

Briefly . . .

International

87 for CITES

The Netherlands became the 87th Party to CITES on 18 July 1984.

New TRAFFIC office

A TRAFFIC office opened in Belgium in July 1984, with Jean-Pierre d'Huart of WWF-Belgium as its director. The address is c/o WWF-Belgium, 937 Chaussée de Waterloo B5, B-1180 Brussels, Belgium. There are now seven members of the TRAFFIC Network with other offices in Australia, Japan, the Netherlands, UK, US and West Germany.

TRAFFIC (USA) Newsletter, 5, 4

New blood for sarus crane captive stock

As part of the plan to reintroduce the endangered sarus crane *Grus antigone* into south-east Asia, from where it has largely disappeared, the International Crane Foundation (ICF) collected 36 eggs from wild cranes' nests in Australia in 1984 and reared 18 successfully at its headquarters in Wisconsin, USA. ICF took six cranes from Australia in 1972, but only one was female and new blood was needed, especially since Thailand's Royal Forestry Department wishes to reintroduce the sarus crane to the Bangpra wetland east of Bangkok.

ICF Bugle, 10, 2

Eland gives birth to bongo

The first successful birth of exotic animal twins and the first interspecific embryo transfer in antelope occurred in Cincinnati Zoo in the USA, when an eland *Tragelaphus oryx* and a bongo *T. euryceros* each produced a bongo calf from embryos collected from a donor bongo in Los Angeles Zoo.

AAZPA Newsletter, XXV, 8

Successful przewalski horse embryo transfer

On 8 June 1984 a przewalski horse was born as a result of the transfer of a przewalski embryo to a domestic horse. The birth, a first for the world and an important step for the conservation of

rare species, took place at Cambridge as a result of a collaboration between London Zoo's Institute of Zoology and the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association's Equine Fertility Unit.

Europe and North Africa

Otter decline to be reversed?

Norway's otters *Lutra lutra*, down to fewer than 200 from 4000 in 1967, are the subject of a long-term programme launched by the Association for the Protection of Animals. An otter fund has been set up and a breeding and research station is planned.

Council of Europe Newsletter, 84-7

Grey seal island bought

The conservation group Sea Shepherd has bought the tiny uninhabited Orkney island of Little Greenholm, which is an SSSI and boasts a large colony of grey seals *Halichoerus grypus*.

The Press and Journal, 19 June 1984

Warbler habitat at risk

A flood alleviation scheme proposed by the Severn Trent Water Authority would destroy the breeding habitat of about 75 pairs of marsh warblers *Acrocephalus palustris* in the Avon Valley in Worcestershire, UK. Fewer than 100 pairs of the species breed in the British Isles. The RSPB, NCC and the Worcestershire Trust for Nature Conservation have urged the Water Authority to abandon the scheme.

Birds, 10, 3

Heathland moved—with butterfly eggs

Four thousand square yards (3658 sq m) of heathland at Warren Heath near Ipswich were moved to protected sites elsewhere in Suffolk in an attempt to prevent the destruction of Britain's largest colony of silver-studded blue butterflies *Plebejus argus*. Despite a drought, which made moving intact turfs difficult, enough butterfly eggs were expected to survive, as well as the ants essential to the butterfly's life-cycle. Sainsbury, which is building a superstore on the site, paid £5000 towards

the operation, which was carried out by volunteers from the Suffolk Trust for Nature Conservation.

The Times, 3 and 4 September 1984

Voluntary marine reserve

British fishermen, divers and conservationists have united and declared 5½ miles (8.8 km) of Berwickshire coast, from St Abb's Head to Eyemouth, a *Voluntary Marine Reserve*. The reserve protects an unusually rich community of marine life.

Natural World, 11

Call to withdraw poison

Following the accidental poisoning of 50 brent geese *Branta bernicla* with triazophos on the Lincolnshire coast in the UK last year, the county's Trust for Nature Conservation has urged MAFF to warn farmers and growers of the dangers in the use of the insecticide and to request that the manufacturers, Hoechst, withdraw the product from sale.

Natural World, 11

Breeding record for Britain

Parrot crossbills *Loxia pytyopsittacus* bred in Norfolk and Suffolk in 1984, the first breeding record in England; they are usually rare visitors from Scandinavia and northern Russia.

Birds, 10, 3

French marsh protected

A new nature reserve in the Marais de Lavours in Ain, France, protects 480 ha (1186 acres) of one of the last major marshes in the Rhône-Alpes region.

Council of Europe Newsletter, 84-7

Money for bears

The French Quality of Life Fund has provided two million francs (approximately £171,200) to help save the brown bear *Ursus arctos* in the Pyrenees from extinction. There are plans to double the bear's numbers from 20 to 40 and to convince the local population, especially shepherds, hunters and foresters, of the need to save the species.

