



The elephant fact hunt

How grave is the threat to the elephant's survival? No one knows for certain. Counting elephants is not a simple matter despite their impressive dimensions, for herds range over vast distances. However ivory poaching and the destruction of habitat have undoubtedly taken ruinous toll in many areas.

IUCN and the World Wildlife Fund have therefore mounted a 3-year elephant project. What is the present picture in Africa? And in Asia? What is the effect of human settlements? What is the impact of the ivory trade? How can poaching be stamped out? What is the right conservation policy—bearing in mind that unsophisticated measures can do more harm than good? These and related questions are the concern of the project.

Dr Iain Douglas-Hamilton, a leading expert on the African elephant and chairman of the IUCN/Survival Service Commission's Elephant Group, will be in overall charge, though his focus will be Africa. The study on the Asian elephant—under graver threat than its African relative—will be supervised by Mr Robert Olivier, who has recently been studying the elephant in Malaysia, and by Mr J. C. Daniel. They are Co-Chairmen of the Asian sub-group of IUCN's Elephant Group.

The project will culminate in an international conference on the management of elephants and their habitats. It is hoped that those involved in elephant research, conservation and legitimate exploitation will all participate.

33rd Party to Endangered Species Convention

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics deposited its instrument of ratification of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on 9 September 1976, thus becoming the 33rd Party to the Convention.

Endangered Species Convention

The two big dangers

The first meeting of the parties to the Endangered Species Convention (Bern, Switzerland, 2-6 November 1976) faces two big dangers. One is that the ruling on parts and derivatives of threatened species will be unclear or inconsistent; and the other is the paradoxical danger that too many species will be included.

The Convention provides for the regulation of trade not only in whole animals and plants, alive and dead, but also in their "readily recognizable" parts and derivatives. Clearly, if parties to the Convention differ as to what parts and derivatives are readily recognizable by customs officers, then the treaty will be gravely weakened.

Difficulties arise not so much over primary products (such as crocodile skins) but over secondary ones (such as crocodile-skin handbags). Recognition of species once they have been transformed into manufactured goods can be a problem even for experts—and customs officers are not experts. Yet there is a substantial trade in the secondary products of endangered species, and if the Convention is to be effective this trade must be controlled.

It is hoped, therefore, that the parties will be able to come to some agreement on what parts and derivatives should be controlled and how problems of recognition can be overcome.

Threat of overkill

More than 800 species are already included in the Convention's appendices of controlled species. Such a large number imposes a heavy burden on management authorities. Almost as many species again would be added if all the amendments proposed by the parties were to be accepted; and some authorities fear that the Convention is now threatened by the peculiar overkill of excessive listing.

Too many species could reduce the effectiveness of the Convention in three ways: customs officers would not be able to cope with the many distinctions they would be required to make between species and between subspecies; prospec-

tive parties to the Convention might be provoked to enter so many reservations about particular species that their adherence to the Convention would be vitiated; and governments not yet party to the Convention might actually be deterred from adhering—a dangerous possibility given the small number (33) of parties so far.

One useful result of the conference of the parties, therefore, would be the adoption of basic principles for proposing amendments.

Necessary amendments

There is no doubt that a number of amendments to Appendices I and II are necessary. Broadly, essential amendments fall within three groups: measures to improve control of trade in species already listed; transfer of species from one Appendix to another because they are either more or less threatened than formerly believed; and additions of species that definitely need the protection of the Convention.

Amendments that improve control can be either simplification measures—such as the proposals to delete the subspecies of *Osteolaemus tetraspis* (dwarf crocodile) and *Crocodylus palustris* (marsh crocodile) and substitute the species—or insurance measures.

Insurance measures include species in Appendix I or II (normally the latter) in order to prevent the pressure of trade falling on them once trade in similar species is restricted; or because it is impossible to distinguish between them (or their parts and derivatives) and species already included.

Proposed insurance measures can be controversial, as can be seen from Canada's and Switzerland's conflicting proposals concerning *Loxodonta africana* (the African elephant). *Loxodonta* is not considered a threatened species (yet), but *Elaphus maximus* (the Asian elephant) is—being classified as vulnerable in the *Red Data Book* and listed in Appendix I of the Convention. Unfortunately, it is

(Continued on back page)

News from Members

IUCN Members with news of interest to other Members are invited to send it to Membership Officer, IUCN, 1110 Morges, Switzerland.

