

## T. A. P. Walker

Many readers will be saddened to hear of the untimely death of Mr Tim Walker at the age of 46. Mr Walker, who died at his home at Bradford-on-Avon in the early morning of 11 April, was the Society's Treasurer from 1981 to 1983 and had been a Vice-President since 1984. He had been suffering from cancer for some months. Tim Walker was that rare person who was able to combine a very busy business life with an enormous contribution to the conservation world. Early on in his business career he helped to found the Hambro Life Assurance Co., the success of which enabled him to establish Midway Manor and his breeding centre for rare ungulates in 1972. About the same time he became involved with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-UK) becoming its Treasurer in 1976 and its Chairman in 1984. During the last decade, his leadership of WWF in this country has been a major factor in its increasing ability to raise funds for conservation, all over the world. While Treasurer of FFPS he was also instrumental in obtaining much needed funds for our organization, and his influence in the environmental field extended to a large number of other organizations including the Game Conservancy, the Marwell Preservation Trust, and the Zoological Society of London, on whose governing bodies he served.

Tim was a marvellous all-round person, combining great integrity and wisdom with knowledge of both his business world and the conservation world. He had an enormous range of contacts and many friends who will miss him greatly.

David Jones

## Richard Fitter—An Appreciation

As most members of FFPS will know, Richard Fitter recently retired as Chairman of Council. It is therefore an appropriate moment to record the debt that the Society owes him and the work that he, ably supported by Maisie Fitter, has carried out over many years on the Society's behalf.

Richard Fitter, already well established as a naturalist and author, was elected to the Council of the then FPS at its Annual General Meeting 184

on 17 April 1952. It was not long before Council realized Richard's special ability in representing the Society, which he has done on hundreds of occasions since, but which he carried out for the first time at a meeting called by the British Field Sports Society in December 1952, when the effect of spraying of insecticides and other toxins on wildlife was discussed. At that time another interest of Richard's was to establish a section in *Oryx* devoted to the natural history and conservation of British mammals, as there was then a lack of any specialist publication on the subject. This section continued until 1957, when the newly formed Mammal Society began to publish its own bulletin. In 1960 Richard attended the General Assembly of the IUCN for the first time, on this occasion in Poland, and has been attending them with Maisie ever since. Soon after that, in 1963, he was appointed a member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission.

In 1964, on the retirement of Lt Col Boyle as Secretary of the Society, and Honorary Editor of *Oryx*, Richard was appointed the Society's Honorary Secretary and Maisie Fitter was appointed Editor of the journal. Richard, of course, has been a regular and prolific contributor to *Oryx*, both with articles and with reports from meetings and of events. In September 1972 he began compiling the very popular 'Briefly' pages of *Oryx*, providing up-to-date, round-the-world coverage of contemporary conservation news. About this time, he became a member of the SSC's small Alert Commission and in 1973 he became chairman of the SSC steering group, a post he still holds. He has also been an active member of the SSC advisory panel preparing the *IUCN Mammal Red Data Book*.

When the UK began to implement CITES in January 1976, it appointed a Scientific Authority for Animals to consider applications for licences to import listed species, and Richard was appointed as a member. The Society's 75th birthday celebration in 1978 was marked by the publication of Richard's book *The Penitent Butchers*, which described the part played by the Society in wildlife conservation at home and abroad since 1903. In the same year Richard was appointed a Councillor by the Charles

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Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Islands. A year later Richard and Maisie went for a fortnight to the Falkland Islands as part of a group negotiating the future of New Island, probably the most important wildlife refuge in the Falklands. Out of these negotiations came the decision to set up the Falkland Islands Foundation and with it a management agreement for the southern part of New Island. Richard was made honorary secretary of the FIF, and its office was established in the FFPS office; he is now the Foundation's very active Vice-Chairman.

During 1979 Richard chaired the Grey Seal Group under the aegis of the Council for Nature to evaluate a six-year plan for a Scottish grey seal cull, which had been proposed in 1977 by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland. This plan was, however, called off in 1978 after strong protests from the public, and in fact the Group's report, published in May 1979, backed up that decision and recommended emphatically against such a cull.