Council of Europe Newsletter, 84-7

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Lynx reintroduction difficulties

Of the four lynxes *Felis lynx* from Czechoslovakia released in the Vosges area of France in May 1983, one has been found shot. Of the two from the UK that were released, one had to be recaptured because it was too tolerant of humans. The Alsatian Lynx Group, which aims to reintroduce the lynx into the forests of Vosges and other regions, has the support of the Minister for the Environment, but is violently opposed by hunters and some farmers.
International Zoo News, 31, 2

Bomb fails to stop bird protest

Undeterred by a bomb, which exploded outside its offices in Pellarò, Reggio Calabria, the Italian bird protection society (LIPU) demonstrated against the illegal shooting of thousands of birds of prey along the Straits of Messina last May. Similar demonstrations in Sicily in the previous three years have led to a welcome improvement.
Birds, 10, 3

Italy withdraws reservations to CITES

Italy has withdrawn its reservations to the following CITES Appendix I species: green turtle *Chelonia mydas*, broad-nosed caiman *Caiman latirostris*, African sharp-nosed or slender-snouted crocodile *Crocodylus cataphractus*, Nile crocodile *C. niloticus* and salt-water crocodile *C. porosus*.
TRAFFIC (USA) Newsletter, 5, 4

Greek bird slaughter continues

Shooting migratory birds in Greece continued unabated in 1984 despite the fact that Greece should have banned it in response to the EEC's Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds. Shooting was indiscriminate—red-footed falcons *Falco vespertinus*, golden orioles *Oriolus oriolus* and purple herons *Ardea purpurea* were among the victims.
ICBP Newsletter, 6, 2

Hungary receives white-headed duck eggs

White-headed duck *Oxyura leucocephala* eggs from the Wildfowl

Trust at Slimbridge and Arundel, UK, were flown to Hungary in 1984, where they were incubated at a breeding facility prepared by the Hungarian Ornithological Union. The ducks will be released in the Kiskunsag National Park. The world population of the species is about 15,000, with most breeding in the USSR, and there have been drastic declines in the rest of Europe; the species has vanished from Italy, Sardinia, Corsica, Yugoslavia and Hungary.
The Field, 1 September 1984

Francolin numbers are up but habitat declining

An expedition to the Forêt du Day in Djibouti found about 5000 Tadjoura francolins *Francolinus ochropectus*; in 1952, when the species was first discovered, the population was estimated to be about 200. The juniper forest has declined from 3000 ha (7413 acres) in 1977 to 1400 ha (3459 acres) due to livestock grazing preventing regeneration. The forest is also threatened by the Government's plans to extract water, to build tarmac roads and 35 houses for government officials. Unless there is prompt intervention, the forest, which is the only known site for the francolins, is of exceptional botanical interest and is the last forested area in the country, will disappear by 1995.
ICBP Newsletter, 6, 2

Africa

De Brazza's monkeys at great risk

There are possibly only 100–200 De Brazza's monkeys *Cercopithecus neglectus* in Kenya and only 28 live in a legally protected area, Saiwa Swamp National Park, whose 190 ha (470 acres) can support no more. The rest of Kenya's population is fragmented in small pockets of privately-owned riverine forest near Kitale, which is rapidly being cleared for crops. The East African Wildlife Society has set up the De Brazza's Rescue Fund and aims to identify suitable protected areas to which the animals at risk can be translocated.
Swara, 7, 3

Rhino sanctuary

A rhino sanctuary in northern Kenya, which was established by Anna Merz with the co-operation of a ranch owner who allocated 5000 acres (2023 ha) of Lewa Downs for the project, received its first black rhinos in 1984, four males and two females, including the female that was the only surviving rhino in Shaba Reserve. Plans include raising funds to extend the fence to surround the entire 45,000–48,000 acres (18,200–19,400 ha) of Lewa Downs and to breed rhinos so that, once the demand for horn has been curbed, the fence can be taken down to repopulate northern Kenya with black rhinos.
African Elephant and Rhino Group Newsletter, 3

Birdwatch record

Three Kenyan birdwatchers saw 290 species in a single 24-hour period, and broke the world record for this 'event', which is attempted every year by teams of birdwatchers in many countries, including the FFPS team in the UK as a fund-raising effort. The previous world record of 288 species was attained in Zambia in 1978.
Swara, 7, 3

Anthrax spreads to national park

An outbreak of anthrax in Lake Manyara National Park in Tanzania, which caused the deaths of 500 impala, up to one-third of the Park's population, is believed to have spread from the south of the Lake, where there had been