Welcome to Mauritius

Mauritius has become the 46th State Member of IUCN. Notification of adherence to the IUCN Statutes was contained in a letter dated 30 August 1976 from the Minister of External Affairs, Tourism and Emigration.

Lose one—gain one

Our one-time Member, Instituto de Conservação da Natureza, has now become part of the newly founded FEEMA (Foundation for Environmental Engineering) which takes over the former's Membership. Goodbye—and welcome!

FEEMA is the technical and executive agency for enforcing environmental control policy and co-ordinating the management of natural resources in the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This is no small job. The State, much of it intensely developed, covers 43,223 sq km and is the home of some 10 million people.

FEEMA, Rua Fonseca Teles, 121, 15.º andar. Rio de Janeiro.

Filmed for the first time

The Black-naped or Tibetan crane (*Grus nigricollis*) was discovered by a Russian naturalist in 1876. Exactly 100 years later a joint expedition to Ladakh by the Bombay Natural History Society and the World Wildlife Fund has resulted in probably the first-ever photographic record of the family behaviour of this crane—parents and one chick. A further pair and a single crane were also sighted.

For reasons of both politics and geography (it nests only at altitudes of 4,000 m to 5,000 m) detailed knowledge of this crane was hitherto non-existent. Though reputedly not uncommon in Chinese Tibet, its survival is certainly at hazard in India; the Ladakh para-military forces are not averse to shooting and eating it. Accordingly the State Government and the Prime Minister (who expressed grave concern at reports of illegal shooting) have been urgently requested to strengthen and enforce the orders protecting wildlife in the Ladakh area.

Illegal skins

A staggering number of illegal skins worth close on \$50,000 were seized from the house of a trader in Bilaspur during a raid by Forestry Department officials: no less than 22 tiger hides, 2 bundles of deer skins plus peacock feathers.

Spurred on by the Madras branch of WWF the Collector of Customs has ordered all goods made from reptile skins and prohibited for export to be removed from a sales emporium at Madras airport. He has also recommended to the Assistant Director of Wildlife (Madras) that the sale of such items be banned within the

city limits to safeguard unwary tourists. World Wildlife Fund, India.

Not extinct!

First discovered in a Paris zoo in 1937, the kouprey (*Bos sauveli*) is one of the most recently described mammals. Fears that it had joined the growing list of extinct species have been allayed, though it is by no means out of danger. There have been reliable sightings in recent months in the open forest lands of Cambodia and southern Laos and along the Thai-Cambodia border. But the kouprey is under grave threat (as also is the pileated gibbon) from illegal logging operations. The Forest Department has been asked to make a wildlife reserve of a strip of land 10 km to 15 km wide along the Thai-Cambodia-Laos border.

Last August an expedition in the Dangrek Range found evidence that kouprey enter Thailand during the rainy season. Unfortunately a road has now been built into the hills for extracting timber. Inevitably settlers, hunters and lumberjacks have followed. Vast cassava and maize plantations are now common and the remaining forest is losing its evergreen character and becoming deciduous.

During the week-long expedition, shooting was heard at an alarming frequency all round the clock. Parties equipped with powerful flashlights patrolled the area at night shooting whatever they met. Not surprisingly, the expedition found no sign of big game. Hunters complained that they now had to concentrate on smaller species such as barking deer, gibbons, macaques, wildfowl, and the collection of orchids.

More illegal skins

The campaign in Thailand to stop illegal trading in animal skins continues. Three tiger skins and 27 leopard skins were seized a short time ago. The "owner" was arrested but later released on bail.

Unique islands

Koh Surin is a group of islands in the Andaman Sea which is scheduled to become a wildlife reserve. It will also make an ideal closed-system laboratory for field studies. Its location and size (several sq km) make it an area of possible floral and faunal intergradation from Burma, Thailand, the Andaman islands and the Nicobar islands. At the same time it is relatively immune from the impact of people—though the once domestic dog now roams wild and there has clearly been some logging, rattan cutting and dynamiting of fish.

A preliminary and very worthwhile survey was carried out last April by an interdisciplinary team of 27 scientists. Among other excitements was the discovery of a type of coral thought to have been extinct since the Pliocene.

