

INTERNATIONAL

119 for CITES

The Czech and Slovak Republics each acceded to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on 1 January 1993; this supersedes Czechoslovakia's accession on 28 May 1992. Barbados acceded to CITES with effect from 9 March 1993, bringing the total number of Parties to 119. Source: *TRAFFIC Bulletin*, April/May 1993, 81.

World Heritage Convention

Georgia, Tajikistan and Slovenia have signed the World Heritage Convention, bringing the total number of State Parties to 131.

Source: *Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas Newsletter*, April 1993, 4.

US to sign Biodiversity Convention

In April the US President announced that he would sign the Biodiversity Convention, reversing the June 1992 US decision not to join the 160 other nations that signed the treaty after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The sticking point for the US had been that developing nations would be paid if species in their countries were

used to develop new drugs. As a consequence, Venezuela had already started legal action against US pharmaceutical companies to restrict their access to native species.

Source: *New Scientist*, May 1993, 3 & 7.

Timber stalemate

Attempts to renegotiate the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA), which expires in 1994, collapsed in Geneva in June after timber-growing countries in the temperate regions of the world refused to be bound by the same conditions as tropical countries. The latter want the ITTA's successor to include wood from temperate forests. Under the ITTA, tropical producers have agreed to manage their forests sustainably by the year 2000; the USA has agreed to do the same but other nations in the temperate zone say that their forests are already managed sustainably and do not need to be controlled by an international agreement.

Source: *New Scientist*, 26 June 1993, 9; 3 July 1993, 7.

Whaling

The 45th annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Kyoto, Japan, in May left the moratorium on commercial whaling in place

but postponed discussion on a French/Australian proposal for a whale sanctuary around Antarctica south of latitude 40°S. Japan still kills about 300 minke whales in the Antarctic each year for 'scientific research'. Norway abandoned the pretence of scientific whaling and said it would resume commercial whaling this year and take 296 minke whales from the North Atlantic but that it would not export any to Japan. Source: *The Guardian*, 12 & 18 May 1993; *New Scientist*, 22 May 1993, 5.

Clash over rhino conservation plans

Southern African countries clashed with the USA over rhino conservation measures at a meeting of the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi in July. The USA had warned Taiwan and China that it would introduce trade sanctions on wildlife products against them unless they destroyed their stockpiles of rhino horn, but southern African countries say that destroying rhino horn could be counter-productive. Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe want the rhino horn trade reopened: despite a 15-year ban numbers of black rhino have fallen from 65,000 in 1977 to 2500. The East-Southern Africa TRAFFIC office proposes a range of options to rescue the



The three stamps pictured above are from a set of 12 issued in New York, Geneva and Vienna by the United Nations Postal Administration in co-operation with the CITES Secretariat. The stamps are sold either in mint or cancelled condition and as blocks or first day covers. Prices range from 15 to 65 Swiss francs plus postage. All profits benefit CITES educational projects. Order forms and a price list can be obtained from: CITES Secretariat, 15 chemin des Anémones, Case postale 456, 1219 Chatelaine, Geneva, Switzerland.

rhino, including legalizing the trade in horn for oriental medicines. Some say that releasing horn stockpiles in Asian and African countries could help stop rhino-poaching by undercutting the black-market in illegally poached horn.

Source: *New Scientist*, 10 July 1993, 9.

Amur Tiger plan

An international symposium on 11 March 1993 in Khabarovsk, Russia, adopted 10 resolutions to improve conservation measures for the Amur tiger *Panthera tigris altaica* in the light of high levels of recent poaching and habitat destruction.

Source: *Cat News*, March 1993, 4–5.

Amur leopards

The Amur leopard *Panthera pardus orientalis* is believed extinct in South Korea, extinct or critically endangered in China and of unknown status in North Korea. The recent wave of poaching has killed an unknown number of the 15–25 believed to survive in the Russian Far East. Among the captive population of 129 in 34 collections only two pure-bred females and seven males are potentially available for a breeding programme. An Amur Leopard Breeding Station is planned and a 190-ha compound has been obtained near to where the last wild leopards survive in the area.

Source: *Captive Breeding Specialist Group Newsletter*, 4 (2), 15.

Global Tiger Forum

At an international symposium in Delhi, India, in February, the Indian Government called for the establishment of a Global Tiger Forum to co-ordinate con-

servation action in all countries with tigers. The meeting was held to mark 20 years of India's Project Tiger and drew together 250 participants from eight range countries. It is believed that about 6000 tigers remain, with half of these in India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Source: *Cat News*, March 1993, 1–3.

Some drift-nets still in use

While the 1989 world-wide ban on drift-nets has been largely complied with, some Taiwanese boats are still using them having failed to return to their home ports for decommissioning by the deadline of 15 December 1992. Most of the international drift-net fleet came from Japan, Korea and Taiwan and most vessels have been decommissioned or refitted with alternative fishing gear.

Source: *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, May 1993, 234.

EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA

Wildlife foundation in Russian Far East

The Khabarovsk Foundation has been established to work for the conservation of wild species in the Russian Far East. Contact: Dr Alexander N. Kulikov, President, PO Box 1769, Khabarovsk 680 049, Russia. Fax: 7 4210 335 996.

White-backed woodpecker in Finland

The white-backed woodpecker *Picoides leucotus leucotus*, Finland's most endangered forest bird, is the subject of a recovery programme. The population has declined to 30–40 pairs because of the disappear-

ance of birch woodland nesting sites. A research team identified 40 important tree stands for immediate protection covering a total of 16 sq km but forest owners have fought against compulsory purchase and have cleared some of the sites.

Source: *Suomen Luonto*, 52 (4), 14–15 & 58.

New protected areas in Finland

Two new protected areas have been established in southern Finland. The Puurijärvi and Isosuo National Park covers 23 sq km, protects a major wetland and is also bird sanctuary. The Päijänne National Park covers 9.8 sq km and protects the last unspoilt stretches of the southern part of Lake Päijänne. Source: *Council of Europe natura-opa newsletter*, 93–2, 2.

Oxleas Wood reprieved

On 7 July the UK Government announced that it would review its plans for the East London River Crossing, reprieving the 8000-year-old Oxleas Wood in Surrey (see *Oryx*, 27 (3), 134). However, planned new roads will affect at least 160 other sites of Special Scientific Interest; routes for some are still being discussed, giving a chance for public opposition to be as effective as it was for Oxleas Wood. Source: *BBC Wildlife*, August 1993, 20.

Sea Life Centre to help sharks

Blackpool Sea Life Centre, which has the largest display of tropical sharks in Europe, has opened an innovative exhibition designed to attack common misconceptions about sharks. With three sharks dying every second of the day some-

where in the world the Sea Life Centre is trying to boost support for their preservation. Its curator, Rod Haynes, hopes that news of new protective legislation controlling US shark fisheries (see page 207) will spur an investigation into stocks of native British shark species to ensure that their survival is not threatened.

