

important for conserving tuna resources in the high seas outside the jurisdiction of any national laws and will allocate the total available catch among its Parties.

Source: *TRAFFIC Bulletin*, 14(1), 8.

120 for CITES

The Republic of Korea (South Korea) became the 120th Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species on 7 October 1993. It entered the following reservations for a period of 3 years: Ursidae (Appendix II species and populations) and *Moschus* spp. (Appendix II populations).

Source: *TRAFFIC Bulletin*, 14(1), 1.

EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA

Bat agreement progress

The Agreement for the Conservation of Bats in Europe, negotiated within the framework of the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species, is the first international Agreement devoted to the conservation of bats. It will enter into force on 16 January 1994, 90 days after the 5th State deposited its instrument of ratification in London. The Department of the Environment in the UK will provide the Secretariat for the first 3 years.

Source: *Bat News*, No. 31, October 1993, 5.

Call for stop to further oil production in Siberia

An international team of scientists visiting Siberia has called for a 10-year moratorium on the extension of oil and gas production to the vast, pristine Krasnoselkup region of north-

west Siberia. The ban will allow urgent research into the ecology of its forests, peat bogs and tundra. In the existing oil region around Surgut and Noyabrsk hundreds of thousands of sq km of bogs and virgin forests have been fragmented by oil pipelines, roads, pylons and seismic survey lines while rivers and wetlands have been extensively polluted. The area is important for birds, fish, bears and reindeer.

Source: *New Scientist*, 11 September 1993, 4.

Siberian musk deer

The Siberian musk deer population *Moschus moschiferus* is believed to have declined by 50 per cent in the last 2–3 years due to the great demand for natural musk, mainly in China, Japan and Korea. In 1970–80 the deer was widespread in Russia and estimated at 100,000–120,000 individuals. In the Altai there has been a five-fold decrease in the population, estimated at 40,000–45,000 in 1987. Trade in musk was prohibited by local government in 1992 but it persists illegally.

Source: *Deer Specialist Group News*, June 1993, 5.

Baltic salmon threatened by disease

A disease called M74 is killing 90 per cent of young salmon born in Swedish hatcheries and could wipe out the Baltic salmon within a few generations, according to Sweden's Salmon Research Institute. The disease first appeared in 1974 in salmon returning from the Baltic to spawn in Swedish and Finnish rivers, but disappeared again until the 1980s. The disease does not appear to be caused by a bacterium or virus and it is thought possible that females feeding in the Baltic ac-

quire a damaging load of pollutants, perhaps PCBs and related chemicals, which are passed on to the young in the egg yolk.

Source: *New Scientist*, 9 October 1993, 8.

New protected areas on the way in Norway

The Norwegian parliament has adopted a plan proposing 21 new national parks, 16 new landscape parks and one large nature reserve. The plan also proposes enlarging 11 existing parks. The plan, to be completed within 10 years, will double the terrestrial protected areas system, which currently covers 6.3 per cent of the land.

Source: *Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas Newsletter*, July 1993, 12.

Birds victims of set-aside

In the UK hundreds of thousands of birds' eggs and nestlings were destroyed in 1993 because the government allowed farmers to start ploughing set-aside fields to control weeds in May, at the height of the breeding season. The birds, including skylark, snipe and lapwing, were attracted to nest in the 243,000 ha of land left fallow under the scheme.

Source: *New Scientist*, 25 September 1993, 10.

Seals being killed illegally

Increasing numbers of common seals *Phoca vitulina* and grey seals *Halichoerus grypus* are being shot illegally around the coast of Scotland. The UK Conservation of Seals Act 1970 allows fishermen to kill seals under licence if they are damaging fish at salmon nets and farms but there is evidence of indiscriminate killing. Last year

dozens of decapitated common seal carcasses were found in Orkney.

Source: *Habitat*, August/September 1993, 3

Beavers in Poland

Numbers of beavers *Castor fiber* in Poland have been boosted by releases. There are now over 130 beaver lodges in the Vistula basin, from the Carpathians in the south to the lakes of Mazuria and Pomerania in the north.

Source: *Council of Europe Naturopa Newsletter*, No. 93-7/8, 3.

Wolves return to Germany

Wolves have started to return to western Germany after an absence of more than 140 years. They come mainly from Poland where their numbers are reported to be steadily increasing. The wolf was not protected in former East Germany and any wolves migrating in the past were shot but now the former West Germany's hunting regulations apply throughout the country.

Source: *Grupo Lobo Newsletter*, May-June 1993, 8(3), 5-6.

Lammergeier's future uncertain in Alps

Since 1986 biologists have released 51 captive-bred lammergeiers *Gypaetus barbatus* in the Alps but it is not known how many survive and whether a self-sustaining population will result. Courtship behaviour has been observed in three pairs - two in France and one in Austria - but none of the birds has yet laid an egg. Four of the birds are known to have died, including a 6-year-old female shot as it soared over a French hamlet - but up to one-third are unaccounted for. The birds are difficult to track be-

cause they range so widely, radio-telemetry signals are lost in steep valleys and there are no observers in vast areas of the Alps. Despite the investment of FSw20,000 per bird and a network of 500 vulture watchers, the project is a haphazard assemblage of local efforts and an international monitoring programme is needed.

