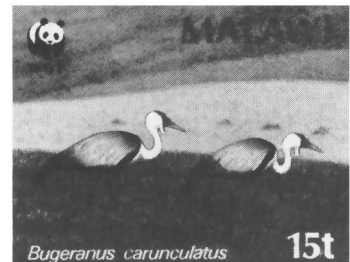
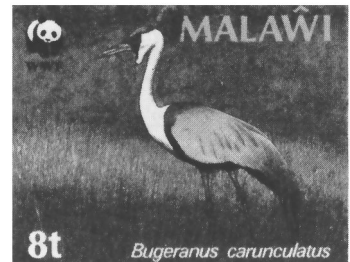
The Tanzanian Government has banned the import and export of ivory and has forbidden the sale of ivory within the country. Dealers in elephant tusks were ordered to return their trading licences and unprocessed ivory to the Government. Park authorities seized 3283 elephant tusks from smugglers and poachers in 1986 and arrested 245 poachers between July and September, 161 of them in the Serengeti National Park.

The Washington Times, 3 December 1986; *The Washington Post*, 16 December 1986.

Swallow survey

The Endangered Wildlife Trust of South Africa is conducting a national survey of the endangered blue swallow *Hirundo atrocaerulea*. The greatest threat is commercial afforestation of the bird's montane grassland habitat with exotic pine, eucalyptus and wattle trees. The survey is due to be completed in 1987.

Quagga, **15**.



Wattled crane stamps

The wattled crane *Bugeranus carunculatus*, the largest of all the cranes, is pictured on four new stamps from Malawi. It is classified as 'of special concern' by ICBP/IUCN, and total numbers appear unlikely to exceed 7500. In Malawi there are perhaps no more than 40 pairs in Kasungu and Nyika national parks (Crown Agents Stamp Company Ltd, Old Inn House, 2 Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4RN, UK).

Oryx Vol 21 No 2, April 1987

Briefly . . .

Oxpecker reintroduction

In June 1986 43 yellow-billed oxpeckers *Buphagus africanus*, captured in Caprivi Strip, Namibia, were released in Umfolozi Game Reserve in Natal. The species disappeared from South Africa as a result of the use of arsenical cattle dips prior to World War II, and had been extinct in Natal since the last rinderpest epidemic more than 80 years ago. A reintroduction of yellow-billed oxpeckers had been planned for the Kruger National Park, but it was discovered that the species had re-established itself there naturally, probably having migrated from Zimbabwe. *Quagga*, 15.

Black rhino for new park

The South African National Parks Board plans to introduce black rhinos *Diceros bicornis* into 20,000 ha (50,000 acres) of newly acquired land near Barkly West in 1987. Most of the area, which will shortly be proclaimed Vaalbos National Park, was productive, well-managed cattle ranch with healthy populations of game and good rhino habitat.

Quagga, 15.

Kariba weed control in East Caprivi

River systems on the southern border of East Caprivi, Namibia, have been infested with Kariba weed *Salvinia molesta* since the 1970s, with disastrous results for the aquatic ecosystem and the fisheries. Attempts at biological control failed until, in 1984 snout beetles *Cyrtobagous salviniae* obtained from Australia were bred and released at several sites in East Caprivi. By 1986 the thick mat of *Salvinia* in these sites had disappeared. The beetles are too specific in their food requirements to adapt to other plants once all the *Salvinia* has gone, but both the weed and the beetle will probably persist in small numbers, especially in areas less suitable to the beetle.

African Wildlife, 40, 5.

Jackass penguin decline blamed on overfishing

Over-exploitation of pelagic fish stocks

Briefly

could have been responsible for the continuing decline of jackass penguins *Spheniscus demersus* on islands off the west coast of southern Africa according to the results of a recent study. Researchers found that the dominant prey of jackass penguins of the east coast of South Africa was also the target species of the collapsed pelagic fisheries on the west coast. If a pelagic fishery were to become logistically and economically feasible on the east coast, over-exploitation of the target species—pilchard and anchovy—would have an extremely adverse effect on the penguins in that area.

Randall, R. and Randall, B. 1986. The diet of jackass penguins Spheniscus demersus in Algoa Bay, South Africa, and its bearing on population declines elsewhere. Biol. Cons. 37, 119–134.

Kalahari plan turned down

The Botswana Government has rejected the recommendations of a fact-finding mission on the Central Kalahari Game Reserve that would have allowed human settlement and cattle grazing there. Instead, the Government has reaffirmed the reserve's boundaries, rejected the plan for another population centre, halted the development of existing settlements, and will encourage people living in the reserve to move out. *BBC Wildlife*, 4, 12.

Botanical reserves threatened

Of Zimbabwe's 15 botanical reserves, which range from 30 to 495 ha (74 to 1200 acres), one, the Haroni Forest Botanical Reserve, has been totally destroyed by tree-felling and cultivation, and another, the Rusitu Forest nearby, is seriously threatened by the same activities. Fortunately, a similar forest type to that of Haroni still survives in another part of the Chimanimanis, but it is the last example in the country. Many of the other botanical reserves lack demarcated boundaries and proper management plans, while roads and tracks have been cut through them after being declared protected areas. *Zimbabwe Wildlife*, 46.

Grave concern over tsetse schemes

The Wildlife Society of Zimbabwe and

the Zambezi Society are deeply concerned about the environmental impact of the EEC-funded tsetse eradication schemes that are planned for large areas, many unsettled, of Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique. In a joint statement the Societies say that there is no convincing rationale for the schemes in unsettled areas, that DDT is being used despite assurances of the EEC to the contrary, and that severe land degradation may result from uncontrolled settlement after tsetse eradication. They are calling for a reappraisal of the schemes.