Source: Blackpool Sea Life Centre, 9 July 1993

Italian trade ban lifted

In February the CITES Secretariat lifted the ban on trade of CITES-listed wildlife and wildlife products with Italy, saying that Italy had made considerable progress in implementing the Convention (see *Oryx*, 27 (2), 72). In March Italy passed legislation to implement CITES regulations.

Source: *TRAFFIC USA*, June 1993, 8.

Hope for Akama?

Conservationists in Cyprus, who have been fighting for 10 years for a national park in the Akama Peninsula, were dealt a blow when the newly elected government gave permission for tourist facilities to be built on virgin private land near the beaches of Lara and Toxeftra. The plan ignored the potential impact on the turtles that nest on the beaches. After protests the government halted the work until World Bank experts reported on the situation. Friends of Akama held a conference in Nicosia in March – 'Creation and Management of the Akama National Park' – attracting 100 participants, including parliamentarians, and representatives of government ministries and the World Bank.

Source: *European Bulletin, Nature and National Parks*, 31, No. 117, 27.

Illegal drift-nets in the Mediterranean

In July Greenpeace-Italy reported nine Italian fishing vessels using a total of 22 km of drift-nets at distances of 5–64 km from the Greek coast. The impact of this illegal fishing on wildlife and fisheries is extremely damaging.

Source: Lily Venizelos, MEDASSET, 19 July 1993.

New legislation in Malta

Malta's new Flora and Fauna Protection Regulations 1993 under its Environment Protection Act 1991 make it illegal to cut, uproot, damage, trade, import or export 10 plant species listed in Schedule I unless under official permit for artificial propagation. For animals listed in Schedule II 'no person shall pursue, take, kill or attempt to kill, possess, sell, buy, exchange, import or export, or disturb, particularly during periods of breeding, rearing or hibernation; Schedule II contains all bats recorded in the Maltese islands, weasel, Algerian hedgehog, all shrews, painted frog and Maltese freshwater crab.

Greek marine park

Northern Sporades National Marine Park was officially announced in 1992. It includes the island of Piperi, already a Natural Monument. The aims include protection of monk seals *Monachus monachus* and a rescue centre has been set up.

Source: *Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas Newsletter*, April 1993, 10.

Situation no better for turtles on Zakynthos

Despite determined efforts by conservationists and promises

by the Greek Government, the loggerhead turtles *Caretta caretta* that nest on the island of Zakynthos are still threatened. By July this year six adult turtles had been killed by speedboats and the 'protected' beaches are without guards or conservation signs. Horse-riding, cars, mopeds, sun-umbrellas and sun-beds prevent turtles from nesting and tourists visiting the beaches at night disturb them. The proposed marine park has still to be designated and illegal building on the nesting beach of Daphni increased in 1993.

Source: Lily Venizelos, MEDASSET, July 1993.

New Turkish national park

The Turkish Government is designating 360 sq km of Menderes Delta and Bafa Lake as a national park in November, brightening prospects for one of the largest known populations of Dalmatian pelican *Pelecanus crispus* (42 nesting pairs and over 400 wintering individuals) as well as many other waterfowl and waders. The area has been threatened by drainage, reclamation of salt flats, pollution from agro-chemicals and uncontrolled tourist development. Some of the hydrological works that were causing Bafa Lake to dry up are to be removed and the DHKD (the Turkish Society for the Protection of Nature) is preparing a management plan.

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

Kazlani's turtles

A project by the Turkish Society for the Protection of Nature (DHKD) saved many hatchlings of the green turtle *Chelonia mydas* from death at Kazlani in 1992. Factory lights were turned off and screens

were installed over municipal and other lights. Photopollution was not completely eliminated and to prevent the loss of disorientated hatchlings volunteers manned a barrier behind the beach, retrieving hatchlings and returning them to the beach. This is the first time such measures have been used in Turkey and it is hoped that they will be extended to other turtle nesting beaches.

Source: *Marine Turtle Newsletter*, April 1993, 12–13.

Protected areas for Libya

Libya has established two national nature reserves, Bier Ayyad and New Haesha, and four national parks, Kauf, Karaballi, Sirman and Abughilan.

Source: *Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas Newsletter*, April 1993, 9.

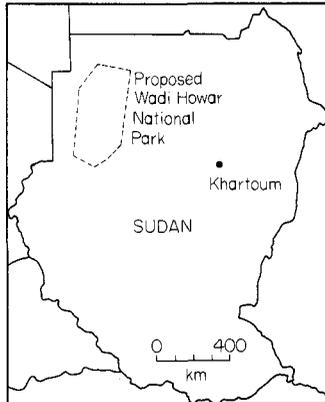
AFRICA

Eritrea's wildlife survives

The 30-year-long war in Eritrea, which ended in 1991, appears not to have been as devastating for wildlife as was feared.

Eritrea became independent from Ethiopia in May 1993 and international aid agencies have initiated a number of projects intended to ensure the long-term maintenance of its biological support systems. A mission charged with formulating the Eritrean Coastal Conservation Project reports many wildlife sightings on a preliminary visit and believes that Eritrea may harbour internationally significant wildlife populations in its desert and marine environments.

Source: *African Wildlife Update*, May–June 1993, 1 & 8.



Desert park in Sudan

The Wadi Howar National Park has been proposed in the Republic of the Sudan. It would cover almost 100,000 sq km and offer opportunities to protect, and in some case reintroduce, desert species. It would be the first protected area in desert: the three existing national parks are in the semi-arid zone.

Source: *Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas Newsletter*, April 1993, 9.

Tragedy in Niger

The WWF/IUCN Air Ténéré conservation project in Niger (see *Oryx*, 24 (1), 6–8) was suspended in February following the deaths of the Director, Alassoum Oumarou, and the Assistant Director, Mahamadou Cheffou, who were captured by Tuareg rebels. Four other staff members are still held captive and the Niger Government continues to negotiate for their release.

Source: *WWF News*, May–June 1993, 7.

Hope for Mozambique's wildlife

New wildlife surveys in Mozambique have revealed that, while poaching remains a problem, some species are sur-

viving better than expected. In Marrromeu in the Zambezi River delta, for example, the African buffalo population is now estimated at 6000 animals, compared with 4000 counted 2 years ago and the area's elephant population appears to have remained stable for the past few years. The October 1992 peace accord appears to have brought lasting calm and wildlife officials have expressed great hope for the future.

Source: *African Wildlife Update*, May–June 1993, 3.

Drought ends in Zimbabwe

The long drought in the south-east lowveld in Zimbabwe ended in October and by December rains had replenished all the local water supplies. Animals rescued and moved north during the drought were being returned to the Gonarezhou National Park and the Save Our Wildlife Heritage was able to stop feeding the 239 hippopotamus from the six main river systems in the lowveld.

Source: *Zimbabwe Wildlife*, April–June 1993, 26.

