



AFRICAN GREY TRAFFIC: TRAFFIC South Africa recently released a report revealing the possibility of fraudulent activities in this country's bird trade, in particular, the trade in African Grey parrots.

The report documents how South Africa imported more than 43 000 African Greys from 1981 to 1993. The majority of these birds came from countries where African Greys are uncommon or banned from export.

According to David Newton, director of TRAFFIC in South Africa, the main import routes were through the old Transvaal and Natal provinces, where unused import documents remained in the hands of traders, and inspections were rare.

"The replacement of four provinces with nine new regions is only going to make the control of trade less manageable."

NAN RICE HONOURED: Without Nan Rice, founder of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group (DAPG) and her dedication and perseverance, South Africa could well have lost much of its rich marine heritage. So said Dr Ian Player, patron of the Audi Terra Nova Award which seeks to boost public awareness of environmental issues and generate support for those who strive to conserve natural resources.

Nan Rice, dedicated marine conservationist for the last 25 years, was nominated for an Audi Terra Nova Award which will be judged in May this year. Nan has fought for a better deal for all marine creatures, including the Great White Shark.

UPLIFTMENT THROUGH BUSH CLEARING: R2,7 million has been invested in a capacity-building pilot project involving Thornybush Nature Reserve and the Bushbuckridge community in the Eastern Transvaal.

Jointly funded by Thornybush Game Lodge and the Independent Development Trust (IDT), the project will initially create over 100 jobs in the area.

The project involves the entrepreneurial skills training of five local contractors initially. They in turn will commission 20 others to the task of bush clearing.

Bush encroachment happens when the veld has been under pressure from overgrazing. Pioneer plants cover the earth, but this cuts down on game movement and viewing.

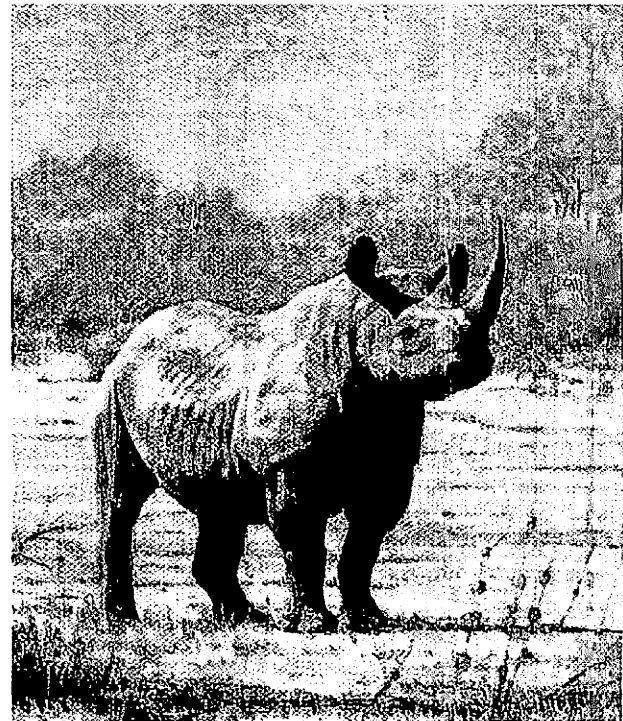
The wood will be sold as fuel at subsidised prices, and research is being done on possible charcoal production and sale in partnership with Engen.

ELEPHANT DEBATE: To cull or not to cull? Days before the annual elephant cull starts in Kruger National Park, the arguments for and against this controversial issue will be presented by eight eminent speakers at the Elephant Debate due to be held at the Theatre on the Track, Kyalami Park, Midrand, on Wednesday 3 June 1995.

The Rhino & Elephant Foundation is facilitating this event. For bookings or information, call (011) 882-0606.

MONEY FOR RHINOS: The Rhino & Elephant Foundation is selling a limited edition series of prints by Paul Bosman, to raise funds for its operations.

The original, called Autumn Days, was done in pastel on gessoed masonite, giving it an unusual texture. Autumn Days has been reproduced on the finest quality paper, signed and numbered by the





artist. The price is R135. Call Rozanne Savory or Petra Mengel for details on (011) 882-0606, or fax 882-0666.

■ **ECO-ADVENTURE:** The Council of Adventure Travel Associations of South Africa was recently established, aiming to upgrade the adventure industry (river rafting, hot air ballooning, mountain biking, horse trails, diving, professional hunting, budget trans-Africa touring and so on).