The Wildlife Society of Zimbabwe, PO Box 3497, Harare, Zimbabwe and The Zambezi Society, PO Box UA 334, Union Avenue, Harare, Zimbabwe.

'Extinct' lemurs found

About 35 greater bamboo lemurs *Hapalemur simus*, feared extinct since the early 1970s, have been found in a remote rain forest in south-eastern Madagascar. They were discovered by Patricia Wright of Duke University during a recent expedition, and efforts are now underway to persuade the Malagasy Government to establish a reserve for them. The last confirmed sighting was in 1972, when two Frenchmen captured a pair, which soon died. *Nature*, 16 October 1986; *Los Angeles Times*, 28 September 1986.

Camel Trophy goes to Madagascar

In a move that has angered conservationists, Camel Cigarettes (USA) is taking its 1987 Trophy to Madagascar. Fourteen Range-Rovers and support vehicles will take a 1000-mile (1600-km) route, some of it through the island's threatened rain forests in the east.

Asia-Pacific People's Environment Network, 12 November 1986.

Turtles back on Réunion?

One morning in June 1986 tracks and signs of digging by a green turtle *Chelonia mydas* were discovered on a beach on Réunion. The activity did not result in egg-laying, but it is the first known turtle to attempt to nest there this century. Réunion was a very important turtle breeding site in the 17th and 18th centuries, but over-exploitation led to

Briefly . . .

the turtles' disappearance from the beaches in the 19th century, and since then urbanization of the coast and tourist development have made many beaches unsuitable for turtles. The beach where the recent attempt was made is remoter than most and should now be protected.

Marine Turtle Newsletter, 39.

Airstrip threat to albatrosses

South Africa's plans to build a 1.4-km (0.9-mile)-long airstrip on Marion Island threaten the breeding grounds of 15 per cent of the world's wandering albatrosses *Diomedea exulans* and of 200,000 pairs of macaroni penguins *Eudyptes chrysolophus*. Thousands of elephant seals *Mirounga leonina* live on the beach that is its main harbour. The island's wildlife is already suffering because of man—from introduced cats, which prey on the petrels, and from the accidental introduction of the diamond-backed moth in 1986, which is at present devastating the Kerguelen cabbage. The South African Government has appointed a panel of six scientists to investigate the environmental impact of the development; the country's Sea Birds and Seals Protection Act (1973) provides formal protection for the Marion Island's birds. Two million seabirds breed there.

New Scientist, 8 January 1987.

Asia (excluding Indo-Malaya)

Protection plan for Oman's coast

A Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Sultanate of Oman has been completed. It covers 200 km (124 miles) of mainland coast, spanning the capital, Muscat, and a number of offshore islands. One of its goals is to establish protected areas as an integral part of land use policies and planning.

CNPPA Members' Newsletter, 37.

New Wildlife Commission in Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia established the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development in May 1986. Its objectives include carrying out research on the Kingdom's wildlife, establishing

priorities for wildlife protection, and planning a protected area network. It has already established a captive-breeding centre for oryx, gazelles and houbara bustards for reintroduction programmes and has adapted proposals for the establishment of wildlife sanctuaries.

Dr Abdulaziz Abuzinada, Secretary General, National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development, PO Box 61681, Riyadh 11575, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Award for work on China's endangered species

Dr Yang Dehua of the National Laboratory Primate Centre of Yunnan, China, has been undertaking a survey of endangered species—black gibbon, white-browed gibbon, white-handed gibbon, wild ox and tiger—since 1984. At a symposium to appraise the work in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province, in May 1986 it was commended by



Macaroni penguins: one of the species threatened by the planned airstrip on Marion Island (Roger Wilson).

Oryx Vol 21 No 2, April 1987

Briefly . . .

zoologists, and recently it was awarded the prize of Science and Technology Progress by Yunnan Province's Government.
Yunnan Daily, 30 December 1986.

Saving mammals in the Gulf

Environmental experts of Persian Gulf Arab countries have launched a campaign to save threatened marine mammals in the Persian Gulf.
Los Angeles Times, 18 October 1986.

Japan's new efforts for wildlife

Japan's Environment Agency, after 14 years of existence, has established a Wildlife Division to provide a more comprehensive co-ordination of its wildlife conservation responsibilities. It will be responsible for wildlife habitat protection, hunting regulation, wildlife surveys, and the implementation of CITES and other international treaties. Seven categories of wildlife protection areas will be established and a greatly expanded programme of education and information on wildlife issues is planned.
Japan Environment Review, 2.

Battle to save Shiraho reef goes on

Opponents of the local government scheme to build an airport for large jets on a coral reef on Ishigaki island, Okinawa, are still trying to save Shiraho reef in a battle that has been going on for eight years. It is one of the few healthy reefs in the area and has unusually extensive stands of blue coral *Helipora cerulea*, which is listed on Appendix I of CITES. In 1986 opposition groups sought to broaden their base of support in Japan by newspaper advertisements and, in a ploy to delay construction, tiny portions of land that had slipped through the hands of government buyers were sold to supporters. The Government now has to negotiate with about 1000 'owners' to get the land back. Although in 1980 the 600-member fishermen's co-operative of Ishigaki accepted financial compensation for loss of the fishing grounds at Shiraho, the 30 fishermen of Shiraho itself have steadfastly refused to accept the agreement and have taken their co-operative to court. Airport construction

Briefly

cannot go ahead until the fishermen's consent is won. In October Shiraho was the first port of call for the 'Banana Boat', a floating grassroots summit of over 300 environmentalists from Japan, the US and the Philippines, who held a protest rally on Shiraho beach.
Japan Environment Review, 2.