Nata Sanctuary opens

Nata Sanctuary at Sowa Pan, one of Botswana's pilot wildlife utilization projects, opened to the public in March 1993. The major attraction is the abundant bird life. This is a community-based project designed to conserve and protect the environment and wildlife while diversifying the economy of the communities involved. Funds from visitors will be channelled into a development fund for four adjacent villages, jobs are being created and environmental awareness generated.

Source: *Kalahari Conservation Society Newsletter*, March–April 1993, 1 & 16.

Minnow project

A project is under way to ensure that the Maluti minnow *Oreodaimon quathlambae* survives the Lesotho Highlands Water Scheme (LHWS). The scheme is changing the flow of the Orange-Senqu River from south to north with dams, tunnels and pumping stations so that it flows into the Vaal River system, supplying industrial areas in South Africa and generating power in Lesotho. The minnow is the only endemic fish in the upper catchment streams and is known from eight sites in Lesotho, four of which are affected by the LHWS. The minnow project, which is sponsored by the Mazda Wildlife Trust, is devising a conservation strategy, which will include the establishment of sanctuary streams and artificial breeding.

Source: *Africa Environment and Wildlife*, May/June 1993, 12.

Sea turtles in Zululand

The sea turtle conservation programme in north-eastern Zululand, which started in 1963 as a result of investigations into reports that two species of turtle, loggerhead *Caretta caretta* and leatherback *Dermochelys coriacea*, were being killed, has been a great success. As local people have lent greater and greater support very few nesting turtles have been killed in the last 15 years. Numbers of nesting loggerheads have built up from 200 to 400 a year, while leatherbacks have increased from five in 1967 to 70. About 5000 loggerheads and 1000 leatherbacks have been tagged and tag returns show that the Zululand coast is home to many of the turtles living in the south-west Indian Ocean.

Source: *Marine Turtle Newsletter*, April 1993, 1.

Madagascar plant aid

Missouri Botanical Garden in the USA is 'buying' \$US750,000 of Madagascar's international debt from a French bank and over the next 3 years will pay back up to half the value of the debt in dollars in order to obtain the full value of the debt in local currency from the Madagascar Government. This will double the money available for botanical research in Madagascar, including training Malagasy botanists and collecting plants to screen them for medicinal value.

Source: *New Scientist*, 5 June 1993, 10.

Petrels safe on Marion Island

After a 16-year effort, feral cats have been eradicated from Marion Island, situated between South Africa and Antarctica, giving hope for the conservation of native species. The cats originated from five individuals taken there in 1949; by 1975 they numbered 2200 and in that year killed 450,000 petrels. Eradication efforts started in 1977 when there were around 3400 cats and none has been seen since 1991.

Source: *New Scientist*, 17 July 1993, 6.

ASIA (EXCLUDING INDO-MALAYA)

No radio transmitter in the Arava Valley

In February the US cancelled plans for a Voice of America relay station in the Arava Valley in Israel (see *Oryx*, 27 (2), 75–76). The decision follows years of protest by conservationists who said that the transmitter would be a threat to

millions of migratory birds. Source: *Israel Environment Bulletin*, Spring 1993, 13–14.

Lebanon's new park

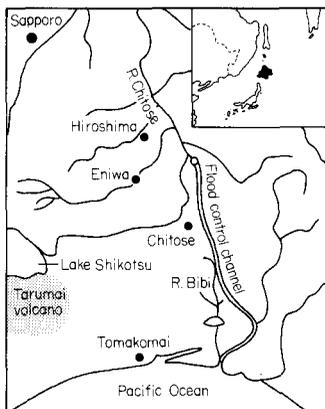
Palm Islands Natural Marine Reserve has been declared around Palm Island, Sanani Island and Ramkine Island in Lebanon. The protected area is 5 sq km and is 11 km north of Bimina in northern Lebanon. Source: *Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas Newsletter*, April 1993, 9.

Przewalski's horse reintroduction

The United Nations Development Programme is making funds available to reintroduce Przewalski's horse *Equus przewalskii* in the Gobi Desert in Mongolia. This is part of a larger project to conserve the biological diversity of Mongolia, which is to be funded through the World Bank/UNDP Global Environmental Facility. Source: *IUCN/SSC Captive Breeding Specialist Group News*, 1993, 4 (2), 23.

Airport threatens egret

There is concern that a planned airport on Youngjong-do, a small island in the Yellow Sea, 60 km west of Seoul, South Korea, will be fatal for the coastal ecosystem, especially for the large numbers of migratory birds that use the area. In addition 70–80 per cent of the world's known population of Chinese egrets *Egretta euphotes* breed nearby. The construction work will include dredging the sea bottom, building a dyke and land-filling. It is possible that the intertidal zone will disappear. Source: *Asian Wetland News*, 5 (2) & 6 (1), 7.



Flood control plan threatens wetland in Japan

Japan is planning a 40-km flood-control canal that would threaten one of the country's most important wetlands in the northern island of Hokkaido. Critics say that the channel will cut across the Bibi River, which feeds Lake Utonai, one of the four Japanese sites listed under the Ramsar Convention. The governmental Environment Agency omitted to mention the plan in its annual report to the Ramsar secretariat and, when challenged, defended its position by saying that there was no evidence that the channel would affect the lake, which hosts more than 100 species of waterfowl, including the white-fronted goose *Anser albifrons frontalis*. The Wild Bird Society of Japan is protesting, as are local fishermen, who fear that run-off from the channel will spoil fishing grounds.

Source: *New Scientist*, 12 June 1993, 9.

Whale watching in Japan

Whale watching is increasing in Japan, where in 1992 it is estimated that 19,267 people participated and brought in £5.4 million in income. Compared with the US, where whale-watching earns £130 million a

year, this is small, but of the 37 whale-watching countries the business is growing fastest in Japan, where it started only in 1989. Japanese people are becoming increasingly critical of their government's drive for commercial whaling.

Source: *New Scientist*, 8 May 1993, 45–46.

Threats to Bonin Island snails

Endemic land snails on the uninhabited island of Anijima in the Ogasawara (Bonin) group of islands in Japan are threatened by plans for an airstrip. Ten species of snails are found only on this island, having become extinct elsewhere, and a further 14 are endemic to the island group. Many of the species have been designated 'Japanese Natural Monuments'. An airstrip, terminal, roads and harbour facilities are planned to improve conditions for the human inhabitants and to accommodate visitors to a planned resort development. Conservationists feel that the new airport would stimulate further degradation of the islands and say that an unused airstrip on the nearby island of Chichijima would satisfy the islanders' needs.

Source: *Tentacle*, April 1993, 24–25.

Estuary development threatens spoonbills

Tsen-Wen estuary in Tainan on the south-west coast of Taiwan is the world's most important wintering site for the black-faced spoonbill *Platalea minor*. In the winter of 1991–92 194 individuals (two-thirds of the world population) were recorded there. The northern side of the estuary is being reclaimed to build an industrial area and the development en-

croaches on the mudflats that are feeding and roosting sites for the spoonbill and other waterbirds. National and international pressure on the government resulted in a study of the spoonbill's needs and on 1 July 1992 it was listed as endangered. The plan was shelved temporarily after two spoonbills were killed but one of the construction sites has been designated as a rubbish dump and there was concern that the local government would go ahead with construction after the spoonbills fly north in spring 1993. The Wild Bird Societies of Taiwan and Tainan are heading the campaign to conserve the site.

