



Lord Craigton

We sadly have to record the death on 28 July, aged 88, of our President since 1990, Lord Craigton. He had served as a member of Council from 1965 to 1970, Vice-Chairman from 1970 to 1981 and Vice-President from 1983 to 1990. As Jack Nixon Browne he was Conservative MP for two Glasgow constituencies from 1959 to 1964. Subsequently a successful businessman, he was Chairman of United Biscuits (Holdings), 1967–1972.

On retirement from official politics (one cannot say from active politics, for he was such a supreme example of an active man) he decided to devote himself to the cause of conservation, and it was when our then President, Lord Willingdon, learned this that he performed one of the greatest of his many services to the Fauna Preservation Society by introducing Jack Craigton as a potential Council member. For the FFPS, besides being a first-class Chairman and President, Craigton invented our Oryx 100% Fund and was always ready to help through his widespread political and business contacts.

For many years Craigton was also involved with WWF (UK), first as a Trustee and then as a Vice-President, and was an International Trustee of the Jersey Wildlife Preservation

Trust. In addition he was for a time Chairman of CoEnCo (now the Environment Council) and Chairman of the Federation of Zoological Gardens.

In Parliament he devised and for many years chaired the All-Party Parliamentary Conservation Committee, which has served as an invaluable forum, where conservationists can meet MPs and peers. Although no more than a dozen parliamentarians might attend the meetings, the minutes had a wide circulation, and the Committee was chosen, for instance by Michael Heseltine when Secretary of State for the Environment, as the platform to announce his reprieve of Canford Heath in Dorset. Among his many parliamentary achievements for conservation, he organized the passage of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, which provided for the compulsory licensing of zoos. In the same year his great personal interest in bats led him to secure the protection of bats throughout Britain by adding a clause to the Wildlife and Countryside Bill.

He had a most cheerful approach to problems and a great gift of creating consensus by generating confidence among those he was dealing with, and many will remember him for his good-natured humour and his slogan, 'Have no fear, Craigton is here'.

Richard Fitter

Mark Rose – a new director for FFPS

The FFPS Council is pleased to announce the appointment of Mark Rose as Director of FFPS.

Mark's working life started in animal husbandry and for 3 years after leaving school he worked for government research establishments and zoological gardens in the UK and in north, west and central Africa. He then returned to England and gained an honours degree in Zoology from Royal Holloway College in London. As part of his undergraduate studies he undertook a project for TRAFFIC, then based at the FFPS London office, on trade in crocodylians. This led to employment on a UN-funded crocodile project in Papua New Guinea, first as Wildlife Officer and then as

national Project Officer. He left UN employment to work for a nationally owned company where he helped to establish one of the world's largest crocodile ranching operations. During his 6 years in Papua New Guinea, Mark also carried out research on the Fly River turtle *Carettochelys insculpta*. and for 10 years was a member of the IUCN/SSC Crocodile and Freshwater Chelonian specialist groups.

Returning to the UK, he was appointed as Conservation Manager for the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and then as Director of Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust, where he initiated a merger with a neighbouring Trust to form the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire. During his 11 years in the County Wildlife Trust movement he initiated a number of projects and programmes that gained international recognition, as well as forming three environmentally based companies.

Mark, a long-time member of FFPS, takes up his full-time post with the Society in mid-October.

Oryx 100% Fund

Grants awarded

At its meeting on the 27 May 1993 the FFPS Conservation Committee selected the following Oryx 100% Fund applications for grant awards.

\$US1000 to *Metapopulation management of black lion tamarins* *Leontopithecus chrysopygus* in fragmented forests in São Paulo, Brazil

A Brazilian team led by Claudio Valladares-Padua, Co-ordinator of the Black Lion Tamarin Project, Instituto de Projetos e Pesquisas Ecológicas, will implement a managed dispersal plan for this species, whose wild population is fragmented in isolated forest patches. The plan will integrate the three captive-breeding colonies – in Brazil and in the Channel Islands – with the five known wild subpopulations for management purposes. Individuals will be translocated to areas with suitable habitat but no resident tamarins,

training will be given to conservation personnel, and land-owners with native forest on their properties will be encouraged to participate. The FFPS grant will be used to purchase radio-telemetry equipment to monitor translocated individuals. (Project no. 93/24.)

