

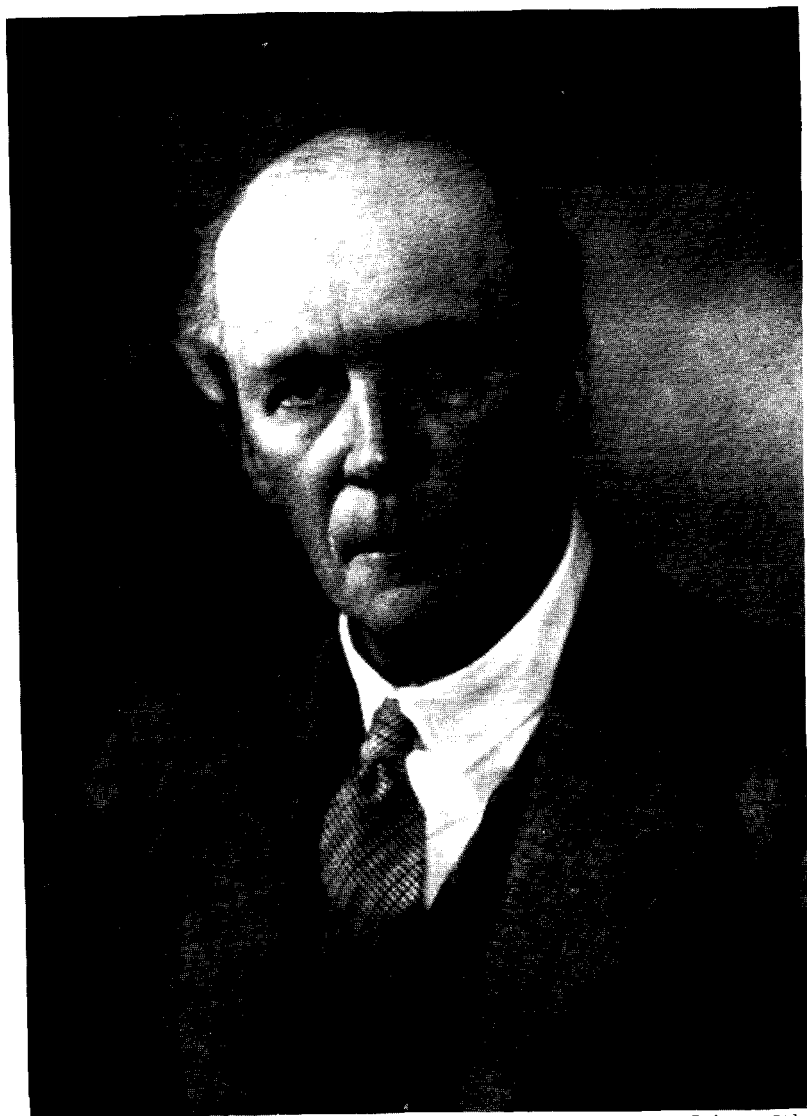
In the discussion which followed the paper there was a wide expression of agreement with the general views expressed by the author. *Capt. K. Caldwell* emphasized the growing importance of Game Departments in the East and Central African territories, and the need for their expansion, especially by the addition of qualified zoologists, to enable them to deal effectively with problems of fauna. *Professor P. A. Buxton* pointed out by example the serious lack of knowledge concerning so many of the present-day problems of African development in which wild animals play an important role. *Professor P. J. du Toit* concentrated his remarks on the balance of nature and particularly the part played by man in this balance, and how man's activity in this respect has changed from the unexplored Africa of a century ago to the present era of economic development of natural resources. *Sir William Gowers* emphasized the importance of national parks to the future of Africa and stressed particularly that they must not be limited only to waste and useless land which will carry only small stocks of animals. The Chairman (*Dr. Harrison Matthews*) wound up the discussion by mentioning the plans which are now under discussion by the Colonial Office, for conducting more research on the biology and ecology of the fauna of Africa.

