

News in Brief

Japanese Prince Visits the FPS

The Council of the FPS was honoured by a visit from HRH Prince Hitachi of Japan, second son of the Emperor of Japan, during his recent visit to Britain. The Prince took tea with members of the Council, after his visit to the Zoological Society of London, and showed great interest in the Society's work.

Limit for Land Whaling Stations

The British Government has for the first time imposed an upper limit of 340 blue whale units on the catch of baleen whales at the land stations in South Georgia for the 1965-66 season. This is in response to the resolution of the International Whaling Commission inviting Governments concerned with land stations to ensure that this season's catch does not exceed that of the 1964-65 Antarctic season. These land stations are Britain's only direct interest in the whaling industry.

The New Firearms Act

Under the Firearms Act 1965, which came into force on September 5, trespassing with a firearm on private land without reasonable excuse now carries a maximum penalty of 3 months' imprisonment and/or a fine of £100. It is also an offence to have a loaded airgun, shotgun or any other loaded or unloaded firearm in a public place, including footpaths and bridle-ways without reasonable excuse. It is hoped that the Act, which applies to England and Wales, and with some limitations to Scotland and Northern Ireland, will make it possible to curb the indiscriminate shooting of (and at) wild birds and animals.

Code for Predator Control

The working party which the Symposium on British Mammal Predators last March (reported in *ORYX*, August, 1965) recommended should be set up to produce a code of conduct for the control of mammalian predators, has started work under the chairmanship of Mr Marcus Kimball, MP. The FPS is represented by Major Scott, Dr Lockie, and the Hon. Secretary, Richard Fitter.

FPS Meetings

The FPS held a meeting in Liverpool in conjunction with the Merseyside Naturalists' Association and the World Wildlife Fund on October 22, at which the Editor of *ORYX* spoke about the Society's work and three films were shown. The Society would be glad to arrange other meetings, and members interested are asked to write to the Secretary.

USA Research on Rare Species

President Johnson has endorsed the proposal for a new research laboratory in the USA to help in the saving of endangered wildlife. This will be run by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland. In addition to work

THE DODO BADGE

This sign of the dodo is the badge of the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, which now runs the Jersey Zoo founded by Gerald Durrell. The dodo sign is affixed to the cages of all animals that are threatened with extinction in the wild, and one of the Trust's main objects is to breed such species, including orang-utan, lowland gorilla and spectacled bear. The Trust has recently launched an appeal for £100,000 for this work.



on the propagation of rare species, there will be research on more abundant species such as the sandhill crane the findings from which could be applicable to the related and rare whooping crane.

Threat to Birds of Paradise

The FPS was one of many conservation organisations all over the world which protested to the Government of Papua and New Guinea against the Bill before the House of Assembly to legalise the killing and capture of birds of paradise. The Bill was defeated.

Lectures on Africa

Professor F. Bourlière, President of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, will give two special University lectures in conservation, entitled "The Ecology of Herbivores in the African Savanna and Forest", in the Botany Lecture Theatre, University College, Gower Street, London, WC1, on February 21 and 23 at 5.30 p.m. Anyone interested is invited to attend, and admission is free without ticket.

Lecturer for the FPS

Captain J. E. Edwards, a member of the FPS and an active campaigner for wildlife conservation, is prepared to accept lecture engagements on behalf of the FPS, and show his film "All God's Creatures" (one hour) and a number of animals from his live collection—lizards, alligators, monitors, tortoises. Members interested are asked to write direct to Captain Edwards at 43 Berrylands Road, Surbiton, Surrey.

Canada's Wetlands

To preserve breeding grounds for migratory waterfowl in the Prairie Provinces, the Government of Canada is prepared to spend \$53 million over a 10-year period, the Northern Affairs Minister Mr Arthur Laing has said. The government is also willing to spend more than \$5 million a year to pay farmers to preserve essential wetlands breeding grounds, and sums to buy or lease large marshes and wetlands.

Lake Baikal National Park

The deepest and largest fresh-water lake in the world, Lake Baikal, in central Russia, is to become the centre of a new Russian national park, which will cover 100,000 acres. With over 700 endemic species, including the Baikal seal, the area is of immense scientific interest.