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an outbreak in cattle in October 1983. Earlier reports that poachers had been responsible for widespread poisoning and that large numbers of elephants and rhinos had been affected (see *Oryx* October 1984, page 243) have been denied by Dr Nyange of the Arusha Veterinary Investigation Centre. *Swara*, 7, 3

Skin exports stopped

Tanzania has banned the commercial export of cheetah and leopard skins, but the skins of animals shot by foreign hunters licensed by the Tanzania Wildlife Corporation are exempt. *The New York Times*, 30 September 1984

Bird trade bans

Tanzania has banned trade in the masked lovebird *Agapornis personata*, whose populations are declining. Zaïre has prohibited trade in grey parrots *Psittacus erithacus* while it is investigating illegal export. *TRAFFIC (USA) Newsletter*, 5, 4

Turtles in Gabon

Little is known about the breeding of turtles on the African coast, but a nesting area of leatherback turtles *Dermochelys coriacea* has been discovered in Gabon, near Libreville, and there are also reports of nesting on beaches further south. The nests near Libreville are systematically plundered and the eggs sold.

Marine Turtle Newsletter, 29

Texas to breed black rhinos

Five black rhinos have been translocated from Natal to two Texas ranches; it is hoped that their offspring can eventually be reintroduced into the wild in Africa when the poaching problem has been contained. The project is a co-operative effort of Game Conservation International, the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, African Fund for Endangered Wildlife and the Natal Parks Board.

African Elephant and Rhino Group Newsletter, 3

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Cape vultures poisoned

In South Africa 42 Cape vultures *Gyps coprotheres* were found dead from strychnine poisoning in the Elliot district in 1984. Although the poison may be used, under permit, to control certain pests, no such permit had recently been issued in the area.

Hawk Trust News, 30

Some of St Helena's plants restored

There has been progress in the restoration of St Helena's endemic flora. At High Peaks, the best site for endemic plants, exotic plants are being cleared and the site has been made stockproof; 55 seedlings of St Helena redwood *Trochetopsis erythroxylon*, seven plants of the cabbage *Senecio redivivus* and one plant of St Helena olive *Nesiota elliptica* have been planted (in the case of the olive it means the population has been doubled). The St Helena ebony *Trochetopsis melanoxylon*, believed extinct until Quentin Cronk found two bushes in 1980 on an FFPS-funded visit, now numbers 300 thanks to planting schemes.

Threatened Plants Newsletter, 13

Asia (excluding Indo-Malaya)

Rhino-horn trade continues despite ban

Despite the North Yemen Government's ban on all imports of rhino horn in August 1982, more than 50 per cent of the rhino horn on the world market each year is still being exported to North Yemen; six years ago it was 40 per cent. The horn comes mainly from Khartoum despite the fact that Sudan is a signatory to CITES.

African Elephant and Rhino Group Newsletter, 3

Lizard in advertisement creates demand

A Japanese car advertisement depicting a frilled lizard *Chlamydosaurus kingii* has created a demand for these reptiles in Japan: six have already been imported, three from Indonesia for 'scientific purposes' and three from Papua New Guinea as a 'national gift'. All ended up on display in department

stores in Tokyo. The lizard is apparently difficult to maintain for long in captivity and Australia, where it also lives, prohibits its commercial export.

Threatened Species Conservation Alert, 8

Ban on frog-catching

Frog-catching has been banned in Peking and offenders will be fined. Among the protection measures introduced is a ban on frogs and tadpoles being sold for chicken food.

Fishing News International, 23, 9

Indo-Malaya

Silent Valley safe

The Kerala State Government has dropped the Silent Valley Hydroelectric Project in South India and announced on 13 April 1984 that the area will now be included in the proposed Silent Valley National Park. The 8952 ha (22,120 acres) of forest is home of the endangered lion-tailed macaque *Macaca silenus* and to several undescribed progenitors of cultivated plants.

Threatened Plants Newsletter, 13

India further tightens snake trade

India has added seven native snakes to Appendix III of CITES, which means that permits will be required for international trade in articles manufactured from these species; India already bans the export of their skins. The species are: olive keelback water snake *Atretium schistosum*, checkered keelback water snake *Natrix piscator*, dog-faced water snake *Cerberus rhynchops*, Indian rat snake *Ptyas mucosus*, Indian cobra *Naja naja*, king cobra *Ophiophagus hannah* and Russell's viper *Vipera russelli*.

