

FFPS news

Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition 1987

More than 10,000 photographs from 40 different countries were entered for the 1987 Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition, which was sponsored by Prudential Assurance, BBC Wildlife Magazine, the FFPS and the British Museum (Natural History). The strong international interest in the competition was reflected in the nationalities of the winners of the 14 categories, two-thirds of whom came from countries overseas, including the USA, Brazil, West Germany, Italy, Sweden, Australia and New Zealand.

Jonathan Scott, a British artist, writer and photographer, who spends much of his time in Kenya, won the Prudential Award for the best photographer overall. His winning photo was taken as part of his research project on wild dogs. Jonathan wins a holiday for two in the wilderness areas of Alberta, Canada, courtesy of Travel Alberta.

Sir Peter Scott, together with Julian Pettifer, David Bellamy and many other well-known people in the natural history world, presented the prizes at a ceremony in the Natural History Museum in London on 26 November. All the first prizewinners received a year's membership of the FFPS.

The winning and commended photographs will be on show at the Natural History Museum until 31 January and will then tour major centres in Britain. Other copies of the exhibition will tour New Zealand, Australia and the USA. A small selection of the winning photographs are reproduced here and on the following pages.

Details of the 1988 competition are available from BBC Wildlife Magazine, Broadcasting House, Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 2LR, UK.

Wild dog attacking wildebeest by Jonathan Scott, Wildlife Photographer of the Year 1987.



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Two male polar bears 'play-fighting' by Tom J. Ulrich, winner of 'Animal Behaviour — Mammals'.

A great egret preening by Stan Osolinski, winner of 'Animal Behaviour — Birds'.



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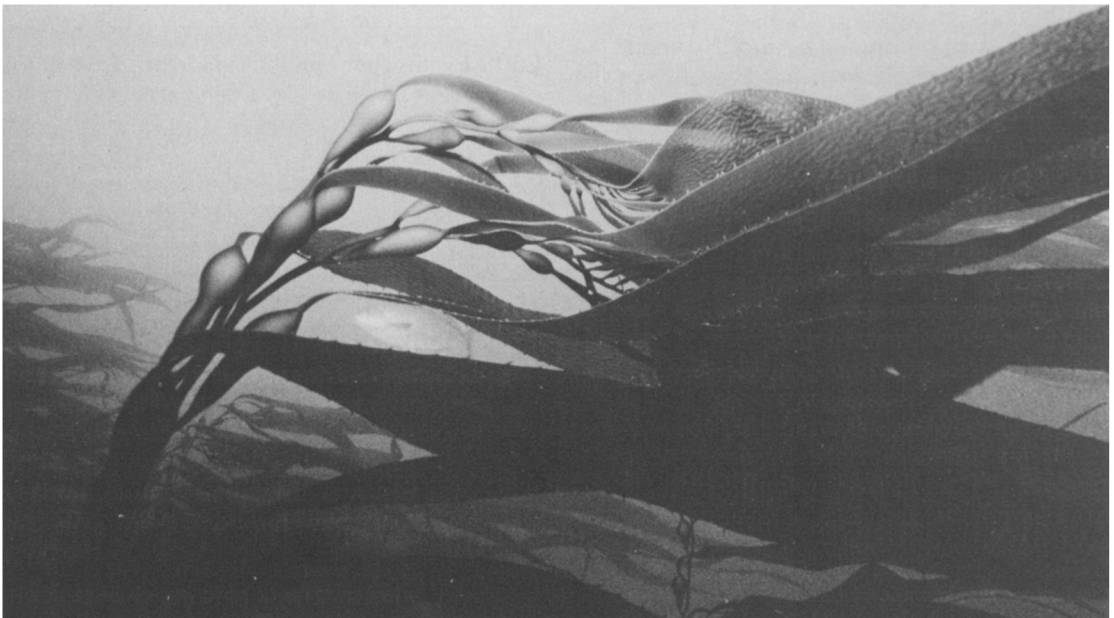


Mountain pygmy possum by Jean-Paul Ferrero, runner-up in 'Endangered Wildlife'.



Two crowned cranes at dawn by David Breed, runner-up in 'Dusk to Dawn'.

Blue moki fish in bladder kelp by Kim Westerskov, winner of 'The Underwater World'.



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Lt Col J. P. Grant of Rothiemurchus MBE FRSE

Lt Col Ian Grant died in July 1987 after a short illness. He was a strong supporter of conservation and was not content to let his interest remain theoretical. He managed his estate in the Rothiemurchus area in Inverness-shire to maintain a diversity of habitats, and he fought hard to ensure that developments in the Aviemore area were environmentally sound. His enormous contribution to conservation in Scotland will be documented elsewhere, but he also had interests in a great range of national and international naturalist and conservation organizations.

He served two terms on the FFPS Council, from 1971 to 1975 and from 1977 to 1982, and was elected a Vice-President in 1983. Despite living so far from London, he was a regular attender at Society meetings and Council benefited from his wide range of personal experience, particularly in East and Central Africa. Fellow Council Members will miss his breadth of knowledge, his careful consideration of issues and his wise counsel. He was an active promoter of the Society's objectives and frequently represented its interests in issues relating to Scotland. For many years Col Grant championed the idea of a Scottish regional group of the FFPS and in early 1987 he attended the meeting that finally set in motion the Edinburgh Group. He was, unfortunately, too ill to attend the inaugural meeting in July, but lived to see the group become a reality.

