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FFPS Council Members

At the FFPS Annual General Meeting in September 1985, four new members were elected to fill vacancies on Council. Bob Stebbings had served on Council in the recent past and Ian Swingland was welcomed as a completely new member. Profiles of other new members will appear in the April issue of *Oryx*.



Bob Stebbings

From Bob's earliest recollections, his ambition was to be a naturalist with a specialist interest in a group of animals that others had neglected. By chance, a biologist in his home town of Bury St Edmunds introduced him to bats just after his tenth birthday, and so began his life-long love affair with bats.

Initially engaged by the Nature Conservancy (later the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology) to investigate the historical development of coastal ecosystems (salt marshes particularly) and the influence of past events on the present ecology of their plant communities, this evolved into the assessment of rapid surveying techniques for remote areas. Salt marshes have always been viewed as waste land suitable only for reclamation for farming or industrial development, and

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the aim of the work was to show not only how important these areas are to wildlife (and for human recreation), but to be able to respond quickly to planning proposals. Part of the work involved the design and construction of controlled environmental systems in which parameters affecting salt marsh plant growth could be tested experimentally. As a result of the Torrey Canyon disaster, research was initiated on the effects of crude oil on coastal habitats, and he became involved in the establishment of the national and local government infrastructure for dealing with coastal oil pollution.

Interspersed with the coastal work, he spent two years studying the ecology of grass snakes in an area of rapidly changing habitats in south Dorset.

Throughout this period, all his spare time and energy was spent doing research into bats. From the late 1950s, he recognized the harm bat researchers caused to the populations being studied, and by 1961 he became aware of the substantial population declines caused by various human activities.

Because of people's general antipathy to bats, it was 14 years before his vigorous efforts led to his vision of a widespread and statutory concern for bats becoming a reality in the Wild Creatures and Wild Plants Act (1975). All bats in Britain then received protection in the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), which was largely a culmination of evidence of declines and threats to bats obtained in his research. This legislation has drawn attention to the plight of bats and, through his work with the media, there is now a blossoming of public interest in bats.

Bats were threatened in many countries, and in 1971 he was founder chairman of the International Council for Bat Protection and later became first chairman of the Chiroptera group in the IUCN's Species Survival Commission. Bats are now protected in all European countries and in many others worldwide. His work in the tropics is aimed at showing the vital role many bats perform in plant pollination and seed dispersal.

He first became an FFPS council member in 1979. His hobbies include music, gardening and carpentry.

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Ian Swingland

Ian Swingland was educated at Haberdasher's Aske's School and Queen Mary College, London, from where he graduated in Zoology and Social Anthropology in 1969. He went on to the University of Edinburgh where he was awarded a Ph.D. in Ecology and Behaviour in 1973 and where he held a Foreign and Commonwealth Office Scholarship.

From 1973 to 1974 he was the Research and Management Director of Kafue National Park in Zambia, spending much of his time in planes, helicopters and land-rovers. From 1974 to 1979 he was Research Associate and a Tutor in Ecology at the Animal Research Group in Oxford, and spent two years as a visiting Royal Society Scientist on Aldabra Atoll, carrying out work on the population dynamics and behaviour of giant tortoises. He was appointed a Lecturer in Natural Sciences at the University of Kent at Canterbury in 1979, where he is now a Senior Lecturer and Chairman of the Ecology Research Group.

Aldabra's conservation problems began to involve Ian Swingland in international conservation, and in 1980 Sir Peter Scott invited him to form the Tortoise Specialist Group of the IUCN's Species Survival Commission. He is Director of Operation Tortoise, a global research project attracting substantial funding from various insti-

tutions, governments and commercial sponsors.

Ian Swingland's first paper, on the location of memory in goldfish, appeared in *Nature* in 1969, and since then he has published 54 papers, and written books on the evolutionary ecology of tortoises, the Paenungulata and the ecology of animal movement.

He is a Founding Member of RURAL (an unofficial think-tank for government agricultural policy), Chairman of the Wild Animals Advisory Committee of the RSPCA, and a Council Member of the Kent Trust for Nature Conservation. He is also an active member of many other local and national bodies, including being a Science Advisor to Operations Drake and Raleigh, and a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, where the University of Kent has validated a Diploma in Endangered Species Management.

He married a dentist in 1985, and they spent the honeymoon in Bali, later travelling through South East Asia on tortoise research. He was particularly fascinated by the Burmese brown tortoise, which digs its nest with its front feet (rather than with its back feet like other species), lays its eggs in a compost heap and guards its nest.