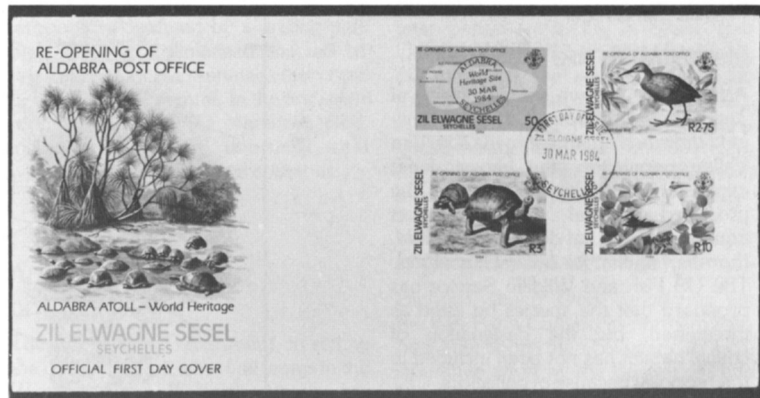
Indian volunteers count cranes

A survey of Gujarat, India, in January 1984, which mobilised the state's entire Forest Department, revealed 19,659 sarus cranes *Grus antigone*, 83,337 common cranes *G. grus* and 1,478,073 demoiselle cranes *Anthropoides virgo*. In Keoladeo National Park near

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On 30 March 1984 the Seychelles Government opened a special Post Office on Aldabra Atoll, the World Heritage home of the giant land tortoise. To mark the occasion the Post Office issued a new set of stamps: 50 cents showing a map of Aldabra, Rs 2.75 showing the Aldabra rail, Rs 3 showing the tortoise, and Rs 10 showing the red-footed booby. These are available on a special First Day Cover franked at Aldabra on the day of issue and the Seychelles Islands Foundation offers them to its supporters at £5.00 or US \$7.50 each. Orders to Mrs A.E. Kemp, Seychelles Islands Foundation, Department of Geography, Downing Place, Cambridge, England.



Bharatpur in Rajasthan, 82 volunteers counted 657 sarus cranes on 29 April, compared with 258 in 1983. The involvement of local people in the count is important and encouraging; until recently the Park, which is also winter refuge to the last flock of Siberian cranes *G. leucogeranus* visiting India, was threatened by overgrazing of domestic animals and cutting of trees. *The ICF Bugle*, 10, 2

Captive musk deer breed

A musk deer *Moschus chrysogaster* captive-breeding project at Kanchula Kharak in Kedamath Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh, which started in 1982 with one young male and two young females, achieved its first breeding success in June–July 1984 when two female fawns were born. The addition of a further young female taken from the wild in June 1984 brings the captive group to six.

Crane-killers arrested

Two black-necked cranes *Grus nigricollis* were killed in Ladakh, on the Indian–Tibetan border, by military personnel, who also removed the eggs. *The Times of India* reports that the people concerned were arrested.

Another damaging dam plan

The Malaysian Government has been urged to stop the Bakun hydroelectric project in Sarawak. It would flood 300 sq km (116 sq miles) of tribal farmland, primary and secondary forests, displace

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16,000 Dayaks, an indigenous people who are hunter/farmers, and destroy wildlife.

Malayan Naturalist, 37, 4

Two trees—newly discovered and endangered

Two recently discovered trees—both of the Rutaceae, which contains the oranges, lemons and many species used for medicinal and culinary purposes—known only from Gunung Ulu Kali, Genting Highlands, Pahang, Malaysia, are endangered. Road construction, which is causing silting of a ravine, threatens the eight known individuals of *Maclurodendron magnificum*, which was discovered in 1971, and the one known individual of *Melicope suberosa*, which is probably male. Another population of fewer than 10 female trees of the latter species 100 m away was bulldozed in November 1983 and the site is now under 10 m of earth. There are 17 seedlings of *M. magnificum* in cultivation, but none of *M. suberosa*.

Malayan Naturalist, 37, 4

Malaysia's population needs increasing

Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, has announced that the Government wants to increase the population to 70 million people and is introducing incentives to encourage women to have more children. He said that enough land was available and that population growth was necessary for increased development. The present

population of Malaysia is 14 million. *New Straits Times*, 7 April 1984

Expressway will cut up Singapore forest

The Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, which holds the last piece of remaining primary forest in Singapore, is threatened by a new expressway. It is already being eaten into by granite quarries.

Malayan Naturalist, 37, 4

White-winged wood duck reintroduction plan

Two pairs of white-winged wood duck *Cairina scutulata* bred at the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge, UK, have been flown to a captive-breeding centre in Thailand, from where their offspring will be released into the Huai Kha Khaeng Forest Sanctuary as part of a scheme to reintroduce the species to Thailand. There are fewer than 200 pairs left in the wild in south-east Asia.

