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## *Will Canada jettison the steel jaw trap?*

*"It is the view of the department that the government should not act as public spokesperson for fur interests." This disclaimer appears in a lengthy discussion paper prepared by Canada's Department of External Affairs and entitled Defense of the Fur Trade.*

*But in the very next paragraph we read: "The department seeks to find ways in which it can most effectively work with various pro-fur groups, separately or in concert, to foster their interests." A first requirement is "to produce a comprehensive strategy or strategies and to determine the government's role therein." Over 70% of Canada's fur exports go to just four countries, the US, Switzerland, West Germany and Britain.*

*Thus, legislation in these countries and the European Parliament to restrict international trade in steel jaw trapped furs is regarded as a threat.*

*To these overseas "threats" could now be added a motion put down in the British House of Commons last November. Its wording is as follows: "That this House, noting the 1951 Scott Henderson Committee Report's description of the steel-jaw leghold trap as 'a diabolical instrument which causes an incalculable amount of suffering', and the ban on its use by 66 countries, calls upon Her Majesty's Government to ban the import of all furs from countries still legally permitting the use of this trap and to encourage other European Economic Community and Council of Europe countries to do the same."*

*Interestingly the Canadian discussion paper, although pre-dating the British parliamentary initiative, pinpoints reluctance to abandon the steel-jaw trap as an indefensible weakness in the pro-fur position. "The past 17-20 years of anti-sealing rhetoric has significantly raised public perceptions of cruelty to animals in a Canadian context. The legacy of the anti-sealing campaign is a*

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Dave Currey/E.I.A.

*Senegal parrots packed in an air transport case at Dakar airport, Senegal. About 10 million birds are exported annually.*

## Senegal's wild bird trade

by Dave Currey, Environmental Investigation Agency

In 1985 the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) published its report on the shipment of live animals in international trade. It showed the horrific suffering and high mortality that the trade caused, and made dozens of recommendations to the Live Animals Board of the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

However, although the 1985 meeting of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) set up a Transportation Working Group, EIA's recommendations have not been taken up. EIA authors were not invited to discuss their proposals with an IATA/CITES liaison group which welcomed members of the pet trade. The unavoidable conclusion is that IATA is more interested in protecting the trade than with the suffering and waste of life it causes. Serious issues raised by EIA have been ignored.

At the Ottawa meeting of CITES in July the issue will be raised again. To present new information and up-to-date facts, EIA has been working hard on new reports. As part of their campaign to stop the pet trade in wild-caught birds, they sent a research and documentation team to Senegal, West Africa, to investigate methods of capture and exportation in the world's biggest wild-bird exporting country.

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# Senegal's bird trade

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The EIA team uncovered a trade far larger than the official export figures of 1.3 million birds annually. However, after interviewing people involved at every stage of the trade, inspecting documents, and piecing the whole story together, EIA's evidence suggests that 10 million birds are leaving Senegal each year.

The birds are caught by a network of bird catchers all over the country. They bait the ground with water and then set up a decoy. This involves pegging a live bird to the ground to attract others. When catching parrots the decoy parrot first has its wing tips cut off so that it cannot escape. When enough birds are drinking, a net closes over them, sprung by the catcher, watching from a nearby hide. Amadou Diallo, Senegal's biggest exporter, told EIA that he expects 10-20% of the birds to die through the initial shock of being caged.



A Senegal parrot being used as a decoy in the capture of wild parrots. About 15% of birds caught die from the shock of being caged.

Dave Currey/E.I.A.

Catchers sell the birds to local collectors, usually employed by an exporter. They buy the birds and arrange delivery of them to the exporter weekly. A further 20-30% of the birds die because of the change to cage food. Transportation to the exporter's premises in Dakar, Senegal's capital, is a rough and arduous affair. The birds, about 2,000 per cage, are put in or on a vehicle. EIA saw thousands of birds on the roof of a public bus. The extreme African heat, shock, and exhaustion kill more of the birds. On arrival in Dakar they are usually released into aviaries to recover from the journey, but if the order



Dave Currey/E.I.A.

Amadou Diallo, Senegal's most important bird exporter. He exports about 2½ million birds each year.

books are full, some are immediately flown to an importing country.

In the aviaries there is a risk of disease. Amadou Diallo sometimes has 200,000 birds stored in his premises at any one time. (If a new batch of birds brings disease with them, vast numbers of them die in his premises.) The birds are then packed in tiny air-transport cases—200 birds in each case. They are driven to the airport and put on flights to many parts of the world. By this time half of the birds initially caught are already dead. To supply the world's demands for wild birds, 20 million birds are caught each year in Senegal.

Shipments to the USA can take three days to arrive. The birds will have received food and water but are often in a very bad condition on arrival. Many that survive their ordeals in Senegal die in quarantine or soon after being bought as pets by the public in the importing country.

According to Allassane Diallo, Amadou's son and director of his company, they export over a million birds to the USA each year. For their company (one of the 10 bird-exporting companies in Senegal) the US market is the most profitable, amounting to 45% of their trade.

Allassane told us his father has eight regular clients in the USA. He gave us the names of five of them: *Novaks* and *Starbirds*, both of New York, *Gators* of Miami and *MPM Birds* and "*Richard*", both of Los Angeles. Each of these eight clients buys on average 70 cases every month. Cases flown direct to clients in New York each contain 100 pairs of

birds. On longer flights to the USA involving stopovers at European airports, the case-load is cut to 80 pairs to reduce mortality.

The bird trade is worth very little to Senegal, but its exporters are making huge profits. They all own other companies financed from their bird businesses. The price of the birds increases dramatically from the amount a catcher gets paid to the final shop price. Some parrots are worth hundreds, sometimes thousands, of dollars.

EIA's attempt to ban this trade has met with considerable opposition from those that are making the profits: the exporters, the importers, the airlines, and the retailers. Some of them argue that the wild bird trade is necessary for now, so that captive breeding can take place.

The quantities of birds being traded are so enormous that this argument is ridiculous. A tiny fraction of the present

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trade would supply captive-breeding aviaries. But this argument is being used to stall any immediate ban after the pet trade has had years to get their house in order.

In 1976 the parties to CITES recommended that the pet trade should be limited to species which were captive bred, due to over-exploitation and high mortality in trade and captivity as pets. But CITES has done nothing to implement this resolution passed 11 years ago.

Another argument favored by the pet trade is that the birds are considered as crop pests in their own country and masses are killed to protect vital food resources. But only 7% of Senegal's live-bird exports consist of species regarded as pests.

EIA is also investigating avian diseases which can infect people. Their research reveals that there have been some human deaths as a result of keeping pet birds. Often family doctors are

not familiar with the symptoms. Although the birds undergo quarantine, human cases of disease still occur.

EIA is using their research material, film and photographs to publicize the

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cruelty and high mortality of the bird trade. They have already succeeded in getting national TV, newspaper and magazine coverage in the UK and in many other parts of the world. They

have also produced a film called *Let Them Live* which looks at the issues that EIA is working on, including pilot whaling in the Faroe Islands and the wild animal trade. The film has been shown in the UK on BBC TV and EIA hopes to show it in Europe, the USA and Canada. They will be at CITES in July to show delegates the reality of the trade and are calling for a ban on the pet trade in wild-caught birds.

EIA is also appealing to the public not to buy wild birds as pets. It is the public demand that allows the trade to continue. For every bird people buy, up to four have died on the long journey to the pet cage. Says Senegal's Director of National Parks, Andre Dupuy: "A bird is the symbol of freedom and is not on earth to be caged. Under very different conditions a trade might be understandable; but as it is now, and bringing no income to the nation involved, if it was left to me there would be no bird trade."

## People and *psittacosis*

That human beings can contract psittacosis, sometimes with fatal results, from contact with cage birds is tolerably well known. Less well known is the fact that human-to-human transmission of the disease, although rare, is not impossible.

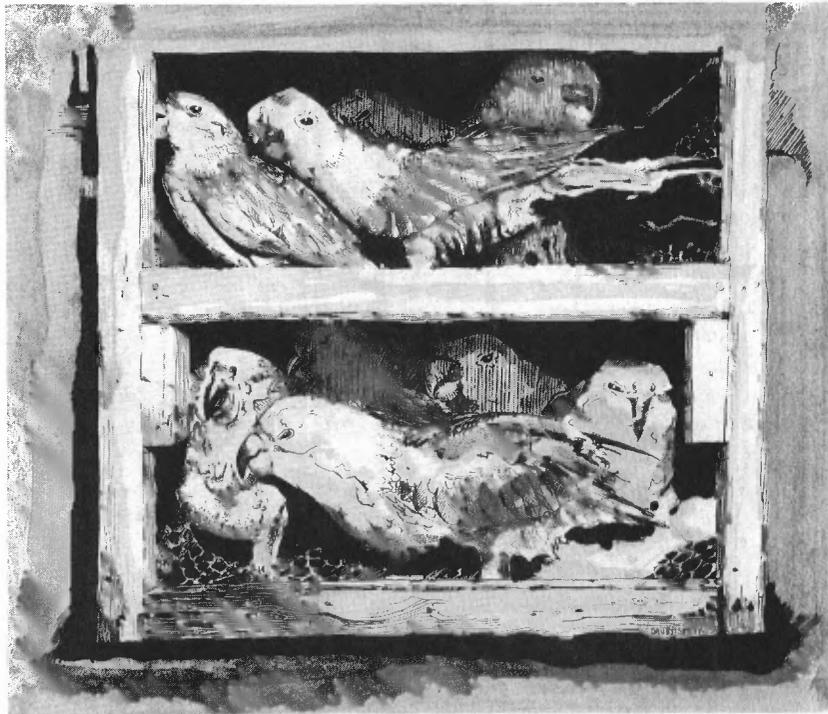
An article in the British Medical Journal (1984, Vol. 289) documents two such occasions. In 1977 a patient in a Scandinavian hospital who died from psittacosis infected 11 people, including a relative, medical and nursing staff, a cleaner and a patient in the same room. In 1939 a psittacosis sufferer infected 25 contacts, causing 13 deaths.

While recorded instances of this kind are (thankfully) highly uncommon, they may well be under-recorded. Medical ignorance of the disease can lead to misdiagnosis; probably many cases are labeled atypical pneumonia.

It is also plain that psittacosis acquired through contact with wild caught cage birds is grossly under-reported.

Psittacosis is a "notifiable" disease in the US and in many European countries. Yet in 1983 the Weekly Report of the Infectious Disease Section of California State Department of Health ob-

have been showing an inexorable rise in parallel with the rise, year by year, of wild bird imports. The picture is broadly similar in other countries researched by EIA—Britain, Denmark, and Sweden.



The term psittacosis (sometimes called ornithosis) refers to infections with the bacterium *Chlamydia psittaci*. Over 130 bird species have been identified as carriers and the probability is that all birds are vulnerable. However the infection in wild birds normally remains latent, causing no problems. Sickness is typically triggered by stress. And stress is an inevitable component of the wild caught bird trade.

Equally inevitably sick cage birds will sometimes transmit the disease to human beings. Nor can even lengthy quarantining (56 days in Sweden) provide any risk-free guarantee to human hand-

lers thereafter. served: "For every documented and reported human case it is likely that up to 100 may occur and go undetected."

But even on reported cases of human psittacosis in the US, the annual figures

ers thereafter.

The hazards to human health of the cage-bird trade have been seriously, and even irresponsibly, underplayed. It is time they were seen in their true light.

# WHALING FOR SCIENCE

*Japan, Norway, Iceland trade in old-fashioned commercial whaling for new-fangled research whaling. Which is of course quite different. Except perhaps for the whale.*

The end of March signalled a new era for Japan and its whalers. Honoring its agreement with the United States to honor (albeit two years late) the IWC ban on commercial whaling, the Japanese whalers in Antarctic seas will now be quite otherwise engaged. For them no more nasty commercial whaling. Instead just eminently respectable scientific whaling—or whaling for “research purposes”.

At the meeting in June of the IWC Scientific Committee, Japan will present its plan for taking 825 minke whales and 50 sperm whales every year for the next 12 years in the Antarctic in the interests of science—a grand total of 10,500 whales over the period. As part of the plan the Japanese have also undertaken to consume the meat from the carcasses when the scientists have finished with them.

It seems unlikely that many scientists—outside those from Japan and the other whaling nations—will be won over to the view that either science or the whales will be well served by this proposal. It is also unlikely that the Japanese will therefore agree to drop it.

The Prime Minister of Norway, Mrs. Gro Brundtland, has a reputation for being a fiery conservationist. Quite recently she delivered a dressing-down to Britain's Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher (a deed the mere thought of which makes most *male* leaders in Western Europe go all wobbly at the knees), on the subject of acid rain and she chaired the UN commission whose report on environmental debacles the world over has just been published. Well done her! BUT (capitals because it is a very big but) she continues to preside over her country's slaughter of whales.

Last summer Norwegian whalers admitted to taking 379 minke whales in defiance of the whaling ban (to which Norway has formally objected). This summer Norway will again be killing whales “commercially”. Next summer, 1988, in deference to world opinion, commercial whaling is likely

to give way to “small-scale, traditional” whaling. In other words the offending term will be dropped; the killing will continue. (If, incidentally, the Norwegians really do believe that what you call a thing is what matters, then surely the best way of dealing with acid rain is by the simple expedient of changing the name to something more kindly.)

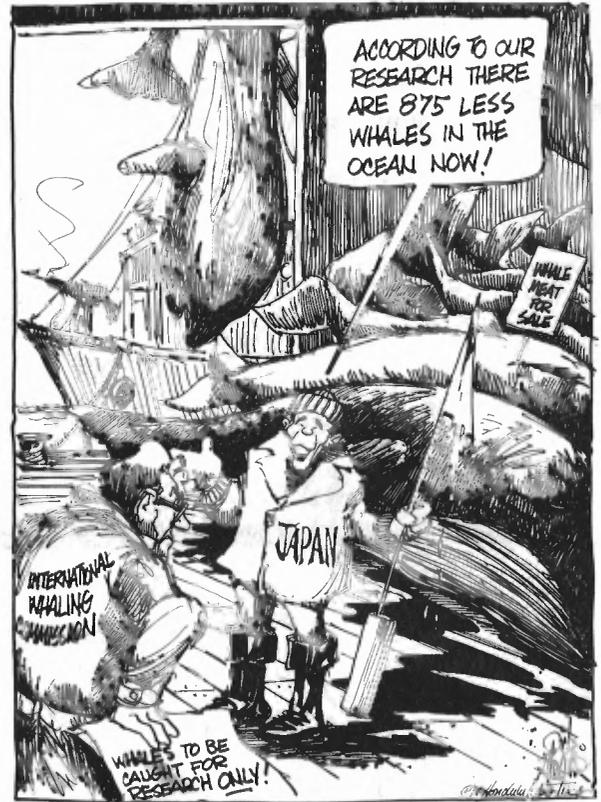
By way of justifying their stand the Norwegians are claiming that the data which persuaded the IWC to protect the minkes in the first place was wrong because the Norwegian whalers (who provided the data) had consistently underreported their take. In fact, though, the new “improved” data presented in 1986 confirmed the rightness of calling a halt to whaling in the northeast Atlantic; the stock of minkes there would seem to have been in continual decline for the past 40 years!

Unhappy with this interpretation of the Norwegian figures, the Prime Minister then appointed a panel of scientists to re-examine the issue. However, the leisurely pace of the panel's labors has conveniently led to a postponement of the verdict—which had been promised well in advance of the 1987 whaling season—until *after* the government has decided on the scale of Norwegian whaling this summer.

Iceland's compliance with the ban on commercial whaling took the form of awarding itself a “special 4-year permit for research” beginning last year. It involves an annual take of 80 fin and 40 sei whales. It has also come within an ace of involving the loss of all fish exports to the US which was angered by the ruse adopted to breach the whaling ban. However, Iceland staved off this threat by agreeing its own citizens would consume at least 50 percent of the 2000 tons of meat a

year resulting from the kill—a tall order for a country with a population of under a quarter of a million, not all of them by any means avid consumers of whale meat.

By February of this year only 130 tons of last year's whale catch had been consumed. Despite publicity stunts showing the Prime Minister and colleagues devouring platefuls of whale meat in a Reykjavik restaurant, the Icelanders plainly had no stomach for the task set them. So—how to be *profitably* rid of the sur-



plus meat? Answer: label it “seafood” and ship it in a roundabout way to Japan.

But Iceland was reckoning without the Greenpeace sleuths living over there and monitoring events. When an Icelandic ship with seven containers of “seafood” aboard sailed for Hamburg in March the German authorities were alerted. On arrival the containers were found to hold 140 tons of frozen whale meat intended for transshipment to Japan. The meat was promptly confiscated; whale meat under CITES rules may not be internationally traded.

A second shipment of “seafood” whale meat arrived in Hamburg a short while later with its guilty cargo missing. The search is on to discover where it was offloaded. It seems Iceland has some explaining to do.

Dick Acarr/Honolulu Advertiser

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# "Entanglement!"

It's a cry that galvanizes the Rescue Team at the Center for Coastal Studies into action. We throw ourselves into the inflatable boats which serve as work platforms for a rescue operation (often throwing ourselves into cold-weather exposure suits first; the whales whose lives are at risk do not choose to entangle themselves only during the summer months), the inflatables are quickly loaded with specialized rescue gear developed by the Center, and the Team is off to locate the entangled whale. When the whale has been sighted, the extent of the entanglement is determined, and a quick evaluation made: Can we attempt to disentangle this whale without further risking its life? Is the nature of the entanglement such that we stand even a remote chance of releasing the animal? Is the whale approachable?

If the answers to the above questions are "yes", the Team goes into action. No two entanglements are alike; each must be treated separately. In each case, the Team must be able to approach the whale closely enough to grab hold of the line or net, sometimes by hand, sometimes with a grappling hook. Employing a modern version of an old whaling technique where empty wooden casks were attached to a harpooned whale, we first attach plastic floats to



Center for Coastal Studies

*Dr. Mayo, Scientific Director of the Cetacean Research Program, holds net in which Ibis was entangled. Monofilament nylon gill netting is the most life-threatening plastic for marine mammals.*

the animal in an attempt to slow it down and keep it close to the surface. With some whales, that's an easy task; they appear to know instinctively that help is on its way, and remain calm throughout the entire operation. Fate is not as kind to those whales who remain unapproachable; often, the result is a slow, agonizing death from starvation or, for those who are more "fortunate", a faster, more merciful death from drowning.

Since 1984, at least 13 whales in

## Research whaling: petty science at huge cost

**EDITORIAL**  
The announcement last year that Japan had finally agreed to honor the international ban on commercial whaling was met with both relief and skepticism. The skeptics were right. Last month Japan observed with great fanfare the end of its commercial whaling in the Antarctic. Last week Japan announced quietly that it would replace the commercial whaling with research whaling. In the misappropriated name of science, the Japanese will sacrifice 875 whales, including 50 endangered sperm whales. The International Whaling Commission (IWC) should act to stop the slaughter.

The IWC imposed a commercial whaling moratorium in 1985 to give scientists a chance to assess the status of the world's whale populations. To assist the scientific effort, the IWC moratorium contained a loophole allowing whales to be taken for research. Several nations have seized on that loophole to continue their whaling as before.

After years of refusing to comply with the moratorium, Japan finally came around under threat of U.S. sanctions. Under the agreement with the United States, Japan said it would stop commercial whaling in the Antarctic this year and all commercial whaling in 1988. The Reagan administration greeted the accommodation with relief because it obviated the need for enforcing federal

laws which ban fish imports and deny U.S. fishing rights to countries that violate IWC rules. With U.S.-Japanese trade relations already testy, the administration preferred not to go to war over whales.

But doubters correctly foresaw that Japan had no intention of giving up the taking of whales. Japanese officials say they intend to prove with their scientific harvest that whale populations are not depleted enough to justify a ban on commercial whaling.

Japan is not alone in this deception. Norway, Iceland and South Korea have taken up the research banner to protect their commercial whaling fleets. Unless the IWC tightens up its rules for research whaling, the international commitment to save the whale will founder. At U.S. prodding, the IWC last year required that whale meat obtained through research whaling be consumed primarily in the country that harvests it. That rule was aimed at closing off the Japanese market to other whalers. With U.S. prodding, the IWC this year should ban all commercial sales of meat from whales killed for research. The scientific investigation of whales is intended to preserve the world's cetacean treasures. Killing whales to save whales does not make sense.

Cape Cod Bay have had their lives threatened by entanglement in nets or lines, and an additional 15 percent of the Massachusetts Bay/Cape Cod Bay humpback population retain the scars from previous entanglements! Using the above techniques, the Center for Coastal Studies has been able to rescue the humpbacks known to us as Fern, Digit, Ibis, and Zebra. Several young humpbacks have not been as lucky; Crown and Efta have not been sighted since their entanglements and we must assume they have drowned. Add to these entanglements the humpback and minke whales which are found entangled, dead or alive, in gear off the coasts of other heavily fished areas (in 1983, 47 humpbacks became entangled in the coastal gillnet fisheries of Newfoundland) and the story becomes even more tragic.

As this article goes to print, a North Atlantic right whale, the most highly endangered of all the world's great whales, and in this case a mother with a calf at her side, has been seen swimming in Cape Cod Bay for months with a rope wrapped around her head and entangled in her baleen. No length of line trails behind her to which a rescue team can grab hold; we can do no more than watch and hope that she is able to continue feeding.