Phuket forest threat

The last piece of forest on Phuket now faces destruction. A new road bisects the

Phuket Botanical Reserve, Trees are being cleared and bamboo slashed in a manner that ensures maximum damage to the dwindling Reserve. Sad and unnecessary.

The Association for the Conservation of Wildlife, 4 Old Custom House Lane, Bangkok.

Save Chile's larch...

Southern Chile has for thousands of years been the home of *Alerce*, the giant Chilean larch. 10 years from now it will be extinct—unless the present mad rate of felling is abated. In a desperate bid to save this proud tree we have launched a leaflet campaign (aimed particularly at architects and builders). There are substitutes in plenty; these must be used.

... and native forests

The remaining forests of southern Chile will soon become pulp if Japan's giant Marubeni company is allowed to go ahead with its plans. We are heading a citizens' campaign to stop this. Such massive deforestation would be ecologically disastrous.

Comité Nacional Pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora, Casilla 3675, Santiago.

Wanted: "Conservation Correspondents"

We are constantly being asked by budding nature centres for facility and programme assistance. This we gladly give, but requests sometimes involve more follow-up and day-to-day surveillance than we can provide. Can you help? If so, please let us know. We will try to link up interested parties.

Conservation Correspondent, Nature Center Planning Division, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York 10022.

Wildlife census in Chitral

A most vivid report on the unique and very varied wildlife in Chitral (North-West Pakistan) has just been published. It is available from: Conservator of Forests, Wildlife, N.W.F.P. Peshawar, Pakistan.

New conservation reserves in Ghana

The former Ankasa River Forest Reserve, the most important tropical rain forest in Ghana, has now been brought under the Wild Animals Preservation Act. The effect has been to create two new conservation areas: the Nini-Suhien National Park and the Ankasa River Game Production Reserve.

At the same time, in order to study the effect of logging on the primates of the high forest, Bia National Park has been split into three separate conservation areas. They are: Bia National Park as redefined, 22,792 hectares (88 square miles); Bia West Game Production Reserve, 1654 hectares (6 square miles); Bia South Game Production Reserve, 5987 hectares (23 square miles). Department of Game & Wildlife, Post Office Box M 239, Ministry Post Office, Accra, Ghana.

IUCN Programme

The progress report on the Programme adopted by IUCN's 12th General Assembly continues below.

In this issue we continue the report on the Endangered Species Convention.

Endangered Species Convention

This report completes the account of those proposed amendments to Appendices I and II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on which the Secretariat has commented. The proposals covered here come from Australia, Iran, Madagascar, Morocco and the UK.

However, because the UK and Australia have proposed so many amendments (UK 528, Australia 90) and because so few are supported by individual statements, *only those proposals that have individual statements and accordingly on which the Secretariat has been able to comment have been included here*. Thus, the list is incomplete, omitting many proposals, particularly those concerning birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles.

As in the first part of this account (see pp. 50-52 of the September *Bulletin*), the proposed amendments are listed in taxonomic order. The following abbreviations are used: AI = Appendix I; AII = Appendix II; Aus = Australia; Mad = Madagascar; Mor = Morocco; UK = United Kingdom.

Mammalia

MONOTREMATA

Tachyglossidae

Zaglossus spp (echidnas): include all in AII (UK). Recommended for approval. This extends the proposal by Papua New Guinea (p 50), since some forms are sometimes considered distinct from *Z. bruijni*. Trade in those monotremes found outside Australia needs to be monitored.

MARSUPIALIA

Macropodidae

Macropus parma (Parma wallaby): transfer from AI to AII (Aus). Recommended for approval. Recent survey work indicates that this species is locally common within the rainforest and wet sclerophyll forests of the northern coast of New South Wales, although overall numbers are probably low and the species is considered rare.

Phalangeridae

Wyulda squamicaudata (scaly-tailed possum): transfer from AI to AII (Aus). Recommended for approval. Although the status of this species is not well known, it is now known to be common at Kalumburu (Western Australia). The sandstone country in which it occurs has so far been little affected by humans, but mining exploration is becoming extensive and may change the situation.

Burramyidae

Burramys parvus: transfer from AI to AII (Aus). Recommended for approval. The greater part of the known range of this species is in Kosciusko National Park.