Birds, 10, 3

Park raided by soldiers

Fighters from Kampuchea are crossing the border into Thailand and using bombs and automatic weapons to hunt for food in the Yod Dom Wildlife Conservation Park, which is the last natural habitat in Thailand for the kouprey *Bos sauveli*.

Malayan Naturalist, 37, 4

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North America

Many threats to a cactus

Almost all known populations of Thornber's fishhook cactus *Mammillaria thomberi* are threatened. The Avra Valley population, the largest, faces expansion by the city of Tucson, and the proposed Central Arizona Project aqueduct would cut directly through *M. thomberi* habitat for several kilometres. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed that the species be listed as threatened, but the designation of critical habitat has not been included in the proposal because of collectors. *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, **IX**, 5

Crackdown on illegal raptor trade

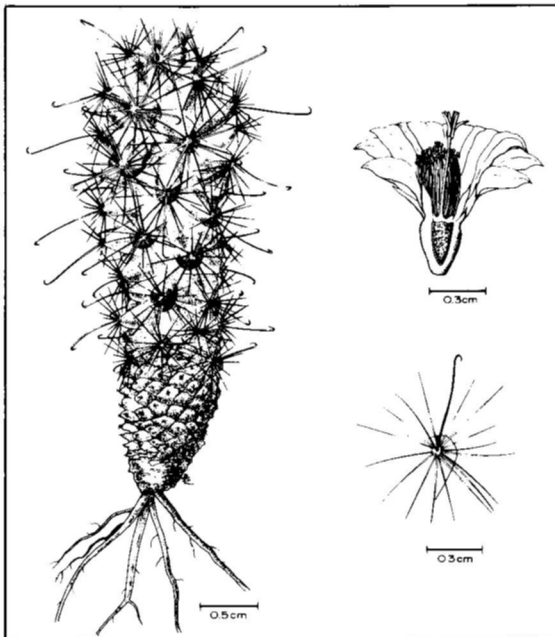
In June 1984 30 people were arrested in the USA in a crackdown against illegal international trade in protected birds of prey. The action followed a three-year undercover operation by Fish and Wildlife Service Special Agents, State Wildlife Officers and some State Attorneys. The agents estimate that, between 1981 and 1984, 400 birds were illegally taken from the wild, and many were offered for sale in the US, Europe and the Middle East. *Department of the Interior*

Wetland-destroying scheme halted

A project to irrigate 250,000 acres (101,175 ha) of north-central North Dakota with water from the Missouri River was halted for three months from 1 October 1984. During the moratorium a commission was to try to revise the project, which would destroy 70,000 acres (28,329 ha) of critical wetland habitat, damage 12 national wildlife refuges and pollute Canadian waters, to make it environmentally acceptable. *Outdoor News Bulletin*, **38**, 13

Satellite tracks eagle

A bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* released in Tennessee last July was equipped with solar-powered telemetry equipment and is being tracked by satellite—a 'breakthrough' in efforts to



Mammillaria thomberi is a cylindrical fishhook cactus growing up to 25 cm high, with small lavender flowers and red fruit (US Fish and Wildlife Service drawing).

monitor bird migration, according to an official from Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. *The Washington Post*, 14 July 1984

New York bans wild bird imports

A ban on the import of wild birds into New York State will go into effect on 1 November 1985, giving dealers time to dispose of wild bird stocks and to obtain captive-bred replacements. *Monitor*, 13 August 1984

Wildlife to benefit from gun sales?

In North Carolina, USA, a portion of state sales tax on hunting and fishing equipment is now going to wildlife conservation programmes. In 1985 the Wildlife Resources Commission will receive \$2 million from this source. *Outdoor News Bulletin*, **38**, 16

Fish reclassified

The snail darter *Percina tanasi* has been reclassified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service from endangered to threatened

because small populations are now known to exist in six tributaries of the Tennessee River and in the main river near the mouths of these tributaries. It was this fish, a small perch, that halted the construction of the Tellico Dam in 1977 (see *Oryx*, November 1978, page 296). *AAZPA Newsletter*, **XXV**, 8

Fish reintroduction plan

Two endangered fish species, Colorado squawfish *Ptychocheilus lucius* and woundfin *Plagopterus argentissimus*, are to be experimentally reintroduced into part of their historic habitats as a preliminary to a longer 10-year reintroduction programme. Their ranges have been markedly reduced because of reservoir building and diverting water for agriculture. Captive-bred stock will come from the Dexter National Fish Hatchery in New Mexico and, also, in the case of the woundfin, from a wild population in the Virgin River. *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, **IX**, 5

