

homing tendencies, sex ratios, breeding habits, growth rates, longevity and the general ecology of bats. Many large-scale banding operations to determine the extent of rabies infections have been financed by Federal and State public health agencies, especially in southwestern United States.

Since about 1963, bat banders in the United States have reported instances of indiscriminate killing and senseless removal of bats from caves, resulting in a decline in bat populations of some caves. This state of affairs was brought to the attention of the American Society of Mammalogists at its 44th Annual Meeting in Mexico City on 17th June, 1964. A resolution was passed which endorsed the bat-banding programme and resolved that, except for scientific research, the removal, molestation or disturbance of bats and their roosts should be discouraged since some species could be endangered by removing large numbers or by damaging roosts.

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White and Black Rhinoceros in Rhodesia - by H. ROTH.

Corrections and Supplementary Information

Because of some inaccuracies in the map of Rhodesia on pages 224-225 of the December issue of Oryx, this is being redrawn and readers may obtain a copy on application to the FPS. On page 223 the literature reference should be Roth and Child (1967); page 228, last line, Lake Kyle should be substituted for Lake Kariba; page 229, line 15, after 'rhinoceros', insert, 'and this contributed to covering the expenses'.

Of the illustrations, plate 15 showed a black, not white, rhinoceros, and in plate 13 the rhino was standing numb. The white rhino on plate 12 was captured in the Umfolozi Game Reserve for removal to Rhodesia; the one in plate 16 was awaiting release into Kyle Dam Reserve. The prehistoric rock painting on page 219 was of a white rhinoceros in the Matopos National Park, into which this species was reintroduced.

Endemic Birds of the Seychelles

by Malcolm Penny

The author of this survey of the endemic birds of the Seychelles Islands, in the Indian Ocean, was a member of the 1964-65 Bristol University Seychelles Expedition financed by the World Wildlife Fund. He describes the status of ten birds unique to the islands, all of which are today in some degree of danger, and suggests measures that must be taken to save them.

WHEN it was first colonised in the early eighteenth century the Seychelles archipelago supported a varied avifauna with some dozen species occurring in most of the larger islands. As the settlers increased in numbers, and, more important, as they cleared large areas of primary forest and introduced alien species, the native birds declined, so that today most of the endemic birds are to be found on only one or two islands. Two species, a white eye *Zosterops semiflava*, and a green parakeet *Palaeornis wardi*, are known to have become extinct.

Records of the early days are scarce and incomplete, but in the nineteenth century several workers visited the islands and brought back progressively more complete accounts of the avifauna. The two most important were E. Newton (1867) and Abbott (in Ridgway 1896). From these accounts and others, including the observations (1966) of the Bristol Seychelles Expedition, a fairly complete picture can be built up of the decline of the avifauna of Seychelles over the last hundred years. This paper seeks to trace this decline and to consider the possibility of checking it in each of the endangered endemic species. An account of the general biology of the avifauna of Seychelles by Gaymer and others of the Bristol expedition is in the press.

Seychelles Magpie Robin, Pie Chanteuse *Copyschus seychellarum*

The magpie robin is a conspicuous ground-feeding bird about the size of a blackbird, with the tameness and general demeanour of a robin. The adults are black all over with a deep blue sheen, a white wing-bar, and black legs and bill. Juveniles lack the adult sheen, and have the wing-bar mottled with black, and sometimes also chestnut markings on the feathers. Other members of the genus, which is widespread in the East, are much smaller and tend to have more chestnut coloration.

Newton (1867) records the pie 'in reduced numbers' on Praslin, La Digue, and Marianne, and from hearsay also in the south of Mahé. Oustalet (1878) records its collection by Landz from these islands and also from Aride, and notes that it was said to occur then on Mahé and Félicité. Abbott also took specimens from Alphonse, in the southern Amirantes, where the bird had been introduced. Vesey-Fitzgerald (1940), recording the extinction of the pie in the thirties on Marianne and Aride, noted a small surviving population on Frigate. Landz evidently visited Frigate, but surprisingly did not see the bird. Vesey-Fitzgerald considered Alphonse 'the last main stronghold' of the pie, but when we visited the island in