Dasyuridae

Planigale tenuirostris (narrow-nosed planigale): transfer from AI to AII (Aus). Recommended for approval. Recent collecting has confirmed that this species persists in moderate numbers in semi-arid savanna in New South Wales and Queensland.

Planigale subtilissima (Kimberley planigale): delete from AI (Aus). Recommended for approval. Recent survey work in the Kimberley Division of northern Western Australia has revealed this species (until recently known from only a few specimens) to be more abundant than was previously thought.

Antechinomys laniger (eastern jerboa marsupial): transfer from AI to AII (Aus). Recommended for approval. Recent collecting has confirmed that this species is persisting in moderate numbers in semi-arid savanna in New South Wales and Queensland.

Note: in addition, Australia proposes that 12 other marsupial taxa be included in AII, and 10 in AI. No supporting statement is provided. The Secretariat recommends that the AII proposals be approved, but comments on the AI proposals that it doubts trade is a threat to these taxa, or indeed to some of the taxa listed above. In order to shorten AI and AII, an attempt should be made to delete those species that although threatened are not threatened by trade.

CHIROPTERA

Five chiropteran taxa are proposed for inclusion in AII (Aus). Not recommended for approval for the reason given in the not above.

PRIMATES

Lemuridae

Lemur spp: include all lemurs in AI, deleting *Lemur catta* (ring-tailed lemur) from AII (Mad). Recommended for approval. All lemurs are totally protected in Madagascar. Although the population of *L. catta* is relatively abundant, that of *Microcebus murinus* (lesser mouse lemur), already included in AI, is even more so.

Cebidae

Lagothrix spp (woolly monkeys): include in AI (UK). Recommended for approval. All woolly monkeys are endangered, but trade is still continuing.

Cercopithecidae

Macaca nigra (black macaque); *M. sylvanus* (Barbary macaque), *Rhinopithecus* spp and *Presbytis potenziani* (Mentawi leaf monkey): include in AI, deleting *M. sylvanus* and *R. roxellanae* (snub-

nosed langur) from AII (UK). Recommended for approval. All have a very limited range, occur intermittently in trade, and are declining in numbers.

Presbytis pilaetus (capped langur) and *P. entellus* (entellus langur): delete from AI (UK). Recommended for approval in the case of *P. entellus* only. The species is abundant and widespread and does not appear to be involved in trade.

Pongidae

Include all spp in AI (UK). Recommended for approval. This means transferring the chimpanzee to AI. If not included, there is likely to be a very great demand for wild chimpanzees for both public displays and medical research. Captive breeding should be encouraged, and the necessary strict control can only be given by placing the species in AI.

RODENTIA

Castoridae

Castor spp (beavers): delete from AI and AII (UK). Recommended for approval. The skins of the subspecies of beavers listed in AI and AII cannot be distinguished from those of other, non-listed species which are traded but are not threatened.

Muridae

Pseudomys novaehollandiae: delete from AI (Aus). Recommended for approval. Further work suggests that this species is more common and widespread than was thought at the time of the Washington Conference.

Pseudomys shortridgei: transfer from AI to AII (Aus). Recommended for approval. Recent collecting shows that this species is persisting in reasonable numbers within its range.

Pseudomys fumeus: transfer from AI to AII (Aus). Recommended for approval. This species is considered secure in the Grampians Range, Victoria, which is a State Forest Reserve.

Pseudomys occidentalis: delete from AI (Aus). Recommended for approval. Formerly known to science only by three specimens, recent surveys have shown this species to be quite common in the south-eastern wheatbelt of Western Australia. It occurs in several reserves, and is no longer considered threatened.

Notomys aquilo: transfer from AI to AII (Aus). Recommended for approval. Recent survey work has shown this species to be persisting in reasonable numbers.

CARNIVORA

Canidae

Vulpes cana (Blanford's fox): include in AII (Iran). Recommended for approval. A very rare and practically unknown species, restricted to the mountains of western and southern Iran.

Ursidae

Selenarctos thibetanus gedrosianus (Baluchistan bear): include in AII (Iran). Not recommended for approval. All bears

are threatened, including by trade, and the Secretariat favours their inclusion in AII. But identification of subspecies is almost impossible under the Convention.

Mustelidae

Martes americana atrata (marten): delete from AII (UK). Recommended for approval. The skins of this subspecies cannot be distinguished from those of species which are not threatened.

