

# Oryx

The International Journal of Conservation

The original paper was published in the *Journal of the Society for the Preservation of the Wild Fauna of the Empire* (1903-1925 and 1926-1950) or in *Oryx*, the journal of Fauna and Flora International (from 1951).

The website of the journal is (from 2008):

<http://www.oryxthejournal.org/>

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The Society was founded in 1903 as the Society for the Preservation of the Wild Fauna of the Empire, and subsequently named the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society. Fauna & Flora International is conserving the planet's threatened species and ecosystems – with the people and communities who depend on them.

Oryx - The International Journal of Conservation, is now published quarterly by Cambridge University Press on behalf of Fauna & Flora International. It is a leading scientific journal of biodiversity conservation, conservation policy and sustainable use, with a particular interest in material that has the potential to improve conservation management and practice.

The website, <http://www.oryxthejournal.org/>, plays a vital role in the journal's capacity-building work. Amongst the site's many attributes is a compendium of sources of free software for researchers and details of how to access Oryx at reduced rates or for free in developing countries. The website also includes extracts from Oryx issues 10, 25 and 50 years ago, and a gallery of research photographs that provide a fascinating insight into the places, species and people described in the journal.

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One of the eighteen young Morelet's crocodiles bred last year at the Atlanta Zoological Park, USA, — the first record of captive breeding of this very rare Mexican native.

pine country of northern Michigan, and winters in the Bahamas. Pressure on its limited habitat appears to be the main cause of decline.

#### **Black-footed Ferrets in Peril**

Almost the last US colony of black-footed ferrets, on a ranch in South Dakota, is in danger because the new owner is not only unwilling to sell to conservationists, but wants the prairie dog towns, where the ferret lives, poisoned.

Following reports of black-footed ferrets in the large prairie dog towns of Cimarron County, Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission is hoping to be allowed to forbid the poisoning or trapping of prairie dogs. Ranchers would still be allowed to kill them with guns.

#### **Another De-extinction**

The Kauai oo, believed extinct since 1964, has been rediscovered in the Alakai Swamp on Kauai, Hawaii, by a US Fish and Wildlife biologist. It and three close relatives were hunted almost to extinction for their yellow thigh feathers, prized for native robes.

#### **Saving Porpoises**

A new technique announced by the US National Maritime Fisheries Service is expected to reduce the number of porpoises and dolphins trapped and drowned in tuna nets (over 200,000 a year) by 75 per cent. The new system includes the

use of small-mesh netting at the back of the seines, so that the porpoises will not become entangled, combined with a manoeuvre by the fishing vessel to allow them to escape.

#### **Cougars Attacked**

Cougars in Florida, estimated to number between 60 and 300, are protected, but law enforcement is difficult. Two released from a local zoo into the Everglades national park were shot a few days later.

The only known breeding area of the now very rare eastern race of the cougar is under threat from a proposed highway that would cross its last remaining fragment of wild habitat in New Brunswick. The area has already been severely disturbed by loggers.

## **ASIA**

#### **Javan Rhinos Increase**

The latest estimate of numbers of the Javan rhino in the Udjung Kulon reserve, Java, its last certain locality in the world, is at least 38, perhaps 42. Five years ago the estimate was 25.

#### **Turtles in Mauritius**

The Mauritius Fishing Development Company has accepted the following recommendations from George Hughes, WWF turtle investigator: (1) close season for all turtles from November to February; (2) complete ban on egg collecting; (3) annual harvest