Source: *Asian Wetland News*, 15 (2) & 6 (1), 5.

INDO-MALAYA

Bear-baiting in Pakistan

Bear-baiting, which involves setting dogs on tethered bears, continues openly in Pakistan, despite being illegal, and local government authorities flout the law by signing permits for it to take place. There are around 80 major bear-baiting events each year with an average of 10 bears fighting in each. Most of the 1800 Himalayan brown and Asiatic black bears in captivity in Pakistan are trained as 'dancing bears', but around 300 are used to fight and in 1992 more than 100 cubs were taken from the wild. The World Society for the Protection of Animals is presenting a report to the Government of Pakistan urging that the law be enforced.

Source: *Natura* (WWF-Pakistan), Spring–Summer 1993, 1–5.

Lake Haleji saved

Lake Haleji, a water-storage reservoir for Karachi, Pakistan, has been a wildlife sanctuary since 1977 because of its importance to migratory birds. It is under the joint management of Karachi Water and Sewage Board (KWSB) and the Sindh Wildlife Management Board, but on 22 August 1992 the KWSB unilaterally auctioned the rights for commercial fishing in the sanctuary. The successful bidder brought in 100 boats; 80 herons and hundreds of other waterbirds were trapped and injured in the nets as well as two crocodiles. Local conservation groups filed a constitutional petition in the Sindh High Court against the government of Sindh, KWSB, the Officer for the Conservation of Wildlife and the Contractors. In response the Governor of Sindh issued an ordinance on 29 December banning fishing and the High Court cancelled the lease for commercial fishing on 18 February 1993. Birds are now returning to the lake. *Source: Asian Wetland News*, 5 (2) & 6 (1), 9.

India's 19th Tiger Reserve

Pench National Park and adjoining areas in Madhya Pradesh have been proclaimed India's 19th tiger reserve. It covers 650 sq km of forest and contains 25 tigers. *Source: Cat News*, March 1993, 10.

Manas Reserve still in trouble

Manas Tiger Reserve in north-east India is still threatened by Bodo tribal dissidents despite agreement between their leaders and the Assam Government over their claim for autonomy. A ranger and two forest guards have been killed since the

agreement was signed in February and nine *Rhinoceros unicornis* are said to have been poached this year. *Source: Cat News*, March 1993, 19.

Olive ridleys threatened in India

The world's second largest nesting population of olive ridley turtles *Lepidochelys olivacea* is threatened by the construction of an enormous jetty and fishery complex. The main nesting site at Bhitarkanika Sanctuary, 200 km from Bhubaneswar, Orissa, is only 3 km long and is used by hundreds of thousands of turtles a year (610,000 females came ashore to nest in March 1991 and 322,000 in January 1992). The sanctuary is also famous for its crocodiles and birds. The proposed jetty is 13 km from the sanctuary and 10 km from the Gahirmatha sea turtle nesting area. The jetty will provide for 500 motor boats landing 50 tonnes of fish a day. Fishing on such a huge scale is bound to have severe ecological impact and already turtles in the area drown in gill-nets or are killed by fishermen. *Source: Marine Turtle Newsletter*, April 1993, 5–6.

Mangrove reforestation in the Sundarbans

While reforestation of denuded mangrove areas is common practice in tropical Asia, there have been few attempts to approximate the diversity of the former mangrove system. Such an attempt is being made on the Indian side of the Sundarbans at Baradapur village on Pathar Pratima Island. At least 14 species of mangroves are being planted and germination and growth of most has been very successful. Areas planted 4 years ago are

now producing seeds and seedlings that can be collected to extend the reforested area. *Source: Asian Wetland News*, 5 (2) & 6 (1), 28.

Bat rediscovery

Salim Ali's fruit bat *Latidens salimalii* has been rediscovered on a coffee estate in the Western Ghats of southern India by biologists working on a long-term survey of the country's mammals. The bat had only been seen once before – in 1948 – on the same estate in the High Wavy Mountains. *Source: BBC Wildlife*, August 1993, 59.

Malaysia to step up logging controls

The Malaysian Government intends to counteract illegal logging by using more air surveillance and remote-sensing techniques as well as more patrols of police and soldiers in forest areas. In addition penalties will increase for those caught logging illegally. *Source: TRAFFIC Bulletin*, April/May 1993, 106.

Burma losing forest fast

With more than 8000 sq km of forest being lost every year, Burma has the third highest rate of forest loss in the world and surviving forests are being degraded rapidly by legal and illegal logging. It is estimated that in 1992 only about 200,000 sq km of forest were left, much of it in poor condition. Most of the 80,000 sq km of remaining primary forest is near the border with Thailand and here foreign logging concessions are removing large quantities of prime timber from the lands of indigenous peoples. *Source: Green November*, August 1992, 18–21.

Human cremations cause woodpecker declines

Townpeople from Chom Thong in Thailand regularly drive into Doi Inthanon National Park to collect truckloads of wood for cremations. The removal of dead trees from the park may be responsible for the decline in woodpecker species and the Bangkok Bird Club has called on the Director General of the Royal Forest Department to forbid the practice. The conservationists suggest that temples could establish their own plantations of fast-growing tree species especially for this purpose.

Source: *Bangkok Bird Club Bulletin*, April 1993, 10.

Protected areas in Laos

Laos is establishing a system of protected areas, including three national parks, two nature reserves and three sustainable-use reserves. All the areas are currently forest reserves, making it relatively easy to convert them into a more conservation-orientated form of management under the Forest Department.

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

Giant ibis found

The giant ibis *Thaumatibis gigantea*, which had not been seen for 30 years has been found in Laos (see page 256).

Source: *World Birdwatch*, 15 (2), 6.

Red-and-blue lory faces threat from the pet trade

A sudden explosion in international trade has endangered the red-and-blue lory *Eos histrio*, wiping out one-third of the population in a single year. The species is endemic to the tiny volcanic Indonesian island

groups of Sangihe, Taluad and Nenua and was believed to number fewer than 2000 birds before the recent trade activity. Most of the birds were captured in the protected forests of Karake-long in the Taluad Islands and exported to Singapore for the pet trade in violation of Indonesian law. TRAFFIC South East Asia traced 435–485 of the birds in Singapore; some of these were re-exported in 1992 to unknown destinations. In February 1993 66 more birds were imported into Singapore and exported to South Africa.

Source: *TRAFFIC USA*, June 1993, 7–8.