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## OBITUARY

### HENRY GASCOYEN MAURICE, C.B.

The death of Mr. Henry Gascoyen Maurice on the 12th May robbed the Fauna Society not only of its Secretary but also of one of the most active supporters the Society has yet had. Maurice was a member of a well-known Marlborough family and he was educated at Marlborough and Lincoln College, Oxford, of which he was a Scholar, taking a second-class in both Honour Moderations and Greats. He was called to the Bar in 1904 and joined the legal branch of the Board of Education, subsequently becoming Secretary to Mr. Walter Runciman, with whom he later went to the Board of Agriculture. He was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Fisheries Section in 1912, holding this post until his retirement in 1938. He was created C.B. in 1916. In this capacity he took a great interest in whaling and methods of conservation. He was an original member of



HENRY GASCOYEN MAURICE, C.B.

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the Discovery Committee of the Colonial Office and served for many years on the Council of the Marine Biological Association and Challenger Society. He was a member of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and its President for three years, an unusual honour for one who was not a professional biologist, and an indication of Maurice's grasp of technical matters. For his services with the Council he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Johannes Schmidt Foundation for Oceanographical Research.

From early years Maurice was a keen field naturalist and a sportsman whose main interest was in fishing the chalk streams in his native county. In London he took a great interest in the work of the Zoological Society; he was elected to the Council in 1926 and for the rest of his life he continued to assist the Society in many ways. In 1942 he succeeded Lord Onslow as President and held this office until 1948. Maurice was President during a very difficult period for the Zoo, and the Society will ever be deeply thankful for the benefit of his long years of administrative experience, together with his wisdom and tact. On his retirement from the Council he was awarded the Gold Medal of the Society, a high honour conferred only three times previously. Whipsnade Park was always dear to Maurice's heart and he spent much time there and gave much thought to its development. He obviously regarded Whipsnade as closely related to his other great interest, the Fauna Society, in which he had taken an active part since 1936. Until his death he was Secretary and he had done much to emphasize the need for conserving species whose numbers had become dangerously low. He was largely responsible for starting the herd of White-tailed Gnu at Whipsnade, and just before his final illness he had been arranging for the importation of new blood for it. Throughout the war Maurice gave untrudgingly of his time and energy to forwarding the work of the Fauna Society, and he had already given it that broader emphasis which has now been recognized by the change of title from "The Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire" to "The Fauna Preservation Society".

Maurice wrote easily and well and he contributed to many publications; in his latter years he wrote two very readable books, *Sometimes an Angler* and *The Wisdom of the Ass*. His greatest literary effort, however, went into the *Fauna Journal*, which he edited for 14 years and to which he was one of the main contributors.

He was a most able speaker and chairman. His friendly

manner gained the regard and confidence of all who knew him and his courage throughout his long and painful fatal illness was an example to us all.

G. S. C.

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## REVIEW

BIRDS OF CEYLON—I. By W. W. A. PHILLIPS. *Ceylon Daily News Press, Lake House, Colombo.* In full cloth, 9s. In thin board cover, 5s. 6d.

In his interesting introduction to this small but colourful book the author tells us that there are in the neighbourhood of 386 species, residents and visitors, on the bird list of Ceylon. Twenty of these are described in this volume and illustrated with plates from the able brush of Mrs. G. L. Lushington.

Exceptionally useful features of the book are the map, the short description of the climatic zones of the island, and the Tamil and Sinhalese names of the birds. The few photographs hardly do justice to the birds portrayed, partly due no doubt to poor reproduction, but the coloured plates are an important part of the book and should be a real help in recognition.

Descriptions of plumage are good and concise, but perhaps fuller details of voices might be included with advantage. Many of these birds have clear and distinctive notes, for example the attractive "twit-oo-lee" of the Red-vented Bulbul; then have neither the resident nor the migratory *Paradise Flycatcher* in Ceylon the lovely "I'm wide awake, I'm wide awake" call of the same species at its nesting site in Kashmir?

The book ends with some general hints on bird watching, which must bring great rewards in Ceylon with her wealth of lovely birds. We look forward with pleasure to further books in this series.

C. L. B.

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## THE SOCIETY'S BUSINESS

Since the publication of the last *Journal* in March, 1950, four General Meetings have been held, five meetings of the Council, and one meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. A summary of the points of most interest to members generally is given below.