Indo-Malaya

Even less forest than feared

The latest Landsat imagery suggests that deforestation in India is occurring at a much greater rate than was previously feared. Landsat has revealed only 10 per cent forest cover, whereas the Indian Forestry Department had believed that forest covered 22 per cent of the nation's land surface. A new Indian satellite is to help in the compilation of a vegetation map of the country so that the full extent of the problem can be assessed.
Nature, 25 September 1986.

India's first biosphere reserve

India's first reserve in UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme has been inaugurated at Silent Valley in the Nilgiris in southern India.
Nature, 4 December 1986.

Rockets vs ridleys: no conflict

The Indian Government has decided to set up the national rocket and missile testing site at Balasore, Orissa, instead of at Gahirmatha, one of the world's largest olive ridley *Lepidochelys olivacea* nesting beaches (see *Oryx*, 20, 257).
Marine Turtle Newsletter, 38.

Reactors planned for forest

India's Department of Atomic Energy is proposing to build two nuclear reactors in forest on the lower slopes of the Western Ghats in Karnataka at Kaiga, 45 km (28 miles) from the coast on the Kali River. The site was chosen because land is abundant, population sparse and there will be ample water available from the Kaiga Hydro Project now under way. The tribal people inhabiting the forest are deeply disturbed by the plans.
World Rainforest Report, 7.

Sri Lankan insects to get help

The Butterfly Conservation Trust is being established in Sri Lanka to raise funds for the conservation of butterflies and other insects in the country.
IUCN Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, UK.

New reserve in Thailand

The largest peat forest in Narathiwat, in southern Thailand, is to be declared a game reserve in an effort to prevent encroachment and to protect the endangered wildlife there, which includes the saltwater crocodile *Crocodylus porosus*. It has been a non-hunting area since 1975, but the Irrigation Department has worked on projects in the forest and some of the land has been set aside as a new resettlement area for a co-operative village.
WFT News, August 1986.

Dams plans resurrected

The Thailand Government has revived plans to build the Nam Choan Dam, having shelved them in 1982 following protests by students and environmentalists. The dam would flood 944 sq km (364 sq miles) of forest in Thung Yai and Huay Kha Khaeng, regarded by conservationists as the most important wildlife reserve in South East Asia. Thailand's largest population of gaur *Bos gaurus* lives in Thung Yai.
WFT News, August 1986.

No more monkey dishes on train

When it was discovered that wildlife meat such as that of deer and leaf monkey was on the menu of a dining car of a train in Thailand, the Wildlife Fund Thailand intervened and succeeded, through the Royal Forestry Department, in getting the practice stopped. The trade in these animals has been prohibited since 1960.
WFT News, August 1986.

Animal rescue in Thailand

The Royal Forestry Department of Thailand has been allocated 1.5 million baht to relocate animals trapped by rising waters behind the Chiew Lan Dam in Klong Sang Wildlife Sanctuary. Volunteers from the Wildlife Fund

Briefly . . .

Thailand are monitoring progress in the project, which began in October 1986. *WFT News*, August 1986.

Sumatran rhino rediscovery

The Sumatran rhinoceros *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis* has been rediscovered in Sarawak after being believed extinct in the State for nearly 40 years. At least five animals, which are known to be breeding, were found in a remote valley in the Ulu Baram area. The precise location is being kept secret until it is gazetted as a protected area. The rhinos were discovered by local people in late 1983 and immediately reported to the National Parks and Wildlife Office of the Sarawak Forest Department. The find was reported to the State Cabinet in 1984, but was kept secret from the public until the existence of the rhinos was confirmed and steps could be taken to protect them with the help of local people.

Survey for orang-utans with uncertain future

World Wildlife Fund-Malaysia has allocated M\$115,000 (US\$44,230) to assist the Sabah Forest Department during 1987 in an orang-utan *Pongo pygmaeus* project, which will be led by Dr Junaida Payne and a yet to be recruited Sabahan counterpart. The long-term future of the orang-utan in Sabah is uncertain because of its very limited distribution and large scale destruction of its habitat. The species's population density varies with forest types, and it may be rare or absent in some areas even though the forest seems suitable. The project will collect data on distribution and population densities through a series of ground and helicopter surveys (the latter being for nests). Another goal is to clarify the species's response to selective logging, which is critically important because this will have affected most orang-utan habitat, in Sabah and elsewhere, by the end of this century. The project will provide hard data on a species that invariably attracts much local interest and will strengthen the case for the conservation of the lowland forests that are so vulnerable to human development pressures. *World Wildlife Fund-Malaysia*, December 1986.

Exotic food rings smashed

Following calls by Sahabat Alam Malaysia for government action to halt the trade in the meat of protected wildlife (see *Oryx*, 21, 54), rangers from the Wildlife Department have smashed several syndicates that have been supplying protected wild animals to restaurateurs. All the Malaysian States were asked to submit reports of arrests to the Science, Technology and Environment Ministry by the end of October 1986. *The Star (Malaysia)*, 27 October 1986.

Chance for a komodo

San Diego Zoo is hoping that a new technique, in which hormone-containing pumps are implanted under the skin to stimulate ovulation, will enable the last remaining komodo dragon *Varanus komodoensis* in the US to bear young. It has never ovulated in captivity and semen collected from its dead mate will be used for insemination. The technique has been tried on 15 green iguanas *Iguana iguana*, all of which ovulated, and the males responded accordingly even though it was not their regular mating season. Komodo dragons, which occur on a few small Indonesian islands, are the world's largest lizards and are endangered. *National Wildlife*, 24, 6.

