

News in Brief

New Trustees for WWF

The World Wildlife Fund has elected five new trustees to the Board. They are Dr. Bernhard Grzimek, Director of Frankfurt Zoo; General Charles A. Lindbergh; Mr. Hermann J. Abs, of the Deutsche Bank, Frankfurt am Main; Mr. Eugene R. Black, former President of the World Bank; and Mr. Marcus Wallenberg, of the Enskilda Bank, Stockholm.

National Parks Appointment

Mr. James Fisher, a member of the FPS Council, has been appointed Deputy Chairman of the National Parks Commission.

Pearsall Memorial Appeal

As a memorial to Professor Pearsall, who died in 1964 and whom FPS members will remember as the author of the Pearsall Report on the Serengeti National Park, the Freshwater Biological Association proposes to name its new building at Windermere the Pearsall Building, and also to provide some special feature in the building; the precise form of this depends on the amount collected by their appeal. Contributions not exceeding two guineas should be sent to the Director, The Ferry House, Ambleside, Westmorland; cheques made payable to F. B. A. Pearsall Fund.

Increased Area for Ceylon Parks

The Ceylon Government has agreed to increase the area of the existing national parks by incorporating the Intermediate Zones in the parks, and the Ruhuna park is to be further increased with the addition of an uninhabited area on the northern boundary, bringing the total area of this park up to about 700 square miles. Wilpattu will be about 433 square miles.

Mrs. Gray's Kob in Ethiopia

Last year the Ethiopian Game Department discovered the Nile lechwe, known as Mrs. Gray's kob, in some numbers in the Gambella area, along the Baro and Ghilo rivers. This is the first time that this antelope, hitherto a speciality of the southern Sudan, has been certainly recorded in Ethiopia. It was first discovered in the Sudan in 1853, and scientifically described by Dr. Gray of the British Museum who named it *Kobus maria* after his wife—hence Mrs. Gray's kob.

Angola Bans Crocodile and Rhino Hunting

A complete ban for five years on the hunting of crocodiles in Angola has been imposed, starting on January 1, 1967. The black rhinoceros has also been put on Annex 1 of the Game Regulations which gives it complete protection.

Award to the Camargue

The Council of Europe's 1967 diploma for the conservation of nature has gone to the Camargue reserve in the south of France, which was declared a nature reserve 38 years ago. This is the third year of the diploma award; the two previous ones went to the Haute-Fagnes nature reserve in Belgium and the Peak District national park in Britain. The French government

is creating a new nature park covering both the Camargue proper, with the existing nature reserve, and the Petite Camargue to the west.

Harmless Chemical for Elm Disease

To protect elm trees in Milwaukee, in the USA, against Dutch elm disease a new chemical TCPA has been tried instead of DDT which is so damaging to wildlife. TCPA has no effect on wildlife, not even on the beetle that carries the disease. Injected into 34,000 elm trees in the first trial, it gave near perfect protection by strengthening the tree's ability to resist the disease. Further trials are being made.

What Badgers Eat in Ireland

An investigation by J. S. Fairley shows that badgers in Cos. Down and Antrim eat mainly earthworms, bark, grass, beetles and other insects, birds, and rabbits, confirming what is known about the badger's food in other parts of the British Isles.

Wildlife Department in Ghana

The Ghana Government has created a Department of Game and Wildlife within the Ministry of Forestry to step up wildlife conservation.

ORANG UTANS CONFISCATED IN BORNEO

LAST December the Governor of Hong Kong issued an Order making it an offence to possess, buy, sell, export, or offer for sale or export orang utans without a permit. Penalties for breaking the Order included a fine of up to \$500. This came shortly after the FPS and other conservation bodies had protested to the Governor at the export last September of two young orang utans from Hong Kong to Holland. The Order effectively closed Hong Kong as an outlet for smuggled orang utans, and, as the authorities in Bangkok and Singapore, two other major outlets, were keeping a close watch for smuggling, it was difficult to get orang utans out of Borneo, and about fifty accumulated in the port of Samarinda on the south-east coast.

The Zoological Society of Frankfurt requested the Governor of East Borneo to take action, but received no reply; however, Mr. Made I. Taman, Head of Nature Conservation and Wildlife Management in the Indonesia Directorate of Forestry, on being approached, wrote to the Chief of Police, who gave instructions that all protected animals were to be seized and if necessary released. The police seized fifteen orang utans in Samarinda, and were still searching for others, and a broadcast announcement warned people that the shooting or catching of protected animals would be severely punished.

The only hope of stopping this abominable trade in one of the world's rarest species is to stop up the outlets, and especially by persuading all zoos to refuse any orang utan captured in the wild. It is notable that the pair that were smuggled through Hong Kong to Holland last September were flown out with a health certificate and an export licence for monkeys. As a result of this case the Governor gave instructions that applications for licences must be more carefully scrutinised, and more details supplied with applications for health certificates. The FPS is assured by the Commonwealth Office that the Hong Kong Order is only an initial measure, and that more comprehensive legislation against trading in orang utans is being considered.