Source: *New Scientist*, 16 October 1993, 11.

First wolves in France for 50 years

Two wolves have moved from the Campanne di Marcarolo in north-western Italy into the French national park of Mercantour in the Alpes Maritimes. The exact location is being kept secret to protect them. The wolf was extirpated from France in 1942 when the last two were shot in the Haute-Marne.

Source: *Grupo Lobo Newsletter*, 8(3), 4.

Fish on the brink

A small percid fish *Romanichthys valsanicola*, first described from four stream locations in Romania in 1957, appears to be on the brink of extinction. A recent search of 1 km of stream, which is probably its last remaining habitat, found only eight individuals. Habitat restoration work and a captive-breeding programme are urgently needed.

Source: *Fish, Newsletter of the Freshwater Fish Specialist Group*, No. 3, 3.

Turkish wetlands threatened

Two of Turkey's most important areas for threatened birds are under threat. An airport and 160 factories are being built at Burdur Gölü in the south-

west, the wintering site of up to 70 per cent of the world's white-headed ducks *Oxyura leucocephala*. Eregli Marshes in south-central Turkey are drying out because of the construction of two reservoirs and are being polluted by a sugar factory. Pygmy cormorant, marbled teal, white-headed duck and Dalmatian pelican breed there.

Source: *World Birdwatch*, 15(3), 4.

Bears hunted illegally in Turkey

Around 200-300 bears *Ursus arctos* are being shot illegally every year in Turkey's north-eastern provinces of Artvin, Erzurum and Kars, according to the Turkish Society for the Protection of Nature (DHKD). The skins are sold openly and the authorities are making very little effort to stop the hunting. While there is some trophy hunting, most bears are shot by subsistence farmers who perceive the bears as a threat to their crops.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, November 1993, 58.

AFRICA

Seeking a humane way to control elephants

As a result of the 1989 ivory trade ban and increased protection efforts, the illegal killing of elephants in Kenya has now essentially stopped. As the elephant populations gradually recover, some, especially those that are fenced, may need to be regulated to prevent them destroying their habitat. More and more elephants are having to be fenced to reduce human/elephant conflicts. The Kenya Wildlife Service is opposed to culling and is conducting a programme of re-

search into humane methods of elephant population control. It is looking into a number of options, including abortion, contraceptive vaccines and steroid implants and will develop a programme that will not cause undue stress to the elephants nor disrupt social behaviour. *Source: Pachyderm*, No. 16, 62–65.

Niger reserve staff released

The five remaining members of the staff of the Air and Ténéré Natural Nature Reserve in Niger, held captive by the Air and Azawak Liberation Front (FLAA) since March 1992, have been released in good health in the course of discussions between the Government of Niger and the FLAA.

Source: IUCN Bulletin, No. 3, 1993, 8.

Tana River Delta update

Kenya's President has decreed that the Tana River Delta is to become a protected area, probably a Wetland National Park according to the Kenya Wildlife Service. This decision follows outcry over development proposals for the Ramsar site (see *Oryx*, 27(3), 136).

Source: African Wildlife Update, September–October 1993, 2.

Tanzania's hunting lease controversy

The Tanzanian Government has been criticized for leasing the 3625-sq-km Loliondo Game Controlled Area adjacent to the Serengeti National Park to Brigadier Mohammed Abdulrahim al-Ali, Deputy Minister of Defence for the United Arab Emirates. The area has often been used as a special hunting area for VIPs but has never been leased to an individual before. The 10-year contract calls for the Brigadier to provide

basic social services in the area but it was opposed by Tanzania's Director of Wildlife and conservationists are worried by reports of the Brigadier's hunting style. He was allegedly part of a large group of hunters in October 1992 and January 1993 that may have killed protected species. The Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania is pressing the government to revoke the original agreement with the Brigadier and publish details of any new contracts. It is particularly concerned how hunting quotas will be established and enforced by Wildlife Division staff dealing with wealthy and influential foreign visitors. *Source: African Wildlife Update*, September–October 1993, 4.

Bophuthatswana acts against poaching

Bophuthatswana has introduced stricter penalties for poaching offences. First-time offenders are now liable to fines of R200,000 (\$US60,000) or a prison sentence of 20 years. Penalties could be doubled for subsequent convictions. The new penalties were introduced to prevent a possible increase in poaching following the opening of the Madikwe Game Reserve on the border with Botswana.

Source: TRAFFIC Bulletin, 14(1), 11.

Mauritius kestrels secure

There are now more than 200 free-living Mauritius kestrels *Falco punctatus*, including at least 42 breeding pairs, in the wild in three areas of Mauritius – the Bambou Mountains, Moka Mountains and Black River Gorges. In 1973, when the Mauritius Kestrel Conservation Programme started, there were only four individuals left in the

wild. The population will continue to be monitored and captive-bred birds will be released for several more years until there are 100 or more breeding pairs on the island.

Source: On the Edge, No. 47, 1–2.