CATASA's chief objectives are to promote guide training and uniformly high operational standards, as well as to rid the industry of disreputable businesses, and to help market the region's diverse adventure options.

Call Graeme Addison on (0140) 81-5860, or Chris van der Merwe on (011) 782-7251 for details.

■ **WILDLIFE ART:** Wildlife artist Rob Kenchington will be holding an exhibition of his artwork from 1 - 3 June, at Ebony and Ivory Interiors in the New Thrupps Centre, Illovo, Johannesburg. On show will be work in pastels, charcoals and pencil, in carved frames of ebony, ironwood and syringa. Call Rob on (011) 728-4401.

■ **NYLSVLEY FLOODPLAIN SAVED:** A dam had been planned for the Olifantsspruit, one of the tributaries that feeds the Nyl river, to

provide water for the growing area of Nylstroom. But this would have severely affected the unique birding paradise of the Nylsvley. Nylsvley is a temporal floodplain, and floods three times in five years, on average. Then, the dry watercourse is transformed into a sea of lilies, green plants and lapping water, with singing frogs, and fish coming from who knows where.

After concerted action by the Nylsvlei Conservation Campaign, made up of scientists, conservationists, the Wildlife Society, farmers, birders and Friends of Nylsvley, the alternative plan of bringing in water by pipeline from the Roodeplaat dam near Pretoria was finally approved and the pipeline is now being built. For details on how to become a Friend of Nylsvley, call Marion Dunkeld at (012) 667-2183.

■ **GREEN TRUST AWARDS:** The deadline to enter the Green Trust Awards is 31 July 1995. The categories, as in previous years are: Corporate, Organisation, Individual, Schools, Greening and the Sam Mabe Media category. For more information, call Jeunesse Searll on (011) 803-9750.

■ **OLD PARKS:** Hluhluwe and Umfolozi Game Reserves, and St Lucia reserve have just celebrated their centenaries. These three protected areas, falling under Natal Parks Board, are the oldest game reserves in Africa, and among the oldest in the world.

REVIEWS

■ **LIVING IN SOUTH AFRICA:** This controversial new video looks at some of South Africa's major environmental problems from an RDP perspective. It is aimed at school children and students and comes complete with an interactive booklet for teachers to use as a study aid.

"Living on the Land" is part of a series. Contact the Film Resource Unit on (011) 838-4280.

■ **HEALTH BEFORE PROFITS:** The workplace has been called "the most dangerous environment". No wonder: agriculture poisons workers with pesticides, mining generates over one million tons of effluent containing cyanide and other poisons every year, and the chemical industry emits highly toxic solid, liquid and gaseous waste.

A new publication *Health Before Profits, An Access Guide to Trade Unions and Environmental Justice in South Africa*, by Peter Lukey is sobering, but reader friendly and packed with facts, figures and contact details. It provides an introduction to green issues and shows how workers and environmentalists can work together. The book was printed on behalf of the Environmental Justice Networking Forum (EJNF) and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. For further information, call EJNF on (011) 838-2431, (0331) 65410 or (0431) 20735.

■ **LOOK-ALIKE BIRDS:** By Kenneth Newman and Derek

Solomon (Southern) R30

Birding isn't easy. There are 99 different kinds of birds that can confuse you in the field unless you know the special differences between, among others, masked weavers, glossy starlings, cuckoos and certain types of raptors.

■ **THE GREEN EARTH PROGRAMME (EcoLink):** EcoLink, with sponsorship from the Green Trust, has published a series of handbooks on environmental themes in English and Zulu. With drawings and simple text, they are suitable for children or adults on literacy courses. Contact EcoLink on (01311) 32120 or write to Box 727, White River, 1240

■ **PROBLEM PLANTS OF SOUTH AFRICA:** By Clive Bromilow (Briza Publications)

As Clive Bromilow says in his acknowledgement, "there is a huge store of information and experience in the (agricultural chemical) industry and for various reasons it remains as that - in storage". It is frighteningly true - but here are the first well-dusted retrievals from that Aladdin's Cave.

For those of us who tramp the earth in search of one or other of its treasures, be we hikers, life scientists, gardeners or others, this is the little book of conscience which gives us no more excuses to moralistically pronounce "Ja, it looks alien. It's an um, whatsitcalled, well, it's TAKING OVER all over the place. Vermin!" Because the text is succinct, lacking in extraneous academic detail and superbly illustrated with clear colour photographs, everyone can use it. And it's just the right size to wave in the face of those who knowingly or unknowingly plant, or fail to discourage, these pesky plants.