New Chairman, Council Members and Vice-President

At the FFPS 83rd Annual General Meeting on 1 October 1987, Richard Fitter, who had been Chairman since 1984, resigned. He was thanked for all his work for the Society and elected a Vice-President. David M. Jones was elected as the new Chairman and the Hon. Vincent Weir as the new Vice-Chairman. Four members of Council—R. I. Agnew, Mrs Maisie Fitter, Dr John Sparks and Edward Wright—retired, having completed their four years of office. Dr Jeremy Cherfas, Bruce Coleman, Dr Chris Humphries, James MacEwen, Richard Steel and Dr Ian Swingland were elected as new Council Members.

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Lord Craigton was placed on the Society's Roll of Honour. The citation accompanying the award reads: 'Since 1965 Lord Craigton has provided invaluable service to the Society as Council Member, Vice-Chairman, Chairman and Vice-President. He was the originator of the Oryx 100% Fund. A distinguished and able political figure, he has championed the Society's conservation aims in the House of Lords'.

Oryx 100% Fund grants

At its meeting on 16 September 1987 the FFPS Council approved the following grants from the Oryx 100% Fund.

£500 for surveys in central Vietnam to determine the status and distribution of five species of pheasant—*Lophura imperialis*, *L. edardsi*, *L. haitiensis*, *Rheinartia ocellata* and *Pavo muticus*. Four of them are Red Data Book species and one—*L. haitiensis*—was discovered only recently. The survey team will be paying particular attention to proposed protected areas in the presumed range of the birds, gathering information on habitat protection and on the impact of human activities. The information will be used to prepare a long-term strategy for pheasant conservation in Vietnam and a programme will be developed in co-operation with the State Committee for Science and Technology.

£500 for the Djibouti III expedition. One of the previous expeditions, which the FFPS also helped to fund, discovered a raptor migration. The Djiboutiens had been unaware of this, but now they are fascinated. One objective of this third expedition is to involve the Djiboutiens in the count of migrating raptors, which is being organized by the country's Scientific Institute and Ecole Normale working alongside British, Dutch and French ornithologists. The team will invite local people to visit the migration site to see the spectacle for themselves and a video is being made for use in Djibouti schools and villages.

£400 for a study of habitats and plants in the semi-arid provinces of Norte Chico, Chile. Many plant genera in these habitats—for example, *Verbena*, *Alstromeria*, *Hippeastrum* and *Calceolaria*—are suffering from over-collection, and trade in plant material will be investigated. More knowledge of the flora and habitats will enable

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action to be taken to improve controls on exports. The study will also establish what protection the national parks of the region provide for the native fauna and flora.

£200 for a survey of turtles, terrapins and tortoises in Burma. Many species are sold in markets for human consumption and for other uses, but the information on their status and distribution is very sketchy. The species include four endemic freshwater terrapins and two of the most primitive tortoises in the world; one is endemic and the other is known to guard its nest, the only chelonian known to exhibit parental care. Information on status of the species and their habitats, and on the levels of exploitation will be collected as a first step towards initiating more detailed studies involving local naturalists.

Underground elephants under attack

The unique salt-mining elephants of the Mount Elgon National Park, Kenya, have suffered severe losses from heavily armed ivory poachers. Accurate figures for Elgon's elephant population have never been determined, but the elephants are now believed to number tens rather than hundreds, and if park protection is not improved, the elephants—along with their remarkable underground behaviour—will be wiped out. An emergency appeal has been launched to raise funds to repair park vehicles and to provide maintenance money to keep anti-poacher patrols mobile on Mount Elgon and elsewhere. Donations can be sent via FFPS to The African Ele-Fund. For a list of fund-raising ideas and an information sheet, please enclose a s.a.e. with your donations.

Ian Redmond, Co-ordinator, African Ele-Fund.

Tortoise Survey—call for volunteers

Participants are needed for 1-week-long, intensive field projects in early May 1988, to help with a tortoise census in the Massif des Maures, southern France. Applicants should be fit and prepared to work in hot conditions. The approximate cost will be £140 per person, half-board, and participants will also have to pay for their own travel to France. Please apply, giving brief details of field experience, to: David Stubbs (SOPTOM), 84 Westbourne Park Villas, London W2 5EB.

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Members' Meetings

For full details of meetings see insert in this issue of *Oryx*.

London meetings

Is Nature Conservation Working For Plants?

The FFPS is to hold a one-day symposium on Saturday 5 March 1988 at the Zoological Society of London's Meeting Rooms, Regent's Park, in association with the Conservation Association of Botanical Societies. The programme will cover a wide range of issues relevant to the conservation of various plant groups and habitats, and contentious planning and pollution problems. Speakers will include Dr David Bellamy and Dr Derek Ratcliffe. The fee for registration, a cheese and wine lunch, coffee and tea, is £15. Booking forms (s.a.e. appreciated) from FFPS, 8–12 Camden High Street, London NW1 0JH.

Regional meetings

18 February 1987. 'Underground Elephants Under Attack' by Ian Redmond. Tickets £3 including wine and cheese buffet. Venue: Bristol Zoo (College Road entrance) at 7.30 p.m. Please send s.a.e. for tickets to the address for Bristol and the West of England Group given below.

The contact people for local group meetings are given below. Please send a stamped self-addressed envelope with enquiries.

Bristol and the West of England Group

Ian Redmond, c/o BBC Wildlife Magazine, Broadcasting House, Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 2LR.

Cambridge Group

Sandy Harcourt, University of Cambridge, Department of Applied Biology, Pembroke Street, Cambridge CB2 3DX.

Oxford Group

David Macdonald, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PS.

North-West Group

Nick Ellerton, Chester Zoo, Caughall Road, Upton, Chester CH2 1LH.

Edinburgh Group

Jayne Williams, Edinburgh Zoo, Murrayfield, Edinburgh EH12 6TS.

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