In 1984, at the IUCN General Assembly in Madrid, Richard and Maisie were both recipients of the first SSC Peter Scott awards, for those 'that have made a particularly significant and noteworthy contribution to the conservation of wild fauna and flora, especially endangered and threatened taxa and those subject to exploitation by man'. Richard's was given particularly in recognition of his total dedication to the SSC and his work for both national and international wildlife conservation. In the same year Richard became Chairman of Council, a post that he has only recently relinquished.

A summary of Richard's positions in FFPS:

Council Member	1952–1963
Hon. Secretary	1964–1980
Vice-Chairman	1980–1984
Chairman	1984–1987

*David Jones*

## David Jones—FFPS's new Chairman

David Jones, a member of the Society since 1972, has been a member of Council since 1977, and was successively Hon. Secretary from 1980 to 1983 and Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Executive Committee from 1984 to 1987.

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So he is both well versed in the ways of the Society and well qualified to take over as its fourth Chairman—the office was not created until 1966, to relieve the President of the task of chairing Council meetings. As chief veterinarian of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) for many years, and since 1984 its Director of Zoos, he has been in the best position to promote and consolidate the close links FFPS has had with ZSL ever since its foundation in 1903. He has also been closely involved with practical conservation for many years, working in the field in many parts of the world, including Niger, Sri Lanka and Sudan. I warmly welcome him in his new capacity, and am confident that he is well equipped to steer the Society through the challenging years that lie ahead.

*Richard Fitter*

## 5th World Conference on Breeding Endangered Species in Captivity

The 5th World Conference on Breeding Endangered Species in Captivity will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, from 9 to 12 October 1988, and will be co-sponsored by the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, Kings Island Wild Animal Habitat and the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society. The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) Captive Breeding Specialist Group meeting will be held just prior to the Conference on 8 October 1988. The programme will include a keynote address and invited papers in sessions that will detail the progress in the propagation of endangered animals and plants in captivity, and will address needs that have yet to be met to ensure species preservation. Persons interested in attending should contact: Dr Betsy L. Dresser, Conference Chairperson, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, 3400 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45220, USA (tel: 513/872-4371).

## IUCN's 17th Triennial General Assembly

Costa Rica hosted the 17th Triennial Assembly of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources held in the capital,

San José, on 1–10 February. It was reported to be the largest and most productive in the Union's 40-year-old history and it was attended by 1000 delegates from 39 countries. For the first time there was strong participation from the World Bank, the Inter-American, African and Asian Development Banks, development aid agencies and a number of US philanthropic foundations.

Costa Rica was an appropriate venue. Although the country has suffered in the past from more extensive deforestation than any other Latin American country, its recent conservation record is impressive. President Oscar Arias, in his address at the opening ceremony, drew attention to the fact that the country had abolished its armed forces and had thus been able to spare scarce resources for conservation. More than 25 per cent of Costa Rica is protected in some way. The President also called for 'development compatible with the conservation of life in all its forms in a true peace with nature'.

The theme of the meeting was 'Conservation: A Shared Responsibility', and in approving a programme for the next three years there was emphasis on the need for increasingly close co-operation between the population and conservation movements, and interaction of population and conservation tactics. The IUCN is also strengthening its activities in the field of population and giving the knowledge and skills of women a greater role in promoting sustainable development. It confirmed that by encompassing these relatively new fields it was committed to implementing the recommendations of the World Commission on Environment and Development Report to the United Nations—the Brundtland Report of 1987. In this connection the IUCN produced two draft documents: one on how to implement the recommendations of the Brundtland Report and another on World Conservation Strategy II, which is now being prepared.

Another important element of the 1988–1990 programme is IUCN's involvement in marine and coastal conservation. With initial funding from the UN Environment Programme, UNESCO and some IUCN members, 14 regionally based Task Forces on Marine Conservation are being set up. They will report to a new IUCN Advisory

Group appointed to make information available to collaborating governments and institutions.

