

SYMPOSIUM OF THE SURVIVAL SERVICE. - "Rare animals and plants of the Mediterranean region".

The Assembly,

- aware of the danger that threatens the whole range of Mediterranean flora and fauna, especially the endemic species ;
- observing with concern the rapid regression or the complete disappearance of certain biotopes, in particular surfaces of open water or marshes ;
- requests that in all Mediterranean countries, coordinated attempts should be made without further delay to protect effectively habitats and species that are threatened in these regions, and
- suggests that a body be established within the I.U.C.N. grouping representatives of each of the countries involved ; their task would be to suggest the most effective methods in order that the Union may propose their application to the responsible authorities, with the aim of coordinating efforts for the conservation of nature in the whole Mediterranean area.

The Assembly,

- considering the importance of the marismas of the Guadalquivir, a unique natural environment in Europe as a breeding ground for rare birds and stopping place for many migratory species from all the European countries,

Expresses the wish,

- that the Spanish Government give favourable consideration to the establishment of a reserve extending over a sufficient area in this part of Spain as to enable the protection of the natural environment and the living creatures that inhabit it, particularly the glossy ibis, the spoonbill, the shellduck, the crane, the purple gallinule and the crested coot.

*

*

Moreover the Assembly has noted and supports the following resolution passed by the XIth Conference of the International Committee for Bird Preservation (I.C.B.P.), as it applies to the Mediterranean regions :

" Having noted that there is still a widespread prejudice against birds of prey, this Conference urges National Sections to undertake propaganda by films, leaflet and other appropriate means, especially in favour of those species beneficial to agriculture, condemns two practices in particular, viz.:

"1° the blacklisting of certain birds of prey as harmful ;

" 2° the system of payment of-rewards...for the destruction of any species of bird of prey including owls.

¹¹ Having noted that scientific investigations have shown birds of prey, including owls, to be generally harmless, recommends that they should all be protected in all countries, with the proviso that, when it is necessary to make an exception, special orders or permits to shoot should be required and in granting such orders or permits specialists in nature conservation and bird protection should be consulted".