

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1952

Presented by the Council to the Annual General Meeting

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

Royal Patronage.—Her Majesty The Queen was graciously pleased to grant her Patronage to the Society.

Membership and Accounts.—Members will note from the Auditors' Report and Accounts that, during the year, there was an increase of fifty-seven members and that the excess of income over expenditure was £596 7s. This excess of income includes two large donations—£420 from one of the Society's Vice-Presidents, Dr. Willard G. Van Name, and £136 12s. from Sir Geoffrey de Havilland.

The number of subscriptions being paid under deed of covenant by the end of 1952 was 197. 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 both time and expense. Subscriptions for 1953 were due on 1st January, 1953.

Until 1952 no charge was made for the two rooms occupied in the offices of the Zoological Society. A charge of £250 per annum has now been made, but this has been offset by a generous grant of the same amount by the Zoological Society to the Fauna Preservation Society. The charge is therefore a formal one.

The Journal.—Volume I of *Oryx* has been completed. Bound and indexed volumes may be obtained from the Secretary for £1 8s. post free, but from this amount 2s. 6d. may be deducted for every individual number of *Oryx*, Volume I, returned. Volume I, No. 1 and No. 5, are scarce and will be most gratefully received.

Meetings.—During 1952 four meetings of the Council and four General Meetings were held.

President's Visit to Canada and the U.S.A.—During the summer of 1952 the President visited Canada and U.S.A. and did much useful work on behalf of the Society. A report of his visit is given in *Oryx*, Volume I, No. 7.

Society's Film Library.—The film library at the end of 1952 consisted of six wild life films. Films have been frequently shown in Great Britain and have been sent to the Gold Coast, Nigeria, Nyasaland, India, and Ceylon.

Fauna Conservation. Progress has been made in wild life conservation in many parts of the world:—

International.—The Third Congress of the International Union for the Protection of Nature was held in Caracas, Venezuela, from 3rd to 9th September, 1952.

Great Britain.—Much indignation was aroused by the destruction of deer in Scotland, both illegally by poachers and legally during unsuitable times of the year. A Deer (Close Seasons) Committee has been set up by the Government. Mr. G. Kenneth Whitehead is presenting the views of the Society, which are in favour of a close season for deer.

Crete.—To investigate the position of the Agrimi, or wild goat of Crete, and to suggest measures for its protection, a mission to Crete was undertaken by Mr. Hugh Farmar on behalf of the Society and other bodies and individuals.

India.—The Indian Board of Wild Life was established by Government.

Uganda.—The Murchison Falls and the Queen Elizabeth National Parks were established. This may be said to be the outstanding event of 1952.

The Bahamas.—The Society for the Preservation of the Flamingo in the Bahamas was formed, under the chairmanship of Mr. Arthur S. Vernay. Excellent progress has already been made.

All the above have been more fully discussed in *Oryx*.

Acknowledgments.—The Council desires to express its thanks to those who spoke and showed films at General Meetings, to contributors to *Oryx*, to the members who gave original film material and thus made the F.P.S. films possible, to those who gave drawings for Christmas cards, to the many other helpers, and especially to the Zoological Society of London, who provided office accommodation and whose staff gave unstinted help throughout the past year.