

## Wild Horses and Camels in Mongolia

Recent sightings of Przewalski wild horses in Mongolia were listed by Dr. Dondogin Tsevegmid in a paper at the Moscow Congress of Game Biologists, the Proceedings of which have now been published. He confirmed that numbers are very low despite protection since 1926, the main reason being the hard frozen ground in the severe winters of 1948 to 1956. Dr. Kaszab's sighting of eight animals in June 1966 was recorded in *Oryx*, December 1966. The same month Mongolian herdsman saw eleven horses on the north slope of the Gobi-Serven ridge, and that autumn another herdsman saw seven grazing in a valley between the Takhiin-Shar-Nuru and Tsakhirin Nuru (*Oryx* May 1968). Expeditions organised by the Academy of Science's Biological Institute found fresh tracks at watering places in May-June 1967 and saw two horses on the north slope of the Gobi Serven ridge. In April 1968 they saw one, and in June two.

Dr. Tsevegmid said that although measures had to be taken to improve conditions for the wild horses by the provision of pasture and water, it was essential to establish a conservation area where domestic animals would be excluded. All too often the wild horses are kept away from essential watering places by the presence of nomadic herdsman and their stock.

In contrast with the precarious status of the Przewalski horse, Dr. Tsevegmid reported that the wild camel in Mongolia had increased its numbers in the last ten years. Fortunately for the camel it lives outside the range of the nomadic herdsman and their domestic stock, and it is not dependent on water. Its range appears to have moved eastward. Although cases of wild camels mating with domestic females are quite frequently observed, the females always return to the domestic herds so that the wild herds remain unadulterated. Dr. Tsevegmid believes that the characteristics of the wild animals could not possibly develop in a short time from the descendants of feral animals since their conditions of existence are not essentially different. But he would like to see reserves for the wild camels too.

The kulan (wild ass) *Equus hemionus* has also extended its range eastwards and is found in considerable numbers, sometimes in herds of hundreds with many young animals. The Gobi bear too is frequently seen.

### Park in Senegal

A splendid descriptive and illustrated 270-page guide (in French) to Senegal's 813,000-hectare national park is *Le Niokolo-Koba, premier grand parc national*, edited by the Chief Conservator of National Parks, André R. Dupuy, with a foreword by President Senghor, who justly describes the book as 'aussi complet qu'il pouvait l'être... bien informé et bien présenté, agréable et utile'. Climate, geology and vegetation are surveyed, and reptiles, invertebrates, fish, birds and mammals treated by species in detail. The outstandingly good photographs, especially some by M. Dupuy himself, include one of the park's rarest mammal, the large Derby eland. (Obtainable from la Grande Imprimerie Africaine, 9 Rue Thiers, Dakar, 59 Fr. frs.).