Of all the destructive forces employed by man in the world's oceans, monofilament nylon gillnet has proven to be one of the most deadly. Hundreds of thousands of seabirds die each year after they become entangled; perhaps as many as 100,000-200,000 marine mammals are killed by it annually. It is virtually invisible in the water, and its composition is such that the echolocation systems of dolphins apparently cannot detect it. Following schools of fish into the net, dolphins become entangled before they are even

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### *Last voyage for Russian whalers*

On 21 May Moscow radio announced that it is ending commercial whaling. The flagship of the fleet is to be converted into a fisheries ship, thus bringing a final end to years of antarctic factory ship whaling by the USSR.

# TAIWAN: the gaping hole in the CITES net

On the political map of planet Earth used by UN bodies and international treaty organizations there is a country inhabited by some 20 million people that isn't featured at all. Officially Taiwan doesn't exist. This means that even if the Taiwanese government, in an unlikely fit of high-mindedness, applied to join CITES, the application would be marked "sender unknown" and dumped in the out-tray.

The situation is ludicrous—and seriously weakens attempts to control international commerce in wildlife through international treaty obligations. Taiwan very much exists and appears not to be at all unhappy to be both outside CITES and free of all pressure to belong. As things are today, with Sin-

gapore now a (reluctant) member of the club. Taiwan could well be south-east Asia's principal center for illicit commerce in wildlife.

It is impossible to be definite on this point because the relevant trade statistics are, as you might expect of a "non-country", not easy to come by. However such figures as do exist, though inevitably incomplete and out-of-date, show a disturbing trend. The rise in the volume of traffic corresponds with the rise in CITES membership. This suggests that as loopholes are blocked this particular one grows to accommodate the traffic.

If CITES insists on propagating the fiction that the country of Taiwan has no reality, then it would seem logical to

expect CITES members to refrain from doing *real* business with this never-never land. But often enough this is not a logic that appeals. And business, involving real animals and real money, is very much done. Witness the recent \$450,000 sale of three baby gorillas, two of which died in transit, from Cameroun to Taipei Zoo in Taiwan (see story below).

The International Primate Protection League has proposed that, until Taiwan has established CITES-equivalent controls on wildlife traffic, the US should embargo all wildlife traffic to the island nation. Readers may wish to address comments to The Director, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

## Gorillas in Cameroon deal with Taiwan



IPPL

is not clear whether Taisho will pay the claim, however, as the Government of the Cameroon has stated that the export documents were forged.

Referring to the incredible sums of money involved, the March newsletter of the International Primate Protection League comments: "With a price like that on his/her head, no baby gorilla anywhere in Africa can be considered safe from poachers, nor can his/her mother and family group. The stakes are too high.

"The indication that the gorillas were insured for \$150,000 adds another dimension. Nobody really has anything to lose except the insurance company, and the gorillas of the world and those humans who cherish them.

"The unethical would-be purchasers either get their animals and pay for them or don't pay if they don't get the animals or may get huge insurance payments if the animals die on the way. The dealers also stand to make fantastic profits or an 'insurance killing' if the animals die on the way. They have no incentive to abstain from gorilla trafficking and no disincentive to shipping sick or dying gorillas—or even stuffing dead baby gorillas into crates and collecting the insurance."

The principal contractor for supply of animals to Taipei Zoo is the International Animal Exchange, a US company with branches in Japan and Taiwan. The company assembles animals at its Texas facility, the International Wildlife Park near Dallas, and has been flying them to

Taiwan in twice-weekly shipments. However, IPPL is convinced that the International Animal Exchange had no hand in the gorilla transaction as any such deal would have been in breach of US laws.

But whoever the actual dealers were, IPPL believes that "heavy blame must fall on Taipei Zoo which, by ordering gorillas, set in motion the bloody events starting with the shooting of their mothers to get their babies.

Further information is available from IPPL, P.O. Box 766, Summerville, SC 29484.

## Japan inches towards CITES compliance

Very belatedly the Japanese government has approved a bill to tighten up legislation in compliance with CITES. The bill will now be presented to the Japanese Parliament (the Diet). Proposed penalties for those caught trading in protected species do not seem very severe, though: a maximum fine of 300,000 yen (about \$2000) or not more than six months in prison.

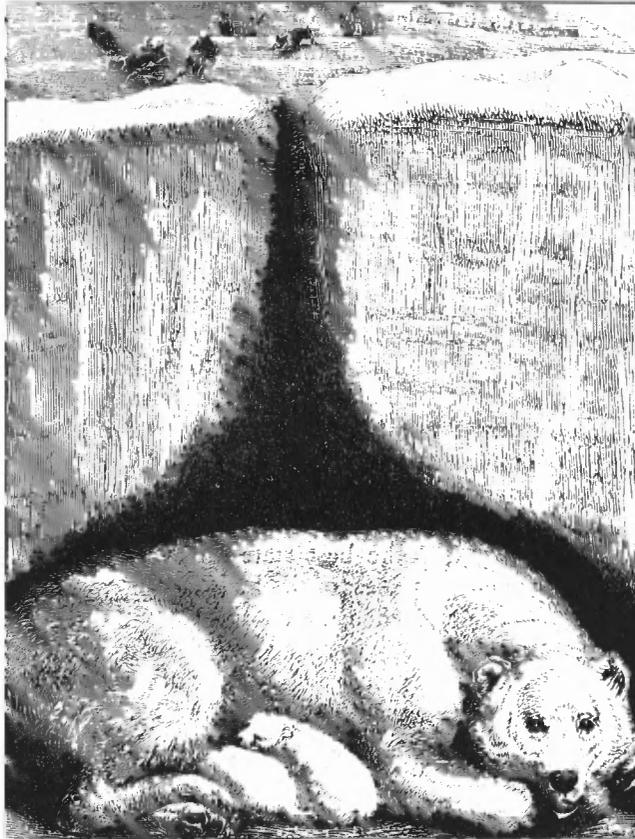
Also, the bill does not include provisions for confiscating CITES-protected animals and plants from those illicitly buying or selling them (see page 13 of the last issue of the *Quarterly* for details of this absurdity in action) or for returning, where possible, animals "voluntarily" surrendered to their country of origin, as stipulated by CITES.

# CANADIAN POLAR BEAR SMUGGLERS CAUGHT

*Intended guides to CITES delegates indicted for smuggling*

On 11 March a federal grand jury in Corpus Christi, Texas, indicted the operators of a Canadian big-game guiding service on charges of smuggling the skin and skull of a polar bear into the United States. The indictment said that the operators, Jerome and Halina Knap of Waterdown, Ontario, provided Louis DelHomme of Houston with guides on a 1984 hunting trip when he killed a polar bear in the Northwest Territories. For a fee of \$1000 the Knaps agreed to have the skin and skull smuggled across the Canadian border and then mailed to DelHomme, who is indicted as a co-conspirator.

The Knaps are charged with providing false documentation for the bear purporting to show it had been purchased in 1970—that is, before the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 which prohibits the importation of marine mam-



from *Strange Dwelling*, 1873

mals, a category which covers polar bears. The polar bear is also a protected species under CITES. This means that although Canada allows the hunting of polar bears, special permits are required for their export—which the Knaps did not possess.

While the charges relate to the smuggling of only one polar bear, federal authorities are insistent that this was no one-off misdemeanor. Over the years the Knaps had provided this guiding-cum-smuggling service to at least 23 American citizens. At the forthcoming meeting of CITES in Ottawa the couple were to have been employed to show delegates the wonders of Canada. Hopefully whoever is given this job now will not be drawn from the ranks of the professional smugglers.

*Polar bear and her cub in the ice cave she constructed.*

## Paltry fine for causing suffering and death

That Emery Air Freight was unfit to handle live animal shipments was a point forcibly made in the Spring 1985 *Quarterly*, following information received from an employee of the company and the deaths from exposure to extreme cold of three squirrel monkeys entrusted to its care. For this offense and five other violations of the Animal

Welfare Act, Emery has been fined a total of \$6000.

The sum is derisory. However, as part of the settlement Emery has agreed to establish a training program for its personnel to ensure compliance in future handling of live animals. If the program proves effective, then that is good news.

## Alaskan traffickers stung



US Fish and Wildlife Service

*Bear rugs seized from taxidermy shop.*

From the cover of a taxidermy shop in Anchorage a sting operation, described as "one of the biggest poaching investi-

gations in Alaska's history," was mounted in July 1985, following persistent rumors of large-scale trafficking in wildlife. Eighteen months later, in January of this year, federal and state undercover agents moved in to arrest 25 Alaskans and 11 other citizens from seven states in the Lower 48.

Seizures included 17 polar bear hides, which had fetched up to \$5000 each, hundreds of pounds of walrus ivory selling for \$35 to \$50 a pound, grizzly bear and black bear parts, and such protected migratory birds as hawks, owls and eagles.

## Baby turtles seized

Last December special agents of the US Fish and Wildlife Service seized 3000 undersized red-eared slider turtles, along with the business records of three pet wholesalers in Chicago, Detroit and Green Bay, Wisconsin. Analysis of the records is part of a federal investigation into the illegal shipment of over 10,000 baby turtles—each about the size of a 50-cent coin—from Louisiana to pet shops in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan and Ohio.

It is of course because these turtles are very often carriers of salmonella, which is particularly dangerous to small children, that their sale is prohibited (see Spring 1986 *Quarterly*). Of two lots of baby turtles tested following the recent seizures, 70% of one lot and 66% of the other were found to be contaminated with salmonella. The Lacey Act (under which the seizures were made) carries a maximum penalty of \$20,000 or five years' imprisonment, or both.

# THE APPROACH OF SILENT SPRINGS

As the rainforests tumble, fewer and fewer songsters are returning here each spring

by Shirley A. Briggs

**B**irds are an excellent indicator of the quality of our environment, and migratory birds can tell us much about the condition of our planet, since their summer and winter ranges can span many countries. If their food supplies are curtailed or poisoned, we may suspect that our food may also be affected. If they cannot find safe places to live, we know that many habitats, and thus the whole ecosystem, have been severely altered. Other creatures are also affected, but birds are easily seen and noticed by people. When human actions are the cause of such changes, we must be warned for our own sakes as well as for our fellow creatures.

Forty years ago the Audubon Naturalist Society began summer and winter bird population studies, following the method first devised in the 1930s by Arthur B. Williams, and adopted 50 years ago for the systematic studies sponsored by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Audubon Society. We wished to begin a thorough study of local birds, and in the process teach many of our members to observe accurately and learn the ecology of typical habitats in detail. What began thus is now among the very longest of continuing studies, covering years of surprising population changes with far-ranging implications.

We have three areas in the oldest studies, all in natural woodland parks administered by the National Park Service in Washington, DC. Thanks to this national park status, they have suffered only minor change since 1947, and their surrounding areas are likewise stable. In the 1960s we began to notice decline in the neotropical migrants that fly north to nest here from Central and South America.

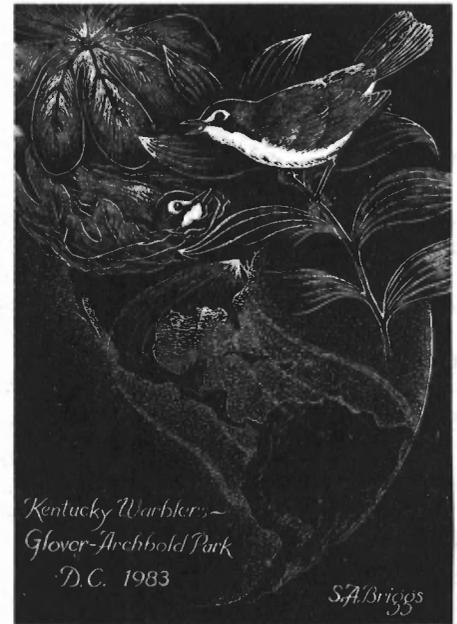
At first we looked separately at our areas, trying to see whether local events could be responsible. But the pattern was the same in Cabin John Island (in the Potomac River), in Glover-Archbold Park (a narrow woods running north from the river) and in our plot in the center of 2000-acre Rock Creek Park that bisects the city. None of the same temporary small disruptions had taken place in all three. When we put all of our figures

together, the pattern became more emphatic. Warblers, vireos and flycatchers were in greatest decline, species that favor forests and go well south. In contrast the birds that stay here the year around, or that go not so far south, were doing as well or better than ever.

When we consulted Dr. Eugene Morton of the Smithsonian Institution, the meaning of this became clearer. He has studied these birds in the winter part of their range, and had recorded the effects on them of the drastic clearing of tropical forests in this same 20-year period. He could guess which birds we had lost first: the ones which insist on mature rain forest in the south, and which keep winter territories just as they defend their nesting territories in summer. These are least able to cope with destruction of ancestral habitats.

The Kentucky warblers, hooded warblers, redstarts and Acadian flycatchers had dwindled in our tracts as he predicted. He was pleased to find such long-continued figures showing the pattern of change but not at all pleased to discover that these paralleled what he had seen in the south. This was no temporary local phenomenon. While we had been enjoying our walks through our woods, mapping the birds and learning their habitats, we were witness to part of one of the most threatening changes in the world ecosystem.

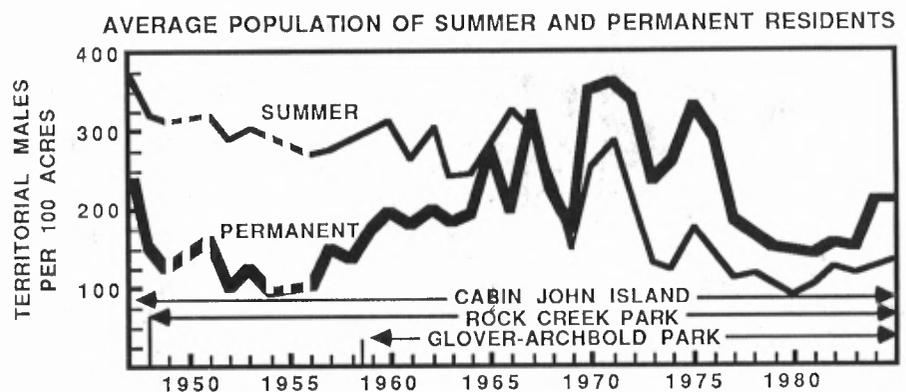
The birds that we have largely lost from our study areas, which range from 28 to 60 acres in size, can still be found in diminished numbers in some remaining large wooded tracts in the region. Birds from these habitats may be far fewer than



*Drawing celebrating the return of the Kentucky warbler to Glover-Archbold Park.*

they were in the 1950s, but we do not have earlier studies for comparison. Starting with a wider-spread population, they have a greater chance that some among them come from forests in the south not yet destroyed.

Dr. Morton has been studying the Kentucky warblers still nesting in the large preserve at Front Royal, Virginia, where the National Zoo maintains its program for breeding endangered species. Continued presence of these vulnerable warblers there would be more reassuring had he not found that every year now, most are the young of the past summer. The birds are not surviving to



*Taking the combined figures for the three study areas, the line showing birds present only in summer drops below the line for year-around residents in the late 1960s. It happened first in Glover-Archbold Park (1965), next in Cabin John Island (1969) and last in Rock Creek Park (1971).*

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anything like a normal lifespan, which shows both that they lead a difficult life and that the whole population may be very close to the critical point of no return.

In 1983 and 1984, we were delighted to find a pair of Kentucky warblers nesting again in their old haunts in Glover-Archbold Park, from which they had been absent since 1970. The habitat still met with their approval, but they or their young have not made it back since.

Very few comparable studies have been done over the years in which we saw this loss in populations. Dr. Joan Criswell, my partner in putting our ANS data together for summary papers, has studied all that we can find that might compare. This means using the same thorough method of censusing, dealing with sizable areas of undamaged woodland, and keeping at it over the years from 1961—long enough to show the trend. Seven studies from Connecticut to Georgia show the same pattern of loss.

Destruction of the tropical forests has been given much attention in recent years, with dire predictions that if it continues at the present rate we may have almost none left in the 21st century. Global damage is already great, and scientists are warning that even the

oxygen supply of the earth may be threatened. Species that live there are disappearing, and the dwindling number of our familiar summer birds give us just a hint of the irrevocable loss taking place.

Population pressures, schemes for “developing” forested land for commercial purposes, many causes can be found for all of these encroachments. One came from the policy of our government in the 1960s to tie in foreign aid to Central and South American countries with what we considered land reform—breaking up large land holdings for distribution to more people and agricultural development. A favorite means has been to convert forests into grazing land for cattle. Few people need be used in this operation, the owners keep control of their now “productive” land, and there is a growing market for cheap beef for all the fast food businesses in the USA.

Ann Free has suggested that we are exchanging warblers for hamburgers—a point that is also made in Lee Durrell’s *State of the Ark*. She wonders how much our crops have suffered from the loss of so many insectivorous birds. Birds of our farmlands have problems too, but are not usually the same ones we have lost from the woods.

These warblers and vireos and flycatchers have made a difference in forests and wooded residential areas, certainly reducing the number of unwanted insects as they feed their families, but also adding song and character to our surroundings. In studies where local changes confuse the picture, the losses have often been blamed on what we have done to nesting habitats here. Our studies provide a baseline of the overall loss, brought about by changes in the areas where these birds spend three-fourths of their lives.

Shirley Briggs is Executive Director of the Rachel Carson Trust, which she helped found in 1965.

### Steep fall in Britain's spring migrants too

Springs are growing ever more silent in Britain's woods and fields. Even familiar garden birds are noticeably less abundant. Says Alistair Gammell, international affairs officer of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: “Threats to migrants range from the massive and largely indiscriminate slaughter by hunters in the Mediterranean; from habitat destruction in both Europe and Africa; from dangerous pesticides used widely in Africa; to the relentless expansion of the Sahara. Migrants are facing a catastrophe.”

## Remembering Rachel Carson—a friend of animals

by Ann Cottrell Free

This is the year for remembering Rachel Carson. Twenty-five years ago this September her *Silent Spring* ushered in the environmental revolution and her memory will be honored principally for that great service.

But there was another different—though akin—contribution that she made during her lifetime, especially during her latter years.

Should we not recognize and honor her role in helping to launch today's vigorous animal welfare/rights era—an era that has brought significant animal protective laws and an heightened awareness of the needs of all animals: mice to whales?

Protection of the biosphere from toxic pesticides, of course, was her primary goal in *Silent Spring*. But she always had time and tenderness for individual animals—especially those in trouble.

Rachel Carson, from childhood to her distinguished maturity, would go out of her way to rescue a lost or injured dog, to feed orphaned rabbits whiskey and water from a medicine dropper or set out table scraps for nocturnal woodland creatures—even two skunks! Cats she found to be especially good companions—but this didn't mean she slighted dogs, or that her regard for birds

was in the least diminished!

Her many kindnesses, however, were not confined to the personal and neighborhood level. In her quiet and deliberate way Rachel Carson took a strong public stand on major animal welfare/rights issues: specifically, treatment of laboratory animals, the inhumanity of factory farming, the cruel poisoning and trapping of animals in



Rachel Carson sharing lunch with a friend, Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, 1946.

the wild.

Speaking out on these controversial issues required courage of a special kind. Chemical company opponents of *Silent Spring* would like to have pictured her as an over-emotional common scold,

continued on page 14

Shirley A. Briggs

# CITES members will make crucial decisions

*Cage bird trade endangering species*

by Greta Nilsson



Palm  
Cockatoo

Each January, amid a flurry of flapping wings and squawks, flocks of brilliantly colored macaws alight upon the pica pica trees just as

the fruit is ripening. Awaiting them, however, in this picturesque

setting in the foothills of the Argentine Andes are bird trappers.

Over the past few years, hundreds of Military Macaws, *Ara militaris*, have been captured for sale in pet stores in the United States and elsewhere in the world. Numbers of macaws returning to this area have declined precipitously in recent years, as these birds, along with many other parrots, have been illegally taken from the wild. An ornithologist who recently surveyed the populations of Military Macaws in South America, found that they are now approaching extinction, due entirely to capture for the exotic bird trade. This scientist met one bird trapper who bragged of taking 50 of these beautiful birds in only a few days. Like most large parrots, Military Macaws fly hundreds of miles over vast regions to find food and nesting areas. They live almost as long as humans, have only one or two young a year, and mate for life. These are among the characteristics possessed by many species on the endangered lists, because their populations often fail to recover quickly, if at all, when over-exploited.

Each year additional species of macaws decline to endangered status. Of 17 macaw species, one the Glaucous Macaw, *Anodorhynchus glaucus*, is probably extinct, and seven other species have been added to Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES). This category protects them from commercial trade. At the last Conference of the CITES Parties, who now number 95 countries, Buffon's Macaw, *Ara ambigua*, and one of the most sought-after species in the cage bird trade, the Scarlet Macaw, *Ara macao*, were added to Appendix I. This July, the Military Macaw and the Hyacinth Macaw, *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*, largest of all parrots, will be proposed for addition to Appendix I. If accorded Appendix I status, these species will bring the total macaw species in the endangered category to over half of all known macaw species.

