

News in Brief

A Medal for Lord Hurcomb

Lord Hurcomb, a Vice-President of the FPS, has been awarded the Silver Medal of the Zoological Society of London in recognition of his services to the conservation movement.

Author's Royalties Given to FPS

Anthony Shepherd has generously presented to the FPS half the advance royalties on his book, *The Flight of the Unicorns*, an account of the FPS expedition, Operation Oryx, of which he was a member. A review of the book, recently published by Elek at 30s. will appear in the next issue of ORYX.

FPS East African Tour

The FPS guided tour of East African game parks in Kenya and Tanganyika, planned for February, 1966, was completely booked within ten days and a second tour has been planned.

Index for ORYX

The Index for Volume VII of ORYX (1963–64) is now ready, and a copy will be sent free to any member who applies for one. Members wishing to have their loose copies bound should send them direct to Messrs. Stephen Austin and Sons Ltd., Caxton Hill, Ware Road, Hertford, Herts. The cost will be 21s. plus postage.

Adviser on Wildlife in Peru

Major Ian Grimwood, who resigned as Chief Game Warden of Kenya last year, has been in Ethiopia during the winter on a UNESCO mission to advise on the establishment of national parks and reserves. This follows up the UNESCO mission led by Sir Julian Huxley, reported in ORYX, August, 1964. Major Grimwood is now about to take up an appointment in Peru to advise the government there on wildlife conservation.

Vets Consider Conservation

The British Veterinary Zoological Society has formed a Conservation Committee, of which the chairman is Michael Woodford, M.R.C.V.S., a member of the Operation Oryx expedition. Its function is to collect and collate information on the veterinary aspects and implications of wildlife conservation.

Acclimatised in Russia

The chinchilla, which as Ambassador Crowe shows in his survey on page 28 is in danger of extinction in its native Andes, has been introduced into the Pamirs in the USSR, and has now become acclimatised in one valley.

Dr. Kaunda and the Poachers

The new government of Zambia, formerly Northern Rhodesia, has shown no hesitation in its attitude to conservation. "I tell my people, 'A live animal is more valuable than a dead one. Help us to save your wealth,'" says the Minister of Natural Resources, and Dr. Kaunda has warned poachers that he

intends to stamp out poaching "with all the means at my command". Writing in *Black Lechwe*, the informative journal of the Wildlife Conservation Society, the president, Lt.-Col. Critchley reports that the government has doubled its grant to the Society, from £500 to £1,000.

Arabian Oryx Calves

A third calf was born last December to the herd of Arabian oryx at Phoenix Zoo, Arizona, of which the animals captured in Operation Oryx formed the nucleus. The mother is one of the four animals presented by Saudi Arabia last year to the World Wildlife Fund. The herd now numbers twelve, five of which belong to the FPS. Three more calves are expected.

Reprieve for Greenland Seal

The Soviet-Norwegian Sealing Commission for the Atlantic has agreed to suspend hunting for the Greenland seal for five years, starting in 1966. Research has shown that the stocks in the White and Barents Seas were dwindling catastrophically. Emphasis in their joint research programme on the Greenland seal, is now to be given to studying the rate of reproduction and distribution, with probably another air survey in the White Sea.

A World Population of Eleven

The Japanese Government has bought the breeding area of the Japanese crested ibis to protect it, and it is hoped that part of the birds' wintering area will also be bought. The total population of the birds is now eleven—ten on Sado Island and one on the Noto peninsula—including four young reared in 1964.

Schoolgirls' Collection for FPS

Form C II, of Monks Park School, Horfield, Bristol, generously made a collection in aid of the FPS, and sent £4 10s "to go towards helping wildlife in their fight for survival".

Getting In First

A member of the FPS, visiting Nairobi, taxed an American lady about her leopard-skin coat, pointing out what was happening to leopards in the wild. The answer was, Yes, she supposed that leopards would be extinct shortly; that was why she was buying two coats *now*.

A FIELD MEETING FOR MEMBERS

A NEW departure for the FPS is a field meeting for members and friends to be held at Woburn and Whipsnade on Saturday, May 29th. At Woburn the party will be conducted by the head keeper and able to see the deer at close range, including a large herd of the rare Père David's deer which is extinct in the wild; at Whipsnade, the director, Mr. E. H. Tong, who is a member of the FPS Council, will show the party round, and there will be an opportunity for those interested to see the herds of rare domestic stock. (Stout shoes.) It would be helpful if members who wish to come would send a postcard to the Hon. Secretary beforehand so that we have some idea of numbers. The party will meet in the car park at Woburn at 11.30 a.m., and go on to Whipsnade after lunch. Please bring a picnic lunch.