Lights out for turtles

Thousands of brochures, urging

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dwellers on a 12-mile (19-km) coastal stretch of Florida to turn off their lights to prevent loggerhead *Carretta caretta* and green turtle *Chelonia mydas* hatchlings being disorientated, have been distributed by the Center for Environmental Education Sea Turtle Rescue Fund and Florida Audubon Society. *Florida Naturalist*, 57, 3

Whooping crane breeding, 1984

Twenty-nine whooping cranes *Grus americana* nested in Wood Buffalo National Park in 1985, five more than in 1983; 20 chicks were counted on 2 June. Twenty-five eggs were collected from the nests; 22 were sent to Gray's Lake National Wildlife Refuge, where 19 were hatched by sandhill cranes *G. canadensis*, and three to Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland. Ten eggs from the Patuxent captive flock were also sent to Gray's Lake for fostering and despite bad weather it was estimated that about 15 whooping crane chicks would survive to swell the Rocky Mountain population. *Grus Americana*, 23, 3

Hybridisation swallowing up black duck

Black duck *Anas rubripes* in North America are down 38 per cent from the 1960–1969 average due to the eastward expansion of mallards *A. platyrhynchos* into their range and subsequent hybridisation. *Bird Watcher's Digest*, 6, 6

Endangered porpoise

The Gulf porpoise *Phocoena sinus*, which lives in the Gulf of California, has been proposed as endangered: only one small population remains and the species has been seriously affected by incidental captures during commercial gillnet fishing. *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, IX, 5

Good and bad news about manatees

Two captive-bred manatees *Trichechus manatus* from Miami Seaquarium were released at Homosassa Springs in

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Florida on 8 August 1984. They are temporarily confined by a grating until they become acclimatised and will be released to join the manatees that come to the area each winter. In the first seven months of 1984, 93 manatees died, including 22 from unusually cold weather and 24 from boat collisions. *Florida Naturalist*, 57, 3

Agreement to protect bowheads

The US Interior Department, in setting the conditions for sale of oil leases in the Beaufort Sea off North Alaska, has agreed to measures to protect the endangered bowhead whales *Balaena mysticetus* during their spring and autumn migrations. *New York Times*, 5 August 1984

Reintroduction of fox squirrel

The Delmarva fox squirrel *Sciurus niger cinereus* is to be experimentally reintroduced in the Assawoman Wildlife Area in Delaware, taking wild individuals from expanding Maryland populations. Once occurring scattered throughout south-east Pennsylvania, south-central New Jersey, eastern Maryland, the Virginia portion of the Delmarva Peninsula and Delaware, it is now found only in eastern Maryland and at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia, where it was reintroduced in the 1970s. *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, IX, 5

Yet more black-footed ferrets

The 1984 survey of black-footed ferrets *Mustela nigripes* in Wyoming found 128 animals; 88 were counted in 1983. Despite searches in Wyoming, Montana and the Dakotas, no ferrets have yet been found outside the Meeteetse region, where they were rediscovered in 1981. *New York Times*, 4 September 1984

Southern sea otter: need for reserve population

The group Friends of the Sea Otter wants to translocate 150 southern sea

otters *Enhydra lutris nereis* over a 3–5 year period beginning in September/October 1985 to San Nicholas Island, 60 miles off the southern California mainland. It is vital, it says, to establish a reserve breeding population to safeguard the species in the event of a major oil spill in its present 200-mile (322-km) long range off California.

Bighorns back in the canyon

Bighorn sheep *Ovis canadensis* are back in Paria Canyon in northern Arizona after more than 50 years. In a cooperative effort by the Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona Bighorn Sheep Society and the National Park Service, 40 sheep have been released and are being monitored. More releases are planned in the 70,000-acre (28,329-ha) area. *Outdoor News Bulletin*, 38, 16

Central America

Extinct mistletoe

Field-work in the Bahamas over the last 20 years by staff of the Fairchild Tropical Garden has revealed several of the endemic plants to be very rare or extinct. The endemic mistletoe *Dendropemon brevipes*, which was parasitic on mahogany, has not been seen for more than 60 years. The Bahamas National Trust has designated some areas to protect some of the rare plants, and Fairchild Tropical Garden has a number of Bahamian species in cultivation, including three rare endemics. *Threatened Plants Newsletter*, No. 13

Goshawk upsets night-herons

In Bermuda the reintroduced night-herons *Nycticorax violacea* (see *Oryx*, July 1984) have suffered a setback. A female goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* arrived in 1982 and overwintered—the first record for that season in Bermuda—and apparently caused the abandonment of the heronry in mid-season. A male goshawk joined the female in late 1983 and the pair is believed to have spent the summer of

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1984 in Bermuda. The herons are still nesting, though in uncertain numbers.
Sir Christopher Lever via Dr David B. Wingate