Many of these macaws have become

rare and endangered just in the past decade, as these birds have become popular as pets. Not only is the capture process itself cruel, often separating life-long mates, and killing birds from mishandling and stress, but thousands more die on the way to pet stores. These large birds, equipped with beaks that can crush the shells of Brazil nuts, have also been known to bite their owners, as well as chew on furniture and because of their ingrained habit of taking noisy, early morning flights in the wild, they often scream at dawn. Deprived of their wild companions, and often captured at the age of 20 years or more, many macaws languish and die in captivity. A breeding facility in Texas, with hundreds of macaws captured as adults in the wild, has had very little success at producing young. A veterinarian working with these birds, who are housed in large, open-air cages, conjectured that the birds were

*continued on page 12*



G.A.F. Busch Gardens

*Military Macaws have become popular in the pet trade despite their aggressiveness which makes them unsuitable as house pets.*

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# ELEPHANTS: marked for disaster

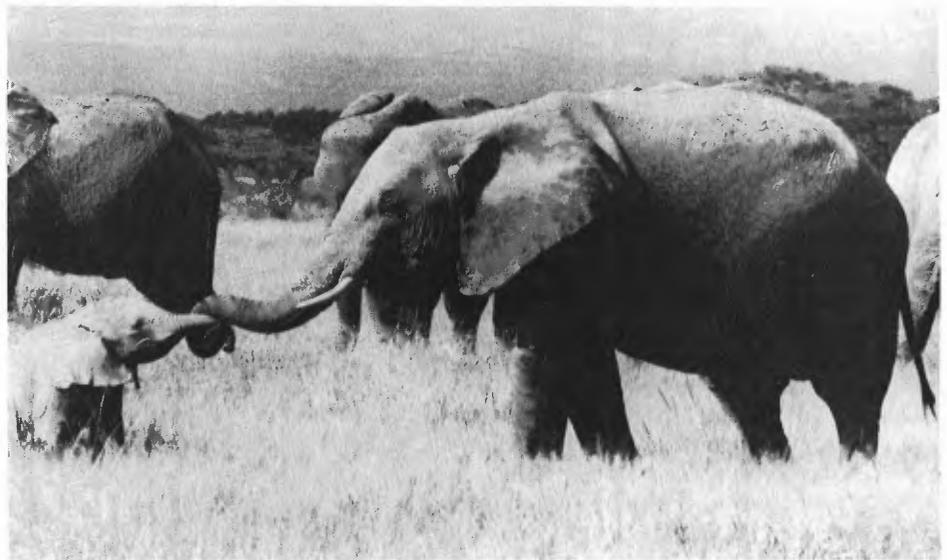
Delegates to this year's CITES meeting must once more address the escalating problem of illegal trade in ivory which is rapidly pushing African elephants towards endangered status. A 1985 CITES resolution to establish export quotas and mark all African ivory with the country of origin was intended to impose tighter controls on the trade. Instead, the new system has allowed increasing amounts of poached ivory to enter the market, including stockpiles from countries with virtually no elephants. Moreover, countries such as Singapore imported enormous quantities of unregulated ivory before finally joining CITES earlier this year. This adds to the flood of poached ivory already on the market.

The 1985 resolution requires exporting countries to use a permanent mark on the tusks, but according to Clark Bavin, Chief of Law Enforcement for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, large quantities of ivory were marked with nothing more than felt tip pens. This causes obvious enforcement problems.

"With this new system", says Bavin, "we just won't know for sure where ivory coming into the US is from. Since many tusks have impermanent marks, similar marks can be made on newly poached ivory—there is no way for us to tell".

Poachers may have already capitalized on the flexibility the system offers them, sometimes blatantly. "For instance," explains Bavin, "more ivory was marked in Burundi than they have elephants". (Burundi has no elephants but, according to informed sources, ivory continues to be transshipped through this country after the initial stockpile was marked.) Bavin worries, too, that the resolution will "establish a precedent for poachers who are stockpiling other wildlife in the hopes that a future program—similar to this one—will give them license to market it."

Elephant populations are plunging so rapidly that many officials and conservationists wonder if a total ban on ivory export is the only way to save the species. Ever-shrinking habitat is a major threat, but a new report by Iain Douglas-Hamilton finds that the danger posed by habitat encroachment pales next to that of poaching. Already we are seeing the effects of the explosion of poaching. The population in protected reserves increases as ele-



Cynthia J. Moss/AFWLF

phants flee from poachers. But hunters give chase, even into these "sanctuaries", often with automatic weapons, and elephant numbers drop dramatically.

A steady decrease found in the weight of exported tusks suggests that poachers are now going after younger elephants because the older and larger ones have been killed off.

The ivory export quotas established by African nations are often based on faulty data which overestimate elephant population levels. In 1985, a population of 500,000 elephants was reported in Zaire. But Douglas-Hamilton considers that figure "highly optimistic . . . . I saw no elephants on a one-hour flight in 1985 along the Mbomou river where ten years earlier on an identical flight I had seen elephants in greater abundance than anywhere in my previous experience."

Last November, Eugene Lapointe, Secretary General of CITES, said in a *New York Times* interview that "these quotas will be reduced once the backlog of stockpiled legal and seized illegal tusks is depleted... the ivory trade will be totally clean in 2 to 3 years." The question is: at this rate of decimation, how many elephants will be left in 2 to 3 years? CITES has the power to reverse the current trend by imposing a ban on all ivory.

Such action is needed to ensure that the African elephant has a fighting chance for survival. Douglas-Hamilton describes the situation as "one of the most wasteful mammalian tragedies of this century . . . . A total ban in private ivory trading was implemented in Kenya in 1978, and a similar moratorium may well be the best solution in other countries until elephant herds can build up." —Jessie Despard



Rick Weythaeuser/WWF

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simply unable to accept new mates and adjust to captivity by producing young.

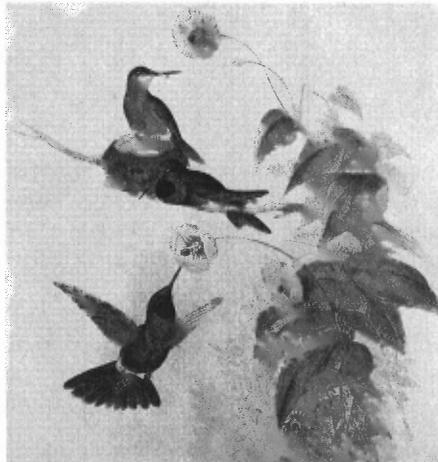
Both macaw species being proposed for Appendix I status have declined precipitously since the late 1970s. Found only in scattered areas of South America and southern Mexico, the Military Macaw is widely traded in spite of bans on both capture and export in every country in which it occurs.

The Hyacinth Macaw, native to central Brazil and adjoining Bolivia, is coveted for its striking blue plumage and yellow facial markings. Illegally taken by the hundreds in Brazil, a country that banned all trade and export of wildlife in 1967, these birds were openly imported into the US and other countries from Bolivia until that country stopped wildlife exports in 1984. A 1987 population survey of Hyacinth Macaws found them greatly reduced from the past. Once common throughout central Brazil, they have become rare, with a total population of only about 3000 birds.

Bolivia's export ban is due to end in 1989, and according to the Bolivian Wildlife Society, an organization that played a major role in obtaining the ban, exporters have amassed 300,000 birds in anticipation of a reopening of the trade. Export bans have aided many wildlife species recovery from over-exploitation, and now a majority of countries prohibit capture and export for the pet trade, but Appendix I listing is needed because of rampant smuggling and transshipment from countries to which the birds are not native.

Campbell Plowden, a wildlife researcher who traveled to Brazil in 1986, found illegal wildlife trade throughout his travels. His report noted, "Several years ago the capture of Hyacinth Macaws became a lucrative business . . . Captors either bring a live tethered macaw to make its call or play a recording to attract other members of its species to the area. The macaws are kept in cages, and when 30-50 have been caught, a small plane is called in to carry the load to gathering spots in Bolivia. One of the best known gathering spots for the abducted Hyacinths was near the Bolivian town of Curiche. According to one investigator, the area was a heavily guarded mini-zoo used to acclimate live wildlife prior to shipment abroad . . . The market value of

this large macaw has been quoted at \$5000-\$8000 per bird . . . The poaching of Hyacinth Macaws is inextricably tied to the poaching of caymans and the cocaine trade. Bolivian and Paraguayan dealers receive live animals and pelts for cocaine which their Brazilian counterparts sell in the big cities in southern Brazil." The Brazilian government has been able to close a few illegal markets that openly sold wildlife over the past year, but this country's long borders make control of smuggling nearly impossible.



A painting of hummingbirds by John Gould

The trade in these two species of macaws presents serious threats to their survival. When the birds are transshipped through other countries that do not ban exports of wildlife, it is sometimes difficult for the US Fish and Wildlife Service to prove the origin of the birds and confiscate shipments. The urgent need to ban commercial trade on an international basis by including them on Appendix I is obvious. Support for Argentina's proposal to include the Military Macaw on Appendix I as well as Brazil's for the Hyacinth Macaw is needed. Both countries are to be commended for having banned export in these species for many years, and for refusing to issue export permits.

In spite of export bans, thousands of these macaws have been traded in recent years. The US alone imported 650 Military Macaws, and 1,412 Hyacinth Macaws between 1980 and 1984, and Europe and Japan also imported large numbers of these macaws. As early as 1973 the American Ornithologists Union classified the Mexican Mili-

tary Macaw as endangered, and Dr. Antonio Landazuri of the Mexican Wildlife and Forestry Department proposed the species for international protection from trade on Appendix III of the CITES in 1978. Unfortunately, Mexico is not a CITES member, but it may ratify the Convention in the near future. Several hundred Military Macaws have been smuggled into the US according to Customs Service records, and many have died of suffocation, overheating, lack of food or water, shock, and overcrowding in the process.

Other birds whose populations are threatened by the cage bird trade will also be proposed for listing under the CITES at the July meeting. Argentina is proposing that the Yellow Cardinal, *Gubernatrix cristata*, be listed on Appendix I. Two other cardinals, the Yellow-billed, *Paroaria capitata* and the Red-crested, *Paroaria coronata* are proposed for Appendix II, the category in which species' populations must be monitored and trade must not cause declines in their numbers. 1,853 Red-crested Cardinals were imported by the US between 1980 and 1984, of which 14 percent died in transit or quarantine. These cardinals are quite popular as pets, both in the US and in Latin America, and may have been imported into the US in far greater numbers than indicated above; unfortunately, the Department of Agriculture quarantine forms often describe such birds as "finches" in spite of their own regulations requiring species identification of all birds entering US quarantine stations.

The Scarlet Ibis, *Eudocimus ruber*, a colorful waterbird much in demand by zoos and some aviculturalists, is proposed for Appendix I by France on behalf of French Guiana, and for Appendix II listing by Surinam. Malaysia has proposed the Milky Stork, *Mycteria cinerea* and the Crested Argus Pheasant, *Rheinartia ocellata* for Appendix I; the Netherlands has proposed the Whale-headed Stork, *Balaeniceps rex* for Appendix I; this latter species is so unusual from a zoological point of view that it has been placed in its own avian family. These birds, rare and declining, should not be in trade.

The Palm Cockatoo, *Probosciger aterrimus*, native to southeast Asia, is proposed by Papua New Guinea for

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Appendix I. This bird is highly coveted by aviculturalists and collectors, commanding \$10,000 or more per bird. Several hundred have been illegally imported into the United States since 1980 and seized by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Although protected from commercial trade throughout its range in Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Australia, illegal export documents have been presented to customs authorities, either falsely stating that the birds were raised in captivity or that they originated in Malaysia, a country to which the birds are not native. This species should be listed on Appendix I to prevent further illegal trade and to allow this rare species to recover its numbers in the wild.

The hummingbirds, Trochilidae, are being proposed for Appendix II listing by Ecuador. Hummingbirds may be the most fragile and delicate of all birds in terms of their survival in captivity. Their small size, including one species, the Bee Hummingbird, smallest of all birds, and fast metabolism, coupled with their dietary needs for nectar, make them totally unsuited to being kept in captivity. Of 728 hummingbirds imported between 1980 and 1984, for example, 69 died in transit and 308 in quarantine for an average mortality of 52 percent. Mortality in capture and prior to export has been estimated by some experts at 10 birds for every one living to be exported; moreover, survival in captivity is usually of short duration. At present, commercial shipments of hummingbirds are not legal

for export from any Latin American country, and yet they continue to be imported into the United States. TRAF-FIC (USA) reports that West Germany recently imported 10,000 of these fragile birds. They deserve Appendix II listing as well as a voluntary decision by importers, zoos and collectors not to import these birds. Little research has been done on their wild status, breeding biology and life histories, except for species in the United States.

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**The majority of countries have banned commercial export of birds for the pet trade, and they are to be commended. Those few who still continue to export need to reexamine the trade in a realistic light.**

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Bustards, large birds looking like a cross between turkeys or pheasants and herons, are found in Europe, Asia and Africa. They are being proposed by the United Kingdom for Appendix II listing. Many of the 25 species have suffered great declines as a result of hunting, trade and habitat loss. This proposal should be approved.

The pet trade takes gross advantage of the developing countries to which most of these species are native. The recent decline of an already endan-

gered parrot, Spix's Macaw *Cyanopsitta spixii*, in Brazil's interior to a total wild population of three birds, due to illegal capture by and for aviculturists illustrates this critical situation. Several of these smuggled macaws have been offered for sale in the United States for \$100,000. It appears there is always a market for rare birds among some aviculturalists, even when the acquisition contributes to the species' extinction in the wild. It has become abundantly clear that the capture of wild birds for the pet and aviculture trades has caused widespread declines in once common species as well as cruel treatment and heavy mortality among the birds traded. Removing millions of birds from their native ecosystems, in which many species play important roles in pollinating plants, dispersing seeds, and reducing insect populations cannot be justified. Large profits accrue to a few exporters and importers in consumer countries. The majority of countries have banned commercial export of birds for the pet trade, and they are to be commended. Those few who still continue to export need to reexamine the trade in a realistic light. Importing nations need to respect export bans and to enact far more stringent restrictions on the importation of wild birds to end this destructive trade.

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Greta Nilsson, AWI's Wildlife Consultant is the author of *The Bird Business: A Study of the Commercial Cage Bird Trade*, AWI, 1981.

## India bans frog trade

India, the world's largest exporter of frogs' legs, has banned the trade with immediate effect. Conclusive evidence from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Indian Council of Medical Research that frogs play a major role in the control of agricultural pests and mosquitoes has precipitated the ban. Frogs have now been placed in Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, giving them a special protected status.

Export of frogs' legs from India, mainly to Europe and the United States, jumped from 390 tonnes in 1950 to 4,065 tonnes in 1982. An estimated 60 million frogs are caught each year from paddy fields and are processed for export. The frog trade pro-

vides jobs for 160,000 people and earns India about \$10 million in foreign exchange.

One reason for the export ban is the increase in the pest population that attacks the rice crop. Ninety percent of frogs' food consists of agricultural pests, including caterpillars and crabs notorious for damaging rice seedlings. It has been estimated that catching frogs for export leads to the survival of 200,000 tonnes of pests and insects, thereby requiring farmers to spend more on pesticides. India imports each year pesticides worth about \$100 million, several times as much as the income from frogs' legs.

The total ban on export has been welcomed by those campaigning against conditions in frog-processing centres. The Indian ban is unlikely to alter res-

taurant menus in Western countries so long as Bangladesh and Indonesia continue to export frogs' legs.

—K.S. Jayaraman

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Reprinted from *Nature*, 19 March 1987. For full background on this issue, see Spring 1985 *Quarterly*.

A communication from the Prime Minister's office in response to AWI's expression of appreciation for the ban on export of frogs' legs states in part: "The trade in frogs' legs was inappropriate from both angles—the sensitivity to cruelty towards the animal as well as its importance for ecological balance."

## Remembering Rachel Carson

continued from page 9

a do-gooder, a pixillated cat lover. Her warnings about certain pesticides could then be dismissed as the loony ravings of a crank. She was aware of this risk and even admitted privately, "I must not spread myself too thin." But conviction overcame caution. Fortunately, her thesis in *Silent Spring* stood up against the various attacks, so well was it documented and so great her scholarship and integrity.

She never intended to get involved in animal welfare issues, any more than she planned to take on the chemical pesticide industry! But in 1959, hard at work on *Silent Spring*, she was shocked to learn from this writer that the Food and Drug Administration imprisoned hundreds of frantic beagle hounds for years in small cages (no chance for exercise) in the sub-basement of a government building, within walking distance of the Capitol and White House. Used for testing of certain food dyes, many of them suffered intensely from the L.D.<sub>50</sub> procedure, in which half of the test animals must die.

Her strong letter of protest to the FDA Commissioner may have marked her entrance into the struggle to help laboratory animals. Finally, Congressional intervention won a measure of freedom for these miserable dogs. A building with indoor-outdoor runways was constructed.

Use of the Congressional route was not wasted on Rachel Carson. In 1962, therefore, at the suggestion of the Society for Animal Protective Legislation, she sent a strong message to the first Congressional committee to hold a hearing on laboratory animal protection. By this time, she had obtained evidence from that Society and others that stolen and diseased animals were being used, painkillers omitted, and conditions, in many laboratories, were deplorable. Something must be done. She wrote, "Our national conscience demands that standards be set up for proper laboratory conditions, for avoiding unnecessary experiments, and for the humane conduct of experiments actually carried out."

Next, she was to learn that experimental animal abuse had spread to student science fairs. As a biologist she was horrified. Her behavior, indeed, could have served as a model. Whenever organisms were taken from the sea to the laboratory, she always returned them

to the waters whence they came. Willingly, she wrote a preface to *Humane Biology Projects*, published by the Animal Welfare Institute. In it she said: "It is essential that the beginning student should first become acquainted with the true meaning of his subject through observing the lives of creatures in their true relation to each other."

Growing up as a sensitive child in the rural setting of Springdale, Pa., she had enjoyed the companionship of cows, pigs and free-ranging chickens, as well as her beloved dogs and cats. When she learned about the evils of factory farming, she gladly wrote in 1964 an indignant foreword to *Animal Machines* by the British author, Ruth Harrison. Rachel Carson questioned man's right to dominate other life so stringently. Hopefully, others might feel the same way. She called for a consumer revolt. (This would have been her second such call, for what else was *Silent Spring*?)

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**"Until we have the courage  
to recognize cruelty for  
what it is—whether  
its victim is human or  
animal—we cannot expect  
things to be much better  
in this world."**

—Rachel Carson

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(*Animal Machines* helped to stimulate the animal rights movement centered at Oxford University, where author-philosopher Peter Singer was studying. His classic book, *Animal Liberation*, was a natural outgrowth of this evolving movement.)

In her foreword, Rachel Carson wrote, "It is my belief that man will never be at peace with his own kind until he has recognized the Schweitzerian ethic that embraces decent consideration for all living creatures—a true reverence for life."

Though her strength was pushed to the limit by her defense of *Silent Spring*, she, nevertheless, was fully committed to working for the spread of the Schweitzerian ethic. She became a scientific advisor to the Animal Welfare Institute. (After her death, AWI dedicated the new edition of *Animals and Their Legal Rights* to Rachel Carson.) Hoping to bring a halt to cruel leg-hold trapping and the poisoning of predators with compound 1080, she

lent her name, as a board member, to the Defenders of Wildlife, which was taking a leadership role in seeking an end to these abuses.

She wrote a friend, "Until we have the courage to recognize cruelty for what it is—whether its victim is human or animal—we cannot expect things to be much better in this world."

"Reverence for life", as articulated by Dr. Albert Schweitzer, had always been central to her life, long before she became aware of his philosophy in 1949 when he made his first trip to the USA. Her mother, Maria McLean Carson, like Schweitzer, would remove the bee or wasp rather than killing it. To her young daughter, she explained the chain of life and her abhorrence of mistreatment of any animal.

Albert Schweitzer's efforts to protect the biosphere from nuclear contamination was parallel to her own intense and lonely work of writing *Silent Spring* which sought to save the earth from pesticides.

This writer discovered only recently that Rachel Carson had learned as far back as 1956 that Dr. Schweitzer also was deeply concerned about "the tragic repercussions of the chemical fight against insects."

It was only natural, then, that she should dedicate *Silent Spring* "To Albert Schweitzer, who said, 'man has lost the capacity to foresee and forestall, he will end by destroying the earth.'"

Of all the awards she received for *Silent Spring*, she could think of none "that would have more meaning for me or touch me more deeply" than the Schweitzer medal awarded in 1962 by the Animal Welfare Institute.

Her sensitivity to other life forms was beautifully revealed in her acceptance speech when she spoke of a small crab waiting at the edge of the roaring surf, the dawn flight of Canada geese, the look in the eyes of a beloved cat.

To save the environment for the sake of man alone, to her, was unthinkable. She recalled Dr. Schweitzer's words: "We are not truly civilized if we concern ourselves with the relation of man to man. What is important is the relation of man to all life."

During the 25th anniversary year of *Silent Spring*, these thoughts should be remembered.

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Ann Cottrell Free is a Washington journalist, 1963 Schweitzer Medalist, author-editor of *Animals, Nature and Albert Schweitzer* and the forthcoming *No Room, Save in the Heart*.

## Humane frontiers

A conference entitled *Animal Research and Testing: Humane Frontiers* organized by the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare and Rockefeller University will take place at the University, New York City, on 8-9 October. The changing role of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees in both academia and industry and the challenging new demands made by upgraded national policies will be the focus of the meeting.

Biomedical investigators, veterinarians, industry representatives, educators, administrators and all persons concerned with the use of animals in research and issues raised in the light of current policies will find this conference useful. Speakers will be nationally recognized experts. For more information contact Lee Krulisch, SCAW, 4805 St. Elmo Avenue, Bethesda, Maryland 20814-4805. Tel: (301) 654-6390.

A bibliography for the use of non-affiliated members on institutional animal care and use committees has been published by the Animal Welfare Institute. Computer-assisted methods of avoiding research duplication, information on alternatives, training courses, laws and regulations, guidelines and codes and information on the psychological well-being of primates, a requirement of the Dole-Brown amendments to the Animal Welfare Act, are included. Copies are free on request.



### Non-lethal control of feral cats

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) in England has developed an effective, humane way to control colonies of homeless cats without killing. A videocassette shows the capture of the animals in box traps, neutering, marking, and returning the cats to supervised sites where their long-term care can be assured. The system is being used not only in Britain but in Greece, Kenya, and North Africa by local animal welfare societies.