£2000 to the *Maldives Islands fruit bat survey*

This survey will be undertaken by a team of 12, led by A. M. Hutson, Co-Chairman of the IUCN/SSC Chiroptera Specialist Group and Conservation Officer of The Bat Conservation Trust. The Maldives have two endemic subspecies of fruit bat, *Pteropus giganteus ariel* and *P. hypomelanus maris*, both of which are endangered because of habitat loss. The bats are further threatened by proposed control measures because of reported damage to fruit crops. The Bat Conservation Trust in liaison with the IUCN/SSC Chiroptera Specialist Group, decided to survey and assess fruit damage due to fruit bats, to discuss the survey results with the Maldives authorities and to make proposals for management and education programmes if appropriate. (Project no. 93/30.)

£2000 for *population surveys of the Hispaniolan solenodon* *Solenodon paradoxus* in the *Parque Nacional Jaragua, Dominican Republic*

Jose Ottenwalder will conduct field surveys throughout the 1400-sq-km park, including Beata Island, to assess distribution, relative abundance and conservation problems of this endangered species and make recommendations for its management and long-term conservation. He will also train park staff in monitoring techniques and protective measures. The species is endemic to Haiti and the Dominican Republic and the Jaragua National Park has one of only two populations in southern Dominica but little is known about its status there. The investigation will provide vital information for the development of a conservation strategy for the species in the region. (Project no. 93/22.)

Final Reports

The following final reports have been received from recipients of Oryx 100% Fund grants.



A Tonkin snub-nosed monkey – this severely endangered species was the subject of a recent FFPS-funded survey, which resulted in recommendations for its conservation (Radoslaw Ratajszczak).

Survey for Tonkin snub-nosed monkey *Pygathrix avunculus* in northern Vietnam (Project no. 91/24)

This survey was undertaken by Radoslaw Ratajszczak, Ngoc Can and Pham Nhat between 25 February and 5 April 1992. Their 41-page report summarizes the results of fieldwork within the known historical range of the Tonkin snub-nosed monkey in Ha Tuyen and Vinh Phu provinces in northern Vietnam. An earlier survey, in 1989, had already covered other possible sites.

The authors estimate that only 290–350 animals remain: 190–250 in Ha Tuyen province and about 100 in Bac Thai province. None occurs in existing protected areas and populations continue to decline as a result of deforestation and hunting for meat, bones and other parts for medicinal use. Hunting is illegal but continues openly and the growing demand for traditional medicines in Vietnam itself and in China exacerbating the problem. Chinese wholesalers have established a network of middle-men to gather wild animal products over the whole of northern Vietnam. During the first 3 months of 1992 at least 16 individuals were killed in the area visited by the survey team.

The authors believe that the Tonkin snub-nosed monkey could become extinct within the next 10 years unless there is immediate action and recommend the following measures:

1. Capture at least 20 animals to establish a breeding population in captivity. Animals confiscated from poachers and small groups with no chance of survival could be incorporated.
2. Some parts of the remaining habitat should be protected: Kheo Ting-Ta Ke should be given national park status. Although it covers only 16 sq km of forest it has well-defined natural boundaries and also harbours many other species of globally threatened species, including seven primates. Ban Bung-Ban Chu is probably the most important and well-preserved forest patch in Ha Tuyen province and should be made a special forest reserve. The Ra Ban area may be crucial for the survival of *R. avunculus* in Bac Thai province and should be made a special forest reserve. All the other localities are either too small or too degraded to safeguard the long-term survival of the species, even if they were to be protected.
3. The law prohibiting hunting of protected species should be enforced.
4. Educational programmes should be initiated locally to make people aware of the importance of this species. Alternative sources of meat should be explored and promoted and the benefits of selective logging and strictly controlled quota hunting should be presented. Local people should be given priority for employment in connection with the establishment of protected areas.
5. A follow-up survey should investigate the habitat, ecology and behaviour of the species.
6. A questionnaire should be distributed to forestry stations in the known and suspected range of the species to locate other remnant populations.