Captured cockatoos fly free

When Goffin's cockatoo *Cacatua goffini* was placed on Appendix I of CITES in June 1992, 500 individuals had already been captured for the pet trade on Tanimbar, Indonesia. The World Parrot Trust advised on their care, funds were raised for their upkeep and veterinary care and eventual release but, despite this 181 birds died. Finally on 7 March 1993, the Indonesian authorities released 319 healthy cockatoos into their native forest on Tanimbar.

Source: *Zoo Federation News*, No. 65, 48–49.

NORTH AMERICA

Alaska going ahead with wolf kill

Despite threats of a tourist boycott, Alaska's Board of Game is going ahead with a plan to kill up to 75 per cent of wolves *Canis lupus* in a region south-west of Fairbanks. The wolves will be kept at reduced numbers for several years to allow

recovery of the caribou *Rangifer tarandus* herds in the area.

Source: *New Scientist*, 10 July 1993, 11.

Yukon kills wolves

The Government of Yukon, Canada, went ahead with its plan to kill 150 of the estimated 190 wolves *Canis lupus* in the Aishihik region of the southern Yukon in early 1993 to allow caribou and moose populations to recover (see *Oryx*, 27 (3), 140) but found that the wolf population was much lower than had been estimated. The government removed 61 wolves and stated that there were only eight packs left in the region with an average number of 4.2 individuals per pack, suggesting that only 34 individuals remain. However, the government says that caribou and moose herds in the area continue to decline and it will proceed with the second year of the cull, which plans to kill 50 more wolves.

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

New reserves in Nova Scotia

Two new protected areas have been designated in Nova Scotia, Canada: Ponhook Lake Nature Reserve will help conserve the habitat of rare coastal plant species; Panuke Lake Nature Reserve consists of 150 ha of virgin coniferous forest.

Source: *Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas Newsletter*, April 1993, 7.

New park in British Columbia

The Tatshenshini–Alsek watershed in the extreme north-west of British Columbia was designated as a Class A provincial park on 22 June, putting a stop

to a proposed copper mine. The park will encompass about 1 million ha and, with the adjacent Kluane National Park in Yukon and Wrangell–St Elias and Glacier Bay National Parks in Alaska, will be part of a 9-million-ha protected wilderness, important for the conservation of one of North America's major grizzly bear strongholds *Ursus arctos* and one of the three major salmon rivers on the Pacific coast. Source: *Vancouver Sun*, 22 & 23 June 1993.

Regulations for shark fishing

Following a history of commercial and recreational exploitation of sharks, a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Atlantic Ocean, which affects 39 shark species in the US Exclusive Economic Zone of the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, is now in force. The FMP will: establish annual commercial quotas for large coastal and pelagic sharks; provide for closure of commercial shark fisheries once quotas have been reached; establish a recreational bag limit of four sharks per vessel per trip for large coastal and pelagic species combined, and five sharks per person per day for small coastal shark species; establish a team to monitor and amend the FMP; require fishing permits for those fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone; require permitted vessels to land fins in proportion to carcasses; and require selected permitted vessels to accommodate observers. The American Elasmobranch Society Conservation Committee is considering proposing a similar plan for the west coast. Source: SeaLife Centres for the American Elasmobranch Society, 9 July 1993.

New Center for Biological Conservation

Massachusetts Audubon Society is establishing and endowing a Center for Biological Conservation in New England, USA. It will have four main objectives: to carry out research on the region's biota; to monitor ecological health and loss of species; to develop and apply sound ecological management; and to develop ecological literacy in the region. Source: *Massachusetts Audubon Society*, 6 July 1993.

Red wolf plan set to expand

Between 1987 and September 1992 42 red wolves *Canis rufus* were released into the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in North Carolina, USA. The reintroduced wolves produced at least 23 young and by 31 January 1993 the population numbered 30–35. The project has been successful: every management problem that arose was solved without long-term damage to the wolves and with little inconvenience to residents of the area. However, the reintroduction area of 100,000 ha cannot support the number of existing wolves in the long term and dispersal has already taken place. There is a proposal to extend the reintroduction area to 200,000 ha by integrating federal, state and private land to the south and west of the Alligator River, providing habitat for 50–100 wolves in 5–10 years. Source: *Captive Breeding Specialist Group News*, 1993, 4 (2), 19.

Tuna over-exploited

The bluefin tuna *Thunnus thynnus* is one of the most valuable and overexploited fish: its western Atlantic breeding popu-

lation has fallen 90 per cent since 1975 from an estimated 250,000 to 22,000. The eastern Atlantic population is half what it was in 1970. Other tuna species are also declining but the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) has only ever recommended catch quotas for the western Atlantic bluefin tuna and these have long exceeded maximum sustainable yields. The ICCAT has also never adopted recovery targets or plans for this or any other species. Sweden's proposal for the western and eastern populations of bluefin to be listed on Appendix I and II, respectively, of CITES were withdrawn at the last meeting of the Convention because of pressure from Japan and Canada, but now ICCAT is showing signs of progress: from 1 September 1993 all western bluefin tuna imported by ICCAT member countries must be accompanied by a 'bluefin statistical document' and the scientific committee will conduct a new assessment of western bluefin this year. Real progress would be made if Japan prohibits non-ICCAT imports, if catch quotas were halved and if recovery plans were implemented to rebuild the breeding population to its early 1970s level within a decade. Source: *Conservation Biology*, June 1993, 229–234.

Blue whales rebound

Numbers of blue whales *Balaenoptera musculus* off the California coast have increased dramatically according to scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. A recent count found more than 2000 compared with 500 in 1979–80. However, the blue whale is still a long way from being removed from the

endangered species list and some of the increase must be due to migrations from other places because it could not be accounted for by breeding success alone.

Source: *New Scientist*, 8 May 1993, 11.

Kites to help condors

A California condor *Gymnogyps californianus* recently released into the wild was electrocuted when it collided with a power line in May and another 1-year-old died from trauma, probably after crashing into a power line. The California Condor Recovery Program is attempting to lure the five birds left in the wild into safer areas using condor-shaped kites.

Source: *New Scientist*, 12 June 1993, 6 & 26 June 1993, 11

Shrimp fisheries threaten reef fish

While US shrimping vessels are now required to use turtle-excluder devices in their nets at certain times of the year, the industry is causing problems for reef fish. Species of reef fish are vulnerable to overfishing because of their longevity, slow growth and delayed reproduction and they form a large part of the by-catch in shrimp trawls. Particularly affected is the red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico. The US National Marine Fisheries Service and the fishing industry are working to address the problems of fin-fish by-catch by shrimp fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic.

Source: *Fishing News International*, May 1993, 36.

More Hawaiian crows

Six Hawaiian crow *Corvus hawaiiensis* chicks hatched in April 1993 at the new captive

propagation facility on Hawaii, which is being managed by San Diego Zoo personnel under contract to the Peregrine Fund. The US Fish and Wildlife Service signed a co-operative agreement with the Peregrine Fund in March to incubate eggs and rear and release at least some of the fledglings back to the wild. Prior to the six hatchings, only 12 crows were known to exist in the wild and there were 11 birds in captivity on Maui. The eggs were obtained from wild pairs who build new nests and lay second clutches when the first clutch is removed.