The videocassette shows a series of color slides narrated by Brian Redhead. It is available in VHS or Betamax, runs for 15 minutes, and costs \$27.00 postage paid to the United States. Copies are available from: UFAW, 8 Hamilton Close, South Mimms, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3QD, England.

## Conferences on fertility control

### Philadelphia

An international conference on *Contraceptive Strategies for Wildlife Population Management* will be held in Philadelphia 12-14 November at the Holiday Inn (City Line Avenue). Priscilla Cohn, Professor of Philosophy at Pennsylvania State University, and Dr. Ulysses S. Seal, Professor of Biochemistry, Wildlife and Ecology at the University of Minnesota, have organized the program, which is the first of its kind. Sponsoring organizations include PNC, the Fund for Animals, Captive Breeding Specialist Group, the Humane Society of the US, and the Massachusetts S.P.C.A. Cost of registration before October 13th is \$55 for a single day or \$80 for both days (plus receptions). For details, write Professor Cohn at PNC, 1518 Willowbrook Lane, Villanova, Pennsylvania 19085.

### New York

A New York State Humane Association Conference on pet over-population and strays will be held September 11 & 12, at Days Inn, in Manhattan. Experts on all aspects of the problem, from veterinarians and shelter managers, to lawyers and philosophers, are included among speakers. For details, write NYSHA at P.O. Box 284, New Paltz, NY, 12561.

## National Dog Registry finds lost pets

For 21 years the National Dog Registry has been reuniting lost or stolen dogs with their owners. In January 1966 NDR established the unique system of registering dogs and other pets that have been tattooed with their owner's infallible, unchanging Social Security number. For the first time pets were provided with permanent identification nationwide.

Most gratifying has been the return of dogs from research laboratories. Most gratifying because our own dog, stolen with others in our neighborhood in 1965, was traced to a dealer in Pennsylvania who supplied dogs to laboratories. The dealer would not allow us on his premises. We never got our dog back. This was the impetus for the founding of the National Dog Registry, and when a return is made from a laboratory we feel that our efforts of these two decades are especially vindicated.

The National Dog Registry procedure is for an owner to have his pet(s) tattooed with his Social Security number, and then to register that number with the NDR for a one-time fee of \$35. The registration is for the owner's lifetime and will protect all the pets he ever has tattooed with that number. It is the registration with the NDR that enables us to notify an owner when a pet bearing his NDR registered number has been found. Only a registered tattoo can be traced. The Registry is available for this service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Pets are tattooed by veterinarians, dog and cat handlers, groomers and trainers; or through the auspices of dog and cat clubs, obedience training schools, breed rescue groups, 4-H clubs and animal welfare groups. A tattoo cannot be lost or removed, as can collars, tags and identity discs. Prop-

erly done on a pet's inner hind leg it is quick, painless and permanent and does not require anesthesia.

If an owner wishes, the National Dog Registry will register a tattoo other than a Social Security number. However, owners should think carefully before using other numbers to permanently identify their pets. The danger of duplication, even with state-of-the-art computerization, cannot be overstressed. A Social Security number belongs to a person for his lifetime. It is his alone; it lives with him and it dies with him. It will never belong to anyone else. Using it to identify his pets is simple, straightforward and economical. And it works!

We would be pleased to furnish further information. Please write or phone: National Dog Registry, Box 116, Woodstock, NY 12498. Tel: (914) 679-BELL.

—David and Jeannette Timrud

## New from AWI

*Factory Farming: the Experiment That Failed*, the new Animal Welfare Institute paperback, is now in press. It includes statements previously published in the *AWI Quarterly* by such major thinkers as Rachel Carson, Bernhard Grzimek, George Wald, and Desmond Morris. New text and photographs have been added to significant articles from the *Quarterly* about veal calves, laying hens, and pigs, the three groups of farm animals most severely impacted by cruelly intensive practices. Effective alternative methods are fully described, and a list of sources of food from animals that have been allowed to lead a normal and enjoyable life is included.

Teachers and librarians may request a free copy (on institution letterhead). Others are asked to pay the cost price of \$3.00, a bargain for this 94-page book containing 114 illustrations. Orders may be sent to AWI and will be filled as soon as the book is off the press.



### *To Whom It May Concern*

by David Gucwa and James Ehmann  
(W.W. Norton and Company, New York) 259 pages, \$14.95, hardcover.

When David Gucwa noticed Siri using a pebble to draw on the floor of her enclosure, he decided to offer her a pencil and paper to see what would happen. According to Jerome Witkin, a professor of art at Syracuse University, the results were "lyrical, graceful . . . just lovely. I can't get most of my students to fill a page like this." Siri was 14 at the time and tipped the scales at around 8,000 pounds. Apart from her



David Henry

### *Red Fox: The Catlike Canine*

by J. David Henry. (Smithsonian Institution Press: Washington, D.C. and London, 1986.) With a foreword by Donald R. Griffin of the Rockefeller University, New York.

The author decided to study the red fox in Saskatchewan's Prince Albert National Park, a 1500 square-mile wildlife sanctuary where the red fox has not been trapped or hunted for over 50 years and is not shy of humans. It was therefore no problem to get near enough to the animals to photograph them and study their methods of hunting, and what they caught. This would include mice, squirrels, shrews, woodchucks, and various birds, and such insects as the grasshopper and the water beetle. Dr. Henry has observed that the fox also stores food by burying, marking it with his urine in order to find it again.

When his mate has her young, he takes food to her—either freshly caught, or taken from his hidden stores. This most interesting book goes into much further detail for those who wish to study it.

In his introduction, Donald R. Griffin notes that "This book is natural history at its modern best." He goes on to say that "scientific biologists have been inhibited throughout most of the 20th century even from thinking about whatever feelings and thoughts may be experienced by the animals they study . . . . This viewpoint seems to be based more on intellectual aversion on the part of the scientists than on objective evidence . . . when trying to imagine what it is like to be a red fox, and when contemplating various possible thoughts and feelings they may experience, we need not be inhibited by obsolete taboos".

—Hugh Gough

pronounced artistic ability, she was a perfectly normal Asian elephant.

"What got me interested," said Gucwa, "was when I'd see her scratch at the ground with a stick and 'finger' her drawing with the tip of her trunk. That she'd stop to scope out her work inspired me to believe that she had something in mind".

All told, Siri completed over 200 such drawings during the two-year period when she worked with Gucwa, her caretaker at the Burnet Park Zoo in upstate New York. Siri exerted too

much force and pierced the paper in her first attempts, so Gucwa placed the drawing pad in his lap, knowing that she would not want to hurt him. She drew more gently thereafter.

Siri's art work sparked the interest of James Ehman, science editor and columnist with the *Syracuse Post Standard*. *To Whom It May Concern* is a joint effort by Ehman and Gucwa. The two showed Siri's drawings to a variety of individuals, from animal behavior experts and zookeepers to artists. One such

*continued on next page*

My wife and I began a week of intended vacation by starting what we thought would be a quiet day hike across a section of the Pawnee National Grasslands. A quarter of a mile down the unpaved public road in Coal Pasture, however, we heard our West Highland terrier yelp in agony behind us, and turned to see her writhing in a leghold coyote trap that had been camouflaged in the center of the road.

In the process of freeing the dog, which was exceedingly difficult, my wife was bitten in both hands. One of the hazards in freeing our dog was a second trap apparently set to catch a hind foot as she thrashed...a trap that was also hidden, that we avoided only by accident, and that could have broken human fingers.

I find myself unable to forget the incident and in particular the extreme cruelty of leghold traps, especially the panic and self-destructive behavior they induce in animals. In addition, we are discovering the prevalence of experiences like ours: one of the receptionists at the Longmont Hospital Emergency Room told me, for example, that a dog of hers had lost a foot to a steel jaw trap; a friend in Crested Butte reports that his employer had to destroy a pet dog he found in a trap, gangrenous. In



Robert Adams

Kerstin Adams and Sally

short what seems to me likely is that many pets that disappear eventually die in or as a result of being harmed by steel jaw traps.

A friend of ours recalls when, as a youngster, he explored a field at the edge of Boulder and touched an object he had never seen before. He was held, in pain, for several hours before being found by an adult.

To ensure the safety of people and domestic animals, as well as to protect furbearers from unnecessary suffering, it is my sincere wish that steel jaw traps be banned from use in the United States.

Robert Adams  
Longmont, Colorado

I work at a small animal hospital in the countryside of Maryland. Recently, I received a call from a very upset woman asking for my help. She had been walking the woods and fields surrounding her home for three days searching for her lost cat "Z.Z.". Finally she had found him caught in a neck snare trap attached to the highway fence less than 300 yards from her home.

I went to her home, we rushed to her cat. I saw a young domestic short-hair with a wire trap digging into his flesh around his abdomen. We had to use wire cutters to free the cat from the fence. I rushed him to our hospital; he was badly dehydrated and in shock. "Z.Z." went under emergency surgery to remove the wire which was deeply embedded into his fatty tissue.

Days after the surgery things looked very poor for "Z.Z."; he had a high fever due to the infection. As time progressed the use of antibiotics broke his fever. "Z.Z." was allowed to return home. Unfortunately, the damage was so extensive he had to return to our hospital due to a repeat infection and was euthanized to stop his suffering.

Julie V. Larson  
Monkton, MD



Jane Verengel

David Gucwa and Siri

viewer, the renowned artist William de Kooning, praised the drawings. When informed of Siri's identity, he exclaimed, "That's a damned talented elephant".

Other reactions, too, are presented evenhandedly and range from utter bafflement to wide-eyed excitement. The observations are fascinating, not only for their insight into Siri's drawings,

but also for what they say about the people themselves.

Siri's motivation is open to different interpretations. But whether or not the drawings are a product of artistic expression, one thing is sure: Siri wanted to draw them. Gucwa never offered her a reward for what she produced and she drew only when the mood struck her, sometimes even foregoing food. What's more, she is not unique. Many of those interviewed for the book had seen elephants in their care or in the wild draw with impromptu tools on the ground. No one had thought much of it, except David Gucwa.

As for her talent as an artist, readers are free to look over 70 of her sketches which generously pepper the text and form their own impression. Many of the drawings juxtapose quotations on the nature of elephants and their ever shrinking place in this world. As David Gucwa says "When space becomes

the critical factor, there is little room for giants."

The authors of *To Whom it May Concern* avoid coming to any firm conclusions about the meaning of Siri's art. It is the questions which intrigue them. Sadly, the questions the book raises may never be answered because Gucwa no longer works with Siri. The zoo where she is housed did not support the work (though their interest was aroused by the drawing's money-making potential) and they want no part of the publicity the book has generated. In fact, David Gucwa is no longer allowed on the premises and if Siri draws now, she probably does so at night, perhaps with a pebble.

This delightful and informative book leaves the reader full of wonder—not just about Siri—but about all animals and what they have to teach us. That is, if they get the chance.

—Jessie Despard

## Will Canada jettison the steel jaw trap? *continued from page 1*

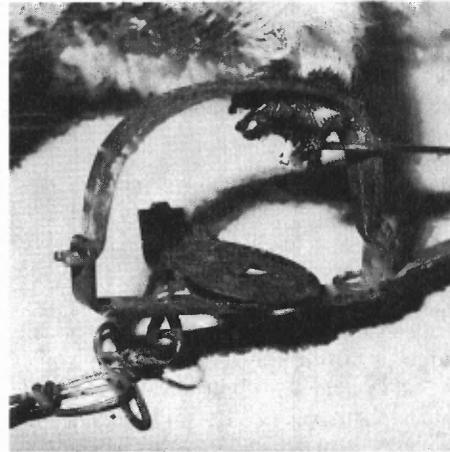
heightened public awareness of killing methods and the establishment of a basis for the development of public antipathy to the fur industry in general if it can be believably alleged that killing methods are unnecessarily cruel.

"It follows from the above that we must put our house in order if we are to successfully defend the fur industry and its component parts. If a fur campaign is going to be effective, the leghold trap is a necessary sacrifice."

The discussion paper indicates that we should expect an assiduous polishing up of the collective image of all components of the fur trade. "Relatively humane" trapping (by stalwart defenders of nature "augmenting or maintaining nature's balance") will replace cruel trapping, the practicality of fur will take over from "high fashion", the rights of indigenous peoples will be to the fore and the "humble skills of the craftsmen" who dress and dye the furs will be extolled.

And to present "the positive, public face of Canadian fur interests" there should perhaps be a new organization spanning "the full spectrum of interests threatened by the anti-fur activists. Its most important characteristic—at least from a public relations point of view—would be its outward presentation as a 'pro-nature' organization." And hotly touted as a very fancy name for this projected new in-favor-of-nature body is Friends of Nature.

The Animal Welfare Institute agrees with the Canadian government discussion paper on the abolition of the steel-jaw leghold trap, but the discussion paper is now more than two years old, and this first step has still to be taken. Indeed an April 15th Canadian government document on the subject makes no direct reference to this trap at all but says the Fur Institute of Canada has "recently developed a five year program" whose



"objective" is to develop a humane trapping system for each Canadian fur-bearer species.

The discussion paper recommends labeling of Canadian fur products "to assure the wearer that the animal was caught humanely," but this cannot be done without a ban on the steel-jaw leghold trap. That "nec-

essary sacrifice" apparently will not be made by the entrenched fur industry. Instead, we may expect mere public relations activities such as the following, quoted from the discussion paper: ". . . play down the perception of opulence in the fur trade . . . promotional gimmicks such as contests to write the best essay in defense of trapping or travel contests or children's nature orientation contests, in-school campaigns, and so on."

Under "Pro-Fur Activities at the Public Policy Level," the document cites among "areas that bear watching" CITES and IUCN, and recommends that the Canadian government "monitor their activities closely, anticipate developments before they occur and find ways to influence events. . . ."

With regard to non-governmental organizations, the discussion paper asks, "If we are not going to work with such groups because we think they are against us, should we seek to discredit them? How?"

The document continues, "At the national public policy level the greatest threat to our interests would come from trade measures aimed to restrict use of all furs, all wild furs taken by certain means, etc. . . . Trade measures are devastating."

Under the heading, "The Message: What, When, & How," a comment is offered which is worthy of The New Yorker's Department of Understatement: "It is therefore, difficult to form a 'Save the Leghold Trap' constituency that will find public support."

Countries which have banned the steel jaw trap: Austria, Bangladesh, Belize, Botswana, Brazil, British West Indies, Burundi, Cameroon, Cayman Islands, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Republic of Cyprus, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Republic of Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Republic of Panama, Portugal, Senegal, Seychelles, Republic of Singapore, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uganda, Upper Volta, Zambia, Zimbabwe

## Entanglement, *continued from page 5*

aware of its presence. Held under by the net, they cannot reach the water's surface to breathe, they struggle, succeed only in entangling themselves further, and drown.

The fate of seals who become entangled in smaller, discarded bits of net is just as tragic. Debris entanglement is estimated to cause 50,000-90,000 deaths a year for the northern fur seal. Dragging anywhere from 4-10 pounds of net, often picked up by the seals in play, the animals become weak and exhausted and eventually die from starvation. In some cases, bits of net wrap around flippers or necks and, as the seal grows, these limbs are eventually amputated due to constriction of blood flow to the surrounding

tissue; in other cases, a slow, agonizing death from strangulation results.

In 1983, 11 of the 26 Hawaiian monk seal pups born on one of the few remaining breeding grounds were found either entangled in netting or playing in netting and plastic debris in the water. Four pups of this critically endangered species were caught in netting which snagged on coral, and would have drowned with the next tide had they not been cut free by scientists who happened to be at the site.

Add to these sad tales the numbers of sea turtles which are found drowned in monofilament nets or floating, dead, in lobster lines along many coastlines. Many of those not directly entangled by nets are instead threatened with yet

another form of death by plastic pollution: their stomachs are found to contain bits of plastic and styrofoam which may eventually cause intestinal blockage.

We cannot allow the situation to continue. Conscientious individuals can help by keeping beaches free of debris; pleasure boat owners should retain plastic trash until they reach shore, where it can be disposed of properly or recycled. The oceans are NOT ours to use indiscriminately as huge waste disposals without dire long-term consequences. Their resources are instead ours to borrow with respect and concern for the living creatures with which we share them.

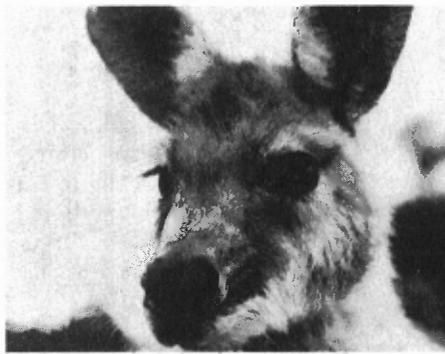
—Karen Steuer

# Kangaroos: industry in pocket of organized crime

The plot thickens. A recent issue of the *Quarterly* told of the indiscriminate mass killing (euphemistically called "culling") of kangaroos, the case brought and won by Australia's *Fund for Animals* against the Minister responsible and the consequent suspension of all wildlife exports in order to bring wildlife programs to the "highest possible standard", followed a mere three weeks later by a lifting of the embargo on the highly implausible grounds that all was now well.

The latest revelations amply justify the most lurid suspicions about how the industry operates—and how those charged with controlling it do *not* operate. An investigating Senate committee has found that the kangaroo industry has the insignia of organized crime stamped all over it: widespread corruption, heedless endangerment of species and killings massively in excess of quotas. As a member of the committee, Senator Sanders, colorfully put it: "we've kicked the lid off a garbage can and inside it's a reeking mess. And the officials don't really want to know."

Illegally acquired skins in astronomic quantities—1.5 million in 1985—were brought across the state border from Queensland to New South Wales for export overseas secure in the knowledge that Customs will ask no awkward questions. Customs officials admit to the truth of this but plead inability to tell legal and illegal skins apart, claiming that "in the treatment of skins the tags get torn off." But it seems the real reason is lethargy—encouraged in



TWC

certain areas by an understandable reluctance to upset the wrong people. A customs officer overcome by an attack of conscience on this issue would, in the words of a senior official of the Customs Officers Association, find himself in "extremely difficult circumstances".

But it could be that the party is over. Certainly the industry is worried. On the home front a Senate committee is considering calling in the National Crimes Authority. Congressman Mrazek's Kangaroo Protection Bill, H.R. 779, which if enacted would ban kangaroo products in the United States, now has the support of nearly 100 co-sponsors. Abroad the European Parliament is pondering a ban on kangaroo imports which might spur the United States into following suit. Europe, particularly Italy, is the industry's best customer with the US not far behind for finished products.

The European Parliament is also considering a ban on all wallaby products into the European Economic

Community and is attempting to give some species more protection under CITES.

While the kangaroo industry's takings of \$30 million a year come chiefly from the sale of skins, meat exports are also very considerable. But here too there is a stench of scandal in the air. Kangaroo meat has allegedly been used as a beef substitute for the US export market. The last time this happened it resulted in a US ban on Australian beef.

*To see a roo,  
visit the zoo!*



*Reported the New York Times: "Some visitors to the America's Cup yacht races had been in Western Australia for four months without having seen a kangaroo. Others had gone to the zoo, so that upon their return they could say they had seen one."*

*What, just one—and that behind bars! Since the Australian government is forever complaining that the country is overrun by kangaroos, it is a mite surprising to learn that anyone could spend half an hour there, let alone four months, without finding roos by the dozen bounding into view on every side.*

*Seems some people must go around with their eyes tight shut. Or could it be that governmental vision has got stuck in the past?*

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# On man's inhumanity to beast

by Henry Mitchell

**W**hy do pigs chew on iron bars when they are kept closely confined in "efficient" farm settings where they can barely move?

Any "normal" fellow with an affinity for animals will tell you they're frustrated and desperate and in tremendous distress, but this is thought a sentimental view by many.

There are even people who believe animals do not "suffer," because they lack a human consciousness and that while they feel a stimulus (as in having their throats cut) they do not register pain in any way comparable to humans.

Well the pigs chew the bars for a very good reason, says Donald M. Broom, the first professor of animal welfare at Cambridge University, England. If you spend two or three hours with him you learn that experiments show this insane chewing seems to affect chemicals in the pig's brain that provide a degree of solace.

"If you temporarily block the routes to the peptides in the brain," he said, "the pig stops chewing. These experiments, plus examinations of newly slaughtered animals, show that the seemingly insane chewing—if you saw a man doing the same thing you'd say he was insane—has a quite sensible purpose: to provide relief to the animal."

He did not know if this kind of imperfect solace is achieved by humans who chew gum endlessly, and possibly did not appreciate the question as a frivolous one, for certainly there is nothing frivolous in his approach to animal welfare.

He lectures to veterinary and other students at Cambridge, and he proposes to measure scientifically the very thing—animal misery—that some say does not exist and that others say is so vast as to be immeasurable.

He believes there are basic ways in which animals under human supervision suffer quite unnecessarily, and that therefore they have rights—freedom from hunger and wrong diets; freedom from severe levels of heat and cold, from pain, injury and disease; freedom from fear and distress; and freedom to behave normally as animals. An animal that naturally lives in

herds, for example, should not be put in solitary confinement.

"I am not talking about killing animals," he said. "though of course many people believe it is wrong to eat them. I eat meat, except not milk-fed veal, of course. There may be arguments against killing or using animals, but I am not talking about that.

"Let's assume, as the world assumes, it is proper to raise animals for food and therefore to kill them. Even so, as long as the animal is alive, its welfare is and ought to be a moral consideration for the humans who keep and eventually eat it.

"By welfare, then, I don't mean the question of an animal's freedom or its right, as some say, to live. I mean the human obligation to avoid giving the animal unnecessary and endless distress.