Vietnamese conservationists are severely hampered by the lack of funds and strong international assistance is needed to ensure that the species survives.

Djibouti III migrant raptor count (Project no. 87/43)

G. R. and H. J. Welch describe the methods and results of a raptor count over the Bab-el-

Mandeb straits at the southern end of the Red Sea. During 38 days of observation in spring 1987 they recorded 246,478 raptors of 26 species, the most numerous being steppe buzzard *Buteo buteo vulpinus* and steppe eagle *Aquila rapax nipalensis*. This was the third year that the count had been done and the Welches decided to add a strong educational element to the project, encouraging Djiboutiens to take an interest in, to experience, and to enjoy the migration spectacle. The 123-page illustrated report in English and French is available from Minsmere Reserve, Westleton, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 3BY, UK for £5.

The Threatened Forests of South-West Ecuador: the final report of the Ecuadorian Dry Forest Project 1991 (Project no. 90/28)

This 240-page, illustrated report covers surveys of plants, insects, mammals and birds of dry and humid forests in south-west Ecuador between late January and early March 1991. Undisturbed forest was present on only 0.5 per cent of the study area and the report recommends protection of two forest types and identifies areas suitable for new reserves. General recommendations are made for the conservation of this endemic centre and immediate action is urged to prevent mass species extinctions. The report (ISBN 0 9520034 0 6) is edited by Brinley Best and published by Biosphere Publications, 118 Aldwyn Crescent, Hazel Grove, Stockport, Cheshire SK7 5HX, UK.

Population and ecological constraints of cave bat species in Paraguaná, north-west Venezuela (Project no. 92/22)

Bioma, a Venezuelan foundation for conservation of biological diversity, secured legal protection for two of the principal natural caves in the Paraguaná peninsula in north-west Venezuela in 1987. Both were important for bats and were subject to disturbance. Incorporating these caves into a reserve and employing rangers brought the disturbance to an end. Surveys revealed that the number of bats using the caves has increased from 10,000 and 12,000 in Cueva del Guano and Cueva de Pedra Honda, respectively, in 1987 to around

60,000 and 50,000, respectively in 1993. Five of the seven bat species recorded in the peninsula use the caves: *Pteronotus parnelli*, *P. davyi*, *Mormoops megalophylla*, *Natalus stramineus* – all insectivores – and *Leptonycteris curasoae*, a nectivore, which is important for pollination of four species of columnar cacti, which in turn are important for the local human population. The bat colonies will continue to be monitored and the timing of the breeding period will be investigated so that educational visits can be planned for times when bat colonies are at their least vulnerable to disturbance.

Survey in China identifies potential Ramsar site (Project no. 92/10)

He Fen-qi and Zhang Yin-sun conducted a survey of the desert wetlands of the Ordos Highland in China (*Oryx*, 26 (4), 243) and identified Taolimiao-Alashan Nur (39°48'N, 109°35'E) as a wetland that should be listed on the Ramsar Convention's list of Wetlands of International Importance.

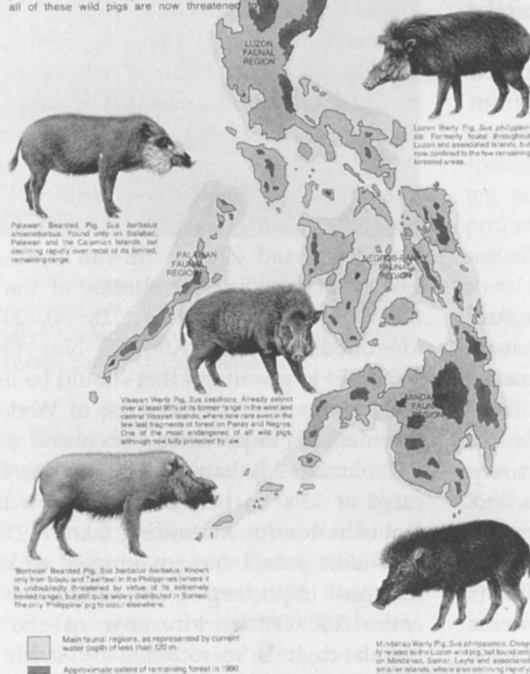
Taolimiao-Alashan Nur is a saline lake located at 1360 m between the Maowusu and Kubuchi deserts. Measuring 6 km × 2.5 km at its widest points and covering 10 sq km, it is the most important of 100 or so lakes in the entire 100,000 sq km area of the Ordos Highland. It is surrounded by stable dunes and has a number of islets. It has deeper water than most other lakes in the region and does not dry out in years of poor rainfall.