Cahow: 18 young in 1984

In 1984 37 pairs of the endangered endemic cahow or Bermuda petrel *Pterodroma cahow* (see *Oryx*, July 1984) successfully reared 18 young; thus although the population is increasing the breeding success rate has declined slightly in the past two years. This may be only a cyclical downturn as has occurred in the past, and the number of young fledged in 1984 is still greater than in any year prior to 1981.
Sir Christopher Lever via Dr David B. Wingate

Bluebird Society born

The Bermuda Bluebird Society was inaugurated in 1984 and, as a result of wide public participation in a nesting-box programme fostered by the Society, there was an apparent reversal of the decline of the eastern bluebird *Sialia sialis*, caused by competition from aliens such as house sparrows *Passer domesticus*, kiskadees *Pitangus sulphuratus* and starlings *Sturnus vulgaris*, loss of the endemic Bermuda cedar *Juniperus bermudiana*, the use of organic pesticides and habitat erosion for urban development.
Sir Christopher Lever via Dr David B. Wingate

Reserves for Bermuda

In Bermuda 1600 acres (648 ha) have been designated as nature reserves and woodland reserves under the 1983 development plan. This plan is subject to an appeals procedure and some gains may eventually be compromised. Plans to enact comprehensive national parks legislation were expected to result, in November 1984, in a further 800 acres (324 ha) being designated.
Sir Christopher Lever via Dr David B. Wingate

Marine turtle reserves

The Instituto Nacional de la Pesca in Mexico has approved the creation of reserves for marine turtles at Playa de la Escobilla (Oaxaca), Morro Ayuta

(Oaxaca), Piedra de Tlacoyunque (Guerrero), Colola (Michoacán) and Maruata (Michoacán).
Marine Turtle Newsletter, 29

South America

Colombian grebe feared extinct

A survey of Lake Tota in the eastern highlands of Colombia has failed to locate the Colombian grebe *Podiceps andinus* and it is feared extinct.
Avicultural Magazine, 90, 2

New birds from Peru

Discoveries of two new bird species have recently been reported from Peru: the pale-bellied antpitta *Grallaria carikeri* was first collected in 1976 and has since been found at three cloud-forest sites, and two specimens of the ochre-fronted antpitta *Grallaricula ochraceifrons* were collected in 1978 from stunted cloud forest.
Avicultural Magazine, 90, 2

Peruvian park under threat

Manu National Park in Peru, established in 1973 and made a MAB Reserve in 1977, covers 1.5 million ha (3.7 million acres) and is inhabited by Indian groups whose traditional rights are protected by law. The Government, faced with economic problems, plans to exploit the Park, which is now threatened by oil exploration, a new road, a canal, a helicopter landing site, a military base and logging.
World Rainforest Report, 2

New ecological station

A new ecological station, Serra do Carajás in Pará State in Brazil, which covers 40,000 ha of forest, was announced by the Special Secretary of the Environment during the 2nd Brazilian Conference on Nature Protection in July 1984.
Jornal do Brasília, 17 July 1984

Tamarin reserves should be bigger

The Brazilian Institute for Forestry Development (IBDF) says that the

Biological Reserves of Poço das Antas in Rio de Janeiro and of Una in Bahia, which shelter the golden and golden-headed lion tamarins, should have their boundaries modified. IBDF has asked the National Institute for Colonisation and Agrarian Reform to give 3200 ha of its land to the Poço das Antas Reserve.
Jornal de Brasília, 17 July 1984

Land purchase for woolly spider monkey

The Brazilian Foundation for Conservation of Nature, with the help of WWF, has bought 100 ha (247 acres) of forest on the Fazenda Montes Claros in Caratinga, where the largest surviving breeding population—42 individuals—of the woolly spider monkey *Brachyteles arachnoides* lives (see *Oryx*, January 1984, page 24).
ISTOÉ, 25 April 1984

Black market monkeys released

Ten months after releasing 19 howler monkeys *Alouatta caraya* into Brasilia National Park, the primatologist responsible, Scott Lindbergh, says the experiment was successful. Now he plans to introduce another 25 monkeys from a threatened region in Formosa, 80 km from Brasilia. Four of the first monkeys released were obtained on the black market five years ago and the other 15 had been bred in the Verliac Primate Centre in France, of which Scott Lindbergh is director.
ISTOÉ, 2 May 1984

More hooded grebes than expected

Hooded grebe *Podiceps gallardoi* numbers in Argentina are now known to be much higher than the previous estimate of 30–40 birds. Jon Fjeldsá has found new colonies on Laguna de los Escharchados and estimates that there are about 3100 adults.
ICBP Newsletter, 6, 2