Source: *Elepaio*, June 1993, 43.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Hurricane Hugo helps parrot

Three months after Hurricane Hugo hit Puerto Rico in September 1989 the Puerto Rican parrot *Amazona vittata* population had fallen from 88 to 20–22 individuals and only three breeding pairs were known to have survived. The cause was probably lack of food in traditional foraging areas. In 1990 three pairs nested and only one successfully fledged young. In 1991 and 1992, however, there were six successful nests each year, the highest number since the 1950s and 17 fledglings survived; the parrots also expanded their range. Recovery of vegetation after the hurricane perhaps increased the supply of buds and seeds for food; in addition the parrots may have been forced to disperse into the lowlands where they ultimately discovered new nesting sites.

Source: *Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, XVIII (1), 1 & 10.

Plain pigeon in Puerto Rico

The plain pigeon *Columba inornata*, which is endemic to the Greater Antilles, is endangered in Cuba, Jamaica and Puerto Rico and threatened in Hispaniola due to habitat destruction and hunting. A captive-breeding programme for the Puerto Rican subspecies, *C. i. wetmorei*, started in 1983 and by 1989 more than 100 pigeons had been raised at the Humacao Campus, University of Puerto Rico. The first eight birds were released in April 1993 at Cidra, in the east-central part of the country. One of the released birds has been hunted illegally and two have been captured by red-tailed hawks *Buteo jamaicensis*. Most birds remained within 1–2 km of the release site and two appear to have found wild mates.

Source: *Re-introduction News*, May 1993, 6.

Iguana Specialist Group formed

The International Symposium on the Conservation of the Jamaican Iguana *Cyclura collei* was held in Kingston, Jamaica in February. Rediscovered in 1990, fewer than 200 of this species remain in the xeric thorn scrub of the Hellshire Hills. Predation by mongooses and dogs, and habitat destruction by illegal charcoal burners severely threaten the surviving individuals. Conservation management strategies were investigated, including protection of the Hellshire area, predator control and captive breeding at Jamaica's Hope Zoo. All nine endemic West Indian species of iguana are under threat and face similar problems. The symposium decided to form the Iguana Specialist Group of the IUCN/Species Survival Commission. The Group will

immediately prepare a conservation action plan for West Indian iguanas; eight species of *Cyclura* from the Greater Antilles and *Iguana delicatissima*, the Lesser Antillean iguana.
Source: Mark Day.

Conservation in the Cayman Islands

A 24.3-ha Botanic Park dedicated to conservation, education and recreation is being developed by the National Trust for the Cayman Islands. Situated on Grand Cayman, the park is scheduled for completion before the end of the year. Another Trust initiative is a protection and breeding programme for the blue iguana *Cyclura nubila lewisi*.
Source: Cayman Islands National Trust, 20 April 1993.

Coral reef restoration

A technique developed to restore damaged coral reefs involves implanting thousands of stakes wired with small fragments of live coral into dead reefs. The technique is being used on reefs in Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia. Information from Héctor Guzman, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama. Tel: (507) 62 3133. Fax: (507) 62 6084.
Source: *Conservation Biology*, 7 (2), 234.

Cancer treatment threatens sharks

The killing of sharks for their cartilage, which is claimed to be a treatment for cancer, is believed to have a devastating impact on shark populations around Costa Rica's Cocos Island, a pristine Pacific island south-west of the fishing port of Puntarenas. The island and the waters for 14 km

around it are a national park internationally famous for its sharks. All 11 species that occur there are being captured for their cartilage, mostly outside but also inside the park. The park guards have only one boat and one rifle between them. The problem started when the Tecnología del Tiburón (TdT: Shark Technology) opened its shark-cartilage processing factory at Puntarenas in 1990 after consultant Dr William Lane, a retired US nutritionist, claimed that eating shark cartilage could reduce cancer tumours. Since then the business has boomed, winning the 1992 award for Costa Rica's most original export business. When sharks become too scarce the company intends to import cartilage from Guatemala and El Salvador; it is already going ahead with a second factory in Bluefields on Nicaragua's Caribbean coast.
Source: *BBC Wildlife*, July 1993, 9.

Ivory-billed woodpecker extinct

Ornithologists who spent 3 months early this year making an intensive search for the ivory-billed woodpecker *Campephilus principalis bairdii* in Cuba have concluded that the species is almost certainly extinct.
Source: *World Birdwatch*, 15 (2), 4.

SOUTH AMERICA

Condors in Venezuela

The five Andean condors *Vultur gryphus* released in Sierra la Culata National Park, Venezuela (see *Oryx*, 27 (3), 142) on 16 February appeared to have adapted successfully. Another five birds were to be shipped from US zoos later this

year for subsequent release.
Source: *Re-introduction News*, May 1993, 11.

Crocodile reintroductions in Venezuela

A captive-breeding programme for the Orinoco crocodile *Crocodylus intermedius*, which occurs only in the middle reaches of the Orinoco River in Venezuela, was started in 1984 after surveys found wild populations to be dangerously depleted. The first 159 animals were released in 1990 into the Caño Guaritico Wildlife Refuge where the wild population was virtually extinct and in 1991 376 crocodiles were released in the Cinaruco-Capanaparo National Park, where there was already a healthy population. In 1992 18 crocodiles were released in the Tucupido Reservoir in Portuguesa State. Plans to release more crocodiles in 1993 were disrupted by an outbreak of violence in the Cinaruco-Capanaparo National Park, where the discontent of the human inhabitants was inflamed by political manoeuvring associated with regional elections. One of the project boats was burned and a small house built for researchers destroyed. The President of Venezuela has ordered park personnel to stay away until the problem is resolved.
Sources: *Re-introduction News*, May 1993, 4–5; *Crocodile Specialist Group Newsletter*, April–June 1993, 9–10.

Tourism threat to Ramsar site

Cuare Wildlife Refuge, one of Venezuela's most important sites for birds and the country's only Ramsar site, is under threat from the Ministry of Tourism's plans to build several large hotels inside the reserve's

buffer zone. The refuge is important for the only population of greater flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber* in the southern Caribbean and one of only six sites in the world where the plain-flanked rail *Rallus wetmorei* has been recorded.

Source: *World Birdwatch*, 15 (2), 5.

Threat to Ecuador park averted

The threat of open-pit mining in Podocarpus National Park, southern Ecuador, has been lifted. The Norwegian mining company, Ecuator, withdrew its application in February after reports were released showing the park to be one of the most important areas for biodiversity in South America. However, Ecuador's exploratory activities, which started in 1986, have allowed access by illegal gold-miners, hunters and loggers; it is estimated that there are currently 200–500 gold prospectors there. While a World Bank Global Environmental Facility proposal to develop management plans for seven of the country's parks, including Podocarpus, offers hope, there are also proposals to open up all the parks to small-scale mining and to strengthen the organization of the miners.