Most important and most numerous among the breeding bird community is the relict gull *Larus relictus*. This globally rare species was first recorded as nesting in Ordos on a small lake near Taolimiao-Alashan Nur in 1987 as a result of bird surveys organized by the Forestry Department of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. In May 1990 a large breeding colony was found at Taolimiao-Alashan Nur itself. There were 491 nests in 1991 and 1028 in 1992, the increase being due to Aubai Nur, the other important breeding site of the gull in the Ordos, partially drying up in 1992. Counts in 1991 and 1992 in the entire Ordos region found 2880 and 3820 individual relict gulls, respectively, around 25 per cent of the world population of this species.

Only in the Philippines...

There are at least four, but possibly five or more, different kinds of wild pigs or baboy damo in the Philippines; all but one of which are found nowhere else in the world. This also makes the Philippines the second most important country in the world (after Indonesia) for the diversity of these animals. Unfortunately, however, owing to their relatively restricted ranges, coupled with the extremely high degree of deforestation in the country and intense hunting pressure (either for food or in reprisal for damage they cause to crops planted after the clearing of their forest habitats), all of these wild pigs are now threatened to

varying degrees, and one species, the Visayan warty pig, is already gravely endangered. This is an extremely worrying situation given that wild pigs are usually amongst the last animals to disappear as a result of human disturbance, and it demonstrates just how badly the country has been damaged by the (mostly illegal) activities of slash-and-burn cultivators (kaingineros) and hunters.



Luzon Warty Pig, *Sus philippensis*. Formerly found throughout Luzon and associated islands, but now confined to the few remaining forested areas.

Palawan Bearded Pig, *Sus barbatus philippensis*. Found only on Palawan. Palawan and the Calamian Islands, but extending rapidly over most of its limited, remaining range.

Visayan Warty Pig, *Sus cebifrons*. Already extinct over at least 90% of its former range in the west and central Visayan Islands, where it is now rare even in the few last remnants of forest in Panay and Negros. One of the most endangered of all wild pigs, although now fully protected by law.

Bearded Pig, *Sus barbatus barbatus*. Known only from Palawan and Luzon in the Philippines where it is undoubtedly threatened by virtue of its extremely limited range, but still to be widely distributed in Luzon. The only Philippine pig to occur elsewhere.

Mindanao Warty Pig, *Sus philippensis*. Completely restricted to the Luzon warty pig, but found only on Mindanao Island. Large and occasional island, where it is occurring rapidly.

For further information contact:
 • THE PROTECTIVE WILDLIFE AND BIRD LIFE DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), Quezon Avenue, Quezon City for Regional Offices of DENR, DENR and PNRD in:
 • THE CENTER FOR STUDIES IN TROPICAL ECOLOGY (CENTRE), IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY, SILVANA UNIVERSITY, Benguet City DENR or
 • THE WILDLIFE FOREST & ECOLOGICAL FOUNDATION INC., San Carlos Road, Baguio City DENR



Further produced in conjunction with the Pigs and Porocees Specialist Group of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) - Species Survival Commission (SSC).
 Poster sponsored by: DENR, SILVANA UNIVERSITY, WILDLIFE FOREST & ECOLOGICAL FOUNDATION INC. Illustration by William Oliver