New laws to protect reefs

It is now legal to use fine-mesh nets for catching marine ornamental fish in the Philippines. The new law, Fisheries Administrative Order 155, 25 August 1986, should discourage illegal methods of catching fish for the aquarium trade, for instance by using sodium cyanide and dynamite. The International Marine Alliance is supporting a nationwide programme in the Philippines to train fish collectors to use nets. *International Marinelifie Alliance Newsletter*, 3.

North America

Hubbard dam bursts

The ice dam created by the surging Hubbard Glacier in Alaska burst in early October leaving a 500-m-wide channel.

With the tide now able to flow into the previously blocked Russell fjord, the marine mammals that had been trapped are expected to survive. Geologists expect the Hubbard Glacier to continue to surge, and the fjord could be blocked and unblocked several times over the next few years.

New Scientist, 16 October 1986.

Hard times for bison

There are now fewer than 4500 bison *Bison bison* in Wood Buffalo National Park, Alberta, Canada. The herd is plagued by tuberculosis and brucellosis, but this has been so since the 1920s when infected animals were introduced, and in spite of this the herd increased from 7500 to over 10,000 by the early 1970s. Changes in habitat seem to be a major factor in the decline; the freshwater delta at Peace-Athabasca is drying out, causing important food sources to disappear and allowing access to predators. No one knows whether the changes have natural causes or whether the Bennett Dam built upstream in 1969 is to blame. Water fluctuations may intensify if a hydroelectric dam is built on Slave River at the eastern end of the park; plans for this are shelved at present, but may be revived if demand for power increases. *Nature Canada*, 15, 4.

Reserve for phantom orchid

Sky Meadows Orchid Reserve was established in British Columbia in the autumn of 1986 to protect a population of the rarest of North American orchids, the phantom orchid *Cephalanthera austinae*. Katherine Tye had acted as guardian for the colony since 1964, and when she had to leave her property in 1983, at the age of 83, she was concerned about the orchids' future. The Nature Trust of British Columbia bought 2 ha (5 acres) and Mrs Tye donated 1.2 ha (3 acres) to found the reserve. There are only two other sites in BC where the orchid is known to occur. *Nature Canada*, 15, 4.

Coal mining threat to caribou

Gulf Canada is seeking approval from the British Columbian Government for the Mt Klappan Coal Project in north-west British Columbia. The proposed

Oryx Vol 21 No 2, April 1987

Briefly . . .

coal-burning generator to supply electricity to the mines would introduce acid rain to the fragile ecosystem and create a lichen desert. Many believe that the development would permanently displace the world's largest concentration of Osborne caribou *Rangifer tarandus* from the Spatsizi Wilderness Park. *Nature Canada*, 15, 4.

Decline of the sugar maple

The sugar maple *Acer saccharum* is threatened with extinction in north-east America because of acid rain and other pollutants. Sugar makers in New Hampshire and Vermont, USA, and Quebec, Canada, report acute declines in syrup production, and an aerial survey of sugar maple groves in Quebec in 1986 showed that 82 per cent of trees were in decline. So far the coal-producing states of the middle-west and the Reagan Administration have opposed all attempts to restrict the amount of emission from power plants and factory chimneys, which are the source of the pollution. *The New York Times*, 7 December 1987.

An exotic spreads

The Russian olive *Elaeagnus angustifolia* has naturalized in 17 western states of the US, and in 16 of them seedlings are sold cheaply by government agencies for wildlife plantings. Utah alone has declared the species a noxious weed. Concern is being expressed over the rate of naturalization of this species, and some say that its benefits—providing food for 50 wildlife species and cover in winter—should be weighed against its negative consequences for some native plants (for example, displacing plains cottonwoods *Populus sargentii* in Nebraska), and habitats (for example, displacing marshes in South Dakota). *Olson, T.E. and Knopf, F.L. 1986. Wildl. Soc. Bull.* 14, 492–493.

More threatened taxa

Four species were added to the US List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife in July 1986. The spikedace *Meda fulgida*, the only fish of its genus, which has disappeared from 94 per cent of its historical range in the Gila River system,

is further threatened by proposed dams. The uhihi *Mezoneuron kawaiense*, a member of the pea family, is endemic to the Hawaiian Islands and fewer than 50 individuals are left. The palmate-bracted bird's-beak *Cordylanthus palmatus*, an annual herb found in California's lowland flats and plains, has only three populations left. Pondberry *Lindera melissifolia* is a small deciduous shrub with only 19 populations known in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Missouri. *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, XI, 8 and 9.

Tree die-off in eastern US

Signs of forest decline are now unmistakable in the higher elevations of the eastern US, according to the World Resources Institute. New data from the southern Appalachian Mountains document rapid forest decline in the past few years—widespread dieback of the tops of trees and symptoms of malnourishment, resembling what is happening in Germany. On Mount Mitchell in North Carolina, the highest peak in the eastern US, 39 per cent of red spruce *Picea rubens* trees were up to 50 per cent defoliated in 1985, compared with 78 per cent of trees with less than 10 per cent defoliation only one year earlier. These elevations are subjected to prolonged exposure to mist and clouds that contain high levels of pollutants. No direct cause has been identified, but it is suggested that the signs now becoming manifest are only the latest in a continuum that started in the late 1950s with a long-term decrease in annual radial growth. *Science*, 22 August 1986.

