

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1957

*Presented by the Council to the Annual General Meeting,
22nd April, 1958.*

Members will recollect that in 1957 the Society arranged for Professor W. H. Pearsall to carry out an ecological survey of the Serengeti National Park, Tanganyika. We published his Report* in April and it received immediate and universal approval. We then arranged for Professor Pearsall to give evidence before the Serengeti Committee of Inquiry, held by the Tanganyika Government in June. That Committee paid tribute to Professor Pearsall's work and made great use of his Report in its findings.

The Secretary's Visit to Africa.—The Secretary and his wife spent four months touring East and Central Africa on behalf of our Society.

During the Secretary's absence the Society's work in London was performed by the Assistant Secretary, Miss Kathleen Clarke, to the complete satisfaction of Council.

This number of *Oryx* contains the Secretary's report to the Society on his tour.

International Meetings.—The Society was represented at the meeting of the International Committee for Bird Preservation in Bulawayo, and at the Pan-African Ornithological Congress in Livingstone, Southern Rhodesia.

Kindred Societies and Conservation Authorities.—Throughout the year the Society kept in touch with kindred societies and like-minded individuals throughout the world. Besides societies in Africa visited by the Secretary, there may be mentioned the Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand, the Animals and Birds Protection Board of Tasmania, the Wild Life Protection Society of Ceylon and the Society for the Protection of the Flamingo in the Bahamas.

Move of Offices.—Early in the year the Zoological Society told us that, owing to their own requirements, we could no longer

* Report on an Ecological Survey of the Serengeti National Park, Tanganyika, November and December, 1956. By Professor W. H. Pearsall, D.Sc., F.R.S. Price 5s. From the Fauna Preservation Society.

occupy the two rooms lent to us in the main offices, but that other furnished offices would be provided for us above the Bird House in the Zoological Gardens. The move took place in July.

Our new offices are more spacious and convenient to work in than those we have vacated and we are very grateful to the Zoological Society for them. Unfortunately they are not so accessible as were our previous offices, but we do hope that this will not deter our members from visiting the Secretary whenever they can do so.

Film Library.—A list of our films is published in every issue of *Oryx*. The film library now consists of six silent films, nine sound films, and two filmstrips. They have been in steady demand throughout the year. It is especially gratifying to report that, during 1957, films were lent to societies in India, Thailand and the United States of America.

The Journal.—The usual three numbers of *Oryx* were published.

Deeds of Covenant.—In company with other cultural societies we have suffered a severe financial blow in that the Inland Revenue has withheld the tax recoverable under deeds of covenant for 1956. This action has followed a decision in the Court of Appeal that the National Book League was not entitled to repayment of tax on covenants because it gave certain benefits to its members. Their subscriptions were, therefore, held not to be given solely to further charitable objects.

The reason given for withholding payments in our case is that our members receive certain privileges and benefits, e.g. entitlement to *Oryx* free of charge, and so there is doubt whether their subscriptions are given solely to further the cause of fauna preservation.

Council is not, of course, satisfied with this situation and our auditors, Messrs. W. B. Keen and Co., are taking the matter up with the Inland Revenue. No decision has been reached but, in the meantime, the Society's income for 1957 is reduced by £206 3s. 4d.

The Society's status as a charity is not affected and we have received in full the tax recoverable on interest on investments, amounting to £201 17s. 2d.

Accounts.—The excess of expenditure over income was £1,648. This may be explained largely by the cost of the Secretary's African tour, the final expenses of Professor Pearsall's Serengeti survey, the cost of extra furniture required for the new offices,

the ever-increasing cost of postage and printing and the withholding of the refund on Deeds of Covenant already referred to.

Membership.—The Council is pleased to report an increase of eighty-one members during the year to a total of 1,417. Though our numbers rise steadily they are still far below those required even to meet our normal running expenses, without the aid of generous donations.

Acknowledgments.—The Council expresses the Society's thanks to Miss Robin Tomkinson and Mr. Maurice Wilson for their pictures of sable antelope and lions used as Christmas cards.

Thanks are offered also to those who gave lectures and showed films at General Meetings.

The Society is most grateful to the Zoological Society of London for office accommodation and for the unstinted help given by that Society's staff throughout the year.

THE AUDITORS' REPORT

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

25th February, 1958.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1957

We have completed the audit of the Books and Accounts of the Society for the year ended 31st December, 1957, and report thereon as follows:—

GENERAL PURPOSES ACCOUNT

The balance on this account at the end of the year was £4,370 18s. 10d. after transferring £30 from the Life Membership Fund in respect of subscriptions of deceased Life Members and deducting £1,658 5s. 11d. being the excess of Expenditure over Income on the year's working.

The figure of £1,658 5s. 11d. referred to above compares with an excess of expenditure over income of £475 2s. 1d. in respect of the previous year.

The expenditure incurred by the Secretary on his African tour was £1,235 13s. £235 13s. of this amount has been met from the accumulated surplus at the beginning of the year on the Secretary's Travelling Expenses Account. Perhaps it should be mentioned in this connection that the Secretary's Annual