"What I am interested in is precise quantification of animal distress. I believe it can be measured accurately, as it can in humans. Some people like to believe animals are so different from ourselves that no comparison is possible, but to me it is clear that vertebrates are organized very much the same, whether rat or man. Fish may feel slightly less pain than a rat or a dog but not much less.

"We want to quantify animal suffering in a respectable scientific way, so the information can be given to society at large, so that people have some scientific basis for treating animals in a humane way. For many people it's enough to just sense that animals suffer, but for others it is necessary to prove it and measure it. If it is unarguable, from scientific research, that animals suffer severely, then people are more ready to enact laws on behalf of animals.

"To some people it is obviously wrong to keep a calf in a box so small it cannot turn around. They would say this deprives the calf of its natural delight in romping about a field and enjoying life—even if its fate is to be slaughtered for food. But what I am interested in is providing proof that not only does the calf suffer, but that it suffers in perfectly measurable ways and that this can be alleviated to a great extent by people.

Also I want to demonstrate that a farmer can adopt humane ways of rais-

ing his animals without going broke: It simply is not true that if calves, say, are raised more in accord with their nature, the farmer will lose a lot of money."

It's the custom in much of the "civilized" world to raise chickens in batteries, small cages stacked up, with the chickens debeaked. Switzerland alone, Broom said, is phasing out the raising of chickens as if they were so many factory items to be warehoused, but interest in more humane methods is growing around the world.

"In Southeastern England," he said, "it used to be that all eggs were from battery chickens, but now about 12 percent of the eggs are from chickens allowed on the ground, to scratch about in their natural way. And those who provide the new eggs are not going broke."

Some of the barbarous treatment of farm animals, it strikes me, is due to ignorance or lack of ingenuity. Some farmers are lacking in imagination and have simply not thought of alternate ways of raising beasts.

People who eat meat are usually not ignorant of the suffering of calves in crates or chickens in batteries, but simply find it better not to think of such things. Presented with a crown roast of lamb, they find it easier to think of Escoffier or a dazzling restaurant than to think of a lamb and the treatment it has received before the roast comes to table.

There was once a preacher threatening his (human) flock with visions of hellfire. He told of a sinner in hell who kept crying out in torment, "Lord, I didn't know, I didn't know." Well, the preacher said, suddenly there was a great thunder from heaven that reached to the lowest depths, a tremendous voice:

"Well, you goddam well know now."

Broom is tall, thin, quiet, healthy, educated, sane, and is by no means a thundering preacher. But he does hope his work at Cambridge will reduce the number of idiots who say Lord, we flat didn't know.

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Reprinted from *The Washington Post* 8 May, 1987

*Henry Mitchell's column appears every Friday in The Washington Post.*



# THE ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE QUARTERLY

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FALL 1987

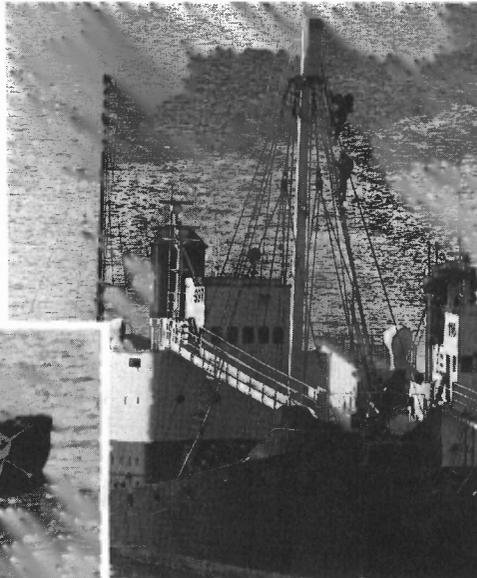
VOL. 36, NO. 3

## ICELANDIC PROTESTERS VS WHALERS

The International Whaling Commission, following the advice of its Scientific Committee, rejected Iceland's "scientific" proposal to study whales by killing them and selling their meat to Japan (see full report on page 2).

However, the International Whaling Commission has no enforcement power, and the United States government, instead of imposing sanctions under the Packwood-Magnuson and Pelly Amendments, made a bilateral agreement with Iceland which allowed them to go out and kill more sei whales.

Protests came from Icelanders themselves. Twenty-one Icelandic biologists objected to the so-called scientific whaling, and the Icelandic Nature Preservation Council likewise took a public stand against the proposal. But the Icelandic government remained adamant.



photos: Humane Society of the U.S./C. Pliminden



Two members of the Icelandic Whale Friends Society climb the whaling vessel's mast and attach a pirate flag in protest against their country's whaling.

After one of the whaling vessels brought in four dead sei whales, 20

September, three courageous young members of the Iceland Whale Friends Society chained themselves to the harpoon gun or the crow's nest. But a crew member climbed up and ripped the banner they were attaching to the *continued on page 4*

## Supreme Court case reopened

A coalition of eleven conservation and animal welfare groups, including the Animal Welfare Institute, has asked the US District Court to reopen a lawsuit calling for heavy sanctions against the Japanese fishing industry for violating the international ban on whaling.

The motion, prepared by the law firm of Arnold & Porter, charges that the Japanese misrepresented Japan's intentions in arguments before the Supreme Court last year. The conservationists filed suit in 1984 to overturn a bilateral agreement between the US and Japan condoning whaling for four years beyond the whaling ban. The US *continued on page 19*

## Latin Americans condemn illegal imports by Japan, France and Austria

At the sixth meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) 12-14 July in Ottawa, three of the most intransigent Parties were put on the defensive when the Latin American nations, in a strong showing of solidarity against the plundering of their native wildlife, submitted a resolution calling on Japan, France and Austria to "strengthen the control of shipments" of CITES-listed species and to "strictly verify documents." The resolution also requested the CITES Standing Committee to "evaluate the implementation of the convention in those three countries" and "prepare a full report for the next meeting."

During the heated debate the delegate from Columbia, referring to "undoubtedly forged documents," cited figures showing that Japanese Caiman skin imports had quadrupled this year. He said Columbia did not issue any document that would justify illegal export to Japan and added, "We have called on the Government of Japan to supply information but have received no reply to date."

French Guiana, named in the resolution as "a free port for illegal trade of wildlife . . . allowing illegal products into all of the EEC" supported the opposition of France and opined that the resolution was "not an appropriate way of sharing views."

Twenty-one nations thought other-

wise and voted for the resolution, 12 (mostly African) countries abstained, but 43, including the United States, voted "no", so it was defeated.

The Columbian statement on forged documents in the reptile skin trade with Japan made a sad commentary on the unprecedented presentation the morning before of \$10,000 in US bills to the CITES Secretariat by the *All Japan Reptile and Leather Industries Association*. Secretary-General La Pointe left the dais to receive the thick envelope from the hand of the reptile skin trade representative. Returning to the dais, he used the public address system to invite other contributions.

(SEE PAGE 6 FOR MORE CITES NEWS.)

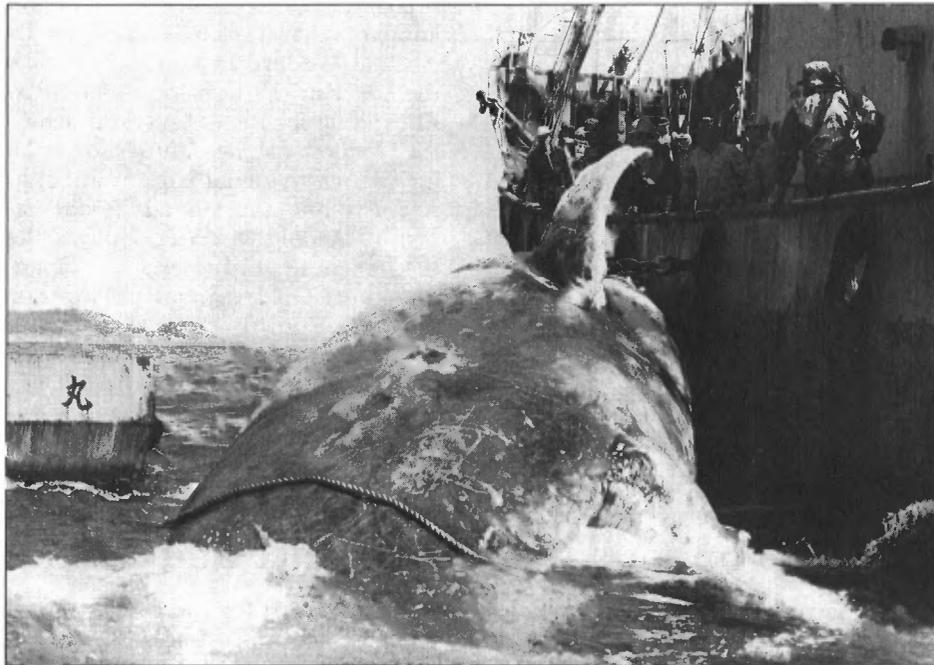
# Defeat for bogus research whalers

It is five long years since the IWC, at its 1982 meeting, decreed that commercial whaling should cease at the end of 1985. But the euphoria which greeted this decision reckoned without the cunning and cussedness of the whaling nations. Having no intention of abiding by the overwhelming majority verdict, they took refuge in a bolthole supplied courtesy of the IWC rule book.

This gives members the right to kill whales for scientific research and to set their own quotas for the purpose. So as commercial whaling ground to a halt, research whaling took off. The whales have continued to die, making a mockery of the moratorium.

This year, though, saw the IWC boldly grasping this nettle. And it is the whaling nations which got stung. No longer will they be able to dress up their sanguinary commerce in scientific garb and call it research.

In 1982 conservationists were happily announcing the imminent demise of commercial whaling. Experience since then has made us all more wary. All the same the sullen roar now coming from commercial whaling bodies does have about it the sound of the death rattle.



C.B. Hoefl/Greenpeace

Japanese sperm whaler, Ryuko Maru #10 tows its victim to Wadoura, Japan for flensing.

What follows is a blow-by-blow account of the momentous battle fought last June in the sleepy English seaside town of Bournemouth, a battle which history may record as being the truly decisive one in the long and bitter struggle to save the whale.

Commercial whaling under the guise of scientific research was rebuffed by a solid majority of the 32 nations represented at the 39th meeting of the International Whaling Commission. Despite threats by both Japan and Iceland to walk out if the US resolution on scientific permits were passed (see box for details), the commissioners were un-

daunted. The resolution was adopted.

US Commissioner Anthony Calio, Administrator of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), had worked diligently for months, consulting with commissioners of other nations in drafting the resolution, but Japan and Iceland, the two major offenders, made every effort

to prevent its passage, even seeking to adjourn the meeting before it could be acted on.

The conference was opened by the UK Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. "The world will not forgive us," he said, "if promises to protect the whale are betrayed by subterfuge." He referred to the public reaction to the pilot whale hunt in the Faroe Islands as an example of the strong public sentiment aroused by whales.

A few hours later battle was joined in earnest. The US presented its resolution; co-sponsors Australia, The Netherlands, New Zealand and Sweden gave their support. An impassioned response came from Commissioner Asgrimsson of Iceland. He railed against "infringement of sovereign rights," threatening to leave the IWC and to take any unfavorable vote to the World Court through UNESCO. The Soviet Union, Norway and South Korea also voiced their hostility. Following these opening salvos the discussion was adjourned for two days.

When debate resumed, the US Commissioner, backed by NOAA Counsel, Dan McGovern, presented the legal case for the resolution—although, as Dr. Calio emphasized, all members of the IWC had some months previously received a document explaining the legal arguments. Dr. Calio reminded delegates that the purpose of the Whaling Convention, which gave birth to the IWC, was and is to preserve whale stocks. "The responsibility of this Commission," he said, "is to carry out the intent of the Convention. Yet we still do not have a moratorium."

Once again it was Iceland which led the counter attack, complaining of "an attempt to amend the convention by unlawful means." Then making plentiful use of legal Latin to add *gravitas* to its charge, Iceland attacked the resolution as "*ultra vires*, void *ab initio* and *ipso facto* with no legal effect whatever." Fierce sniping from partisans of both sides persisted until, with time running out, a 24-hour truce was called.

On resumption of hostilities Japan weighed in with no less than eight amendments seeking to weaken the resolution. Iceland, still very much in evidence, seconded and then, jumping the gun in the hope of sowing confusion in the ranks, moved to close the

## Scientific Permits—why all the fuss and fury?

The whaling nations bitterly opposed the US resolution on scientific permits. The reason lay in the novel nature of the proposal. For it gave to the Commission itself, the member nations of the IWC, the deciding voice as to whether a research program involving the killing of whales should go ahead.

Hitherto any IWC member has had the right to issue itself with a permit to kill whales for alleged research purposes and to ignore an adverse review by the Scientific Committee. The Commission has had no say in the matter. In other words, the IWC has been powerless to prevent flagrant abuses of the permit system. (The pressure exerted in recent months on Iceland by the US was in support of the 1986 ruling that the bulk of the meat from research whaling should be consumed locally. It was not, strictly speaking, directed against Icelandic

research whaling as such.)

Now, as a result of the meeting in June, a whale-killing research program, after review by the Scientific Committee, must satisfy the Commission that it measures up to the new criteria. If a majority finds against it, then the program must be dropped.

What's more these new criteria are very much tougher than before. Under the terms of the 1982 decision to halt commercial whaling the Commission is "required by 1990 at the latest to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the effects of this decision on whale stocks." With this in mind the criteria stipulate that the research must serve the needs of this comprehensive assessment.

However they now go appreciably further. Also required *inter alia* is that the research will not adversely affect the overall status of the stock in question

and that it addresses questions which cannot be answered by analysis of existing data and/or use of non-lethal methods.

Technically this new ruling is not an "amendment to the schedule"; it is an amplification. This is important because where amendments are involved (as in the revision of quotas) a country which finds itself on the losing side in the vote has the right to file an objection. In the present case it has no such right. Furthermore should it persist with its program, thereby flouting the Commission's ruling, it is now vulnerable to counter measures, sanctions of one kind or another, from other IWC members.

Old-fashioned commercial whaling masquerading as new-fangled research whaling will now be very hard to get away with. The bolthole has been barred.

### Research whalers, continued

debate on a point of order. The chair overruled.

A break for coffee did nothing to lift the spirits of the Japanese delegation. Said Commissioner Saito: "I am afraid this Commission is becoming exclusively conservationist. It is a great disappointment to my delegation and I am greatly concerned about the Commission's future."

Was there a veiled threat here of a walk-out by Japan? If so, it was not imminent. What was imminent, though, was the vote on the Japanese amendments. When it came, only one of the eight, because it was relatively innocuous, won approval; the other seven were roundly defeated. Further disappointment for the Japanese camp.

Now came the crunch vote on the US resolution. Brazil asked that it be taken in two parts and this was agreed. Part one proposed that the Commission be given the right to approve or reject research programs involving the killing of whales; part two proposed that any such program be governed by much stricter criteria (see box). The first proposal won by a 17-7 majority with eight abstentions, the second by a 19-6 majority with seven abstentions.

The Commission was now empowered to adjudicate on Korean, Icelandic and Japanese research programs in

the light of the Scientific Committee's report. All were found wanting. Most severely criticized was the Korean program for which 69 minke whales had already died and from which, in the words of the Scientific Committee, "no new information was obtained." By a vote of 19-3 Korea was asked to revoke its scientific permit.

Next in the firing line came the Icelandic program. Australia insisted that biological data from previous catches should be analyzed before any more whales (the program takes 120 a year) were killed and asked for revocation of the scientific permit. Iceland sought to postpone the matter for a further year and claimed the backing of the Nordic Council. Norway seconded but Sweden broke ranks, saying: "We will support the Australian resolution." It was then carried overwhelmingly.

Finally, to the biggest catch of them all—Japan. "Void of defects" is how Japan described its plan to kill 875 whales annually from now until the year 2000. The UK's description, in a careful analysis that pointed up the defects, was very different. Japan, it said, had failed to make a case for such a substantial take—a view which found support from a most surprising quarter. "The number of 825 minke and 50 sperm whales is too much" said Korea. In the vote, taken in two parts, Japan went down to defeat: 16-9 with six

abstentions and 18-8 with five abstentions.

So ended the 39th meeting of the IWC, the 39th engagement between the whales (or their human protagonists) and the whalers. This time there can be no doubt as to who emerged the winners.

## Subsistence whaling

The perennial wrangle over the Alaskan Inuit's right to hunt the endangered bowhead proved less fractious than usual—although the Eskimo delegation was decidedly miffed at being ordered out of a Technical Committee meeting on the bowhead. However, population estimates are now somewhat up on those of a few years ago. Accordingly the Inuit were given permission to land 32 bowhead with a strike limit of 39.

A Japanese bid for "coastal subsistence" whaling fared less well. It was referred for study by the IWC working group on aboriginal subsistence after a discussion in which the UK pointed out the clearly commercial aspects of the proposal and even Norway expressed doubts. The only supporter of the Japanese proposal was the Peruvian representative who had just arrived. For many years a Japanese-owned whaling station killed endangered whales in Peruvian waters.

# Public statement by Icelandic biologists

We, the undersigned biologists, welcoming the intensified research on live whales in Icelandic waters recommend to the Government of Iceland that it respect the moratorium on whaling adopted by the International Whaling Commission, stop whaling and finance research on whale populations by other means than with the profits derived from whaling.

The International Whaling Commission in 1982 agreed on a moratorium from 1986 to 1990 while further investigations were made on whale populations. This decision was appropriate because it is evident that whale populations have never been able to sustain catch for any long period of time.

The Icelandic Parliament resolved in February 1983 not to object to the International Whaling Commission's

moratorium on whaling from 1986 to 1990.

According to the contract between the Ministry of Fisheries on behalf of the Marine Research Institute with Hvalur Ltd. the aim of the current whale research program is to "increase scientific knowledge on the status of whale stocks around Iceland and create the necessary foundation for a reassessment of the effects of a whaling moratorium before the year 1990."

The research of the Marine Research Institute on live whales is likely to substantially increase knowledge on the numbers, distribution and behaviour of whales and make it possible to estimate the potential yield of whale populations in Icelandic waters. The same cannot be said about "scientific whaling". Despite the collection of data

from whaling for decades it has not proved possible to determine the size and potential yield of whale populations in Icelandic waters. The current program of "scientific whaling" will do little to improve this situation. Therefore we consider that Icelandic whaling is not justified under the present circumstances and it is wrong to associate it with science.

*Agnar Ingolfsson, Arnbor Garoarsson, Arni Einarsson, Astros Arnardottir, Guomundur A. Guomundsson, Guomundur V. Helgason, Guorun Narfadottir, Hrefna Sigur Jonsdottir, Jon Gunnar Ottosson, Jon S. Olafsson, Karl Skirnisson Kristinn H. Skarphedinsson, Kristjan Lilliendahl, Olafur Andresson, Sigrun Helgadóttir, Sigurour S. Snorrason, Sigurour A. Prainsson, Skuli Skulason, Snorri Baldursson, Stefan Bergmann, Pora E. Porhallsdottir*

## Icelandic protesters vs whalers

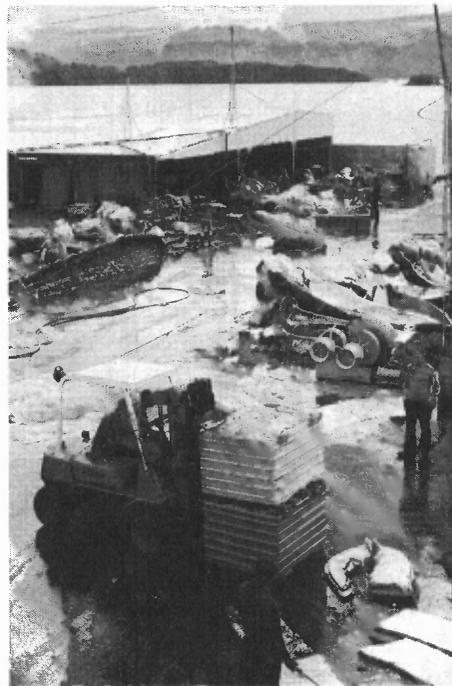
continued from page 1

mast and slashed the strap of a protester's backpack, which crashed down and broke a mobile phone the protesters had brought with them. Television cameras recorded the aggressive behavior of the whalers which contrasted with the peaceful, non-violent behavior of the demonstrators who remained for 25 hours in the cold and wind. The whaling company allowed a doctor to visit the young protesters but refused to permit them to receive any water to drink. The parents of the 18-year-old who was chained to the harpoon gun feared for his health and persuaded him, finally, to allow a blowtorch to be applied to his chains to free him.

We are reliably informed that the Iceland Seafood Corporation is a part of the conglomerate Samband, which, in turn, is a part owner of the whaling company. The United States imports large quantities of fish from Iceland. AWI urges all friends of whales to boycott Icelandic fish.

Let the heads of fast food chains who buy Icelandic fish know why you are boycotting. Write the presidents of three major buyers of Icelandic fish asking them to halt their purchase of Icelandic fish until the whaling stops:

Mr. Warren Rosenthal, Chairman  
Jerrico Inc. (Long John Silver's)  
101 Jerrico Drive  
Lexington, KY 40579



Magnus Skarphedinsson

*Butchering of fin whales killed in July, 1987 for Iceland's "Scientific" research hunt. Meat in bins will be frozen and sold to Japan.*

Mr. Gary Stoleta, President  
Shoney's Inc. (Capt. D's)  
1727 Elm Hill Pike  
Nashville, TN 37210

Mr. J.R. Cataland, President  
Arthur Treacher's Inc.  
5121 Mahoning Avenue  
Youngstown, OH 44515

AWI has had new T-shirts made with the message "SAVE THE WHALES—BOYCOTT JAPANESE, ICELANDIC & NORWEGIAN GOODS."

### ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE

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*"It's all above board" said the IWC's Japanese inspectors*

## For 33 months this Japanese pirate was killing whales

Greenpeace has established beyond cavil that a pirate whaler controlled, directed and owned by a Japanese consortium operated until recently from a base in the Philippines. From July 1983 to the end of March 1986—shortly after Cory Aquino assumed power—the whale-catcher/factory ship *Faith 1* was busy killing Bryde's whales, many of them lactating and pregnant females. The weapon used was the dastardly non-explosive "cold" harpoon, outlawed by the IWC. *Faith 1* made 13 trips in all, and with up to 30 whales (145 tonnes) being taken on each trip the potential total catch was not far short of 400.

The Japanese connection, although denied by Japan, has been proved to the hilt. Detailed study of log books, consignment documents, interviews with Filipino officials and the sworn testimony of former crew, leave no room for doubt.

Shown to be shamefully false is the 1986 report of the international observers appointed by the IWC to look into this operation—following Greenpeace claims in 1984 (a whole two years earlier) of illicit whaling implicating Japan. The report cleared it of all wrongdoing.

How this happened is simply explained: the observers were Japanese. Less simply explained is how the IWC came to appoint observers from the very country whose probity on this issue was being challenged. Their findings, irrespective of the facts of the matter, were dismally predictable. It is difficult not to conclude that the IWC Infractions Subcommittee opted for waiving the rules and saving embarrassment rather than making waves and saving the whales.

The meat from the whales that were killed by *Faith 1* was all exported to the controlling company, *Settsu Suisan* in Japan. The *Faith* carried a crew of 24 of whom four were Japanese: the general manager, the fishing master, the assistant fishing master and the supervising engineer. All the whaling was carried out by the Japanese.

The Philippines is a member of the IWC and of CITES. The *Faith's* operations broke the rules of both—and also violated the US Marine Mammal Protection Act. CITES forbids international trade in endangered species (the list includes the Bryde's whale); the MMPA forbids the hunting of whales within 200 miles of US Trust Territory. The Palau and Caroline Islands comprise part of this Territory and the waters around them were a prime hunting ground of the *Faith*.

The *Faith* has not operated since March 1986. A disturbing sequel to this saga, though, points to the very thin line (if indeed there is any line at all) dividing pirate whaling from so-called research whaling.

In May 1986 a marine biologist living in the Philippines was asked by the country's Bureau of Fisheries to advise on a scientific whaling program. The whaling vessel would be crewed by Filipinos but supervised by the Japanese.

The meat would be sold to Japan.

The biologist turned down the government's request. Instead he informed Greenpeace investigators in the Philippines.

*The Greenpeace report Japanese Whaling in the Philippines is available from Greenpeace UK, 30 Islington Green, London N1, England. Price: \$10.*



*The harpoon gun aboard Faith 1. Inset: A cold harpoon from the vessel.*



Recue/Greenpeace

## Secretariat arouses traders' tirade

Lobbyists for commercial interests were bolder than ever. They began by issuing an anonymous document expressing their views. Next day, after questions in plenary as to who they were, they issued the following list:

- Federation of Commercial Bird Importers
- Canadian Wildlife Federation
- Safari Club International
- Wildlife Legislative Fund of America
- Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council
- International Foundation for the Conservation of Game
- Fur Institute of Canada
- Federation Argentina De La Comercializacion Industrializacion De La Fauna
- Committee for the Conservation of Chimpanzees, Arbeitskreis fur Erhaltung von Schimpansen (AES)
- Fur Council of Canada
- Fur Trade Association of Canada
- National Trappers Association
- European Aviculture Council
- International Professional Hunters Association
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

The group expressed great indignation over the CITES report on infrac-

tions. They accused the Secretariat of being "overzealous" for reporting "54 violations involving more than 25 parties." They said the report was "punitive, condescending and coercive" and claimed that "the chimpanzees imported into Austria were needed for essential human health research and testing of vaccines."

No mention, of course, was made of the refusal by both the World Health Organization and the World Wildlife Fund to countenance importation of wild-caught chimpanzees. In a statement on the floor of plenary, WWF/US commended the Secretariat's infraction report and pointed out that importation of chimpanzees for testing medical products which are to be marketed commercially is in violation of CITES.

The Netherlands challenged the presence of AES, the new Austrian group (see list). The challenge failed. One of the group's three representatives was the lawyer for the Austrian pharmaceutical company, Immuno AG, responsible for more than 60 lawsuits against media, organizations and individuals who have criticized its importation of 20 chimpanzees from Sierra Leone.



AWI booth at CITES. A videotape documenting the cruelty of the wild bird trade ran continuously.

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## Liberia lashes out

At the start of the conference the Austrian Management Authority issued a 22-page report to the CITES Secretariat which refers to animal dealer Franz Sitter as an "individual who came to Immuno with the highest recommendations . . ." The report goes on: "If Dr. Sitter or someone in his position does not happen to buy the animals that fall into the traps, the animals end up in Liberia, where they are eaten and their hides are worked into shoes."

Outraged by Austria's false claims, the Liberian delegation issued a vigorous denial, pointing out:

"(1) Dr. Sitter is described as 'a member of the technical committee charged with finding means of preserving wildlife'. In fact, Dr. Sitter is an Austrian expatriate animal dealer who has exported several hundred chimpanzees from Sierra Leone in recent decades.

"(2) The chimpanzee is a Totally Protected species in Liberia and importation from Sierra Leone would therefore be illegal. In fact, smuggling of chimpanzees from Liberia to Sierra Leone for export by animal dealers is suspected by our Agency.

"(3) We would like to know the source of the information that chimpanzees in Liberia are eaten and 'their hides worked into shoes.' There is no tannery in Liberia and we have never heard of or seen 'chimpanzee shoes' on sale in Liberia.

"(4) In regard to the Austrian importation, the government of Austria states that animals were not caught by the shooting of their mothers 'because none of the imported chimpanzees

## Furriers fail

Travelling fur trade exhibits will continue to require regular CITES permits to enter and leave countries. The Parties voted 22-9 to defeat the trade's proposal to downgrade record requirements.

The leopard remains on Appendix I of CITES despite a move to downgrade its status. It was the consensus of the African nations that no change be made now

## at Austrian libel

showed signs of gunshot pellets in their bodies'. In fact, most chimpanzees with gunshot pellets would die before export. Various chimpanzee sanctuaries have reported receiving chimpanzees with gunshot pellets lodged in their bodies or gunshot wounds. It is common knowledge in Africa that the usual way to catch group chimpanzees is to shoot the mothers and protective adults.

"(5) Chimpanzees are intelligent creatures and if caught by traps or snares there are normally signs of wounds resulting from this method. Our experience in Liberia concerning this method of capture by LIBR (Liberian Institute of Biological Research) did show signs of several wounds even to the extent of amputation in order to be set free.

"The inaccuracies contained on pages 8 and 22 of the Government of Austria statement are defamatory of Liberia and of great concern to my Government. We request that the delegation of Austria withdraw this document and apologize for the inaccurate statements therein contained which constitute an unwarranted slander on the Government and people of Liberia.

"The Forest Authority Department of the Government of Liberia stands committed to the total protection of our threatened chimpanzee population."

The Austrian delegation, however, tried to sidestep the issue by claiming the Austrian and Liberian ambassadors were solving the problem, and when challenged again in Plenary, said they had "no further comment." Only on the very last day did Austria finally withdraw the statement.

and that the situation be reviewed at the 1989 Conference of the Parties.

Dr. Peter Jackson, Chairman of IUCN's Survival Service Cat Specialist Group, pointed to five subspecies of leopard listed as endangered by IUCN. Their status is such, he said, that loss of "even a few individuals could result in extinction of the race."

## Jane Goodall makes her absence felt

The Jane Goodall Institute was obliged to send a telegram to the Secretariat to inform delegates that its Committee for the Conservation and Care of Chimpanzees was not associated with the Austrian group, AES. "In response to recent report from the meeting of CITES in Ottawa, erroneous information appears to be circulating that Dr. Jane Goodall and/or the Jane Goodall Institute is a supporter of the Committee for the Conservation of Chimpanzees which is represented at this meeting by two lawyers representing the

portation of chimpanzees."

With startling speed, the AES, now using the English translation of its name, shot back that Dr. Goodall had not expressed her disapproval to anyone at Immuno!

It wasn't easy to reach her in Tanzania, for the telephone lines were down, but her message came through at last to the Animal Welfare Institute, and it was circulated to all the delegates:

"In March I debated on television (Nachtstudio) expressing my disap-



A young chimpanzee at the Gombe stream confidently takes Jane Goodall's hand.

Immuno AG Company of Vienna, Austria.

"Let it be known and read aloud to the delegation that Dr. Jane Goodall and the Jane Goodall Institute have no association, involvement, or knowledge of this committee. Dr. Goodall's Committee for the Conservation and Care of Chimpanzees is an entirely different organization. Furthermore Dr. Jane Goodall did not approve of the Immuno AG facility when she inspected the facility in May 1987, nor the importation of 20 chimpanzees from Sierra Leone to Austria in 1986. Dr. Goodall is strongly opposed to the capture and exportation of chimpanzees from Africa and applauds all African nations which have banned ex-

proval of the conditions at the Immuno laboratory. I visited the company's AIDS laboratory in May and discussed my impressions on Viennese television the same day.

"In my opinion, the cages I saw are intolerable to any person with compassion. Chimpanzees are maintained in isolation with nothing to do. I told Immuno that I would be happy to help them design much larger, humane cages, stressing the need to keep chimpanzees at least in pairs and giving them adequate occupation such as toys, puzzles and television. I plainly stated my disapproval of the caging to Immuno."

AES then complained that Jane Goodall must have been misquoted!

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## SOME GAINS FOR ANIMALS IN TRANSIT

The resolution on shipment of live animals was readily adopted. The continuously running video at the AWI booth showing cruelty and destruction of wild birds caught for the commercial bird trade contributed to the willingness of delegates to seek improvements.

Recommendations adopted are:

a) that applicants for export permits or re-export certificates be notified that, as a condition of issue, they are required to prepare and ship live specimens in accordance with IATA (International Air Transport Association) Live Animals Regulations and the CITES Guidelines on Transport of Live Specimens;

b) that to assist enforcement officers, CITES export permits or re-export certificates be accompanied by crating, health and welfare checklist (see attached model) to be signed immediately prior to shipment by a person designated by a CITES Management Authority;

c) that on arrival at the destined port of entry, the reporting system recommended in resolution Conf. 4.21 (International Reporting System for Specimens Stressed during Transport) be used;

d) that where Parties to the Convention have designated ports of exit and entry, the provision of animal holding facilities be made available;

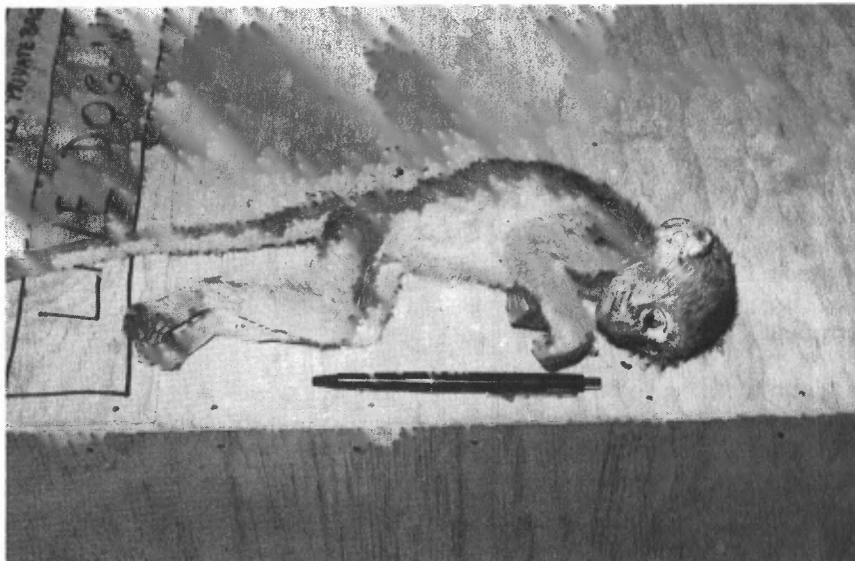
e) that Parties ensure that airline terminal animal holding facilities and cargo sheds are open at all times for inspection of shipments by enforcement personnel and/or qualified technical observers; and that any documented information be made available to the appropriate authorities and airlines;

f) that Parties be encouraged to gather information on mortality relating to transport and underlying causes of such mortality.

g) that Resolutions Conf. 4.21 recommending an international reporting system for specimens stressed during transport be incorporated as appropriate into the checklist mentioned in paragraph b) in accordance with the requirements of this Resolution.

The health and welfare checklist calls for answers to the following seven questions:

1. Are all CITES documents required for export transshipment and import complete?
2. Is the shipment accompanied by a veterinary certificate?
3. Are the numbers and scientific names of the specimens correctly stated in the accompanying CITES documents?
4. Can specimens be counted and identified without breaking open crates?
5. Does design and construction of crates comply with IATA Live Animals Regulations? (NOTE 3). In particular, is/are crate(s):
  - a) of adequate size (not crowded)?
  - b) adequately ventilated?



A casualty of the commercial primate trade

USDI/FWS

- c) provided with externally refillable water, food and cleaning facilities?
- d) undamaged?
6. Are all the specimens alive?
7. Are the specimens apparently free from injury and disease?

The form states: "Shipments having 'NO' ticks should not be cleared for export and the shipper informed immediately."

In adopting the resolution the Parties also approved the appended communication from the Technical Committee to the Live Animals Board of IATA: 1) that food and water facilities shall be provided instead of the present may be provided; 2) that shipment of pregnant animals or of dependent young be avoided; 3) that airports with animal

housing facilities be used in preference to those lacking such facilities. The importance of this has been painfully demonstrated by unscrupulous dealers who have deliberately avoided London Heathrow because they know the condition of live animals will be observed there and measures taken to protect the animals.

AWI's intervention following the Report of the Working Group on Transportation of Live Specimens was recorded in the Summary Report of Plenary sessions as follows: "The observer from the Animal Welfare Institute was concerned with the brevity of the report of the working group. The observer noted that the IATA guidelines are inadequate, result in tremendous loss of animal life and further do not apply to non-participating airlines."

A proposal was put forward by Uruguay's Mateo do Mello, seconded by Jose Trude Palazzo of Brazil, to restrict shipments of 46 species of parrots to 20 birds of any one species per shipment and to limit their sale to those capable of breeding them in captivity.

The proposal, developed by Nick Carter of the Environmental Investigation Agency, was intended to be a modest step towards implementing the res-

olution passed at the first meeting of the Parties 11 years ago to phase out international trade in wild-caught exotic pets. It was fought tooth-and-claw by the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) and was lost in committee by a vote of 18-9—Uruguay and Brazil being joined in honorable defeat by Costa Rica, Israel, Panama, Peru, Singapore, Switzerland and Thailand.

PIJAC and the rest of the coalition of exploitive non-governmental observers also opposed item e) of the basic resolution asserting in their written recommendations that it would permit "animal rights zealots to become enforcers and to harass airlines." Fortunately the delegates disregarded this ill-founded and intemperate allegation.

## Parroting the pet trade

Eleven years ago, at their very first meeting, the parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora approved a Resolution to phase out the taking of wild animals for the pet trade "with the objective of eventually limiting the keeping of pets to those species which can be bred in captivity."

That objective, solemnly underwritten by CITES members, is now further away than ever. The commerce in plundered wildlife not only survives, it booms—as do the deaths associated with it. The second and latest report of the Environmental Investigation Agency bleakly states: "Mortality in the pet trade remains spectacularly high."

This EIA report is a follow-up to the one published two years ago and distributed to those attending the 1985 CITES meeting in Buenos Aires. On that occasion, the extensive data assembled by EIA on the cruel and wasteful nature of the pet trade compelled the delegates to focus on the issue as never before. Indeed it looked as though things were moving, at long last, towards honoring the terms of Article 3 of the 1973 Washington Convention which are, of course, binding on all CITES members. The Article (or, more accurately, a Section of it) unequivocally requires that living animals "be so prepared and shipped as to minimize the risk of injury, damage to health or cruel treatment."

The Buenos Aires meeting established a Working Group to study the conditions for live animals in transport. And it was plainly understood that EIA, as principal researchers on the issue, would be a member of the Group.

Unfortunately, at a later date, the agreement was broken, and EIA was inexplicably excluded from the Working Group's deliberations with IATA (International Air Transport Association), even though it was EIA's own recommendations which formed the basis of discussions. Not excluded, though, were advisors of rather a different cast: representatives of the pet trade. So, not surprisingly, what finally emerged—to be formally accepted by CITES—fell a long way short of what EIA had been pitching for.

Here and there, it is true, IATA's Live Animal Regulations have been strengthened. The Parties in Ottawa did ask that animals be provided with food and water for their journey and that clearly pregnant or

## THE TRADE IN LIVE WILDLIFE MORTALITY AND TRANSPORT CONDITIONS



A second report by the  
Environmental Investigation Agency

nursing animals not be shipped.

In opposing the bulk of EIA's recommendations the pet trade had vehemently claimed that the appalling data presented in EIA's report no longer applied because both the trade and the airlines had cleaned up their act. To check on this (unlikely) claim, and with the intention of returning to the attack from a different angle, EIA undertook a major new research effort.

They immediately ran into a brick wall of governmental non-cooperation from the UK which refused any information on mortality. Since the UK had supported the setting up of the 1985 Working Group this refusal was baffling. Fortunately the US, Denmark and Sweden proved helpful. The shameful facts

uncovered by EIA's latest research, which concentrated on the bird trade from the world's largest exporter of wild birds, Senegal, exposes the falsehood of the pet trade's boast that transport conditions are now much improved.

EIA also investigated the incidence of human psittacosis contracted through direct contact either with cage birds or with human sufferers. The data are disquieting. Human psittacosis, a potential killer, is on the increase. Yet people buying cage birds are normally quite unaware—and carefully kept unaware—of the risks they are running.

EIA's 36-page report *The Trade in Live Wildlife* was distributed to those attending the CITES meeting in Ottawa and gave supporting ammunition to a Resolution sponsored by Uruguay (see main story). In essence this was a conservation Resolution invoking the spirit of the 1976 Resolution to work towards ending the trade in wild-caught species, but more narrowly drawn, confining itself to the trade in psittacines (parrot-like birds) in order to maximize support.

However it would seem that the spirit of 1976 is dead, for even this very modest approach proved too ambitious in 1987. Too many CITES members simply parroted the dogmas of the pet trade—dogmas founded in ignorance, sustained by greed and unencumbered by any sense of responsibility to the well-being of fellow creatures, be they animal or man. Uruguay's Resolution was defeated.

## Changes in bird listings

Both the Hyacinth macaw and the Military macaw were placed on CITES Appendix I (no international trade), so reinforcing the protection given to the macaw family. (At the previous CITES meeting in 1985 the Scarlet macaw and the Great Green macaw were similarly upgraded). The entire family of hummingbirds was placed on Appendix II (regulated trade only) as was the whole family of bustards.

These decisions should help to provide needed protection. However the reason for them, the persecution of these birds, is the bad news which necessarily accompanies upgrading on CITES listings. Humanitarians and environmentalists must work more intensively to prevent unscrupulous trading. Despite Appendix I status 36 Scarlet macaws have been seized in the last two

years at Kennedy Airport. Each would have been sold for up to \$2000.



All Bustards were placed on Appendix II at this year's CITES meeting.

# IVORY TRADERS POACHING ELEPHANTS TO EXTINCTION FOR THEIR TUSKS



## IVORY: Secretariat snared by Burundi

Burundi has long been known as an *entrepot* state through which illegal ivory is habitually channelled. At the 1985 CITES meeting in Buenos Aires, the Parties passed the now notorious resolution 5.12 which was intended to put an end to international trade in unidentified ivory by setting quotas and requiring the marking of tusks with punch dies. The Secretariat tried to persuade Burundi to join CITES and seemingly thought this basic goal had been achieved by interpreting resolution 5.12 to mean that Burundi's stockpile of illegal ivory was *ipso facto* amnestied.

But Burundi, once it had gained its own ends, the selling off of this ivory, refused to join. It no longer even bothers to answer letters from the CITES Secretariat. In taking its ill-advised action, the Secretariat failed to seek the advice of its overseers, the CITES Standing Committee, a point brought home in no uncertain terms by West Germany in both Plenary and Management Committee sessions. Informed sources report that the Secretariat's decision made millionaires of two or three people.

The Secretariat's account of this disaster states in part, "The President of Burundi instructed his Government to establish full and proper CITES controls on the ivory trade. The Burundi Government made a formal commitment in writing to that effect, and subsequently, the existing stock of ivory was registered, marked, and re-exported." Later, however, "a shipment of about 26 tons was re-exported by air, from Bujumbura to Singapore, via Oman."

Mbaele Mankoto, head of Zaire's delegation made an impassioned statement in support of Germany's challenge to the Secretariat to explain how resolution 5.12 had been used to introduce Burundi's illegal ivory into "legal" international trade again. Mankoto said this was the most impor-

tant part of the Ottawa conference. He decried the legalizing of 91 tons of ivory and suggested that the Secretariat's talks with Burundi had been "carried out rather hastily . . . The proof of this is that Burundi is not here . . . The bird has flown. So traffickers were favored and Parties were penalized."

