

# Briefly

## **WWF Gold Medals**

The WWF Gold Medallists for 1971 were Miss Phyllis Barclay-Smith, Secretary of the International Council for Bird Preservation, Dr. José A. Valverde, who has played a leading part in the protection of the marismas in southern Spain and the establishment of the Coto Doñana National Park, and Mr. John Owen for his outstanding work until his recent retirement as Director of National Parks in Tanzania.

## **Honour for Indian Conservationist**

Zafar Futehally, FPS correspondent in India and a Vice-President of IUCN, has been awarded the title of Padma shri by the President of India for his work in wildlife conservation.

## **Success at Murchison Falls**

The Uganda Government decided against the building of a hydroelectric power station in the Murchison Falls National Park on conservation grounds.

## **Millions on the Move**

Wildlife imports into the USA in 1970 totalled more than 98m. according to official figures. They included nearly 84m. fish and about 14m. other animals, of which 101,302 were mammals, 687,901 birds, 572,640 amphibians and 2,109,571 reptiles. The mammals included over 85,000 primates, many for medical research.

## **Birds of Paradise Group**

The International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) now has a Working Group on birds of paradise and bower birds; its secretary is Mr. M.C. Downes, Senior Ecologist in the Wildlife Section in New Guinea, who has already initiated a survey of the trade in birds of paradise plumes and also an investigation into the illegal export of birds and bird skins.

## **Non-persistent Insecticide**

The US Forest Service has a non-persistent substitute for DDT, called Zectran, for the control of spruce budworm and jack pine budworm. It is described as 'generally breaking down into harmless elements in less than two days after use'.

## **Dangerous waters**

Last summer the US Environmental Protection Agency warned people of the District of Columbia not to touch the water of the Potomac River or that of two tributaries. Anyone who did so, or was even splashed by it, should wash thoroughly.

## **Iceland's Reindeer**

The numbers of wild reindeer in eastern Iceland dropped by over a third in 1969/70, having increased in the period 1965-69. At the end of 1970 their numbers were 211 adults and 489 calves.

## **Note for Conservationists**

'The wicked flee where no man pursueth, but they make better time when someone is after them'. Charles Parkhurst, quoted in *The Ecologist*.