Viverridae

Eupleres goudoti (falanouc), *E. major*, *Fossa fossa* (fossa) and *Cryptoprocta ferox* (Malagasy civet): include in AII (Mad). Recommended for approval. All but *E. major* are listed as vulnerable in the *Red Data Book*, and uncontrolled trade could be fatal.

Felidae

Include all Felidae spp in AII, except for those in AI and the domestic cat (*Felis catus*) (UK). Recommended for approval. All cats are potentially involved in the fur trade, and the scale of this trade is such that all species must be considered vulnerable, few populations remaining unaffected. This proposal extends those of Switzerland (pp 50-51).

PERISSODACTYLA

Rhinocerotidae

Include all rhinocerotidae in AI (deleting individual mentions in AI and AII) (UK). Recommended for approval. All rhinoceros species are endangered, and tight control of trade in them is necessary.

ARTIODACTYLA

Cervidae

Moschus spp (musk deer): include all spp in AII except the subspecies already in AI (UK). Recommended for approval. Necessary to ensure effective control of the trade in musk.

Dama mesopotamica (Persian fallow deer): include in AI (Iran). Recommended for approval. On the verge of extinction in the wild (less than 40 individuals).

Aves

TINAMIFORMES

Tinamidae

Rhynchotus rufescens (red-winged tinamou): include sp in AII and delete subspecies (UK). Recommended for approval. Simplification measure.

GALLIFORMES

Tetraonidae

Lyrurus mlokosiewezy (Caucasian black-cock): include in AII (Iran). Recommended for approval, although the Secretariat is conscious of the identification problems that may arise. This species is rare and extremely local in north-eastern Turkey and north-western Iran, and is uncommon and decreasing in the Caucasus.

PSITTACIFORMES

Psittacidae

Neophema splendida (scarlet-chested parrot): transfer from AI to AII (Aus).

Recommended for approval. This species has a wide range in the arid western and central interior of Australia, although it is generally considered uncommon or rare within this range. This suggests that it has some narrow and uncommon habitat requirement. The paucity of distribution records is possibly due to the absence of experienced field observers within much of its range.

TROGONIFORMES

Trogonidae

Pharomachrus mocinno (quetzal): delete subspecies and include sp in AI (UK). Recommended for approval. Simplification measure.

STRIGIFORMES

Strigidae

Strix butleri (Hume's tawny owl): include in AII (Iran). Recommended for approval. A very rare and practically unknown species, recorded in a few localities in Syria, Jordan, Israel and Saudi-Arabia.

Amphibia

SALIENTA

Bufonidae

Wolterstorffina parvipalmata include in AI (UK). Not recommended for approval, the Swiss proposal covering all *Wolterstorffina* spp (p 51) being preferred.

Ranidae

Mantella spp: include in AII (UK). Recommended for approval. (Madagascar proposes the inclusion in AII of *M. aurantiaca*, *M. baroni* and *M. cowani*, but because of identification problems the UK proposal is preferred).

Microhylidae

Discophus antongilii: include in AII (Mad). Recommended for approval. This species is endemic to Madagascar, where its range is very limited, and is in great demand.

Reptilia

CROCODYLIA

Include all spp in AI (UK). Not recommended for approval, as controlled trade in some species is possible.

Crocodylidae

Osteolaemus tetraspis (dwarf crocodile), *crocodylus cataphractus* (African slender-snouted crocodile) and *crocodylus niloticus* (Nile crocodile): transfer from AI to AII (Mor). Not recommended for approval. All these species are endangered by trade.

SAURIA

Gekkonidae

Gekko spp (geckoes) and *Phelsuma* spp (day geckoes): include all in AII (UK). Recommended for approval.

Uroplatus spp: include all in AII (UK and Madagascar). Recommended for approval. These species could easily become subject to an important trade.

Partulidae

Include all Partulidae spp in AII (UK). Recommended for approval. The indigenous molluscan faunas of Pacific islands exhibit a high degree of endemism on, and even within, individual islands. While the majority of species are small and not threatened by trade, in the Society Islands some species of snails belonging to this family are comparatively large (10-25 mm) and colourful, and have been exploited. The shells of these snails are used with marine species for making laes, which are sold to tourists for export. Considerable numbers are used, and this can lead to local decimation of species with very restricted distributions. Although, at present, only the more colourful species are used, if any control on traders is introduced related taxa probably will be exploited with similar results. Legislation should be introduced to monitor the export of these snails.

