

resulting harvest of coins has now been transferred to WWF's Wishing Well at the Zoo.

The award winning RSPB film *Winged Aristocrats* (about birds of prey) is to be shown throughout the country during November. It will visit: Chester, Bury St Edmunds, Marlborough, Brighton, Rochdale, Basingstoke, Lancaster, Salisbury, Sherborne, Preston, Bournemouth, Carmarthen, Dorchester, Bolton, Exeter, Derby, Chesterfield, Harrogate, Hull, Wakefield, Leeds, and Doncaster. Details of dates and times from *The RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds.*

## NATURAL HISTORY

The James flamingo (*Phoenicoparrus jamesi*) is having to move away from its traditional nesting grounds on Laguna Colorado in the high Andes of western Bolivia. Changing climatic conditions are responsible for this move, and conservationists are preparing to keep a watchful



TONY MORRISON

eye on this, the rarest of the world's flamingos. A few sightings have been reported from southern Peru and from the western highlands of Bolivia; in most of the areas where it is reportedly now nesting it is likely to meet severe 'predation' from man.

At the Stanford Research Institute in California, sea lions have been taught to

'say' whether they can see something or not. They make clicking noises in response to visual cues, when, for example, they can resolve the stripes in a target. Their eyesight underwater is as sharp as a cat's on land, and coupled with the animal's control over its clicking chatter, might well make the sea lion a useful companion for man.

In some large conurbations the house mouse seems to have ousted the rat as the major pest. Human intervention is largely responsible for this, for many cities having rid themselves of the rat, have thereby removed the mouse's major predator (cats are inefficient mouse killers): where good control of rats has been achieved, the number of mice tends to increase.

The salmon's sense of smell plays an important part in the mechanism that drives adult salmon to return from the sea to spawn in precisely the stream in which they were reared.

This knowledge comes about from a series of experiments in which the brain activity of the salmon is measured when their noses are doused with different solutions: when the solution is from the stream in which the salmon spent their early life, strong electrical impulses from the brain are recorded.

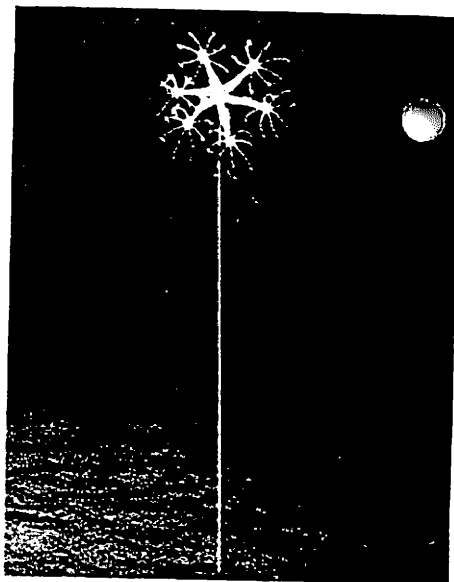
Scientists still do not know, however, the how, the why, and the wherefore of the fact that the smell is retained and imprinted on the memory in this way. But more research into this has already been undertaken.

Several years ago, after spending some £7,250 researching the prairie dog, American zoologist David F. Costello found to his anger that without permission or prior notice 'poison experts' had killed off his prairie dogs in mid-study as part of their eradication programme. Motivated by this upsetting experience as well as by his fascination for these strange animals, Mr Costello decided to write about them. The recently published *The World of the Prairie Dog* (Lippincott; 49s) is the result.

Dr David Premack, at the University of California, has taught a seven-year-old chimpanzee named Sarah to read and write

on a specially devised slate. Sarah uses characters that stand for words, as in Chinese: a blue triangle, for example, represents an apple, a red squiggle a pail, and so on. These symbols have been made up in the laboratory and stuck to pieces of metal for use on a magnetised slate.

This method accepts that chimpanzees communicate with each other visually, as does the method used by Allen and Beatrice Gardner in teaching their chimpanzee Washoe to communicate, described in our April 1970 issue. Washoe uses signs to represent objects - for example, fingers touching the nose mean a flower. With both methods, quite complicated ideas can be conveyed: Sarah can, for example, string together sentences like 'Sarah eat biscuit'. Dr Primack believes that it would be possible for Sarah to learn the equivalent of 1000 words in English.



Photographed at a depth of 15,900 feet in the Atlantic, Umbrella is a little known marine animal related to hydroids and sea anemones. Walter Jahn of the US Naval Oceanographic Command photographed the creature on F.I.S. Ektachrome and Tri-X film.

## WWF & IUCN

WWF has announced that its United States National Appeal has handed over \$6,000 to the Kaziranga National Park in