The IUCN Commission on Parks and Protected Areas released its new list of most threatened protected areas. There are now 85, an increase from the 58 designated at the last General Assembly in Madrid in 1985. One of the previously threatened national parks on the list—La Amistad, which is shared by Costa Rica and Panama—was withdrawn from the list when Costa Rica announced abandonment of a project to build an oil pipeline through it. In another gain for protected areas, the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Ministers of Natural Resources signed a letter stating intent to create a joint international peace park.

The Species Survival Commission (SSC) issued its list of the world's 4500 most endangered species and selected 12 to represent them, including the black rhinoceros, the kouprey and the Philippine eagle.

Three new state members—Argentina, Niger and Sri Lanka—had been admitted to the Union since the last General Assembly and the IUCN now comprises 60 states, 127 government agencies, 380 non-governmental organizations, 34 international non-governmental organizations and 25 affiliates—a total of 625 members representing 120 countries.

Richard Fitter, a Vice-President of FFPS and Chairman of the SSC Steering Group, and Maisie Fitter, a past Editor of *Oryx* and present Editor of *Species*, were both commended for their valuable work in conservation and were made Members of Honour of the SSC. Dr Kai Curry-Lindahl (an FFPS Vice-President) was also made a Member of Honour in recognition of his lifelong activities in the conservation of species.

Another FFPS Vice-President, Dr Lee M. Talbot, was awarded honorary membership of IUCN for his outstanding service in the field of conservation as Director-General of IUCN from 1980 to 1983. The IUCN also conferred honorary membership on Dr Gerardo Budowski (Costa Rica), Dr Ray Dasmann (USA), Sir Hugh Elliott (UK), Dr Pierre Goeldlin (Switzerland), Professor Mohamed Kassas (Egypt), Mr Frank Nicholls (Australia), Mr Maurice Strong (Canada), Pro-

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Richard and Maisie Fitter (centre), who were made Members of Honour of the Species Survival Commission at the IUCN's 17th General Assembly. Dr M. S. Swaminathan, IUCN President, is on the left and Gren Lucas, SSC Chairman, is on the right (Drake McHugh).

Professor Armen Takdjahn (USSR), and The Rt Hon. Gough Whitlam (Australia).

The John C. Phillips Memorial Award went to Dr Michel Batisse, and the Peter Scott Merit Awards went to Patricia Chable (administrator in the SSC Executive Office for 11 years), J.C. Daniel (Bombay Natural History Society), Blythe Loutit (Namibia), Jose Tello (Mozambique), Robert Falcon Scott (ex-Executive Officer of the SSC) and Rom and Zai Whitaker (India). The Fred M. Packard International Parks Merit Award was given to Dr Ray Dasmann (USA).

HRH the Duke of Edinburgh was present at the closing session, which included speeches from Dr Kenton Miller, previous Director-General, and Dr Martin Holdgate, the new Director-General, Costa Rica's Minister of National Resources, Alvaro Umana, and President Swaminathan. Dr Miller called for new members to come forward and support the Union, and for China, the USSR, Japan and the USA to become State Members.

In addition to many close associates of FFPS who attended the Assembly, Tony Hutson, FFPS Bat Conservation Officer, attended the SSC Meeting held before the General Assembly and most of the Assembly itself, before leaving to conduct field research in Guanacaste National Park.

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## Oryx 100% Fund grants

At its meeting on 16 March 1988 the FFPS Council approved the following grants from the Oryx 100% Fund.