Insecta

LEPIDOPTERA

Parnassius apollo (apollo): include in AII, deleting ssp *P. a. apollo* (UK). Recommended for approval. The inclusion of the species will still give protection to the threatened subspecies, while reducing the identification problems at customs points.

Pisces

CERATODIFORMES

Ceratodidae

Neoceratodus forsteri delete from AII (Aus). Recommended for approval. Although confined to only three rivers in Queensland, the species is abundant and regarded by fisheries authorities as being capable of sustaining regulated export.

Mollusca

STYLOMMATOPHORA

Helicidae

Helix spp (except *H. aspersa*) (edible snails): include all in AII (UK). Recommended for approval. Although *Helix pomatia* is eaten in a number of countries, the important consumer is France, and enormous numbers are imported from other countries in Europe and nearby. There is evidence that in some areas populations of this species have disappeared or have been depleted severely, and, therefore, new areas and species are beginning to be exploited. Thus there is a need to reinforce and extend local legislation by monitoring trade in *H. pomatia* and related taxa, and by trying to encourage development of commercial breeding programmes. The identification of gastronomically important species can be achieved only by a study of internal characteristics and not the shell; nevertheless the initial decisions concerning exploitation depend largely on size. Hence legislation is proposed for the whole genus, except for *H. aspersa* a common pest species.

Books

Bird life: an introduction to the world of birds

by Ad Cameron (illustrations) and Christopher Perrins (text)

Elsevier Phaidon, 160 pp, profusely illustrated in full colour on every page, £5.95

This is a splendid book; an excellent example of how accurate beautiful paintings and accurate clear text—intelligently combined—can convey information far more effectively than words or pictures alone.

Bird life is intended not for the specialist but for the general reader. However, even the specialist will be tempted to buy it: given its large format (31×23 cm) and the quality and quantity of the illustrations the book is reasonably priced, and it has many other virtues.

Conceptually, *Bird life* is pleasing—not limited to a few regions or topics but instead providing a good grounding in all aspects of avian biology. The book is global in scope and evolutionary and behavioural in approach. The text covers: evolution and classification; anatomy, locomotion and behaviour; feeding; habitats; social behaviour; breeding; migration; bird populations; and bird study. The paintings illustrate birds from every part of the world.

It is difficult to single out chapters for special praise. In all of them, Dr Perrins (who is director of the Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology, University of Oxford, UK) steers between the two great perils of introductory books—dull cataloguing on the one hand and slap-happy generalization on the other.

The book is remarkable particularly for the paintings of the Dutch artist, Ad Cameron. Beautiful though they are, they are not mere adornments but act in harmony with the text to convey information as concisely as possible.

Elsevier Phaidon are to be congratulated for publishing a book that is a model of its kind.

The poetry of birds

edited by Samuel Carr

Batsford, 88 pp, 4 pp of full-colour plates, 26 half-tone illustrations, 13 figures, £2.95

With so many contemporary arguments in defence of nature almost of necessity economic, it is salutary to be reminded of the powerful effect that wildlife—in this case birds—has on the human imagination.

The poems in this volume, and the paintings and drawings that illustrate them, make pleasant and relaxing browsing. But they are all European and North American. It is time that the nature-inspired art and oral literature of other cultures was published.

The constant pest: a short history of pests and their control

by George Ordish

Peter Davies, 240 pp, 8 pp of half-tone plates, 9 figures, £6.50

An anecdotal history. There is a liberal provision of extraneous (if entertaining) detail, but little discussion of the development of the theory of pest control or of how theory related to changes in practice. This is a pity. The author makes some interesting points (crop loss to pests is economic to the extent that reduced yields keep prices up; pesticides are undesirable, except as a last resort, primarily because they are the most expensive way of controlling pests), but these are lost in the crowd of names, asides, and peripheral gobbets of information.

How insects live

by Walter M. Blaney

Elsevier Phaidon, 160 pp, full colour illustrations on all but a few pages, £4.50

An introduction to insect behaviour and environmental relationships. There are chapters on locomotion on land and water, wings and flight, food and feeding, vision, mechanical and chemical senses, reproduction, growth and development, social insects, communication and navigation, and relationships with man. The colour quality is poor and the index inadequate. The text is fairly thorough, but other introductions available offer better value.