Last cafe marron attacked

The last surviving individual of the cafe marron *Ramosmania heterophylla* on the island of Rodrigues in the Indian Ocean, has been damaged. Five of the 12 remaining shoots were carefully removed – perhaps to obtain material for propagation or for medicinal use. The plant, which is fenced and is supposed to be under permanent guard, is male and is not able to reproduce naturally. Young plants have been produced from cuttings at Kew Gardens, UK, but they are slow to grow. Micropropagation from tissue cultures, which is faster and requires less material, is currently dogged by fungal contamination from the parent plant.

Source: New Scientist, 21 August 1993, 8; Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

ASIA (EXCLUDING INDO-MALAYA)

Tahr numbers rising

The Arabian tahr *Hemitragus jayakari*, which is found only in the mountains of northern Oman, now has a population of about 2000 thanks to protection measures that have been in force since 1976. Around 700 of these live in the Wadi Sarin reserve, 45 km south-west of Muscat, where there were 360 tahr in 1978 and where a number of guards have been appointed from local tribes. A breeding centre for mountain gazelles *Gazella gazella*, was also

set up in the reserve in 1976 using animals found abandoned or injured and kept as pets and more than 60 gazelles have been released.

Source: R. H. Daly, Adviser for Conservation of the Environment, Sultanate of Oman.

Death of an oryx

Oman's oldest female oryx, Selma, the first calf to be born in the Jiddat al Harasis in Oman since the species became extinct in the wild in 1972, has died aged 13 years 3 months. She was born in 1980 in the Yalooni enclosure to Salama, who had arrived pregnant from the USA and was released into the desert with the first herd on 31 January 1982. Four generations of her progeny representing over one-quarter of the total population of 175 are now among the wild oryx in Jiddat al Harasis.

Source: R. H. Daly, Adviser for Conservation of the Environment, Sultanate of Oman.

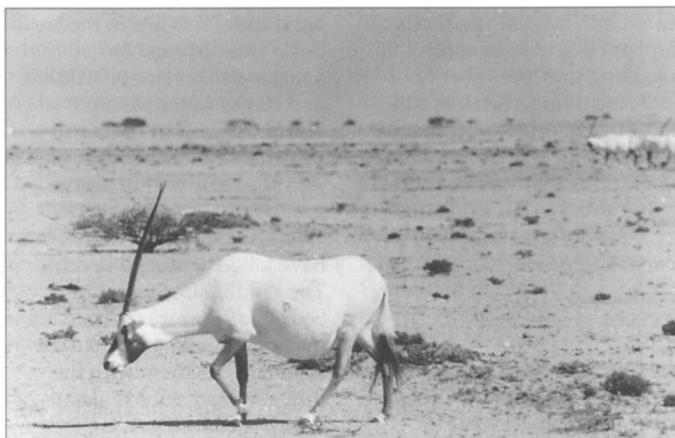
Sharjah lifts ban on wildlife trade

The municipality of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates lifted a ban it imposed in April 1993 on trade in houbara bustard *Chlamydotis undulata* (CITES Appendix I), hoopoe *Upupa epops*, ostrich *Struthio camelus* and species of pelican, crane, flamingo, stork, owl and some other birds of prey. Trade in other animals covered by the ban remains prohibited.

Source: *TRAFFIC Bulletin*, 14(1), 11.

Destruction of the Mesopotamian marshes

Vast areas of the Mesopotamian marshes of Iraq are drying out as a result of the Iraqi Government's hydrological



Selma in calf. This female, the first Arabian oryx born in the wild after the species was reintroduced in Oman after becoming extinct, died in 1993.

schemes. Virtually the entire River Euphrates has been diverted into a canal – the 'Third River' – and this, together with canalization and drainage work associated with the River Tigris, prevented water entering two-thirds of the marshes in 1993. The traditional way of life of the Marsh Arabs is being ruined as well as habitat for internationally important bird populations. A study by the University of Exeter indicates that drainage of the marshes is an ecological catastrophe on a scale not seen in western Eurasia in recent times.

Source: *World Birdwatch*, 15(3), 2.

Bhutanese princess with rhino horn arrested

Police in Taiwan arrested a Bhutanese princess at Chiang Kai-shek International Airport in Taipei in October 1993 for allegedly trying to smuggle 22 horns of the greater Indian rhinoceros into the country. It was the largest ever seizure of Asian rhino horns. The princess, Dekiy Wanchuck, admitted acquiring the horns in Bhutan, which confirms suspicions that Bhutan might be an

important route for smugglers. The horns probably came from Manus National Park in Assam on the border with Bhutan. Three-quarters of the rhinos in Manus have been killed since 1989, leaving only 15–20 individuals. Manus has been controlled by insurgents since 1990 and the rebels are reported to have sold horns to buy guns.

Source: *New Scientist*, 16 October 1993, 11.

INDO-MALAYA

India bans export of medicinal plants

On 1 April 1993 India banned the export of medicinal plants of wild origin as well as wild and cultivated *Costus* (Kuth) roots *Saussurea lappa* (CITES Appendix I).

Source: *TRAFFIC Bulletin*, 14(1), 11.