FFPS helps fund posters to help conservation efforts in the Philippines

There are three species and at least two subspecies of wild pigs in the Philippines: two species and one subspecies are endemic. Extreme levels of deforestation, intense hunting pressure, inadequate legal protection and poor enforcement of existing legislation, even within most protected areas, have resulted in the systematic decline of all Philippine populations of these animals. The Visayan warty pig *Sus cebifrons*, for example, is already extinct or close to extinction on at least four of the six islands of its range and now survives only in a few, small isolated areas on Negros and Panay, where it is still hunted intensively and is also threatened by interbreeding with free-ranging domestic or feral pigs. By contrast *S. philippensis* remains relatively widely distributed in remaining forests on the larger islands of Luzon, Samar, Leyte and Mindanao, where it occurs in all the principal national parks.

This poster, and others in the series 'Only in the Philippines ...' have been produced to draw local attention to the fact that the majority of Philippine species are endemic to the country and threatened to varying degrees.

In total, 83 species of birds have been recorded at the lake, at least 18 of these breeding there. In June 1991 an oriental white stork *Ciconia boyciana* was observed there, the first record of this species in Inner Mongolia in the breeding season. The lake is also an important stop-over for birds on autumn migration and 20,000–22,000 individuals have been recorded as passing through.

The Taolimiao-Alashan Nur appears to meet the criteria for listing as an internationally

important wetland and it is hoped that this can be done as soon as possible. China became a Party to the Ramsar Convention in July 1992 and has listed six wetland sites to date.

Post script. Field work carried out from 25 May to June 1991 found more than 1500 nests of the relict gull at Taolimiao-Alashan Nur. By 23 June 89 per cent of eggs had hatched. Three more bird species were recorded for the first time: *Cygnus olor*, *Melanitta nigra* and *Larus canus*.

Species Endangered by Trade – a Role for Horticulture?

The Proceedings of the FFPS meeting, *Species Endangered by Trade – A Role for Horticulture?*, which was held in London on 7 April 1993 are available from the FFPS office, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR for £3.00 including postage and packing.

Trade in wild narcissus from Portugal

The FFPS Plants in Trade Programme is funding a series of investigations on the problems facing bulbous plants in international trade. The most recent, which was undertaken jointly with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, looked at the trade in wild narcissus from Portugal. A major input of resources and staff time was also contributed by Portugal's National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The study was prompted as a result of reports of extensive trade in wild species of Portuguese *Narcissus* to the Netherlands for use by the horticultural industry. In 1988 an estimated 1,000,000 bulbs were involved, mostly of five species but with smaller quantities of four others. The source of the bulbs was Serra da Estrela Natural Park and Serra do Caramulo in central Portugal. A number of conservation organizations expressed concern over the possible detrimental effects that large-scale export of wild species could have on wild populations.

The aims of the 1992 study were to establish the trade volumes and trade routes for Portuguese wild *Narcissus*, to examine and analyse the legislation protecting *Narcissus*, and to establish the extent of artificial propagation of these plants in Portugal.

The study group visited the two main collecting sites in April but found no evidence to suggest that collection of wild bulbs took place in 1992. The probable reasons for this include: the very late snow-cover in the area that year; increased park staffing levels and vigilance in the Serra da Estrela Natural Park and the deliberate blockage of access routes to the main collecting areas. Other contributory fac-

tors may be the poor financial return offered to villagers for this activity and the phytosanitary restrictions now in place. The two main exporters said that the man who organized collections had recently died; one exporter said that he would consider exporting wild *Narcissus* again in the future if a suitable replacement were found.

The Portuguese National Park Authorities see specialist foreign collectors as a more serious threat to endemic and endangered wild populations than pressure from commercial collectors. Locations of some desirable species are well-known among specialists and determined individual collectors could have a very serious impact on certain species with restricted distributions.