No lead shot by 1991

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has decided to require exclusive use of steel rather than lead shot in the lower 48 states by 1991. Evidence that waterfowl was being poisoned by lead was first reported in 1959 when it was estimated that ingested lead annually killed two to three per cent of the autumn population of waterfowl species. Since 1966 it is estimated that 121 bald eagles *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* have died from lead poisoning. The decision follows campaigning and court action

by the National Wildlife Federation. *National Wildlife*, 24, 6.

Insecticide banned

The use of diazinon, a broad-spectrum insecticide, has been prohibited on golf courses and pasture in the US because it kills wild birds. The Environment Protection Agency has received reports of 60 bird kills in 18 States where diazinon was implicated or confirmed as the cause. The kills involved 23 species and in one incident 700 brent geese *Branta bernicla* died after exposure to diazinon on a golf course in New York State. *Outdoor News Bulletin*, 40, 22.

US's 49th park

The US Congress has passed a bill to create the nation's 49th national park: 76,800-acre (31,080-ha) Great Basin National Park in the South Snake Range of eastern Nevada. *National Parks*, 60, 11–12.

Whoopers up

There were more than 130 whooping cranes *Grus americana* in the wild in 1986. The flock that breeds in Canada and winters in Texas produced 20 fledglings, exceeding 1985's record high of 16. The artificially established flock that breeds in Idaho and winters in New Mexico did not have a good nesting season, but is expected to survive. *Outdoor News Bulletin*, 40, 24.

Vaccination with 'bio-bullets'

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department and various government and veterinary services are co-operating in a study to determine whether bison *Bison bison* can be vaccinated against brucellosis by using vaccine-filled 'bio-bullets' fired from a special airgun. The study is being conducted on domestic bison initially in the hope that the technique can be used to vaccinate wild bison in future. *Outdoor News Bulletin*, 40, 25.

Yellowstone grizzlies increase

The recovery effort for the grizzlies *Ursus arctos* in Yellowstone National Park, USA, was rewarded in 1986 with the birth of 43 cubs to 23 sows. Since 1973 the average number of grizzly

Briefly

Briefly . . .

births in the park has been 23 cubs to 12 sows.

Outdoor News Bulletin, 40, 24.

Gyr Falcon smuggling—largest ever fine

A Saudi prince paid \$150,000 on 14 August 1986 to the US Fish and Wildlife Service as an out-of-court settlement for illegal trafficking in gyrfalcons *Falco rusticolus* from the US. The fine is the largest ever for illegal wildlife trading. *Focus*, WWF-US, 8, 5.

Californian sea otters—a high count

The 1986 census of Californian sea otters *Enhydra lutris* revealed a total of 1570 animals, 1345 of them independent and 225 pups, the best count for years.

The Otter Raft, 36.

Condor ranch secured

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has purchased the 11,000-acre (4450-ha)

Hudson Ranch in the foothills of southern Kern County, California, as a refuge for the Californian condor *Gymnogyps californianus*. It will form a major part of Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge and will be managed to protect habitat not only for the condor, but for several other endangered species, including the San Joaquin kit fox *Vulpes macrotis*.

Los Angeles Times, 10 December 1986. *Department of the Interior, News Release*, 9 January 1987.

Capture of last female condor

The last known wild female Californian condor *Gymnogyps californianus*, a member of the only known pair breeding in 1986, was caught on 5 June by researchers from the Condor Research Center in Ventura, California. She will be incorporated into the captive-breeding programme at San Diego Wild Animal Park. The second egg from the 1986 breeding pair was hatched successfully in captivity, bringing the number of Californian condors in captivity to 24. Three male Californian condors remained in the wild on 1 October, 1986.

Endangered Species Technical Bulletin XI, 8 and 9.

Condor test

The California Condor Recovery Team has proposed a plan to release 15 young captive-bred, radio-collared Andean condors *Vultur gryphus* into the traditional habitat of the Californian condor *Gymnogyps californianus*, once the last three wild Californian condors have been taken into captivity. The Andean condors would be captured after a two-year experimental period during which information could be gathered that would be useful when releasing captive-bred Californian condors. No mating has yet taken place between captive Californian condors, but there are hopes that success will come soon and that there will be offspring for release between 1990 and 1992.

Los Angeles Times, 7 November 1986.

Return of the salmon

Atlantic salmon have returned to White River, Vermont, USA, after the improvement of water quality, the building

Oryx Vol 21 No 2, April 1987



Gyrfalcon (WWF/F. Vollmar).

Briefly . . .

of fish ladders, and a 10-year breeding and restoration programme by State Governments, private groups and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Salmon disappeared from New England rivers in the 1880s as a result of pollution, overfishing and dams on migration routes. *International Wildlife*, 16, 6.

Flyway reserve

The US National Audubon Society has bought 780-acre (320-ha) Christmann Island on the floodplain of the San Joaquin River in California as the nucleus of a new national wildlife refuge on the Pacific Flyway, the migration route for almost nine million waterfowl, including the Aleutian Canada goose *Branta canadensis leucopareia* and the sandhill crane *Grus canadensis*. *Los Angeles Times*, 8 December 1986.

Jaguarundi survives in Texas

A jaguarundi *Felis yagouaroundi cacomitli*, which was killed by a car in Cameron County, southern Texas, in 1986, is the first confirmed record of the animal there since 1952, although there have been several unconfirmed sightings in the past few years. Researchers from the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute will actively monitor the area in an attempt to document further the presence of the species and to determine its status. *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin XI*, 8 and 9.