Australia/Antarctica

Kangaroo cull suspended

Australian authorities suspended commercial culling of kangaroos over a large

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area of New South Wales for 12 months following a survey that showed that the red and grey kangaroo population declined by 40 per cent in the past year. *The Guardian*, 6 September 1984

Fishermen oppose marine reserves

The Victoria State Government in Australia is establishing four marine protected areas in South Gippsland—Shallow Inlet, Wilson's Promontory, Corner Inlet and Nooramunga—which together cover nearly 50,000 ha (123,548 acres), but there is strong opposition from local fishermen, some spearfishing groups and a few local politicians. *ACF Newsletter*, 16, 3

A step towards an alpine park

The Namadgi National Park in Australian Capital Territory (ACT), which was announced on 5 June 1984, will occupy 94,000 ha (232,270 acres) comprising the present Gudenby Nature Reserve and a large part of the Cotter River Valley. The new Park makes the reserve system in south-east ACT contiguous with Kosciusko National Park and is a step towards a National Alpine Park. *ACF Newsletter*, 16, 7

Kakadu enlarged

The Australian Federal Government proclaimed a 7000-sq-km (2703-sq-miles) extension, of coastal mangroves, wetlands and monsoon forests, to Kakadu National Park in 1984. *Wildlife Australia*, 21, 2

Queensland's retrogressive legislation

The Queensland State Government has made it legal to kill the saltwater crocodile *Crocodylus porosus* and any venomous snakes. In addition, four species of fruit bats and three species of crows have been declared vermin and can be killed without permit. In yet another retrogressive move the Government has approved the trade in 29 species of native birds. *ACF Newsletter*, 16, 6

Briefly

Stitchbird range extended

Although only a small number of stitchbirds *Notiomystis cincta* transferred to Kapiti Island from Little Barrier Island, New Zealand, in 1983, appeared to have survived, those that did so successfully raised young in the 1983–84 breeding season. Stitchbirds have been restricted to Little Barrier Island since the 1880s and since 1980 the New Zealand Wildlife Service has been trying to establish populations on offshore islands that together with southern North Island were in their historic range. *Parkscape*, August 1984

Oceania

Reserve protects Hawaiian birds

The Waikamoi Preserve on the island of Maui, recently acquired by the Nature Conservancy of Hawaii, covers 5230 acres (2117 ha) of relatively intact forest and shrubland which shelter five endangered bird species: Maui 'akepa *Loxops coccinea ochracea*, crested honeycreeper *Palmeria dolei*, Maui parrot bill *Pseudonestor xanthopyrus*, dark-rumped petrel *Pterodroma phaeopygia sandwichensis* and the nene, or Hawaiian goose, *Branta sandvicensis*. *ICBP Newsletter*, 6, 2

New Hawaiian garden

Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden, which opened to the general public on 1 August 1984, stretches from the shores of the Hamakua coast to inland waterfalls and will function as a centre for research and conservation. The curator invites Gardens and Institutions interested in participating in the Garden's International Exchange Programme to write to him at Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden, RR 143-A, Papaikou, Hawaii 96781

People

Jane Goodall, who began her study of the Gombe Stream chimpanzees more than 20 years ago, has won the 1984 Getty Prize for conservation. Dr Goodall's efforts contributed to the declaration of Gombe Stream in Tanzania as a National Park.

Obituary

Myles M. Turner has died, aged 62. He was field warden of the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania for 16 years before he became the director of the Arusha National Park in 1972. In 1975 he began six years' work developing Malawi's Nyika National Park and directed all wildlife conservation in northern Malawi. When he died he was working as an adviser to Kenya's Masai Mara Game Reserve.

Corrections

Hangul numbers

Hangul *Cervus elaphus hanglu* numbers have not declined to 'perhaps only 200 individuals', as reported in *Oryx*, July 1984, page 170, but have increased since their all time low of 140 individuals in the early 1970s. Censuses in March 1980, 1982, 1983 and 1984 were 347, 430, 482 and 554 respectively. The increase reflects conservation measures by the Jammu and Kashmir Wildlife Department, but poaching, grazing and habitat disturbance continue to be serious threats.

Joanna Van Gruisen

Black vulture

The black vulture habitat threatened with bombing mentioned in *Oryx*, January 1984, page 48, should have referred to *Aegypius monachus*, not *Coragyps atratus*.

Rwanda forest

On page 169 of *Oryx*, July 1984 it was stated that 97,138 ha of the Nyungwe Forest were forested in 1958; in fact the forested area in that year was 114,125 ha.

Wildlife on Réunion

In the table on page 162 in the article Wildlife on Réunion, which was published in *Oryx*, July 1984, *Ardeola idae* Madagascar heron should read *Butorides striatus* striated heron.