The report makes six recommendations:

1. The propagation of *Narcissus* species should be encouraged in Portugal in order to shift demand from wild to artificially propagated stock. A project already in place in the Serra da Estrela Natural Park and a planned project at Instituto Botânico Gonçalo Sampaio, Porto, could form part of a collaborative project between Spain, Portugal and the UK.
2. Increased survey and monitoring of wild *Narcissus* populations to assess potential threats from collection or habitat destruction.
3. Further research on the trade, especially into the apparent discrepancy between levels of past imports of narcissus to the Netherlands and exports from Portugal.
4. Continuation of increased vigilance by Portuguese authorities, which already seems to have deterred collection from protected areas and monitoring to detect resumption of collection from known or new sites.
5. Ensure that bulbs produced by any existing or future propagation scheme are properly identified to enable them to be distinguished from wild-collected specimens.
6. Investigate the role of the specialist collection of populations of rare species.

Reference

Eckersley, P., Carvalho, M. L. de, Sinnott, M. and McGough, H.N. 1992. *Trade in Wild Narcissus. A Report on the International Trade in Wild Species of Portuguese Narcissus*. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and FFPS, London.

Expedition winners rediscover giant ibis

The Laos 92/93 Expedition, one of two joint winners in the Tropical Rain Forest category of the 1992 ICBP/FFPS Conservation Expedition Competition, found the giant ibis *Thaumatibis gigantea*, which had not been seen for 30 years. Two birds were recorded on rivers adjacent to the Xe Pian proposed protected area in the south of the country. The area's importance for birds was further demonstrated by a total of 314 species being recorded, including a high number of threatened species. The habitat is mostly in good condition and hunting is the main threat, although human population density in the area is low.

The expedition was organized in response to Laos's request for international assistance in developing a protected areas programme (see *Oryx*, 26 (3), 180) and involved ornithologists from the UK and the Laos Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation.

BP Conservation Expedition Awards 1993

BirdLife International/Fauna & Flora Preservation Society Conservation Expedition Competition

The BP Conservation Expedition Awards 1993 were presented on 21 May in London at a ceremony hosted by Mr K. R. Seal, Managing Director, The British Petroleum Company plc and Chief Executive, BP Oil International. The awards (four winning prizes of £3000 and eight of £1000 for runners-up) were presented by writer and broadcaster, Tony Soper.

The winners in each of the four categories, Tropical Rain Forest, Oceanic and Marine, Wetlands and Globally Threatened Species were:

Pato Serrucho '93. A team from Farnborough College of Technology, UK, Uruguay and Argentina will survey the Brazilian merganser, one of the world's rarest and least known species of waterfowl, in the Atlantic forests of Misiones Province in Argentina.

Lesser Kestrel Survey in Turkey. Ornithologists from Turkey and the UK will survey this little-known and declining species for the first time.

Conservation of Seabirds in the Sulu Sea. Danish

and Philippine scientists will develop a conservation action plan for the seabird colonies of Tubbataha National Park in the Philippines.

Cambridge Flores Expedition. Working with conservation personnel from Indonesia a team from Cambridge, UK, will assess the status and conservation needs of the endemic birds of Flores and Sumbawa in eastern Indonesia.

A team from Manchester Metropolitan University, 1992 winners in the Oceanic and Marine category, received the BP Conservation Expedition Award (£7500) for their follow-up Sumba Forest Conservation Project. This will provide support for the provincial department of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation through up-grading and constructing new regional offices in West Sumba. Workshops will also be held to involve local communities in the drafting of forest conservation plans.

Meetings

Cambridge

Thursday 14 October. 7.30 p.m. Zoology Department, Downing Street, Cambridge. John Fanshawe will talk on his work in the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest in Kenya. Further details and tickets for the 6 p.m. buffet supper from Colin Watkins, 219 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL. Tel: 0223 277314.

Saturday 4 December. 8.30 p.m. Chemistry Department, Lensfield Road, Cambridge. Alistair Fothergill, producer of the forthcoming television series 'Life in the Freezer', will give an illustrated talk about the making of the programme. The meeting has been arranged by the Scott Polar Research Institute; entry by ticket only, free of charge from Colin Watkins (see above). Early booking advisable.

Chester

Wednesday 1 December. Joint FFPS/BOU meeting at Chester Zoo. Please see insert for details.

London

5 December. FFPS 90th Anniversary Lectures at the Royal Geographical Society. Please see insert for details.