Tiger bones confiscated

On 1–3 September 1993 Delhi hosted the first meeting of the new Global Tiger Forum just 2 days after Delhi police seized

the biggest haul of tiger bones and skins ever found in India. The raid on Delhi's main Tibetan refugee camp caught smugglers with 287 kg of tiger bones (equivalent to 20 tigers) as well as skins of eight tigers, 43 leopards and other animals. One of the men arrested, a Tibetan from Ladakh claimed that his poaching contacts were able to collect 1000 kg of bones in 4 weeks. The raid followed a country-wide investigation by undercover agents of TRAFFIC-India, which infiltrated India's most active wildlife smuggling group. The head of the smuggling operation remains at large.

Source: *New Scientist*, 2 October 1993, 8; *BBC Wildlife*, November 1993, 57.

Vietnam prepares to join CITES

In March 1993 the Prime Minister of Vietnam issued an instruction prohibiting the sale of 'rare or endemic' wildlife at local and border markets for food, medicine or as pets. The instruction also restricts the catches of animals for export as food – snakes, tortoises, crabs, frogs and others – to 'minimum levels'. The Prime Minister also called for the publication of a Red Data Book for Vietnam and for preparations to be made for the country to join the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Source: *TRAFFIC Bulletin*, 14(1), 11.

Malaysia moves against illegal logging

Malaysia has introduced new measures to counteract illegal logging: the army will be used to apprehend offenders, who will face automatic prison sentences and tough fines. People with logging licences are causing

the problems: they take more than their quotas of logs or log outside the boundaries of designated areas.

Source: *New Scientist*, 14 August 1993, 10

Only 50 Javan rhinos

A camera-trapping survey in Java's Ujong Kulon National Park has revealed that only about 50 Javan rhinos *Rhinoceros sondaicus* survive there. It was hoped that there were 60–100. The 34 cameras set up photographed an average of one rhino every 5 days: individuals were identified from skin markings, sex, size and estimates of age. Although the population has declined, perhaps due to poaching, some cameras captured images of mothers with young. Source: *New Scientist*, 21 August 1993, 9.

NORTH AMERICA

Yukon's new national park

The governments of Canada and Yukon territory together with the Yukon First Nation have agreed to create Vuntut National Park and the territory's first National Wildlife Area at the Nisutlin River Delta. The new park lies immediately south of Ivavik National Park and protects the calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou *Rangifer tarandus* herd on Yukon's north slope. The Nisutlin River Delta is a vital feeding, resting and nesting area for migratory birds and provides important habitat for other species, notably moose *Alces alces*.

Source: *Nature Alert*, Canadian Nature Federation, 3(3), 2.

Rafts banned to protect duck

The Canadian Parks Service has banned rafting, angling and hiking along the Maligne River in Jasper National Park during the breeding season of the harlequin duck *Histrionicus histrionicus* to prevent further losses in this small declining population. Rafting has increased from six trips in 1986 to 1700 in 1991: the disturbance caused harlequin duck numbers to dwindle from 20 to six individuals in 1991.

Source: *Nature Alert* Canadian Nature Federation, 3(3), 1.

Wolves being shot needlessly in Ontario

The wolf population in Algonquin National Park, Ontario, Canada, is suffering great losses. In winter they follow deer migrating out of the park into surrounding farmland and forest where they are shot and trapped because they kill deer. However, the deer population is unnaturally high, with more than can be supported by available food. In the winter of 1992/93 35 wolves of a total of 75 from 11 packs were killed. Wolves are protected in the park but there are no restrictions on killing them outside its boundaries. A simple solution would be to institute a closed season for wolf hunting in the winter months.

Source: *Nature Alert*, Canadian Nature Federation, 3(3), 3.

Protecting the marbled murrelet

In an effort to protect the endangered marbled murrelet *Brachyramphus marmoratus*, the US Fish and Wildlife Service has ruled that the Washington State fishery for Fraser River sockeye salmon will be closed

down if more than five of these birds are caught and drowned in commercial fish nets operating off Washington State. The decision does not affect the Canadian part of the fishery and conservationists say that British Columbia is not doing enough to protect the species. It breeds in high mossy branches in mature forest and, although forest destruction is the main threat, its status is so insecure that it cannot sustain the added threat from fishing nets.

Source: *The Vancouver Sun*, 6 August 1993.

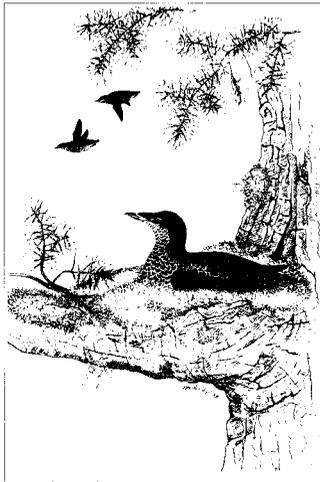
Contraceptives by bullet

A 3-year trial has started in Indiana, USA, to investigate whether contraceptives administered in bullets can keep white-tailed deer numbers down. The polymer bullet lodges in a doe's hindquarters and dissolves, releasing contraceptive drugs over 6 months. Deer numbers are increasing in many urban and agricultural areas where it is unsafe or undesirable to control them by hunting.

Source: *New Scientist*, 25 September, 1993, 8.