Red wolf reintroduction

Three pairs of red wolf *Canis rufus* are being released into North Carolina's Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in 1987 and two more pairs in 1988. The species was wiped out in the wild through habitat destruction, human persecution and hybridization with the coyote *Canis latrans*. *International Wildlife*, 16, 6.

Prison for turtle catching

A fisherman from Homosassa, Florida, USA, has been sentenced to six months in prison for catching a green turtle *Chelonia mydas*. Federal prosecutors said he had been catching turtles and selling the meat for several years. *The Orlando Sentinel*, 3 October 1986. *Briefly*

Florida wetland acquired for conservation

The State of Florida is acquiring the last remaining stretch of undeveloped coastland in the State: 65,000 acres (26,000 ha) of wetlands valuable to waterfowl and other wildlife will be protected along the Gulf Coast's Big Bend area. The acquisition was made through a deal by the Procter and Gamble Company, the Nature Conservancy and the State. The wetlands are located along a 60-mile (97-km) ribbon of coast and are valued at approximately \$30 million. The land will be managed for conservation and recreation purposes. *Outdoor News Bulletin*, 41, 1.

Central America

New ways to save forest

The increasing amount of slash-and-burn farming in the Mexican state of Quintana Roo is devastating the forest that is winter home to more than 100 birds species that breed in North America. A WWF-funded project is developing alternative farming techniques, using drip-irrigation and small amounts of fertilizer, to reduce the need for clearing and burning forest, while increasing the productivity of a single-family farm ten-fold. The new method has already been adopted in 23 villages and the project is now experimenting with a new way to grow cattle fodder that uses far less land than traditional pasture. *Focus*, WWF-US, 8, 5.

Puerto Rican logging plan dropped

After opposition to its proposals, the US Forest Service has cancelled plans to deforest approximately 20 per cent of the Caribbean National Forest to produce commercial timber (see *Oryx*, 21, 56) but may still carry out some felling. *Rainforest Action Network*, December, 1986.

Virgin Islands iguana restored

Eight Anegada iguanas *Iguana penguini* have been reintroduced to Guana in the British Virgin Islands. They were wiped out there 50 years ago by domesticated animals, but now all of these have been

eradicated. The species's only other home is Anegada, where 250 human beings and their domestic animals threaten them. James Lazell of the US-based organization, The Conservation Agency, who is leading the conservation effort, has proposed a sanctuary for the iguanas on Anegada. He is planning reintroductions on other small islands and would like to see the island chain's only endemic animal restored to all its former range. *BBC Wildlife*, 4, 12.

Mexico gives turtles protection

In October 1986 the President of Mexico signed legislation establishing 16 sea-turtle nesting refuges within the Republic, including the major nesting beaches for the black turtle *Chelonia agassizii*. A number of olive ridley *Lepidochelys olivacea* and leatherback *Dermodochelys coriacea* beaches on the Pacific coast and areas used by the hawksbill *Eretmochelys imbricata* and green turtle *Chelonia mydas* on the east coast are also included. The Kemp's ridley *Lepidochelys kempii* beach at Rancho Nuevo, which was already a sanctuary, was reaffirmed in the decree. *Marine Turtle Newsletter*, 39.

Coca-Cola plan forest destruction

Coca-Cola Foods Ltd plan to destroy 25,000 acres (10,000 ha) of forest and wetland in Belize to grow citrus fruit. The first clearings were being carried out in early 1987 and the Company has refused to carry out an environmental impact assessment and has claimed falsely to be working with the Belize Audubon Society, the country's leading wildlife conservation group. The forests concerned have not been surveyed, but similar adjoining forests contain a number of threatened species, including Baird's tapir *Tapirus bairdii*, jabiru stork *Jabiru myacteria*, Guatemalan or black howler monkey *Alouatta villosa* and jaguar *Panthera onca*. *Friends of the Earth*, Press Release, 19 January 1987.

More protection for turtles

The British Virgin Islands' Turtle Ordinance of 1959 has been revised to improve protection for marine turtles.

Briefly . . .

Turtle hunting is now prohibited from 1 April to 30 November instead of from 1 July to 31 August, and leatherback turtles *Demochelys coriacea* are now included as well as other species of marine and river turtles. Stricter measures have also been introduced to control sand mining near turtle nesting beaches.

Marine Turtle Newsletter, 38.

Caribbean resource course

A new Diploma Course in Resource Management and Environmental Studies started at the University of the West Indies in October 1986. It is the first such course in the Caribbean region and is the result of six years of planning and collaboration between the University of the West Indies, Toronto University, the World Wildlife Fund and the Caribbean Conservation Association.

Caribbean Conservation News, IV, 8.

South America

Paramillo National Park threatened

Two dams being planned in Colombia on the River Sinú would flood 600 sq km (230 sq miles) of land, mostly within El Paramillo National Park, which covers 4600 sq km (1800 sq miles) of land from mountain summit to coastal forest. It contains a unique mix of species from the Pacific Coast region, with links to Ecuador, from Central America and from the Orinoco and the Amazon. Flooding caused by the dams would also dry out wetlands that are vital for the livelihoods of 20,000 people who depend on fish, and there would be other severe environmental and social effects.

The Ecologist, 16, 6.

An island in need of protection

The wildlife of Isla de la Plata, which lies close to the equator and Ecuador's coast, is similar in many ways to that of the Galápagos 1000 km (620 miles) away. A small colony of Galápagos sea lions *Zalophus californianus wollebecki* lives there—the only record outside the Galápagos. Although they have been around the island for over 35 years,

according to the caretaker, it is only recently that they have established a permanent colony. Fishermen have persecuted them in the past, and they also kill the waved albatross *Diomedea irrorata* for its feathers. The numbers of this bird have declined from 10–50 pairs in 1975 to two pairs today. About 300 goats are destroying the vegetation. This island, which is officially part of the Ecuadorean national park system, should be given more efficient protection.

noticias de Galápagos, 44.