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

Atlantic forest purchase

The Una Federal Biological Reserve in southern Bahia state, Brazil, has been enlarged by the purchase of 1058 ha of primary Atlantic forest from a neighbouring farm. The purchase was made possible through the collaboration of national and international conservation organizations. At least a further 1000 ha must still be added to establish a viable protected area for conservation of the golden-

headed lion tamarin, Wied's marmoset, buff-headed tufted capuchin, maned sloth, thin-spined porcupine and several species of endangered birds.

Source: Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, 18 June 1993.

Black-headed lion tamarin listed

The black-headed lion tamarin *Leontopithecus caissara*, which was first described in 1990, has been added to the Brazilian Official List of Fauna Threatened with Extinction, bringing the number of primate taxa on the list to 25. The tamarin is restricted to coastal lowland forest in north-east Paraná state and parts of São Paulo.

Source: *Neotropical Primates*, 1 (1), 8.

Yellow-breasted capuchin programme

The yellow-breasted capuchin *Cebus apella xanthosternos* is mainly confined to the coastal forest of southern Bahia, Brazil, but populations may remain elsewhere. In October 1992 the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources established an international committee for the captive breeding programme and conservation of *C. a. xanthosternos* and another subspecies, *C. a. robustus*, which occurs in southern Bahia and northern Espirito Santo where, like its relative, it is heavily hunted and threatened by forest destruction. At the first meeting of the committee in April it was agreed to extend the captive-breeding programme for *C. a. xanthosternos* to Chester Zoo, UK, and Zurich Zoo, Switzerland, by loaning animals from the Rio de Janeiro Primate Center, which will then

have more space to acquire further animals that are being kept as pets in southern Bahia. Source: *Neotropical Primates*, 1 (1), 4–5; 1 (2), 9–10.

AUSTRALASIA/ ANTARCTICA

New parks in Western Australia

Two new national parks have been declared in Western Australia: Francois Peron National Park at Shark Bay, protecting wildlife, coastal scenery and shrublands; and Kennedy Range National Park about 175 km from Carnarvon. Source: *Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas*, April 1993, 13.

Nursery releases help cut predation

Research on brush-tailed phascogale *Phascogale tapoataga*, a squirrel-like insectivorous Australian marsupial, has found a way to reduce the mortality from predation that is frequently a problem when releasing captive-bred animals, which are less wary than wild-born individuals. Captive-bred litters and their mothers were placed in large cages in good habitat; small doors allowed the passage of juveniles as soon as they reached the stage of exploration but confined their larger mothers. The species are self-taught hunters and the youngsters were soon travelling hundreds of metres during their nightly foraging. This release method appears to allow juveniles to retain their innate wariness of predators, and survival rates approximate those of natural populations. Source: *Re-introduction News*, May 1993, 6–7.

Captive chuditch population increases

A captive-breeding programme for the chuditch or western quoll *Dasyurus geoffroyii* (a marsupial cat), which started in 1988 at Perth Zoo, Australia, had breeding failures to start with but now 51 individuals have been born and in September 1992 24 adults were released into the Julimar Reserve north-east of Perth where fox control measures are in place. The species has declined severely and survives now only in remote parts of Western Australia, central Australia and Queensland. *Source: Captive Breeding Specialist Group News*, 4 (2), 24.

Bluetongue found again

The Adelaide bluetongue *Tiliqua adelaidensis* was believed to be extinct, having been last seen in 1959 at Marion, South Australia, but a specimen was found inside a road-killed eastern brown snake in the Burra area in October 1992. Now living individuals have been found and some have been taken into captivity in Adelaide for research on their biology and life-history. *Source: Captive Breeding Specialist Group Newsletter*, 4 (2), 26.

Northern Territory park land purchase

An area of 135,000 ha has been acquired in the Davenport and Murchison Ranges south-east of Tennant Creek, Northern Territory, Australia, to create a national park. The region lacks protected areas and so this is an important step in natural resource conservation. In addition, a series of formerly isolated parks and reserves in the state have been consolidated

into the West Macdonnell Ranges National Park; its 205,000 ha include Simpson's Gap and Ormiston Gorge National Parks.

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

Rain forest reserve in New South Wales

The New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service, Australia, has acquired several significant land additions, including Horton's Creek Nature Reserve, 334 ha of undisturbed subtropical rain forest in the north-east of the state.

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

Queensland declares ownership of flora and fauna

Queensland, Australia, has announced its intention to amend its Nature Conservation Act to give the state ownership of its flora and fauna and guarantee that it shares in any profits made from exploiting them. This is the first government to take such action as a result of the Biodiversity Convention signed in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, which urged countries to take control of their genetic resources. However, Queensland may not have the power under the Australian constitution to declare sovereignty over its biota and, in any case, once a country ratifies the Convention it has automatic rights over its genetic resources.

Source: New Scientist, 1 May 1993, 7.

Campbell Island's wildlife continues to decline

Birds and marine mammals continue to decline on

Campbell Island, New Zealand's southernmost subantarctic island, according to studies by the Department of Conservation. Plants have made a spectacular recovery since cattle and sheep were removed and it is hoped that rats and cats can be eradicated eventually to allow ground-dwelling birds to recolonize. Populations of rockhopper penguins and elephant seals, mollymawks and yellow-eyed penguins have all declined and while water temperature change has been suggested as a cause, other possible factors include the drowning of mollymawks on longlines, and depletion of fish stocks. *Source: Forest & Bird*, May 1993, 3.

Rats banished

Volunteers have cleared rats from 24-ha Pakatoa Island in the Hauraki Gulf, New Zealand. It now has potential as a sanctuary for some of Auckland's rare birds. Red-crowned parakeets have already been transferred to the island and are being held in an aviary for breeding and future release.

Source: Forest & Bird, May 1993, 8.

New Zealand bans some woodchip exports

The New Zealand Government passed the Forest Amendment Act in March 1993, which bans the export of native woodchips and logs from 98.5 per cent of privately owned native forest. The Act also puts sustainable management controls on logging on private lands but does not cover logging of native forests for firewood or outright clearance, creating a loophole that needs to be plugged. Southland Maori land is exempt from the new Act and

woodchipping for export continues to destroy beech forests on Maori land adjoining the South West New Zealand World Heritage Area. Also exempt are 132,000 ha of native forest managed by state-managed Timberlands West Coast. *Source: Forest & Bird Conservation News*, May 1993, 4.

Polynesian rat eats kakapo chick

The one kakapo chick hatched on Little Barrier Island in 1993 disappeared within 3 days. It is believed that Polynesian rats were responsible for this and for the predation of kakapo chicks on Codfish Island in 1992. Polynesian rats, which are smaller than other introduced rats, were once thought to be relatively harmless but are now known to be predators of eggs and young of ground-nesting birds. Conservationists want the government to fund rat-eradication programmes on three of New Zealand's premier offshore islands: Codfish, Kapiti and Little Barrier. *Source: Forest & Bird Conservation News*, May 1993, 4.

