

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1953

*To be presented by the Council to the Annual General Meeting,
28th April, 1954*

This is the third Annual General Meeting of the Fauna Preservation Society.

During 1953 the Society suffered the loss of two Vice-Presidents, His Grace the Duke of Abercorn and Dr. P. G. Van Tienhoven, also of Dr. G. F. Herbert Smith, for many years a member of the Council. Another grievous loss, both to the Society and to the cause of wild life preservation, was that of the Duke of Bedford. He will be particularly remembered by the Society not only for his great work in preserving rare animals, but also for his kindness in allowing the use of Woburn Park for the Society's Festival of Britain Week.

Accounts.—Members will note that during the year there was an excess of income over expenditure of £1,625 15s. 6d. This included donations amounting to £1,418 from Dr. Willard G. Van Name, one of the Society's Vice-Presidents, and £100 in legacies. Without donations and legacies the Society's expenditure would have exceeded its income by just over £400.

The number of subscriptions being paid under deed of covenant by the end of 1953 was 202. Members are reminded that a subscription paid under deed of covenant is nearly doubled in value to the Society at no cost to the member. Members are asked to pay their subscriptions promptly. Payment of subscriptions by banker's order saves time and expense. Subscriptions for 1954 were due on 1st January, 1954.

Meetings.—The year marked the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Society. To commemorate our jubilee a joint meeting was held with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds at Church House, Westminster, on 24th October. There were three sessions. The first was addressed by Lord Willingdon, President of the Fauna Preservation Society, the other two by Lord Forester, Chairman of the Council of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. At each session F.P.S. films "Wild Animals of the Indian Jungle" and "Foxes and Badgers" were shown, with a commentary by the Secretary. They were followed by R.S.P.B. films "Havergate under Flood" and "Birds of an Eastern County", with a commentary by Mr. George Edwards.

More than 900 people attended the meetings. Collections at

the door resulted in a surplus of £23 18s. 2d. after all expenses had been paid. This was divided equally between the two societies.

There were two ordinary general meetings, the Annual General Meeting, and five meetings of Council.

The International Union for the Protection of Nature.—The Secretary attended the third technical meeting of the International Union for the Protection of Nature, held at Salzburg, Austria, from 15th–20th September. A report on the conference was published in *Oryx*.

The Journal.—The usual three numbers of *Oryx* were published. The December number included the first instalment of the new section on British Mammals. The Council took note of a proposal to form an “Association for the Study of British Mammals”. It hopes for close co-operation with the new association when it comes into being.

Kindred Societies.—Throughout the year the Society kept in touch with kindred societies in many parts of the world. Special mention may perhaps be made of the Nyasaland Fauna Preservation Society whose Secretary, Mr. G. D. Hayes, was in England during November and December. Discussions which were held with Mr. Hayes will, it is hoped, bear fruit in the better preservation of the fauna of Nyasaland.

Members will remember that it was the joint effort of the Society and the Nyasaland Fauna Preservation Society which resulted in the area of Mjeti Hill being declared a non-shooting area. During 1953 an African game guard was employed there by the Nyasaland F.P.S., the guard's pay—£40—was provided by your Society.

The Society welcomes the formation of two new associations—The Game Preservation and Hunting Association of Northern Rhodesia and the Southern Rhodesia National Hunters and Game Preservation Association. Both societies have as their object the preservation of wild life in their territories, combined with reasonable and controlled hunting.

Political Activities.—As already reported in *Oryx*, the President raised in the House of Lords in January the question of the wild life preservation in Northern Rhodesia and the attitude of the Government towards the great number of firearms in the hands of Africans. In Northern Rhodesia the British Government's reply that the main use of the 40,000 muzzle loading guns was ceremonial, was treated with derision.

During the early part of the year a very serious threat developed to the Tsavo Royal National Park in Kenya. A plan

to provide water for Mombasa would have raised by eight feet the level of one of the Mzima pools. This would have ruined the pools as a hippopotamus breeding ground, spoiling for ever the most attractive feature of the Tsavo Park.

To help in arresting the threatened calamity, Colonel R. S. Clarke, on 1st July, asked in the House of Commons that detailed examination should first be given to the alternative suggestions put forward by the trustees of the park, suggestions which had the support of the highest engineering authorities. In reply the Colonial Secretary gave an assurance that everything possible was being done to avoid damage to natural amenities, but that the water supply to Mombasa would have to take first place. In December news came from Kenya that the pools had been saved. An article giving the whole story will be published in the next issue of *Oryx*.

Society's Film Library.—At the end of 1953 the library consisted of eight wild life films, all of which were frequently shown in Great Britain. Besides this, the film "Wild Animals of the Indian Jungle" was exhibited in Northern Rhodesia. "Wild Life of East Africa" and "Animal Kingdom" went on tour in the Belgian Congo.

Acknowledgements.—The Council desires to express its thanks to those who spoke and showed films at general meetings, to contributors to *Oryx*, including Mr. Ian Menzies for his work in preparing maps, to members who gave original film material and thus made the F.P.S. films possible, to those who gave drawings for Christmas cards, and to many other helpers. Special thanks are due to the Zoological Society of London for the provision of office accommodation and for the unstinted help given by the Society's staff throughout the year.

THE AUDITORS' REPORT

*To the Council and Members of the
Fauna Preservation Society.*

9th February, 1954.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1953.

We have completed the audit of the Books and Accounts of the Society for the year ended 31st December, 1953, and report thereon as follows.

R*