Mbaele Mankoto, head of Zaire's delegation



Cathy Liss

Mankoto spoke repeatedly of the elephants themselves, characterizing them as "those who are absent . . . We should not forget that elephant populations are decreasing every day, meanwhile illegal trade continues at a gallop. I put forward the idea of a five-year moratorium, but was told it was utopian because of investments." He spoke of "gangsters like Al Capone" and warned that what is called utopian today will not be utopian soon.

The Tanzanian delegation wanted to know what kind of measures the Secretariat took to see that Burundi did not double cross them. The Zambian delegate said his country banned hunting in 1982, but the decline in elephant numbers continues.



## IVORY: Wrongdoers nailed by resolution

Dean of the African delegations, Perez Olindo, first referred to the plundering of the elephants as "economic warfare" when the lengthy discussion of CITES resolutions on the ivory trade began. Olindo, who played an important role in the drafting of the Convention itself at the 1973 Washington meeting of 91 nations, is now Director

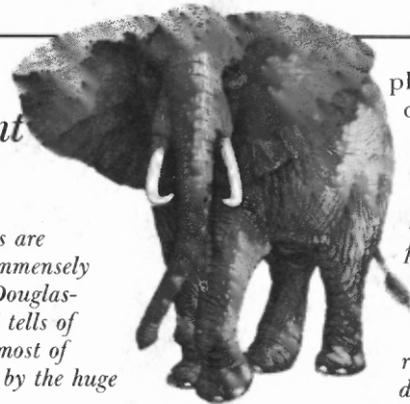
## Ivory poachers decimate elephant populations

*African elephant populations are still plunging. A new and immensely depressing report\* by Iain Douglas-Hamilton and Anne Burrill tells of catastrophic declines across most of the continent brought about by the huge illicit trade in ivory.*

*Poachers show little respect for national parks; indeed they often kill the guards as well as the elephants. A table of regional East African trends, giving a sample of 10 Kenyan districts that lack protection for elephants, shows a decline of 91% between 1973 and 1987! In nine so-called protected areas the decline was 72% during the same period. The Ugandan sample combining protected and unprotected areas gives 89%; estimated loss in Somalia is 94% over 15 years, and in Sudan 77% in 10 years.*

*The report notes that in Southern African countries with little poaching elephant numbers are increasing by 0.7% a year; but in the heavily poached countries of the region the annual decline is 8.2%. It states: "Trend data for the rest of Africa were fragmentary, but in the northern savannahs elephants were mainly decreasing in a band across the continent from Somalia to Senegal, with a weighted mean of minus 17.8% per annum."*

*An appendix to the report by R.F.W. Barnes entitled A Review of the Status of Ele-*



*phants in the Rain Forests of Central Africa contradicts conventional explanations of this appalling carnage. Barnes notes, "In general human densities and rates of population growth are low in the African rain forests. In addition, there is a drift of people to the towns, so the rural population may even be declining." However, "the increased availability of firearms and improvements in roads have made poaching easier. There are now large areas of forest in Cameroon, Congo and Zaire where elephants are no longer found." Commenting on "recent reports of very heavy hunting," Barnes says that "some of this is done by pygmies who are being commissioned to hunt for ivory with heavy rifles."*

*Killing of elephants for meat, as pygmies have done for centuries, or for protection of crops has little effect on elephant populations. Ivory poaching is the overriding cause of the alarming collapse in numbers.*

*Who benefits from this massacre? The report limits itself to presentation of data and trends resulting from the illicit poaching, smuggling and intense pressures exerted by this criminal activity. However, African delegates to the CITES meeting did not hesitate to single out some of the chief villains (see main story).*

*\*African Elephant Database Project, Global Resource Information Database, Nairobi, June 1987*

of Kenya's Wildlife Conservation and Management Department.

"Our people are dying at the hands of poachers," said Olindo during debate in the CITES Management Committee. "The attack on elephants and rhinos is an economic attack. Kenya feels that most of its illicit ivory goes in petrol tanks to Burundi. As a landlocked state, Burundi's viability depends on its neighbors. An economic war can only be reciprocated.

"Burundi was a friend of CITES then went underground again. The reason is known only to Burundi and other perpetrators of the illicit trade. The United Arab Emirates is in the process of denouncing CITES. There is no alternative but to denounce the United

Perez Olindo, head of Kenya's delegation



Cathy Liss

Arab Emirates, and we appeal to the media to convey this message by the fastest means possible."

Malawi and Somalia did their best to undermine the formal recommendation "that

## IVORY: the Wang connection

A recent article (18 June) in *New Scientist* quotes Ian Parker as saying that in Burundi there are two Chinese dealers, Mr. Wang and Mr. Poon, who not only operate outside CITES' regulations but also would "like to get CITES discredited."

This is not the first time that the name Wang has surfaced. Back in 1979 when the US House of Representatives passed a bill to ban the bulk of ivory shipments and to provide aid to African countries in protecting elephants against the ivory dealers and their minions, Martin Howell, Chief Counsel of the committee that approved the legislation, travelled to Africa, Asia, and



## IVORY: elephantine infractions

Several infractions were reported by the Secretariat. Two of the more notable were: "B4) In January 1986, Belgium seized 1889 raw ivory tusks weighing 9577 Kg in two 20-foot containers which had arrived at Antwerp by sea. The consignments had been declared as bees-wax and did not have CITES documents." The report continued that Belgium was "unable to take action against the traders since the shipment had been handled throughout by apparently innocent

Parties use all possible means (including economic, diplomatic and political) to exert pressure on countries continuing to allow illegal trade in ivory, in particular Burundi and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), to take the necessary action to prohibit such trade and to become or remain Parties to CITES." Somalia proposed to remove the words "exert pressure" and replace them with "persuade" and to strike out "economic, diplomatic and political" means. But Olindo, citing the violence

Europe in order to obtain firsthand information on the ivory trade.

In Antwerp he saw the largest single collection of tusks, 30 tons of them. The owner, Mr. K.T. Wang, when reached by phone in Paris, at first refused to allow Howell to visit the warehouse. Only when told that Howell would report to the Congressional Committee that he was excluded, did Wang relent. Becoming interested in the US legislation he volunteered: "There should be exceptions for countries that have good elephant programs, like the Central African Empire."

According to Mr. Wang, he traded with La Couronne, a company associate with ex-Emperor Bokassa. The contents of the storehouse included ivory held in bond for a Greek trader in prison in Zambia.

agents acting in good faith and the relevant papers did not identify those responsible. The Secretariat has not been informed how Belgium will dispose of the ivory.

"F20) At least 110 Tanzanian export permits . . . were found to have been altered . . . Destinations were Belgium, Japan, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. In early 1986 Belgium identified five of these permits with similar types of apparent alterations, all destined to enter Belgium via the same transit agent. Tanzania confirmed that the alterations were fraudulent." However, two had already been declared by the Secretariat to be valid on the basis of a telex which itself was later discovered to be fraudulent!

of the wildlife criminals, responded, "There is no persuasion in this matter."

Somalia's sabotaging efforts are explained by a section in the Secretariat's Infractions Report: "In May 1986 17,050 Kilogram of raw African elephant ivory was air freighted from Mogadishu, Somalia to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE). No CITES documents or export permits accompanied the shipment. Somalia confirmed that the

*continued on page 13*

# MONITORING THE PANDA RESERVES IN CHINA

by Andrew Laurie

Two goats nibbled the bark off the willow trees by the river below us, a chicken scratched in the grass by our feet, smells of frying pork emerged from the low kitchen behind, and smoke rose from the outhouse where water was being boiled for the evening footbaths. We sat outside the Yingxianggo guard post in Sichuan's Wolong Natural Reserve: opposite us were bamboo-clad slopes, with a spruce plantation below, and clouds covering the highest peak from which we had just descended, walking down from above the tree line at 3600m through primary forest with an understorey of short arrow bamboo (*Sinarundinaria fangiana*).

Several times we had come across old signs of giant panda—dung, resting sites and feeding sites where they had stripped the thin bamboo stems. Back at base, seated on low wooden benches, everyone with their mugs of jasmine tea beside them, we were discussing the day's work.

Zhang Hemin, on my left, translated to the 12 reserve guards what I had just said in English. I wanted them all to draw up a table showing the birds and mammals they had recorded in each sector of the day's patrol, with the number of times they had seen each species or recorded its footprints, droppings, or other sign. I wanted man included—sightings and signs: snares set for musk deer, litter left by tourists, trees felled by villagers from the valley below.

There were several questions but



Laurie trains field staff.

soon most were hard at work ruling straight lines with their chopsticks and filling in the squares as requested. Only one man remained idle, looking on contentedly and smoking a cigarette: it was he who had correctly identified all the tracks and signs we had seen that day, but he was not so keen on writing up!

I was in Wolong to run field courses for reserve guards and research staff on biological inventory and monitoring of the environment. The Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Sichuan Forest Bureau had organized the courses as part of a project to produce management plans for the giant panda and its habitat. The fossil record shows that giant pandas once ranged from Beijing in the north to Burma and Vietnam in the south. Now they occupy small pockets of forest in Sichuan province.

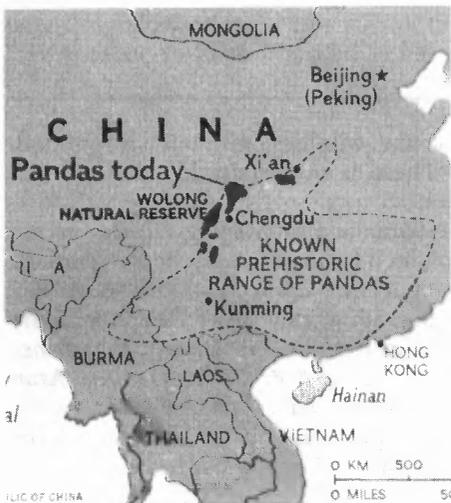
In historical times the pandas' range has been drastically reduced. Pandas feed almost entirely on bamboo at altitudes of 2000-3500m in dense forests where the bamboo grows as an understorey. Loss of the forest canopy often means loss of the bamboo, so even selective logging operations can effectively destroy panda habitat very quickly. Present numbers of pandas in the wild are therefore likely to be below the 1000-1100 estimated by a massive census between 1974 and 1977.

A three-year census is underway, and the results are due in 1988. Altogether 12 panda reserves have been established by the Chinese Government (10 in Sichuan, and one each in Gansu and Xaanxi provinces) and there are severe prison sentences for killing pandas, but the numbers have continued to decline due to pressure on the habitat.

Outside the reserves forestry operations have continued to destroy habitat; inside the reserves encroachment by farmers has continued, with trees being felled for building, roofing and firewood, and pandas killed in snares set for musk deer. More than 3000 people live in the Wolong Natural Reserve, and until recently 300 lived in the Tangjiahe Natural Reserve—they left in summer 1986 and have been resettled nearby with generous compensation.

However, despite the efforts of the Forest Bureau and conservationists, the very dissected nature of the pandas' range causes problems. Bamboo flowers just once every 40 to 100 years and then dies, and the seedlings take several years to grow to a size which can sustain pandas again. When a species of bamboo flowers and dies over a wide area pandas either have to switch to a new species of food or migrate to an area not yet affected by the mass flowering.

But when the range is cut by roads,



National Geographic Art Division

railways and deforested and cultivated land into small pockets of forest, there are often no adequate alternative food sources, and migration is difficult and hazardous for the timid panda. Few if any of the remaining populations would be considered viable in the long term by population geneticists. It is essential that some form of mixing of genes takes place, and the sooner the better, before more genetic variability is lost.

Possible management techniques proposed include the re-establishment of migration routes between existing populations by planting bamboo and tree corridors and controlling human activity, the movement of individual pandas between populations by capture and translocation, and the reintroduction into the wild of pandas bred in the sizeable (c.

100) captive population of China.

Conservation of the forests in the mountains is essential if widespread erosion and destruction of farmland are to be avoided.

There are about 6000 species of plants within the pandas' range—an amazing variety for a temperate region—and some of them are particularly interesting relics of the Pleistocene. The fauna with which the giant panda shares its mountain habitats includes both Oriental and Palearctic species: for example, golden monkeys, stakin, red panda, steppe cat, musk deer, several species of pheasants, and an outstanding variety of moths and butterflies, many of them poorly known.

With guards we established the importance of keeping systematic records

of patrols.

Two courses for research staff covered the importance of systematic monitoring for management and how to do it. A critical approach to research projects was encouraged, and the participants started to evaluate the importance of the work they were engaged in.

Only 50% of those who started the courses actually completed them, but those who did finish were keen and enthusiastic, and I hope that they will be encouraged to work hard for the conservation of the giant panda, its habitat and all the animals and plants that share it. Clear management objectives, accurate biological data and systematic monitoring will all help, but the most important need is the determination to see their efforts succeed.

## *IVORY: wrongdoers nailed by resolution* continued from page 11

ivory was exported illegally and that an investigation had been initiated. The results of this investigation are unknown to the Secretariat. The Secretariat sent full details of this case to UAE. UAE did not respond at all."

Kenya and Tanzania, having suffered the plundering of their elephants, spoke strongly against the *entrepot* countries through which huge quantities of poached ivory are being thrown onto the international market. Clark Bavin, head of Law Enforcement for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, supported them. "We must work together to save the African elephant so it does not become endangered or, even worse, extinct. Traders are stealing from the African people. The United States will initiate diplomatic discussions with the United Arab Emirates. We are prepared to use economic and political means." He asked that other countries do the same. He also urged that countries notify the Secretariat about convicted illegal dealers and persistent offenders. After some debate, it was agreed that rewards should be offered for the apprehension of violators. Tanzania stated that a reward system was in operation in their country, and the United States strongly endorsed this approach.

Despite a full day of sometimes heated discussion the Subcommittee Chairman from Malawi offered weakening amendments to his own report to the full committee. He was supported by the Japanese delegates who were equally eager to remove any ref-

erence to the need for economic and political pressure on Burundi and the United Arab Emirates. Tanzania fought back joined by Kenya and Liberia, while Esmond Bradley Martin, speaking for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, stated, "UAE has been importing large quantities of illegal ivory, and the Secretariat confirmed that a few minutes ago." The delegate from Zimbabwe also supported Tanzania and urged that the text of the working groups be retained. "It is our people that are dying. It is our countries that are being plundered," he said.

In view of the clear consensus, Malawi was asked to withdraw its amendments and reluctantly consented. Japan's delegation saw there was no chance of winning this issue so they said they would not block the consensus but were noting for the record that Japan wished to delete any reference to economic and political measures against Burundi and UAE. Japan also objected strongly to registration of ivory dealers within their country. The representative of Japan's Ministry of Industry and Trade claimed flatly that "Japan has no illegal trade." "Registration," he said, "is too extreme for Japan." However, he finally agreed to a register of exporters and importers.



Cynthia Moss

*Twin baby elephants shelter beneath their mother.*

Abetted by Hong Kong, Japan succeeded in raising the Secretariat's recommendation for marking any piece of raw ivory of ½ kilo and 20 cm in length, to a whole kilo. This was the most serious weakening obtained by the ivory trade.

The impact of the several resolutions on African elephants remains to be seen. At the very least, a solid basis for action by each of the 92 nations who are parties to CITES has been laid by the recognition that the illegal ivory trade, unless drastically curbed, will destroy the African elephant.

## BUTCHERY CONTINUES IN THE FAROES

Previous issues of the *Quarterly* have dealt with the wholesale and brutal kill of pilot whales in the Faroe Islands half-way between Scotland and Iceland. EIA has now produced its third report on the issue. It makes bleak reading.

Despite the international furor aroused by EIA's courageous campaigning and despite pledges of tighter control made by the Faroese, the slaughter has in no way abated. In fact, the reverse. According to the Director of Faroese Fisheries, more whales were killed during the six months up to March 1987 than during any comparable period in the 400-year history of the whale hunt. (And this "achievement" was in the face of the ominous finding of the islanders that pods were smaller than in previous years.)

The official kill figure for 1986 was 1677. For 1987 it is likely to be well over 2000. What's more these figures, so EIA researches have shown, underestimate the true figures by about 10%. Nor is this in any sense a subsistence hunt. This

Danish dependency now has a standard of living akin to the rest of Scandi-

navia. Only the choicest cuts of meat are consumed; the rest is dumped.

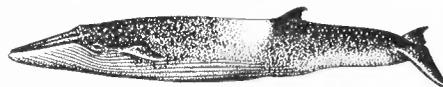
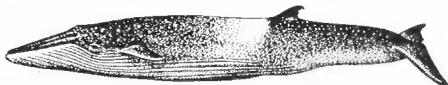
There has been no diminution either in the savagery of the hunt. The most recent legislation, initiated by the Director of Fisheries, suffered 11 fatally weakening amendments. Denmark is apparently powerless to exert any influence. The IWC resolution on restricting the use of the gaff has met with no response; multiple gaff wounds are inflicted on almost every whale killed.

Up to now EIA has been reluctant to press for a boycott of Faroese fish. But this is now being actively considered, all else having failed. 98% of all Faroese exports come from fishing with the US being easily the most important customer.



*The five-pound gaff used by the Faroese pilot whale hunters. It can take up to six attempts to hook the whale thereby causing serious injury and suffering.*

*The report **Pilot Whaling in the Faroe Islands** may be ordered from Environmental Investigations Agency, Unit 32, Finsbury Business Centre, 40 Bowling Green Lane, London EC1, England. Price: \$10.*



### Benign research tool

An exciting new way of identifying individual whales is through DNA sampling. The technique could replace the cruel *Discovery* marker used for decades by whalers to identify whales later on when they are killed. The huge markers shot into whales, in an attempt to learn more about their movements, can accidentally hit a vital organ or cause a lethal infection.

The DNA technique, by contrast, only uses a skin biopsy 6 mm in diameter. From this tiny sample can be gleaned a wealth of information: the identity of the whale as an individual, the relationship within a pod of whales and between pods in the area. Development of this most promising technique is being given priority attention.

### *The Whale War*

by David Day

Sierra Club Books, San Francisco (1987); 227 pages. \$19.95 Hardcover, \$9.95 paper

Heroes of the long series of battles to prevent extinction of the whales by commercial whalers are vividly por-

trayed in *The Whale War*. Widely known for his exhaustive work on species that have already become extinct, *The Doomsday Book of Animals*, the author has adopted a decidedly racier style in reporting the still raging conflict over whaling. Entertaining as it is informative, the book should reach a wide audience.

Contributions to the Animal Welfare Institute are deductible in computing income tax returns, and donations, large or small, are most gratefully accepted for the general fund or for special purposes. Bequests to the Institute will help guarantee the continuance of its 37 years of work to protect animals. Please remember the Institute in your Will.

The Board of Directors suggests the following language for use in Wills when making a bequest to the Animal Welfare Institute:

*"I give to the Animal Welfare Institute the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars."*

(or if other property, describe the property)

*Effective Animal Care and Use Committees*

Editors: F. Barbara Orlans, Richard C. Simmonds, and W. Jean Dodds; The Scientists Center for Animal Welfare, 1987, Hardcover, 178 pages, \$45.00

Fifty-one knowledgeable authors have contributed papers to this volume, which contains vitally important material on procedures for the review of animal experimentation at the institutional level by Animal Care and Use Committees (ACUC). These committees were established to provide institutions with a means of overseeing their laboratories' use and care of experimental animals, as mandated by the Public Health Service since 1985 and now required under the Health Research Extension Act, informally known as the NIH Reauthorization Act.

Chapters cover compliance with federal law and Public Health Service policy on animal care and use, protocol review, ethical dilemmas, the role of the individual committee member, the public's perspective and the perspective of industry, how to train laboratory staff, compassion and the handling of animals, and Consensus Recommen-

dations. The recommendations provide guidelines that can be put into effect in any research environment, medical or pharmaceutical, academic, or industrial.

A good example is the section entitled "Proposed Strategies for the Control of Pain" in Joseph S. Spinelli's "Reducing Pain in Laboratory Animals." He lists 15 steps including: Use Only Healthy Animals; Familiarize Animals to Project Environment Prior to Use; Assure Competency of Animal Surgeons; Provide High Level Post-Surgical Care; Categorize Levels of Pain for Each Procedure; Justify any Infliction of Pain or Discomfort; Never Allow Suffering; Carefully Evaluate All Animals for Pain; Allow the Animal to Control Level of Pain; Allow the Animal to Treat Pain; Minimize Duration of Pain; Properly Use Anesthetics; Restrict the Use of LD-50 Tests; Confirm Compliance.

The ACUC can benefit not only experimental animals, but the institutions where research is performed, the laboratory team, and the individual investigator and technician.

To place an order for information on discounts, contact the Scientists Center for Animal Welfare, 4805 St. Elmo Avenue, Bethesda, MD, 20814; telephone: (301) 654-6390.

Ethics and laboratory animals

In July the Universite' Libre of Brussels hosted a symposium on *Ethics of Animal Experimentation in Biomedical Research*. Chairing proceedings were Professor Ernest Briet of the University Hospital of Leiden and Professor Harry Rowsell, Director of the Canadian Council on Animal Care.

John Maddox, editor of *Nature*, the leading international scientific journal, was moderator. Discussants were: Professor Tj de Cock Buning who holds the new Chair in Ethics, History and Alternatives for Animal Experimentation at the University of Leiden; Dr. Jean Dodds, Chief of the Laboratory of Hematology, New York State Department of Health, and President of the Scientists' Center for Animal Welfare; Dr. C.A. Owen, Emeritus Professor of Medicine at The Mayo Clinic; and Christine Stevens, President of the Animal Welfare Institute.

In summing up, Mr. Maddox said that the use of animals in laboratories must continue. He cited developments in science that would not have been possible without the use of animals, but he pointed out, "We don't want to debase ourselves, demean ourselves by being cruel." He spoke of legislation in Britain and stated, "Those doing research should be known publicly; there should be a register of those working with animals."