Sealions shot

Sealions *Zalophus californianus* with gunshot wounds are being washed up in record numbers on the shores of California, USA. It is suspected that the animals are the victims of fishermen, who blame the sealions for meagre fish stocks. Warm surface water along the Californian coast caused by the 1992–93 El Niño is part of the problem, driving fish northwards and deeper. Young sealions cannot dive to great depths and so they also move north and feed on coastal species that are usually a minor part of their diet. Of the 75



The marbled murrelet, focus of a conservation effort in the Washington State salmon fishery (Drawing: Canadian Wildlife Service).

wounded sealions found in 1992, most were young, recently weaned animals. Californian sealion numbers are also increasing by about 5 per cent per year, which adds to the problem. Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, fishermen are allowed to shoot marine mammals if they are seriously endangering either the catch or someone's life.

Source: *New Scientist*, 18 September 1993, 12.

Cougars suffering from urban sprawl

Southern California's urban sprawl is causing problems for cougars *Felis concolor*. In a recent study, prompted partly by the fact that cougars were mauling people, 32 cougars were fitted with radio-tracking collars: only seven were still alive after 4 years. Car accidents were the leading cause of death. Wildlife biologist Paul Beier recommends building tunnels under the roads but the main problem is the inexorable

creep of housing developments into the deserts.

Source: *New Scientist*, 21 August 1993, 11.

California condor update

There were plans to release a further five California condors *Gymnogyps californianus* into the wild in December 1993 bringing the total to 10. In 1993 nine of 10 California condor eggs laid in captivity hatched, bringing the total captive population to 71 birds – 38 at Los Angeles and 33 at San Diego. A third captive-breeding site at the Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho, has been chosen to disperse the population and alleviate pressure on aviary space. Source: *Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species Newsletter*, Fall 1993; *World Birdwatch*, 15(3), 3.

Bobcats eat released cranes

Nine of 14 whooping cranes *Grus americana* released into the wild in Florida in February have been killed and eaten by bobcats. Reduced to just 16 birds in 1941 there are now about 158 birds in the wild, most in one flock that migrates between Canada's North West Territories and the Gulf Coast of Texas, USA. The Florida release used captive-bred birds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland and the International Crane Foundation's facility in Wisconsin. The release was an experimental one to test methods for establishing a, non-migratory population.

Source: *World Birdwatch*, 15(3), 4.

Plan to rescue Everglades

The US Government and the industries responsible for draining and polluting the Everglades have announced a joint plan to rescue them. The scheme will increase the amount of fresh water running into the marshes and strictly control the amount of polluting phosphates draining into them.

Source: *New Scientist*, 24 July 1993, 10.

First 'akohekohe in captivity

When a storm dislodged a 2-week-old 'akohekohe *Palmeria dolei*, one of Hawaii's endangered honeycreepers, from its nest on Maui, researchers from the Olinda Endangered Species Facility tried to restore it to its parents. After several unsuccessful attempts the chick was taken into the Olinda Facility for hand-rearing. It is the first individual of the species in captivity and it is hoped to obtain a mate for it.

Source: *'Elepaio*, 53(7), 50

Hawaiian crow update

Five of seven 'alala (Hawaiian crow) *Corvus hawaiiensis* chicks hatched in Hawaii in 1993 (see *Oryx*, 27(4), 208) have been released into the wild to join the 12 already there. These are the first captive-raised 'alala ever to fly in the wild. The other two chicks were transferred to the Olinda Endangered Species Propagation Facility on Maui as an addition to the existing captive flock of 12 birds.

Source: *'Elepaio*, 53(10), 67

CENTRAL AMERICA

Mexico/US reserve

Mexico and the USA have designated a 17,000-sq-km trans-boundary protected area. It extends from the Sonora Desert up the Gulf of California to the Arizona Border and is contiguous with Organ Pipe, New Mexico and the Cabeza Prieta Wildlife Refuge.

Source: *Commission on National Park and Protected Areas Newsletter*, July 1993, No. 60, 10.

Property developers try to block reserve

The proposed Chamela-Cuixmala Ecological Reserve in Mexico is under threat because of a group of powerful property developers want to build a tourist development on land in the area. As a result, the President of Mexico did not sign the Decree establishing the reserve in July 1993 as had been hoped. The area has one of the highest concentrations of migratory birds in the western hemisphere, the largest number of endemic and endangered vertebrate species in Mexico, one of the world's largest remaining areas of undisturbed tropical dry forest and beaches that are nesting sites for endangered sea turtles.

Source: *Fundacion Ecologica de Cuixmala*.

SOUTH AMERICA

Private land gift to Venezuelan park

In the largest private donation of land in conservation history, an anonymous corporation from Virginia, USA, gave a 74,285-ha parcel of land in

Venezuela to the US Nature Conservancy, who signed the deed over to the Venezuelan Park Service on 14 June 1993. The land, which was purchased in 1988 for a cattle and rice operation, is one of the few remnants of upper savannah grassland in the country and is home to a number of endangered species. The land will be incorporated into the adjacent Aguaro-Guariquito National Park, which contains 90 private ranches and 40 villages.