Rolex Awards for Enterprise 1987

The Environment; Exploration and Discovery; and Applied Science and Invention, are the three categories under which applications are invited for a Rolex Award for Enterprise 1987. There will be five awards, each of 50,000 Swiss Francs and a gold Rolex chronometer; these are intended to provide financial assistance to people wishing to carry out unconventional projects. Official Application Form available from: The Secretariat, The Rolex Awards for Enterprise, PO Box 178, 1211 Geneva 26, Switzerland. Closing date for applications is 31 March 1986.

Missing pages: an apology

We apologize to all members and subscribers who received an October *Oryx* with pages missing. If you have not already done so please let us know so that we can send a replacement copy.

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Oryx 100% Fund grants

At its meeting on the 17 September 1985, the FFPS Council approved a grant of £500 to Mr Lewellen Young (c/o Dept. of Zoology, The University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 7RU) for his intensive field study of the endangered cheer pheasant in Nainital District, India. Recommendations will be made to the Indian authorities that areas of habitat are reserved as reservoirs for cheer pheasants and other wildlife.

Gifts and Grants to FFPS

The FFPS is most grateful for the gifts of £25 and over listed below, and also for many smaller donations, which are too numerous to mention, received between 1 July and 30 September 1985.

Mountain Gorilla Project	£
D. and R. Gates—New Zealand	683.89
Dulwich College	200.00
S. and E. Ingram	140.00
Penscynor Wildlife Park	140.00
Survival Society, Dulwich College	125.00
D. Rossi (Deed of Covenant)	100.00
Sabena World Airlines	80.00
Miss L. E. Barker	50.00
J. Harragin	50.00
J. Nelson	50.00
Holly Taylor	48.71
Cheadle Hulme School	30.00
Peter Harvey	25.00
M. Hammerstone	25.00
Bat Project	
R.E. Stebbings	120.00
University of Southampton	30.53
Herpetological Project	
M.J. Chapman	50.30
E.J. Powell	30.75
General Fund	
Offenheim and Cinderford Trust	840.00
Peter Scott Trust	500.00
Friends of Howlett and Port Lympne	500.00
Spirax Sarco Group	150.00

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Miss M.E. Gibbs (Premises Appeal)	50.00
A.P. Nicholas	40.00
Ian Grimwood (Premises Appeal)	25.00
P.H. Davey (Premises Appeal)	25.00
M. Davey (Stephen Makacha)	25.00

Legacies

Estate: Miss M.S. Patrickson (residue)	36.03
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FFPS donates field guides

The FFPS has donated ornithological field guides to the value of about £60 to the Stop the Massacre Fund, which is organized by the British Committee for the Prevention of Mass Destruction of Migratory Birds. The field guides are destined for Hungary, Ghana, Kenya and Portugal.

The FFPS steps in to stop illegal butterfly sale

A tip-off from the FFPS helped the UK's Department of the Environment to ask Sotheby's Auctioneers in London to withdraw a large number of birdwing butterflies from a sale held on 4 September 1985. The specimens are believed to have been imported without the proper CITES documentation. The seller was Tintagel Museum, although this does not appear to be a member of the Museum Association, and is believed to be a dealer. Most of the butterflies bore labels with dates, some as recent as 1982. Some were also labelled 'protected fauna'. The collection included the plate-sized Queen Alexandra's birdwing, which last year achieved fame when it was listed in the IUCN's 'Top 12 Species for Action'. Sotheby's is now considering a ban on auctions of all natural history specimens.

Gorilla suits available

Two gorilla suits (one large, one small) have been specially made for FFPS for free hire (collection and return by hand only) to assist in fund-raising for the Mountain Gorilla project. Fund-raising is continuing steadily, but more volunteers are still needed. Stickers, posters, etc are plentiful. There is a particular need for people to accept responsibility for a collecting box, and place it in a pub, hotel, off-licence or shop.

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Wildlife Photographer



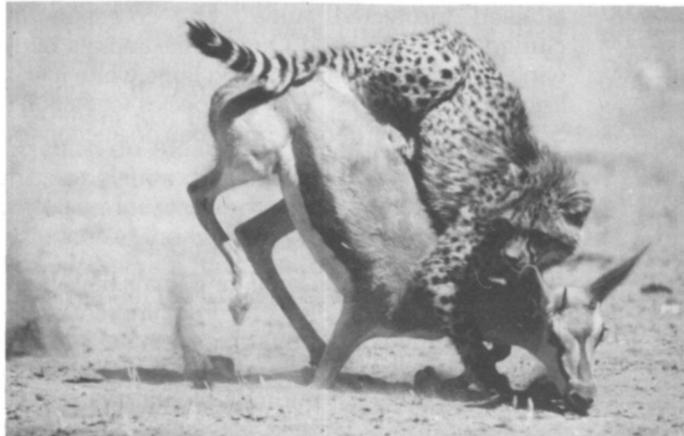
'Animal Behaviour (Mammals)'
Arctic Hare by Hans Hansen, Denmark.