OCEANIA

Cagou reintroduction

The cagou *Rhynochetus jubatus*, a flightless endemic bird and national symbol of New Caledonia, is being reintroduced to the Provincial Park of Rivière Bleue. *Source: Reintroduction News*, May 1993, 12.

Samoan snails in danger

A survey in American Samoa in October/November 1992 found that the snails *Gonaxis kibweziensis* and *Euglandina rosea*,

which were introduced in 1977 and 1980, respectively, were contributing to declines and extinctions of native Samoan terrestrial molluscs. Rat predation and habitat modification are additional pressures. On Tutuila the partulid tree snails *Samoana conica* (endemic to Tutuila and Upolu in Western Samoa), *S. abbreviata* and *Eua zebrina* (both endemic to Tutuila) and the trochomorphid *Trochomorpha apia* (confined to Tutuila and the Western Samoan islands of Upolu and Savaii) are especially endangered. Only two populations of *E. zebrina* and one of *S. conica* were found, while no live specimens of the other two were seen. On the Manua Islands only one partulid snail was found: *S. thurstoni* on Ofu, which appears to be free of introduced predatory snails but has lost most of its natural habitat. There is a need for refuges to be established and for captive breeding programmes as well as ensuring that Ofu and the nearby island of Olosega remain free from predatory snails. *Source: Tentacle*, April 1992, 28–29.

MEETINGS

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

International Workshop on Introduced Species in Island Ecosystems. 2–5 November 1993, Queen Charlotte City, British Columbia, Canada. *Contact:* Co-ordinator, Inner Shores, Box 867, Queen Charlotte City, BC V0T 1S0, Canada.

Fire in Wetlands: A Management Perspective. 3–6

November 1993, Tallahassee, Florida, USA. *Contact:* R. Todd Engstrom, Conference Co-ordinator, Tall Timbers Research, Route 1, Box 678, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA. Tel: 904 893 4153.

The Second Annual National Watchable Wildlife Conference. 11–14 November 1993, Corpus Christi, Texas, USA. *Contact:* Mary Garrett. Tel: 800 460 5400.

Recent Advances in the Study of Bats. 26–27 November 1993, London, UK *Contact:* Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY, UK.

Fisheries and the Environment Beyond 2000. 6–9 December 1993, Serdang, Malaysia. *Contact:* The Conference Secretariat, Fisheries and Environment Beyond 2000, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science, UPM, Serdang 43400, Selangor, Malaysia. Tel: 03 9486101 ext. 2520. Fax: 03 9488246.

67th Meeting of the Species Survival Commission. 15–17 January 1994, and **XIX Session of the IUCN General Assembly.** 18–26 January 1994, Buenos Aires, Argentina. *Contact:* IUCN, Co-ordinator of the General Assembly, Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland. Tel: 41 22 999 0001. Fax: 41 22 999 0020.

International Conference on Orang-Utans: the Neglected Ape. 7–10 March 1994, California, USA. *Contact:* Norman Rosen, Department of Anthropology, California State University, Fullerton, CA 92634, USA. Fax: 310 798 0576.

XV Congress of the International Primatological Society. 3–8 August 1994, Bali

Indonesia. *Contact:* Secretariat, 15th IPS Congress, PT, Bayu Buana Travel Services Ltd, Wisma Bank Dharmala 19th Floor, Jend. Sudirman Kav. 28, Jakarta 12910, Indonesia or Dr Linda Prasetyo, c/o Perth Zoo, 20 Labouchere Road, Western Australia 6151, Australia. Tel: 09 368 1916. Fax: 09 367 3921.

1994 World Congress on Adventure Travel and EcoTourism. October 1994, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia. *Contact:* Tourism Tasmania, Gemini House, 10–18 Putney Hill, London SW15 6AA. Tel: 081 789 7088 or 081 780 2227. Fax: 081 780 1496

Forest Canopies – Ecology, Biodiversity and Conservation. 10–13 November 1994, Sarasota, Florida, USA. *Contact:* Dr Meg Lowman, Director of Research, Selby Botanic Gardens, 811 South Palm Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236, USA. Tel: 813 366 5730; Fax: 813 366 9807.

OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers needed for research in Grenada

Volunteers are needed for research projects in Grenada. None requires previous experience (except underwater work) and the projects include sea turtle conservation, primate studies and bird counts. Volunteers pay a share of project costs (\$US649–900 per week). *Contact:* Foundation for Field Research, PO Box 771, St George's, Grenada, West Indies. Tel: 809 440 8854. Fax: 809 440 2330.

PUBLICATIONS

Neotropical Primates

The 1st issue of *Neotropical Primates*, the newsletter of the Neotropical Section of the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group was published in March. *Editors:* Anthony Rylands and Ernesto Luna, Conservation International, Rua Bueno Brandão 393, Belo Horizonte 31010–060, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Working Bibliography of the Bustards (Otididae)

This publication was compiled by Maria and Holger Schulz, National Wildlife Research Center, PO Box 1086, Taif, Saudi Arabia. Its 171 pages contain 2016 references to bustards and information on all 27 species.

Thirty Years of Mediterranean Monk Seal Protection, a Review

By Laura D. E. Israëls, Nederlandsche Commissie voor Internationale Natuurbescherming, Instituut voor Taxonomische Zoölogie/Zoölogische Museum, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Mauritskade 61, 1092 AD Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Mededelingen No. 28, 1992, ISSN 0923 5981. The Mediterranean monk seal is severely endangered, having declined from a population of thousands to perhaps as few as 350 today. This 65-page review discusses threats to the species as well as the efforts and results of 30 years of protection. It says that there has been much talk with relatively few results and that co-ordination between the groups working with the species leaves much to be desired. It concludes that there is

still hope, although very little time is left.

Declines in Canadian Amphibian Populations: Designing a National Monitoring Strategy

This is Occasional Paper No. 76 from the Canadian Wildlife Service. Edited by Christine A. Bishop and Karen E. Pettit, 1992, it is the proceedings of a workshop held in Burlington, Ontario, 5–6 October 1991 (ISBN 0 662 20038 1 ISSN 0 576 6370), 120 pp. It reports on current status of knowledge on Canadian amphibians, factors that may be contributing to fluctuations, monitoring methods and problems and a framework for national monitoring adopted by the workshop.

REQUESTS

Chinese Institute seeks collaborators

The Center for Conservation Biology at the Kunming Institute of Zoology undertakes research on the region's endemic animals and welcomes enquiries about short-term scholarly exchanges and long-term collaborative projects. *Contact:* The Director, Professor Ji Weizhi, Kunming Institute of Zoology, Academia Sinica, Kunming, Yunnan, People's Republic of China.

CORRECTION

White-necked picathartes

The drawing of the white-necked picathartes (*Oryx*, 27 (3), 157) should have been attributed to M. Ausden, not to H. Thompson.