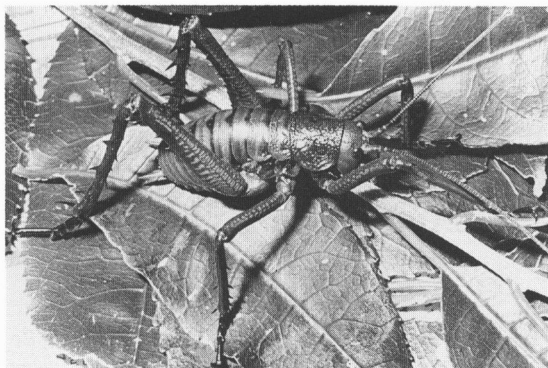
**£500** for a study of the biology and trade of the red-kneed tarantula *Brachypelma (Euthlus) smithi* in Mexico. The species is threatened by over-exploitation for the pet trade.

**£500** for an avifaunal survey and primate recording in the Nini-Suhien National Park in Ghana, with an emphasis on threatened species. The results will be presented to the Ghanaian Government.

**£500** for a compilation of *Red Data Book* mammal and bird inventories in an area of primary rain forest in north-eastern Madagascar within the Reserve Naturelle Integrale de Marojejy. The results will be used in the further development of reserve policy.

**£500** for an inventory and distribution map of bird species found within the catchment area of the Mae Chan and Mae Khlong rivers in Thailand. The Thai Government is anxious to gather all possible information about this area for an environmental impact assessment to enable them to decide on the future of a proposed hydro-electric scheme.

**£300** for studies of seasonally dry tropical forest, and particularly of Goeldi's monkey *Callimico*



A giant weta *Deinacrida* sp.; object of a captive breeding programme supported by the Oryx 100% Fund.

*goeldii*, in Bolivia. The area is little known botanically and the data gathered will be used to support the establishment of a proposed national forest reserve.

**£300** for a captive breeding programme for two endangered species of giant weta with the object of establishing new colonies in the wild. These large, flightless insects are endemic to New Zealand and are threatened by introduced rats.

**£300** for a census of rare and endemic bird species, and a subsidiary survey of dragonfly species in an area of cloud and rain forest on the Paria peninsula in north-eastern Venezuela.

**£300** for the production of a report of the successful Rio Mazan conservation programme conducted in the montane forests of the Mazan Valley in southern Ecuador.

**£250** for a study of key wetland sites on the south and west coasts of Korea to gather information on the present status, disturbance and threats to coastal wetlands, and to identify the numbers and distribution of species present.

**£250** for study of *Red Data Book* cacti and succulent species in the Sonora and Mojave deserts in Arizona and southern California.

In addition, the FFPS Council approved grants in kind by offering to donate equipment to be used for a study of Cuvier's gazelle *Gazella cuvieri* in Mergueb Nature Reserve, Algeria, and for a study of *Red Data Book* bird species occurring in pine-oak and tropical cloud forest in the La Yerbabuena reserve in Mexico.

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## New Executive Director

As we go to press, Council has just announced the appointment of Mr John Gooders as the new Executive Director of the Society.

Mr John Burton, who has headed the Society since November 1975, announced his intention to resign in December 1987 owing to pressure of other commitments and his own feeling that the Society now needed a full-time executive chief. Council immediately set about recruiting such a person. Following a very large number of applications, including many able candidates, Council's interviewing group chose Mr Gooders, who will be well known to many members for his ornithological work and his support for the Society over many years.

David Jones

## Members' meetings

The FFPS Annual General Meeting will be held at 6.30 pm on Monday 3 October 1988 in the Meeting Rooms of the Zoological Society of London. For details of this and other meetings see insert.

The contact people for local group meetings are given below. Please send a stamped self-addressed envelope with enquiries.

### Bristol and the West of England Group

Ian Redmond, c/o BBC Wildlife Magazine, Broadcasting House, Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 2LR.

### Cambridge Group

Sandy Harcourt, University of Cambridge, Department of Applied Biology, Pembroke Street, Cambridge CB2 3DX.

### Oxford Group

David Macdonald, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS.

### North-West Group

Nick Ellerton, Chester Zoo, Caughall Road, Upton, Chester CH2 1LH.

### Edinburgh Group

Ingrid Stewart, Edinburgh Zoo, Murrayfield, Edinburgh EH12 6TS.

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