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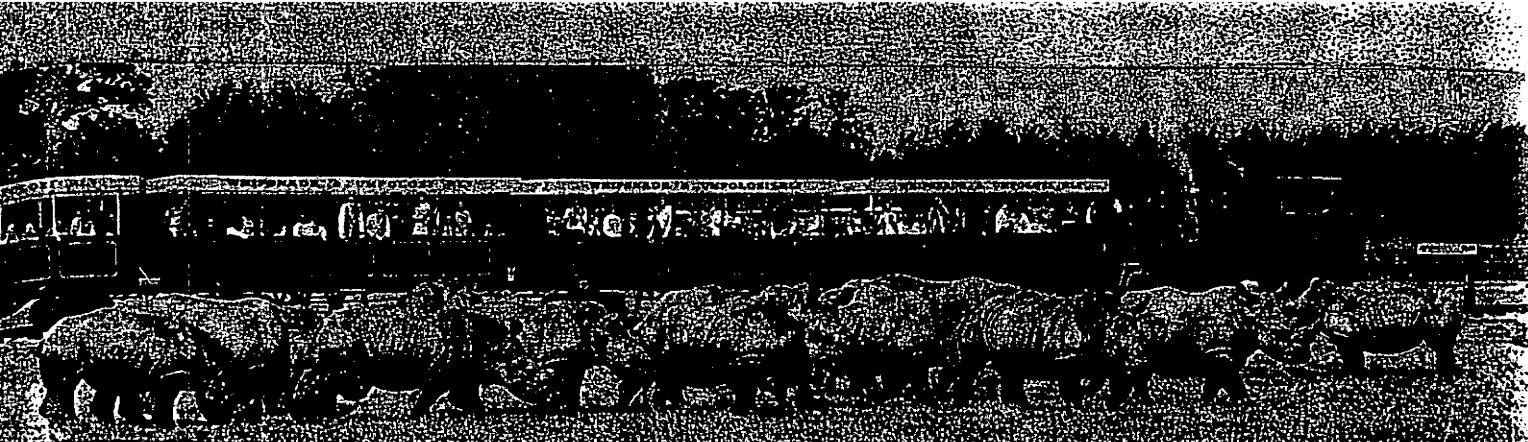
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A train of the Whipsnade & Umfolozi Railway makes its inaugural run past the herd of white rhinos (Photo: Keystone) → 233

India for the purchase of a four-wheel vehicle and a motor boat. Some 400 rhinos live within the boundaries of the park; this is more than two-thirds of the world population of this gravely threatened species. The vehicle and the motor boat are to be used for the protection of the rhinos, and to strengthen the anti-poaching system.

Swiss zoologist Fred Kurt has just returned from a three-month mission to Sumatra on behalf of WWF. While there he carried out research on the larger fauna living in the Loeser Nature Reserve in northern Sumatra. Besides elephants and tigers, Dr Kurt found several orang-utans and Sumatran rhinos. Both these species are in danger of extinction and need to be protected against the rapid destruction of their habitat. WWF will prepare and launch a conservation programme for the Loeser Reserve based on Dr Kurt's final report.

1,100 children from local schools in and around Hemel Hempstead shared the cost of the Hemel Hempstead Pavilion in order to hear Peter Scott lecture on 'Wildlife in Danger'.

Initially WWF had arranged for Peter Scott to give only a fund-raising lecture in the evening; but prompted by the enthusiasm of young wildlife supporters, who with their schools were prepared to club together to meet the cost of the pavilion itself, WWF invited the children to attend a special educational lecture.

people the growing problem of stream pollution, which he had come across when bathing from a beach at St Kilda. Said the mayor: '... he didn't have the brains to tell us he was going to St Kilda or we would have cleaned the place up.' A subsequent report has more than confirmed Prince Charles's findings.

The Danube delta is at present causing an ecological dilemma. Both the fish and papermakers want the reeds, while farmers want to reclaim the marsh. Rumania has set up a specially appointed body to look into the problem, and to reconcile any clash of interests.

Pollution may soon become a crime in Japan where industrial smog could become as great a killer as the bomb 25 years ago. The Government is considering a reversal in the law, whereby a person would be guilty unless he could establish his innocence: In other words, a possible smog-producing industrialist would have to prove his innocence rather than defend it.

Corollary: A Japanese industrialist recently revealed that the plant of which he was the manager had been polluting a nearby river with his knowledge for many years. One is unlikely to see such a drastic acceptance of personal responsibility in the west, we suspect.

Frankfurt Zoological Society have donated a mobile film unit to aid them in their work. The money derives from collections made by Professor Bernhard Grzimek from his large television audiences in Germany, and from the royalties from his television programmes and books.

The governments of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Panama recently drew up an agreement for the conservation of green turtle resources. There has been a pronounced decline in the turtle harvest in recent years, and this important food species could disappear altogether. Drastic protection measures - banning killing, capturing, stealing of eggs, or selling - have been instituted for a period of three years, during which time permanent exploitation control measures will be studied.

Fellow bee-keepers steered clear of Benami Venkataramana when he arrived for their conference in Kasaragod, India, with a nest of bees in his beard. He keeps other swarms in an ordinary hive, but some prefer a human home.


The Game and Wildlife Branch of the Irish Department of Lands has advertised summer jobs of ecological work to students of biology in the universities. There are six sites, two of which are of direct concern to ornithology - Akeragh Lough, County Kerry; and Bull Island, County Dublin. To begin research at these two places is a most encouraging step by a government department. It is hoped that it will lead to the employment of more permanent biologists on the staff of the department to define and safeguard the remaining habitat resources of Eire.

**ENVIRONMENT**

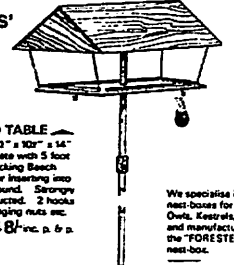
The Prince of Wales was recently labelled a 'crank' by the Mayor of St Kilda, a bayside suburb of Melbourne. The prince earned this title by bringing to the notice of many

**INTERNATIONAL**


Many young people in Kenya are very interested in the conservation of wildlife in their National Parks. The Wildlife Clubs of Kenya (see article last month) have been working in this field with considerable success for some time, and the



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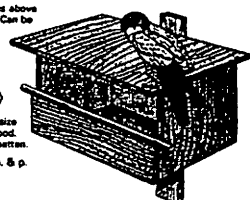


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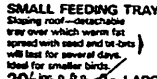


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