

# Oryx

The International Journal of Conservation

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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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hopes to produce at least ten peregrines during the 1973 season.

#### **Whoopers Sad Decline**

Only 51 whooping cranes, including five young birds, wintered in the Aransas Refuge on the coast of Texas this year, a decline of 13 on the previous year. The wild population is now back to where it was four years ago, and the captive stock is also four down on 1969.

#### **Puerto Rico Parrot Census**

The 1972 census of the Puerto Rico parrot in its only known remaining habitat, the Luquillo Experimental Forest in Puerto Rico, estimated 15 individuals, inclusive of a pair captured for captive breeding. This compares with estimates of 12 for 1971, 16 for 1970 and 24 in 1968. Four individuals are known to be in captivity, three of them at the U.S. Interior Department's station at Patuxent, Maryland.

#### **California Condors**

Recent censuses of the California condor, confined to a restricted range in southern California, have never exceeded 34, but actual numbers are estimated to be between 50 and 60. Fortunately man-induced mortality is now apparently at a very low level.

#### **Threat to Auks Lifted**

In both 1970 and 1971, according to Canadian ornithologists accompanying the Danish salmon fleets off Greenland, at least half a million guillemots were drowned in fishing nets. Fortunately the agreed reduction of the catch from 800 to 300 tons until 1975, and total cessation after that, will arrest this threat to the auk population of north-eastern North America.

#### **Protecting Porpoises**

The US Commerce Department has announced measures to save porpoises from being drowned in the nets of the US tuna fleets. Federal agencies and the tuna industry are required to work towards reducing porpoise mortality as close as possible to zero within two years. Research is to be stepped

up, a new type of net with smaller webbing to be used, and fishermen taught how to handle the nets to enable the porpoises to escape.

#### **A Marine Fish Endangered**

The totoaba *Gynoscion macdonaldi*, a giant croaker fish found only in the Gulf of California, where it is or was the basis of an important commercial fishery, appears to be threatened with extinction due both to overfishing and to the diversion of the Colorado river having eliminated its brackish water breeding habitat. Attempts to capture a small stock for captive breeding in 1971 proved a failure, and commercial fishermen have also had poor hauls.

#### **Salmon Fishing Ban**

Canada has banned practically all commercial salmon fishing in its waters for at least six years.

#### **Rationing the Parks**

Overcrowding of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee and North Carolina is damaging the trails so much that it has become necessary to restrict the number of overnight hikers in some areas of the park.

## **AFRICA**

#### **Birds of Prey Protected**

The peregrine falcon and other birds of prey are now strictly protected in the Sudan.

#### **White Rhinos at Kabalega**

Two newly born white rhino calves have been seen in Kabalega (formerly Murchison Falls) National Park, Uganda, where the endangered northern race was reintroduced some years ago.

#### **Threat to Cape Flora**

If present trends continue, according to Roy Siegfried in *African Wildlife*, the great majority of the unique endemic Cape flora is likely to be replaced, within the next century, by alien plants, mainly wattles, *Hakea* and unwanted pines. Among other creatures threatened by this wholesale extinction of an irreplaceable