Source: *Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas Newsletter*, July 1993, No. 60, 9.

Guyana suspends wildlife exports

Guyana temporarily suspended wildlife exports from 13 May 1993 while a review of wildlife trade in the country was conducted. The CITES Secretariat suggested that Guyana lift the ban on spectacled caiman *Caiman crocodilus* exports in view of the good management programme for the species.

Source: *TRAFFIC Bulletin*, 14(1), 11.

Proposed marine reserves in Peru

A Peruvian non-governmental organization, Sociedad Packamama, has proposed the establishment of two marine reserves in north-western Peru: Mancora (2970 sq km) and the Illescas-Lobos Islands (6073 sq km), including some terrestrial areas of the Illescas Peninsula and surrounding beaches. It is in this region that signs of the El Niño phenomenon, which significantly influences this part of the world, appear. The proposal takes the needs of local fishermen into account and includes environmental education programmes. Oceanographic and faunal

recording will be encouraged and ecotourism actively promoted. Peru already has one marine protected area – the National Reserve of Paracas, 220 km south of Lima.

Source: *Commission on Parks and Protected Areas Newsletter*, July 1993, No. 60, 10.

Logger found guilty

For the first time a Brazilian court has convicted a logger of operating illegally on tribal land. In August 1993, Marco Antonio Bogaski was found guilty by the First Federal Court of Mato Grosso of illegally extracting mahogany from the Guaporé Valley Indian Reserve. The lawsuit was brought by the Nucleus of Indigenous People on behalf of the Hahainetsu indians. Bogaski will have to compensate the indians for 132 stolen logs and pay for a recovery plan for the damaged area.

Source: *New Scientist*, 21 August 1993, 11.

AUSTRALASIA/ ANTARCTICA

Humpback whales recovering faster than expected

Humpback whales *Megaptera novaeangliae* in the southern hemisphere appear to have recovered from whaling much faster than expected according to researchers in Australia. Two groups of scientists say the numbers of whales that migrate off the east and west coasts of Australia from Antarctica are increasing rapidly each year. They believe that there are 8000–10,000 humpbacks in the Southern Ocean rather than the International Whaling Commission's estimate of 5000.

However, numbers are still well below when whaling started in earnest in the 1930s. The population that travels along the east coast has climbed from 200 in the 1960s when whaling stopped to about 2000 while the population off the west coast is about 3000 compared with 600 in 1963. There are also humpback breeding populations off the coasts of South Africa and South America.

Source: *New Scientist*, 24 July 1993, 10.

Prawn trawlers depleting fish stocks

Hundreds of thousands of fish are being caught annually and discarded by prawn trawlers in Australia. The catches include mullet *Argyrosomus hololepidotus*, bream *Acanthopagrus* spp., snapper *Pagrus auratus* and flathead (Platycephalidae). These bycatches, together with other pressures – pollution and shoreline development – may mean that stocks have become seriously depleted. Fishermen are calling for the development of fish exclusion devices in prawn nets.

Source: *TRAFFIC Bulletin*, 14(1), 9.

Invasion of starfish

A species of starfish from Japan has arrived in Tasmanian waters and has devastated crab and mollusc populations in the channel off Hobart and in the Derwent and Huon estuaries. The valuable abalone, oyster and mussel industries are all under threat. As yet there seems to be no way of controlling the starfish, which is believed to have arrived via ship ballast water.

Source: *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 26(9), 474.

Triumph over dieback

In Western Australia the Department of Conservation and Land Management has made a significant breakthrough in protecting rare and threatened species by using the chemical compound Phosphonate to combat *Phytophthora cinnamoni*, the fungus that has caused dieback in about one-quarter of the plants in the heathlands and forests in south-west of the state.

Source: *Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas Newsletter*, July 1993, No. 60, 14.

New park in Queensland

The Queensland State Government has declared the 4700-sq-km Diamantina Gates National Park. It straddles the Diamantina River about 300 km west of Longreach and includes important examples of Channel Country and Mitchell Cross Downs biogeographic regions.

Source: *Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas Newsletter*, July 1993, No. 60, 14.

Marine mammals still dying in nets in New Zealand

New Zealand's exclusive economic fishing zone is a killing zone for marine mammals, all of which are legally protected. By October 1993 the year's reported kills were 18 dolphins in the Taranaki Bight jack mackerel fishery, 12 Hooker's sealions in the Auckland Island squid fishery and one pilot whale in a trawl net on the Bounty Shelf. In addition 500–800 fur seals had been killed in trawl nets, according to the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society. While the official reported tally was 250 fur seals, vessels without official observers (70–80 per cent of the

total) conceal seal deaths; only 35 per cent of the reported kills were from these boats.

Source: *Forest & Bird Conservation News*, October 1993, 1.

Sealion sanctuary

New Zealand has declared a Marine Mammal Sanctuary around the sub-Antarctic Auckland Islands Nature Reserve to protect the current breeding range of the population of Hooker's sealion *Phocarctos hookeri*, which is vulnerable to by-catch by squid trawl fisheries.

Source: *Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas Newsletter*, July 1993, No. 60, 14.