Shearing vicuna

Successful experiments in vicuna capture and shearing have been carried out recently with the help of New Zealand technicians, and there are 3500 kg (7700 lbs) of wool in stock in Peru. More than 2000 vicuna have been translocated from the Pampa Galeras Reserve over distances of 1000 km (600 miles), with a casualty rate of only one-half per cent. Now that safe techniques for capture, translocation and shearing are available, it is hoped that the local people may begin to benefit from the presence of vicuna on their lands. Dr Felipe Benavides, Chairman of the Vicuna Commission in Peru, is actively working with IUCN and CITES, with the help of international lawyers and the Peruvian Ambassador in Switzerland, to create a situation whereby vicuna cloth, sheared from live vicuna and woven in Peru, will eventually be legally on sale again.

New development in Amazon Basin

The Brazilian press has exposed a secret Brazilian government plan to militarize the Amazon Basin north of the Amazon River. Border posts will serve as 'development poles' for the region and about 40 Indian tribes, with a total population of 50,000, would be affected by loss of land, intrusion of settlers and diseases. The North Bank Project and a long-planned road network could be the end of the world's largest tropical forest.

Monitor, 3 November 1986.

Rice rats need help

The rice rats of Fernandina (Narborough Island) *Nesoryzomys narboro-*

ughi (and also possibly *N. fernandinae*, which has only recently been described from skulls in owl pellets) are the only surviving members of their genus in the Galápagos. The *Nesoryzomys* species of Santa Cruz, Baltra, Santiago and Isabela disappeared after the introduction of the black rat *Rattus rattus*. While Fernandina is still free from black rats, it may not remain so for much longer, and to ensure the future of the genus, a captive-breeding programme is needed.

noticias de Galapagos, 44.

Australia/Antarctica

Sand mining at Great Barrier Reef

The Queensland Government has granted a silica sand-mining lease to a Japanese/Australian consortium, which may need to blast a section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park to build a port. The declining Torres Strait pigeon *Ducula spilorrhoa* nests on Rodney Island, close to the proposed site.

World Birdwatch, 8, 3.

Reef visits by tunnel

The world's largest aquarium devoted to a natural reef environment is being built in Townsville, north Queensland. It is due to be opened to visitors in mid-1987 and a coral reef in miniature will be joined by a perspex tunnel to a tank containing predatory fish. Fish and other marine life will surround the tunnel as visitors walk between the tanks.

New Scientist, 30 October 1986.

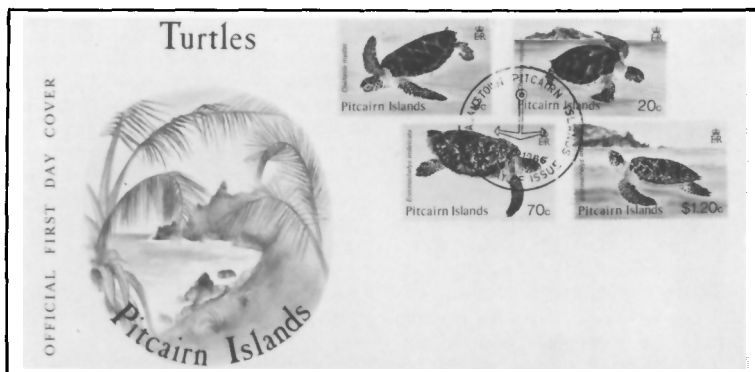
Three million kangaroos to die

Australia's kangaroo quotas for 1987 will allow nearly three million kangaroos and wallabies to be killed: 1,755,000 in Queensland, 577,000 in New South Wales, 227,400 in South Australia and 245,000 in Western Australia. No quota was set for Tasmania because widespread poisoning of wallabies there has caused a collapse in the populations. Legislative and judicial enquiries in Australia are finding evidence of widespread corruption surrounding the kangaroo industry.

Monitor, 22 December 1986.

Oryx Vol 21 No 2, April 1987

Briefly . . .



This first day cover, issued recently by the Pitcairn Islands, shows green and hawksbill turtles, both of which are endangered (*these were painted by Jane Thatcher, whose reference material included specimens in the FFPS collection, which had originally been seized by HM Customs*).

Ice-age relict germinated

Researchers at Australia's National Botanic Gardens in Canberra have succeeded in germinating one seedling from Australia's rarest eucalypt, which was discovered in New South Wales in November 1985. Only five specimens are known, and the species is believed to be an ice-age relict, whose seeds require a cold period for germination, and which, therefore, have not had an opportunity to germinate naturally since the last ice age ended more than 8000 years ago.

New Scientist, 30 October 1986.

Christmas Island mining plans

A spectacular coastal rain forest and rich seabird colony on Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean will be destroyed if proposals by the Phosphate Mining Corporation of Christmas Island are accepted by Australia's Federal Government. Plans to clear and mine South Point shore terrace would destroy habitat for 14,000 nesting birds, and five species involved are protected under a migratory birds agreement with Japan.

ACF Newsletter, 17, 11.

Killing halted on Keeling

There is to be a moratorium on the killing of seabirds on North Keeling Island for June 1987. It is part of a seabird management programme produced after discussions between the Administrator of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, the Australian National Parks

Briefly

and Wildlife Service, and the Cocos Malay community, which has traditionally hunted the seabirds, principally red-footed boobies *Sula sula* and frigate birds *Fregata minor*.