Moths in colour

by Leif Lyneborg

Blandford, 177 pp, 48 pp of full-colour plates, £2.50

A field guide to some of the moths of Europe (less than 5% of the species found in Europe are described). Identification characteristics, distribution, habitat and life history are cited in the descriptions, and the insects are illustrated satisfactorily.

Dictionary of environmental terms

by Alan Gilpin

Routledge & Kegan Paul, 191 pp, 5 half-tone illustrations, 1 map, 7 other figures, £3.50

Only the brave or the rash compile environmental dictionaries, unless they restrict themselves to one or two aspects of the environment. Dr Gilpin has opted for the latter course, and his dictionary is limited largely to pollution and its control. The terms are defined in a single sentence which is then explained, sometimes excessively. Few of the terms found in natural resource management are included.

It is interesting to compare some of the definitions in this dictionary with those in IUCN's *Multilingual dictionary*

of conservation terms. More accurate, elegant or generally agreed definitions of biosphere, ecosystem, niche, habitat and carrying capacity are provided by the IUCN dictionary. Dr Gilpin's dictionary better defines population (the IUCN definition, "all individuals of a taxon inhabiting a defined area", is rather the definition of a stock, which neither dictionary defines), biomass, and—strangely—conservation: "the rational use of the environment to improve the quality of living for mankind", as against the IUCN dictionary's "policies and measures for the wise use of that part of the environment consisting of natural components (air, water, soil and organisms) in such a way that their potential is maintained for present and future use by mankind".

Energy: the policy issues

edited by Gary D. Eppen

University of Chicago Press, 121 pp, 2 half-tone illustrations, 8 figures, \$1.95

This useful book reproduces seven lectures given at the Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago, in 1974.

Robert Sachs, director of Argonne National Laboratory, discusses the US' energy options. He considers in turn conservation, bio-organic sources of energy (wood, methane, hydrogen produced by photosynthesis), solar and geothermal energy, fossil fuels, nuclear fission and nuclear fusion. He makes—but does not explore—the point that these are not exclusive options but can be combined differently to provide other options. He argues that no option "can be said at this time to be clearly ahead of the others in all respects".

Barry Commoner, director of the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems, Washington University, presents his by now familiar thesis that much of the environmental disruption in industrial countries is caused by changes to production processes demanding greatly increased energy consumption. These changes have occurred, he says, because energy-expensive technologies are more profitable than energy-conserving ones—due to the former's smaller labour requirement. He makes a persuasive case.

Two professors of politics, Hans Morgenthau and Marvin Zonis, and two professors of economics, M. A. Adelman and Robert Aliber, then consider different aspects of the new relationship between the governments and economies of the US and the members of OPEC. Their contributions are interesting as much for what they reveal about the attitudes of US political and business intellectuals as for their discussion of the "facts" of the world oil crisis.

Finally, William Johnson, Professor of economics at George Washington University, describes some of the unintended side-effects of price controls on the oil industry.

Together, these lectures provide a readable primer on the politics of energy in the industrial world.

Big dangers (continued)

practically impossible to tell the difference between the ivory of the two species once it has been carved.

Since most ivory products made from *Loxodonta* ivory originate from countries that lie within the range of *Elaphus* (for example, India and Singapore)—with the risk that products of the latter could easily be slipped in with products of the former—it is arguably prudent to include *Loxodonta* in Appendix I. However, in parts of its range, *Loxodonta* numbers are so great that they have to be culled. In such cases, it could be counter-productive to attempt to impose the severe restrictions on trade that apply to Appendix I species.

There is no argument that the African elephant is in need of a measure of protection. What is at issue is the degree of protection required—or indeed feasible—and whether as a matter of principle Appendix I should be used for a species that is not yet threatened.

Crocodiles and turtles

Proposals to improve control of trade in two other groups—crocodiles and sea turtles—have also proved controversial. The United Kingdom has proposed that all crocodylians and all sea turtles be included in Appendix I. All crocodylian and sea turtle species are classified in the *Red Data Book* as endangered or vulnerable, with the exceptions of *Alligator mississippiensis* (American alligator), now recovered, *Crocodylus novaeguineae mindorensis* (Mindoro crocodile), indeterminate, and *Chelonia depressa* (flatback green turtle), rare.