Ninth marine reserve for New Zealand

The New Zealand Government has announced its ninth marine reserve: Tonga Island. It covers 12 km of coastline between Awaroa Head and Mosquito Bay in the centre of the Abel Tasman National Park coastline. The island contains one of the very few sheltered granite coastlines in the country and has extensive granite reefs. The marine life is diverse, including shallow zone fishes, a seaweed community of note and fur seals. There are also three small estuaries with populations of banded rail *Rallus philippensis assimilis* and fernbird *Bowdleria punctata*, both increasingly scarce in New Zealand.

Source: *Forest & Bird Conservation News*, October 1993, 3.

Rediscovery of a gecko

A search of Mana Island, New Zealand has rediscovered the rare goldstripe gecko *Hoplodactylus chrysosireticus*. Over 100 geckos were caught

and preliminary estimates suggest that the population on the island might total about 300 animals. Only a few geckos had been found on the island previously and none in the last 10 years. It was feared that the mice that plagued Mana until they were eradicated in 1989–90 may have wiped out the species.

Source: *Forest & Bird*, August 1993, 8.

Rabbit control on Macquaries Island

The virus that causes rabbit haemorrhagic disease (RHD) may be released on Macquaries Island, between Tasmania and Antarctica, as part of an experiment to control introduced rabbits in Australia and New Zealand. The disease is more humane than myxomatosis because rabbits die peacefully within 20–30 hours of being infected. Experiments have shown that the disease does not spread to domestic animals, marsupials or birds.

Source: *New Scientist*, 25 September 1993, 5.

OCEANIA

Massive forest destruction in Papua New Guinea

Within 10 years all of Papua New Guinea's accessible rain forest will be effectively destroyed, according to a report published by the Pacific Heritage Foundation. Already half the forests (7.5 million ha) have been allocated for logging and the government is under pressure from the Forest Industries Association to allocate a further 2.5 million ha. A single Malaysian Company controls more than 70 per cent of the country's log production.

Loggers from Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines are targeting PNG because of log export bans in their own countries and Japanese timber industries, desperate to keep their factories open, are willing to pay four times as much for the wood as they did 2 years ago. Foreign loggers are buying forests from native communities, although some communities have refused offers and have opted for community forestry schemes run on sustainable lines. Tim Neville, PNG's new forestry minister, is responding actively to the threat but is in direct conflict with the Forest Industries Association and has escaped two assassination attempts by persons unknown.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, September 1993, 11.

Solomon Islands' forests will be soon exhausted

The Solomon Islands' forests accessible for commercial logging will be exhausted in less than 10 years, according to the country's central bank. In 1992 640,000 cu m of timber were cut (90 per cent of which was exported as logs) – two or three times above the sustainable level. The 11 foreign-owned companies that dominate the trade had licences to export 1,200,000 cu m in 1993.

Source: *BBC Wildlife*, September 1993, 11.

MEETINGS

Meetings are normally announced only once unless changes to details have been made.

International Conference on the Conservation, Habitat, Management and Wise Use of Ducks, Geese and Swans. February 1994, Strasbourg,

France. *Contact:* IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BX, UK.

14th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation. 1–5 March 1994, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, USA. *Contact:* Thelma Richardson, Symposium Secretary, Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602, USA.

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Council's 1994 Wildlands Conference. 22–24 March 1994, Houston, Texas, USA. *Contact:* WHEC's 1994 Wildlands Conference, 736 Company Farm Road, Aspers, PA 17304, USA. Tel: 717 528 7062. Fax: 717 528 7544.

Coastal Conservation and Management in the Baltic Region. 2–7 May 1994, Gdansk–Kaliningrad–Klaipeda–Riga. *Contact:* European Union for Coastal Conservation, Baltic Office, Kareiviniu gt. 4–7, LT–5800, Klaipeda, Lithuania. Tel: 370 6196 593. Fax: 370 6156 256.

Ecosystem Monitoring and Protected Areas. 16–20 May 1994, Nova Scotia, Canada. *Contact:* Mr Neil Munro, Director, Policy Planning and Research, Canadian Parks Service, Environment Canada, Historic Properties, Upper Water Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 1S9. Tel: 902 426 2797. Fax: 902 426 7012.

First International Symposium on Ecosystem Health and Medicine: New Goals for Environmental Management. 19–22 June 1994, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. *Contact:* Mr Remo Petrongolo, Symposium Manager, Office of Continuing Education, 159 Johnston Hall, University of Guelph, Guelph,

Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1. Tel: 519 824 4120. Fax: 519 767 0758.

International Conference on Ecology and Environment. 20–24 June 1994, Costa Rica. *Contact:* Celso Vargas, Departamento de Computación, ITCR, Apartado 159, Cartago, Costa Rica. Fax: 506 5153 48.

BirdLife International 21st World Conference. 12–18 August 1994, Rosenheim, Germany. *Contact:* Akademie für Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege, BirdLife International World Conference, Postfach 1261, D–8229 Laufen/Salzach, Germany. Tel: 49 8682 7097.

21st International Ornithological Conference. 20–25 August 1994, Vienna, Austria. *Contact:* IOC Interconvention, Friedrichstrasse 7, A–1043 Vienna, Austria.