'Animal Behaviour (Birds)'
Giant Petrel Feeding on Carcass by Ben Osborne, Buxton,
Derbyshire, UK.



'In Praise of Plants'
Cloudforest Silhouette by Brian Rogers, Peters-
field, Hampshire, UK.



Top Prize: Wildlife Photographer of the Year 1985
Cheetah Cub Attacking Springbok by Charles Summers, Denver, Colorado,
USA.

Organized by BBC WILDLIFE Magazine, the Fauna & Flora Preservation Society, the Natural History Museum and the Prudential Assurance Co. Ltd.

Some of the winning photographs in eight of the fourteen categories of the

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of the Year Competition 1985



'Endangered Wildlife'
Great Bustard by Gyorgy Kapocsy, Budapest, Hungary.



'Wildlife in Action'
Golden Eagle by Derek Canning, Hexham, Northumberland, UK.



'Animal Behaviour (Cold-Blooded Animals)'
Raft Spider Catching Stickleback by Avril Ramage, Long Hanborough, Oxfordshire, UK.

1985 competition. These were selected from 8500 entries sent in from 35 countries. Details of the 1986 competition are available from BBC WILDLIFE Magazine, Broadcasting House, Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 2LR, UK.



'The Underwater World'
Giant Anemone by Elizabeth Wood, Basingstoke, Hampshire, UK.

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Members' meetings

London meetings

London meetings are held in the Meeting Rooms of the Zoological Society of London on the Outer Circle of Regent's Park. Each includes a wine and cheese buffet supper, and tickets are available from the Society's new address: FFPS, 8–12 Camden High Street, London NW1 0JH. Telephone 01-387 9656. Please help with our catering arrangements by ensuring that you book your tickets at least one week in advance of the meeting date. A stamped, self-addressed envelope would be most appreciated. For details of forthcoming meetings, please see the insert in this issue of *Oryx*.

Cambridge Group

Details from Robert Burton, 46 West Street, Great Gransden, Sandy, Beds. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Bristol and the West of England Group

Details from Ian Redmond, 38 Lime Road, Ashton Gate, Bristol BS3 1LT. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

North-West Group

This Group was launched at a meeting at Chester Zoo on 20 September entitled 'An Evening with Mountain Gorillas'. Dr Sandy Harcourt and Roger Wilson spoke to an enthusiastic audience of about 150 and watched the film 'The Shadows of the Forest'. The Group has adopted the Mountain Gorilla Project as its target for fund-raising efforts.

17 January 1986 at 7.30 pm. Controversy in Seal Conservation, a talk by Dr Sheila Anderson, at Chester Zoo. Tickets, price £3.50, are available in advance from FFPS North-West, c/o Chester Zoo, Chester CH2 1LH. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Oxford Group

15 January 1986. Bats and Their Conservation, a talk by Dr Bob Stebbings. 14 February 1986. 68

Conservation in Uganda, a talk by Jonathan Kingdon. Both meetings will begin at 8.0 pm in Lecture Theatre A, Department of Zoology, South Parks Road, Oxford. Entrance 50p; children and senior citizens free. There will be wine and cheese available beforehand for £1.50. Details from Mrs Louise Butler, Department of Zoology, South Parks Road, Oxford.

New office for the FFPS

From the very beginning, over 80 years ago, the Society has had its offices in London Zoo. But now, due to impending development of the site of the FFPS offices, and the expansion of the Society and its activities, we have moved.

Members will already be aware, from an appeal for funds for our new premises, that this move will put a strain on the Society's budget. Instead of benefiting from the almost free accommodation donated by the Zoo, we now have to pay a commercial rent. We are hoping that within four years we shall be able to move back to the Zoo, but meanwhile we are continuing our premises appeal towards a capital fund for the permanent headquarters.

The society has leased an office close to Mornington Crescent Underground Station, at 8–12 Camden High Street, London NW1 0JH, and this address should be used for correspondence. Any member wishing to visit the office should telephone (01-387 9656) and make an appointment, particularly if wishing to purchase FFPS sales items since these are not normally kept on the premises. Our registered address remains c/o Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY.

John A. Burton, Executive Secretary.

Human beings and the natural world— a conference

Human Beings and their Relationship to the Natural World, People, Animals, the Environment—Prehistorical and Historical Development. 25 January 1986. 10.00 am—5.30 pm.

Commonwealth Institute, Kensington High Street, London W8 6NQ. Details from Anthony Ogg, Commonwealth Institute, 01-603 4535.

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