Speaking of alternatives he sounded a note of caution. While a great deal can be done—single cell cultures in routine tests, for example—alternatives are not going to come up in all cases, however much enthusiasm and money there is. "The only long-term alternative," he said, "is a full biological understanding."

The proceedings will be published.

Living free

Not often, but occasionally, a book comes along with a love for all creatures so strong and so articulate that the very pages seem to shimmer. Such a book is *NO ROOM, SAVE IN THE HEART*, a slim paperback by Ann Cottrell Free. She is an author who has, from her very earliest days as a writer, dedicated herself to the appreciation, glorification and perception of life. Her interest is so broad and encompassing that the subtitle tells it all, "Poetry and Prose on Reverence for Life—Animals, Nature and Humankind."



Ann Free covers a lot of territory, from a five line poem on the ant to mini essays in verse on Jane Goodall and James Michener. You'll be touched by the "Stir Crazy Laboratory Dog;" brought up short by "A Veal Calf's Thoughts" and delight in the deft irony in "Loneliness" and "Credo". This isn't really a book to review, it has a quicksilver quality that eludes description or summation. It is, quite simply, a book to read through in one sitting, read in snatches, read aloud to a friend or savor oneself. It is a book to keep and to reread and to tell others about.

—John Gleiber

*No Room, Save in the Heart* is available from the Flying Fox Press, 4448 Faraday Place, NW, Washington, DC 20016. The price is \$6.95 postage paid.

# European Parliament *condemns* crates, battery cages and sow stalls

In February, the European Parliament, the consultative body of the European Communities, adopted a resolution expressing its opinion on the intensive systems used to raise livestock and poultry. The document reflects the European public's strong objection to the suffering imposed on animals reared for food, and the importance the Parliament places on public concern and on the expert evidence it received on the welfare of farm animals.

The "Resolution on animal welfare policy" covers intensive rearing of veal calves, transport of farm animals, keeping of laying hens and intensive rearing of pigs. Following are highlights of the Parliament's statements on veal calves, hens and pigs:

The European Parliament,

- Believes that the present system of feeding calves on an exclusively liquid diet, while housing them in individual crates, which deny them the opportunity to move or turn round, should be abolished in favour of a system of group housing;
- Is of the opinion that a diet containing roughage and adequate amounts of iron, which would lead to a pinker coloured meat, would not only favour the normal development of a calf, but is not likely to create consumer resistance, especially if the consumer is made aware of the method of production of white meat;
- Is of the opinion that a diet which does not contain roughage but consists solely of feed with insufficient iron content, resulting in 'white' veal is unethical and that such a rearing system should be prohibited in Community countries;
- Believes that legislation should be drawn up to achieve these changes, based on minimum standards which take into account the calf's need for a well ventilated environment, a balanced diet, adequate room to stand up, lie down, turn around and adopt a comfortable sleeping posture, and that such calves should not be deprived of social contact with other calves after six weeks of age;
- Notes that most experts believe that the battery cage system, even with the new recently agreed minimum standards, contravenes the Council of Europe's Convention on the Protection of Animals kept for Farming

Purposes; takes the view that the system should be phased out within 10 years and that Member States should adopt a statement of intent to this effect;

- Welcomes the growth in the last three years of alternative systems and that whilst much progress has been made with the application of modern technology, recognizes that there is need for more research and practical experience of commercial large scale alternative systems;

provision of straw or similar material for the sows and suitable protection for the piglets;

- Believes also that the minimum age for weaning should be three weeks, that weaned piglets being reared for fattening purposes should be provided with a non-slatted or non-perforated surface as a lying/resting area, and that mutilations such as tail-docking and castration of male pigs need no longer be carried out



Diene Härterson

*A sow in a conventional farrowing crate, unable to build a nest for her piglets because of a lack of space, and unable to even turn around.*

- Believes that minimum standards in the form of enforceable legislation, should be laid down for the keeping of pigs;
- Suggests that these must include references to the need for a certain amount of straw, or equivalent material, for the well-being of sows;
- Strongly believes that the close confinement of sows in cell stalls or tethers should be discontinued and points out that experts seem to confirm this would have few negative effects on the economies of pig production;
- Believes also that more research and improvement is necessary on minimum requirements for a farrowing stall which would allow both for the

routinely, but only where this is beneficial to the animals' welfare;

- Points out that at present pigs are slaughtered before sexual maturity is reached and that the consumer can therefore be protected against tainted meat more effectively in another way;

In conclusion, the European Parliament called on the Commission of the European Communities urgently to: "come forward with proposals for directives relating to the intensive rearing of veal calves, fattening pigs, gilts and sows, and the transport of farm animals."

It also called on the Commission to set up an information program concerning the different systems of egg production so that consumers can be properly informed on this subject.

## ... but US Guide *condones* them

A number of agricultural science organizations and livestock industry groups have sponsored the development of a *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching*. The writing of this guide has been organized by Professor Stanley Curtis, an animal scientist at the University of Illinois and former editor of *Confinement*, a now defunct magazine that was dependent financially on confinement equipment manufacturers. During the 1970s it was distributed free of charge to farmers encouraging them to cage or crate their animals.

The *Guide* has been criticized for being merely *descriptive* of current "standard operating procedures" such as the crates confining veal calves and the narrow stalls confining pregnant sows both of which are biologically unsound and inhumane. Furthermore, the document approves *routine* housing of agricultural animals in scientific institutions in extreme confinement and the performance of painful procedures on animals without anesthetic (for instance, dehorning of calves and young cattle), whether or not such housing or procedures are specified by research protocol. The *Guide* has also been criticized for ignoring or selectively referencing the work of leading European ethologists and veterinarians on behavior and disease problems present in many standard animal agriculture practices. It gives short shrift to alternative systems.

At the International Symposium on Bio-Ethics and Applied Ethology in Montreal, 15-16 August 1987, a leading veterinary ethologist, Professor Ingvar Ekesho, of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences who is President of the Standing Committee on Animal Welfare for the Council of Europe, asked whether the Council of Europe's Convention for the Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes was included in the *Guide*. This Convention, which came into effect in 1978, has been ratified by 13 European democracies. The Council of Europe Convention states in part: "Animals shall be housed and provided with food, water and care in a manner which—having regard to their species and to their degree of development, adaptation and domestication—is appropriate to their physiological and ethological needs in accordance with

established experience and scientific knowledge." It stipulates that "the freedom of movement appropriate to an animal, having regard to its species and in accordance with established experience and scientific knowledge, shall not be restricted in such a manner as to cause it unnecessary suffering or injury." However, there is no reference in the *Guide* to this important document.

Rather than encouraging the design of environments which take into account the basic ethological needs of animals, the *Guide* promotes changing the anatomy of the animal so that it can survive and be sufficiently productive even in a biologically unsound environment. For example, the *Guide* approves of debeaking chicks to reduce

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### The *Guide* ignores and conflicts with both the spirit and the substance of the resolution issued in February 1987 by the European Parliament.

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what it refers to as "aggressive behavior and injuries among animals." What the *Guide* ignores is that debeaking is a treatment of symptoms only. It does not address the real cause of pecking problems.

The *Guide* ignores and conflicts with both the spirit and the substance of the resolution issued in February 1987 by the European Parliament which called for the abolition of veal crates and the iron deficient diets fed veal calves, abolition of stalls or tethers for pregnant sows, and the phase-out of battery cages for laying hens. (See opposite page.)

Only one person with a history of active concern for animal welfare was sent a copy of the draft guide to review and to circulate among colleagues for comments. The remarks of humane organizations were almost entirely ignored in the development of the provisional final draft. Nevertheless, it is being presented as the equivalent for farm animal research to the *Guide for the*

*Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, used for biomedical research on animals. The latter has been repeatedly revised during its quarter of a century of existence. Before the last revision, open hearings were held throughout the nation where scientists from a variety of disciplines and representatives of animal protective organizations gave oral and written testimony before a committee of veterinarians responsible for gathering information, suggestions and criticisms. It is officially recognized by the National Institutes of Health and the US Congress.

None of this, of course, is true of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching* which has been hastily drawn up without public hearings of any kind. The majority of handling procedures and housing methods described in the *Guide* are identical to those used on commercial farms. It is embarrassingly obvious that the purpose of the guide is to attempt to throw a mantle of respectability over commercial practices in which animals are compelled to suffer extreme confinement, nutritional deprivation, and unnecessary mutilations, for no loftier goal than to increase profits for the industry.

Not surprisingly, a representative of the National Pork Producers Council says in the *National Hog Farmer* magazine (August 1987) that the "recommendations are reasonable" and "match the methods most researchers and teachers already use" in agriculture.

In fact, the *National Hog Farmer* article applauds the motivation it ascribes to the whole exercise: "Guide Leads Offense Against Animal Rightists" is the heading for these thoughts. "A bunch of regulations for university folks may seem like a stupid way to slow down animal rights activists" it states, and goes on to explain, "...the rules may be just the ammunition the livestock industry needs to help lawmakers make sensible decisions when asked to restrict how producers raise their animals."

The guide quotes Dr. Curtis as saying: "We decided it was time we developed these guidelines because the government was being forced to come up with its own rules in response to animal activists."

A final version is expected to be released this Fall.

# LIFE AND DEATH ON AN ASSEMBLY LINE

Reports on the spread of disease, due to poultry slaughterhouse practices, have galvanized the interest of consumer groups. On almost every butchering assembly line shiny, steel fingers scoop out the entrails from chickens and turkeys at the rate of 90 birds a minute. These machines often tear the intestines and shower the meat with feces containing salmonella and other food-poisoning bacteria.

The assembly line process that speeds dead birds through inspection also rushes the live birds, *fully conscious*, through many of the steps from hatching through slaughter.

Beginning at the hatchery, debeaking of chicks is undertaken with maximum rapidity. Burning off a substantial part of the upper beak has, unfortunately, been a common practice in the poultry industry. It is intended to reduce the severity of injuries from pecking among flocks of thousands of crowded birds kept in a confinement broiler house. Joseph Mauldin, a University of Georgia extension poultry scientist, commenting on his field observations of hatchery procedure told a conference on poultry health and condemnations: "There are many cases of burned nostrils and severe mutilations due to incorrect procedures which unquestionably influence acute and chronic pain, feeding behavior and production factors. I have evaluated beak trimming quality for private broiler companies and most are content to achieve 70% falling into properly trimmed categories. . . replacement pullets have their beaks trimmed by crews who are paid for quantity rather than quality of work. There is a dire need for more quality control in beak trimming." On the bright side, Mauldin reports that in just the last few years, over one-half of the broiler hatcheries in the southeastern US have stopped debeaking, producers having found that it is more economical to rear the birds with beaks intact. Many hatcheries are slow to change however, and they continue with this painful, hastily performed procedure.

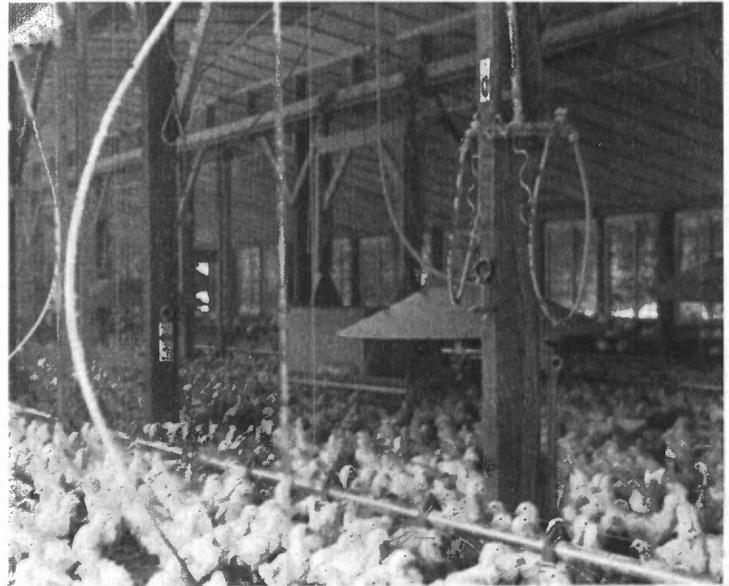
The length of time to raise chicks from hatching to slaughter age and weight has itself been speeded up drastically by means of breeding and a diet promoting fast growth. Twenty years ago the rearing time was 15 weeks but now is only 7-8 weeks. Deformities and

acute cardiac arrest in some of these birds are associated with this rapid growth. According to an article appearing in *Poultry Digest* (October 1982), "Broilers are growing at such a rate that their legs are being pushed out of shape. Tendons are being slipped, legs are being bowed and a condition described as 'cow hocks' is being developed. . . Dr. Douglas Wise of the Department of Clinical Veteri-

nary Medicine, Cambridge University, reports that the only obvious and immediate way to reduce the incidence of twisted legs is by reducing growth rate. 'In the case of broiler chickens, this is clearly uneconomic,' he said. 'Young, growing bone is a plastic material and the faster it is growing, the more plastic it is. The consequences of very minor deviations in perfect conformation become serious in these circumstances and can lead to bone deformity.' " But in the broiler industry, the suffering of these individual birds (and the economic loss that may result from their decreased "performance" or death) is considered a small price to pay for accelerating the growth rate of the mass.

Nothing slows down in the hours prior to slaughter. A University of Arkansas animal scientist, T.L. Goodwin, addressing a conference on poultry health and condemnations said: "The problems associated with transporting broilers are bruises, shrinkage and those broilers dead on arrival." Many bruises apparent at slaughter result from the rapid and rough capture, loading, transport and unloading of the birds on the day of slaughter. In the close confines of the broiler house, birds are grabbed, hastily shoved into crates for transport, pulled from the crates at the slaughter plant and hung upside down by the feet on hooks which carry them by conveyor belt to an electrical stunner. With speed a priority, some birds are improperly stunned and some are not stunned at all on their way to slaughter.

An article appearing in the 6 July, 1987 issue of *The New Yorker* focussed



on the fourth-largest producer of broilers, Perdue Farms. This article on Perdue's poultry empire notes that non-unionized, cheap labor operating Perdue's East Coast slaughterhouses and processing plants has been important in the development and expansion of Perdue's broiler operations.

Tax breaks have also been crucial in this growth. Frank Perdue owns 90% of the company, worth over \$200 million (*Forbes*, 27 October, 1986) and Perdue Farms is an operation of enormous size: "seven production plants. . . supported by a system of Perdue Farms egg hatcheries, feed mills, and a number of chicken-growing farms" producing "six and a half million chickens a week" (*The New Yorker*) with annual sales of over \$840 million (*Forbes*). Nevertheless, Perdue is able, under the present U.S. tax code, to use an accounting system originally intended to assist *family farmers* stay on the land. Another tax code provision allows Perdue Farms and other industrialized operations to depreciate equipment at a rate faster than the equipment's true "life expectancy." Unfortunately, these and other tax breaks and the overproduction they inspire have helped to put modest-size family farmers at a large disadvantage in their attempts to survive and have painfully intensified the conditions under which birds (and other farm animals species) are housed.

District Court and US Court of Appeals ruled that the agreement violated US laws. The Supreme Court last year heard the appeals by the Japanese and the Reagan Administration.

"On the basis of promises by the Japan Whaling Association and the Japan Fisheries Association that all whaling would cease, the Supreme Court overturned two lower court decisions against the US-Japan deal," explains Craig Van Note, Executive Vice President of Monitor, a consortium of conservation, environmental and animal welfare organizations.

"We now know that Japan never intended to halt its whaling. Indeed, the Japanese fleet is now preparing to sail to Antarctica in direct violation of the bilateral agreement as well as an overall international ban on commercial whaling," states Van Note. The Supreme Court ruled 5 to 4 in favor of the Administration and Japan.

Federal law [Rule 60(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure] provides for relief from judgment when "fraud... misrepresentation, or other misconduct of an adverse party" has occurred. The motion filed in September by the plaintiff groups asks the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to set aside the Supreme Court ruling overturning the 1985 District Court decision that declared Japan must be certified under the Pelly and Packwood-Magnuson Amendments for its violation of a ban on sperm whaling set by the International Whaling Commission.

*Arnold & Porter, the distinguished Washington law firm that has pursued the case for three years, has generously provided its services pro bono to the conservation community.*

## Japanese salmon fishery sent home

Conservationists backed by Alaskan fishermen have won the first round in the battle to shut down Japan's salmon driftnet fishery in Alaskan waters. The fishery drowns huge numbers of marine mammals and seabirds.

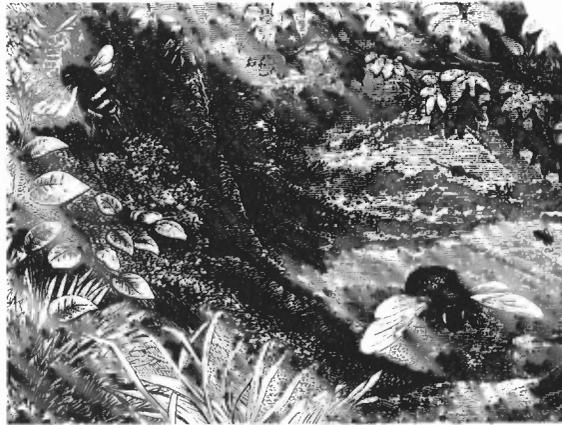
Last June a district court judge ruled that "the interests of the marine mammal populations at stake in this case outweigh those of other interested parties." Accordingly a temporary restraining order was granted against a US permit to Japan for the incidental take of porpoise and fur seals.

The 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act forbids the killing or injury of ma-

rine animals. And any accidental deaths or injuries (incidental take) must not be to the "disadvantage" of depleted species. Conservationists argue—and the judge agreed—that any take of the northern fur seal, whose population has declined sharply, disadvantages the species.

The next round in this battle will be in the fall. Ranged against the alliance of conservationists and fishermen will be the US Government and Japan which are both appealing the ruling. Pitching David against Goliath? But then remember what happened in that celebrated original encounter.

## Small is beautiful and very precious



If human beings were not so impressed by size alone, they would consider an ant more wonderful than a rhinoceros. That adjustment may never take place, but insects and other small creatures nevertheless deserve far more admiration and protection than they get. An ant, worm, or snail is more complicated than any machine devised by man, having been engi-

neered autonomously during millions of years of evolution to survive in environments that are hellish by our standards. Each contains enough genetic information to fill many sets of encyclopedias.

Invertebrates are part of our national heritage. If driven to extinction, they could never be replaced. Instead, we should strive to decipher their biology and age-old history to improve our own chances of survival. We need these creatures more than they need us because they, not we, run the world. If *Homo*

*Sapiens*, a newly evolved mammal species, were to self-destruct, it would cause scarcely a ripple in the ecosystems of the planet. Perhaps Gaia, the whole of the living world, would sigh with relief. On the other hand, if invertebrates were to become extinct, I doubt that we would last ten years.

—Edward O. Wilson

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## Foxhounds mustn't badger him again

An Englishman's home is his castle. And Badger Cottage in the New Forest is very much the castle belonging to Eric Ashby, naturalist and BBC filmmaker. This was a point forcibly made by the judge when finding for Eric Ashby and the League Against Cruel Sports who had sued the Master of the New Forest Foxhounds for persistent trespass.

Ashby, a retired farmer, has for years earned a living—and a big reputation with it—for his absorbing films on the foxes and, more recently, the badgers that live on his two-and-a-half acres of forest which he has made into a wildlife sanctuary. Repeatedly, though, the foxhounds of the neighboring hunt have invaded his land, frightening the badgers and ruining his films.

So much so in fact that badgers due to be filmed last spring for BBC television deserted their sett and failed to produce cubs. The television program was therefore cancelled—as was Mr. Ashby's fee. This provided him with ironclad standing to sue.

The New Forest hunt is now banned from Ashby's "castle." Should the local foxes hear about this, then the huntsmen will be in for a lean season. Indeed there are fears (or hopes) that

*Eric Ashby on his sanctuary. Below: Jeremy Whaley, Master of the New Forest Foxhounds.*



the judgment may mean the end of a hunt which has been harrying foxes since 1780. In which case the winter peace of the New Forest will no longer be shattered by raucous cries of *Tally-Ho* from—in the words of Oscar Wilde—"the unspeakable in pursuit of the uneatable."

## Make your own land a wildlife sanctuary

Did you know that without any bureaucratic fuss or bother you can turn your own property, whether large or small, into a wildlife refuge? You didn't? Well, you do now!

In the United States, if you simply proclaim the fact—it is so. Wildlife will then have right to sanctuary on your land; harassment of whatever kind must stop at your boundary. To make sure they do, display signs at the borders stating "Wildlife Sanctuary. No Trespassing."

With wildlife under ever-increasing pressure, here is something you can do to help. Will you?

## Record penalty for animal dealer

On 17 June an Oregon animal dealer, James Hickey, was fined \$40,000 and ordered to suspend operations for 25 years. This is the severest penalty ever imposed for violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

As Oregon's largest animal dealer Hickey was selling 400 to 500 dogs and cats a year to research laboratories. USDA inspectors found his animals to be abominably maltreated: verminous food, pens "fouled with feces and urine", incompatible groupings, no veterinary care—in all, 27 violations of

the humane provisions of the Act.

Hickey was also found guilty of 30 record-keeping violations (including a refusal to allow inspection of the records) and of receiving stolen dogs.

In pronouncing sentence Judge Victor Palmer said Hickey had violated the Act "deliberately, willfully and cruelly for personal gain and profit." He added: "There is nothing in the record before me which evokes any feelings of sympathy to warrant mitigation of the penalties that are being imposed."

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