Ninth Meeting of the Parties to CITES. 7–18 November 1994, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA. *Contact:* CITES Secretariat, 6 rue de Maupas, Case postale 78, CH–1000, Lausanne, Switzerland.

Limnology and Waterfowl: Monitoring, Modelling and Management. 21–23 November 1994, Sopron, Hungary. *Contact:* Sándor Faragó, Department of Wildlife Management, University of Forestry and Wood Sciences, Sopron, Bajcsy–2s. u. 4 H–9400, Hungary.

PUBLICATIONS

Checklists of threatened animals

The UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee has published updated volumes of the World Checklists of Threatened Birds, Mammals, Amphibians and Reptiles, and the Checklist of Fish and Invertebrates listed in the CITES Appendices. They are compiled by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre on behalf of the UK Scientific Authority for Animals and incorporate additions and amendments to the CITES appendices up to and including those made at the 8th Conference to the Parties in Kyoto in March 1992. They are all available from Natural History Book Service Ltd, 2 Wills Road, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5XN. Tel: 0803 865913.

Threatened Birds of the Americas

This Third Edition, Part 2 of the ICBP/IUCN Red Data Book was compiled by N. J. Collar, L. P. Gonzaga, N. Krabbe, A. Madroño Nieto, L. G. Naranjo, T. A. Parker III and D. C. Wege. An 11-page introduction by Nigel Collar precedes the species accounts in the familiar red data book format, covering distribution, population, ecology, threats, measures taken, measures proposed and re-marks. A weighty book, at 1150 pages, it is published in co-operation with ICBP by Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC (ISBN 1-56098 267 5; HB \$US75, £29.50).

Tapir Management Guidelines

All four surviving species of the genus *Tapirus* are declining

and wild populations may face extinction if conservation efforts are not intensified. The breeding and maintenance of these species in zoological collections has an important role to play in their conservation and it is essential for the long-term management and welfare of these species that every effort is made to ensure appropriate husbandry. These Management Guidelines draw together information concerning the species' biology, behaviour in the wild and their management in captivity. There is also a detailed reference list. Copies of the *Tapir Management Guidelines* are available from the Federation of Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY, UK, for £18 plus postage and packing.

Facing the Future: Beyond the Earth Summit

This analysis of the the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, the Earth Summit) and its implications has been written by staff at the International Institute for Environment and Development, who were closely involved in the preparation and follow-up. The report summarizes the main lessons from UNCED relevant for the work of governments, aid agencies, NGOs and academics. It sets out to explain how the Summit changed the face of the Environment/Development landscape and institutions and it lists the targets and timetable agreed in Rio. There are comments on the five formal documents generated by the conference: treaties on climate change and biodiversity, a statement on forest principles, the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21. The appendices contain the full text of the Rio

Declaration and the contents of Agenda 21.

Details from: IIED, 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H 0DD. Tel: 071 388 2117; Fax: 071 388 2826.

NEW ORGANIZATIONS

Neotropical Bird Club

The Neotropical Bird Club has been launched to promote the study and conservation of birds in the New World tropics. It will produce a biannual publication, *Cotinga*, the first issue of which is planned for January 1994. The club is open to all who have an interest in the birds of the New World tropics and their conservation. *Details from:* Rob Williams, Publicity Officer, Neotropical Bird Club, c/o The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, UK.

International Committee for cryosphere ecosystems

A new organization – ICE Geneva – dedicated to the protection of the cryosphere has been formed by an international group of legal, scientific and environmental experts. The committee will follow developments of a political, scientific and environmental nature in regions of ice, permafrost and long-duration snow cover in the Arctic, Antarctic and high mountains. It will seek to preserve natural ecosystems, including marine life, appreciate the rights and concerns of indigenous people, identify the elements likely to have an effect on global climate changes and propose conservation policies.

Source: Dennis Thompson, President, ICE Geneva, 8 rue des Belles Filles, 1299 Crans, Switzerland.

OBITUARIES

Peter Conder, Secretary (later retitled Director) of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds between 1963 and his retirement in 1975, died on 8 October 1993, aged 74. Under his leadership the RSPB became a widely respected force in conservation in the UK and its membership rose from 5000 to 200,000. He was awarded an OBE for his work and played a large part in laying the foundations of modern bird conservation.

Theodore A. Parker III and Alwyn Gentry died when their plane crashed while carrying out an aerial survey of coastal Ecuador on 3 August 1993. Theodore Parker was one of the world's leading field ornithologists and was team leader for Conservation International's Rapid Assessment Programme to inventory the biodiversity of poorly known areas in the tropics. Alwyn Gentry, Senior Curator of Missouri Botanical Garden, was renowned for his botanical knowledge of South America. Two other people died in the crash including Eduardo Aspiazu, President of the Guayaquil Chapter of Fundación Natura, Ecuador.

John Pile, who died on 19 June 1993, aged 73, spent most of his adult life in Africa working to protect wildlife, especially as head of the Zimbabwe National Conservation Trust and its campaigns to save the black rhino.

Contributions to Briefly

The Editor welcomes contributions to Briefly: news items, requests, details of meetings and announcements.

The deadline for the next issue (April 1994) is 14 February.