

facing extinction, the estimated breeding pairs in all the world being about 1000—in Malaya, Costa Rica, occasionally North America and probably West Africa. Loggerheads were numerous but there were neither hawksbill nor green turtles. Until recently the native people were afraid of the turtles and would not handle them, but some seem to have got over the fear and started the killing, which is thought likely to spread. The men wait until the turtle is well up the beach, cut off the head, remove the meat and leave the plastron and empty carapace behind. The leatherbacks are of course preferred because of their greater size. Dogs dig up the nests, destroying over a hundred eggs every time they do so. The report recommends an area be set aside for a sanctuary to be patrolled by a warden when the turtles are there, with all uncontrolled dogs removed and the evacuation of the dunes in the area of all human inhabitants—which would also have the effect of protecting the dune forest from destruction. And in the breeding season tourists would be excluded.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FPS

THE President, the Marquess of Willingdon, took the Chair at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, held on May 6th in the new lecture hall of the Zoological Society of London. Lord Willingdon said that while he was happy to remain as President of the Society, he wished to resign the office of Chairman of Council, and that Mr. Peter Scott had agreed to succeed him. The Society's gratitude to Lord Willingdon for his 15 years' service as Chairman and many other services was expressed by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Ian Malcolmson, who also welcomed the new Chairman.

The President and the Hon. Treasurer were re-elected; and the new Council members were confirmed: Mr. Aubrey Buxton, Sir Dudley Forwood and Major Bruce Kinloch, co-opted during the year, and Lt. Col. C. L. Boyle, Dr. F. Fraser Darling, Mr. James Fisher, Major W. N. Scott and Dr. W. H. Thorpe, elected this year. The President expressed the Society's thanks to the retiring members: Lt. Col. G. A. E. Gibbs, Mr. D. James, Mr. T. D. Rosevear, Major C. W. Hume, and Mr. G. Mountfort.

Mr. Fitter, Hon. Secretary, reported that the FPS had recently been active on behalf of the Antarctic whales, which were in serious danger due to overhunting. He and Major Ian Grimwood had represented the Society at the meeting of the International Whaling Commission in London in May at which a small but insufficient reduction in quotas had been achieved, and the Society would continue to press for more realistic quotas. He also reported that the Society's plans for an East African tour in February 1966 had proved so popular that the original tour had been doubled and both tours were fully booked.

Following the business of the meeting, the new Chairman, Mr. Peter Scott, gave a talk about wildfowl conservation and showed a film of the Wildfowl Trust.

National Parks for Ulster

An Amenity Lands Act has been passed in Northern Ireland which is the equivalent of the British National Parks Act. It sets up an Ulster Country-side Committee to perform the function of our National Parks Commission, and gives the Minister of Development power to create national parks and nature reserves.