World Birdwatch, 8, 3.

Tuataras traded for drugs

It has been reported that New Zealand's tuataras *Sphenodon punctatus* are being used as payment in the illegal drug trade. The reptile, which is listed on Appendix I of CITES, is valuable on the international black market and one can fetch \$9900. Police have so far failed to catch any tuatara poachers despite help from Interpol and US federal agencies.

Technical Bulletin (Ecofund Australia), 2, 2.

Oceania

Fruit bats recover in Yap

A survey of the Mariana fruit bat *Pteropus mariannus mariannus* on Ulithi Atoll and the islands of Yap, Gagil-Tamil and Maap in Yap State (Federated States of Micronesia) showed that in 1986 populations were at the carrying capacity of their habitat. The recovery is due to the ban on taking the bats for markets on Guam and Saipan, where the bat is endangered. Now the US Fish and Wildlife Service has recommended that not more than 20 per cent of the bat population can be taken for local subsistence consumption using traditional methods—nets and

airguns. Illegal shipments of fruit bats from Yap, if any, will be monitored in co-operation with the Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources and the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands' Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Endangered Species Technical Bulletin, XI, 8 and 9.

New turtle law in New Caledonia

A new law, dated 16 July 1985, has reinforced measures for the protection of marine turtles in New Caledonia. Capture of turtles is forbidden between 1 November and 31 March; it is illegal to destroy nests or to take, keep or sell eggs, and all trade in marine turtles or their parts is banned. The Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Nature Néocalédonienne ran an awareness campaign in 1986 to promote the new law.

Marine Turtle Newsletter, 38.

People

Gren Lucas OBE, Keeper of the Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK, and Chairman of IUCN's SSC (and a former FFPS Council Member), and Ian MacPhail, European Co-ordinator of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (and former Honorary Public Relations Adviser to FFPS), have each been awarded the Order of the Golden Ark by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands for their services to conservation.

Sir Peter Scott has been awarded WWF's highest honour, the Gold Medal, and the Outstanding Achievement Award for his inestimable contribution to conservation.

Publications

Nature Conservation in Swaziland

A booklet, *Mlilwane 21*, was published in 1985 by the Mlilwane Trust to celebrate the 21st birthday of Swaziland's first wildlife sanctuary. Its 84 pages, fully illustrated with colour and black-and-white photographs, outline Swaziland's history, the creation of Mlilwane and other protected areas, and the country's

Briefly . . .

achievements in nature conservation. It concludes with an appeal for Mlilwane's development programme.

Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary Trust, PO Box 33, Mbabane, Swaziland.

New Oriental bird journal

The Oriental Bird Club, established in 1985, publishes *Forktail*, which aims to cover all aspects of Oriental birds and their conservation. The first issue appeared in December 1986 and includes a detailed analysis of the past and future of Gurney's pitta *Pitta gurneyi*, which was rediscovered in Thailand in June 1986. Other papers include: Crab-plovers *Dromas ardeola* in the Gulf of Kutch; Some important birds and forests in Nepal; and Effects of selective logging on the ecological organization of a peninsular Malaysian rainforest avifauna. Individual membership is £6.00 p.a. For further information write to:

The Oriental Bird Club, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, UK.

Australia's natural heritage publications

In 1978 the Australian Government determined that one of the main tasks of the Australian Biological Resources Study, which it set up in 1973 to co-ordinate research in taxonomic biology, should be to publish data on the identity and distribution of Australia's natural heritage. It is achieving this by publishing a series of books intended for a wide spectrum of users. Already seven of a projected total of 60 volumes of the Flora have been published, and the 10 volumes of the Fauna will be published at the rate of one per year from 1987. Details of these and other publications are available from the Bureau of Flora and Fauna, GPO Box 1383, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia.

Australia's threatened species

A Threatened Species Conservation Strategy for Australia, edited by Michael Kennedy and Ross Burton, has been published by Ecofund Australia. It lists almost 3000 species of conservation concern and presents a clear and practical scheme that should play an important part in the conservation of Australia's wildlife. Available from Endangered Species Program, c/o Ecofund Australia, PO Box 131, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia.

Expedition Planners' Handbook and Directory 1986/87

Edited by Nigel and Shane Winsor and published by the Expedition Advisory Centre, this publication was prepared to serve as the course notes for the annual weekend seminar, the 'Expedition Planners' Symposium'. Its 316 pages cover everything you need to know to make your expedition safe, efficient, rewarding scientifically, enjoyable for its members and of value to the host country. Available from the Expedition Advisory Centre, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR, UK, for £9.95, including postage.

Correction

Lion tamarin—breeding success

In the item under the above heading (*Oryx*, 20, 264), it was incorrectly stated that Jeremy Mallinson is Co-Chairman of the International Recovery and Management Committee for the golden lion tamarin *Leontopithecus rosalia*. He is in fact Co-Chairperson of the International Recovery and Management Committee for the golden-headed lion tamarin *L. chrysomelas*. Dr Devra Kleiman chairs the Co-operative Research and Management Committee for the golden lion tamarin, and the success of the international breeding programme for that species, under which 400 individuals have been reared, is due to Dr Kleiman and her colleagues at the National Zoological Park, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. The Jersey Wildlife Trust has reared 28 golden lion tamarins as an extension to the NZP's programme.

Oryx Vol 21 No 2, April 1987



Golden lion tamarin at San Diego Zoo (R.A. Mittermeier).