Endangered species for which trade poses a major threat, yet which are in Appendix II, include: *Caiman crocodilus* (spectacled caiman), *Crocodylus acutus* (American crocodile), *Chelonia mydas* (green turtle), *Lepidochelys olivacea* (Pacific ridley turtle), and *Dermochelys coriacea* (leathery turtle). Clearly, such species should be “promoted” to Appendix I. Unfortunately, apart from Australia’s proposal that *Dermochelys coriacea* be transferred from Appendix II to Appendix I (and, of course, the UK’s blanket proposal), this has not been proposed. And the UK’s proposal is likely to run into trouble, because controlled trade in some crocodile species is possible. Indeed, there has been some attempt to reduce protection of crocodiles: witness the Moroccan proposal to transfer *Osteolaemus tetraspis* (dwarf crocodile), *Crocodylus cataphractus* (African slender-snouted crocodile) and *Crocodylus niloticus* (Nile crocodile)—all endangered species—from Appendix I to Appendix II.

Butterflies and edible snails

The addition of new species is still more problematical, given the danger of overloading the Convention. Some proposals fill obvious gaps: for example, the amendments of Peru and UK to include, respectively, *Tremarctos ornatus* (spectacled bear) and *Lagothrix* (woolly monkey) species in Appendix I; and those of Papua New

Savage seasonal slaughter

An article published last May in *The Times* of London deplored the fact that in Italy alone an estimated 160 million migratory birds were killed each autumn by shooting, trapping and other means. The writer of the article received a letter from the Komitee Gegen den Vogelmord EV of Germany. Part of this letter was published in *The Times* on 6 September.

The letter claimed that the true figure is not 160 million, but 300 million, and that the effects of this annual carnage are becoming serious. For instance only one swallow in six now returns the next year to its breeding grounds in northern Europe.

On 14 September *The Times* published a response to this letter from the President of the Italian Society for the Protection of Birds. While agreeing that the situation in Italy is deplorable (though strongly

disputing the quoted figures), the Society has had some successes. Spring shooting has been banned and bird-netting severely curtailed. The Society continues to campaign for acceptable shooting laws, for more bird reserves and for the teaching of ornithology in the schools. The letter concluded by requesting “concrete support for our struggle against odds”.

This savage seasonal slaughter is not, of course, confined to Italy. A European committee of the International Council for Bird Preservation is therefore in the process of raising funds which will be channelled into those national organizations which can best affect their own situations.

It would be nice if the natural migratory instincts of birds and the natural sporting instincts of all too many West Europeans were better harmonized. But where nature fails, people must step in. Governments must be pressurized to curb this barbarism.

A bicentenary celebration

A bicentenary—and one which has nothing to do with the USA—has just been celebrated. On 23 September 1776 Captain James Cook first sighted that group of islands in the South Pacific which has since then borne his name.

But the Cook Islanders will not resent the fact that the world at large pre-empted their celebrations by a full year. For it was in May 1975 that there occurred a singularly imaginative and generous action of global importance. At the International Conference on Marine Parks and Reserves in Tokyo, the Government and people of the Cook Islands presented the island of Manuae to “world science and for the benefit of mankind”.

Manuae comprises two islets and a lagoon with a combined area of 2193 hectares (8½ square miles). It is an atoll, a ring-shaped coral reef, one of the world’s most valuable yet vulnerable environments. And so the first of the Cook Islands to have been discovered by the

Polynesians and the first to have been “discovered” again by Captain Cook 200 years ago has earned another first. It has become the first World Marine Park. May it set a trend!

Bouquets all round!

Thank you Sierra Club for your gift to IUCN of \$5,000. And thank you Nature Reserves Council of America, and thank you American Committee for International Conservation, for gifts, respectively, of \$2,500 and \$1,000. Thank you, too, British Ecological Society for your welcome £100.

And thanks to the World Wildlife Fund your gifts are of double value to us. So thank you WWF for matching all these gifts dollar for dollar and pound for pound.

Well not quite all round

There are still a few Members who have not yet paid their 1976 Membership dues. Please, please, will you check through your records and make sure you are up to date with us. Before the end of the year—please! Our programmes depend on you.

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