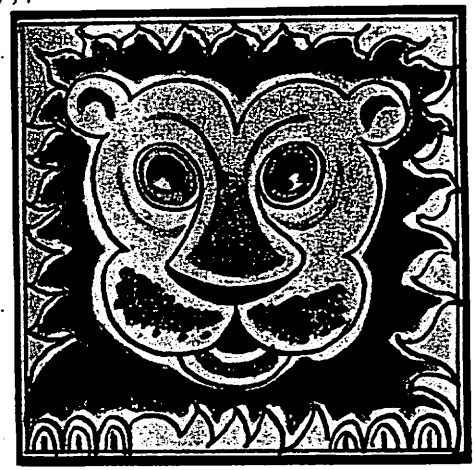




volunteers. In order to bring these two together and to purchase equipment such as Land-Rovers; and to train leaders and organise the Trust on a permanent national and regional basis, with the necessary trained and qualified staff, money is very urgently needed. An appeal for £200,000 was recently launched and it is hoped that industry, charitable trusts, commerce, and the general public, will invest in these young people who are investing their energies and efforts in the countryside of tomorrow. For details of how you can help, please contact The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Zoological Gardens, Regents Park, London NW1 4RY.



News Desk

BRITAIN

The BTO'S ornithological atlas project is progressing very steadily and well, and it is hoped should be completed in 1972. The aim of the project is to record the breeding distribution of all birds throughout the whole of England over a period of five years. The project is using 10-kilometre squares as the basic recording units, and within these the aim is to prove breeding for every species of bird that nests in at least one of the five years. The final format of the atlas is envisaged to include one full-page, two-colour map for each of the 190 to 200 regular breeding species. Help is still needed from observers living in certain parts of Britain.

The Sussex Naturalist's Trust is to purchase 360 acres of woodland near Wisborough Green, known as the Mens, as a nature reserve. Woodland was formerly the natural habitat of most of lowland Britain, and the majority of our mammals, birds, and insects are basically woodland species.

Has the time come for the badger to receive legal protection from persecution? A law for this purpose has recently been urged by several County Trusts, and by the National Federation of Women's Institutes. However, should one perhaps look-even farther ahead than this? The time may have come to consider the feasibility of *comprehensive* wildlife protection legislation, which is already successfully in operation in several other countries. This would seem the best solution for there are other animals in grave need of protection, for example the pine marten (which is currently attracting the interest of the fur trade).

The Conservation Corps has been in existence for 12 years now, and has achieved a very great deal, from scrub clearance in East Anglia, to making a new footpath in the Cairngorms. There is a growing demand for the services of the Corps and a long and eager waiting-list of

INTERNATIONAL

The population of the wild reindeer on the Novosibirsky Islands, Russia, which was on the verge of disappearance during the thirties, is now abundant again. The reindeer spend the whole year round on the islands and do not migrate. They feed mainly on angiosperm plants. The animals continue to increase at such a rate, in fact, that there is some danger now that some of the islands may become *over-populated*.

Oxford University has bestowed an Honorary Doctor's degree on John S. Owen, who for ten years has been the Director of the National Parks of Tanzania. It is the first time that a Director of National Parks has been honoured in this way. Mr Owen built up the Michael Grzimek Memorial Laboratory and the Serengeti Research Institute, both of which have earned international reputations as leading institutions for ecological research in tropical countries.

IUCN & WWF

WWF announced recently that six pairs of marbled teal bred in Britain have been released in the Lal Suhanra reserve in West Pakistan as part of the effort to restock the area with its depleted wildlife. The marbled teal was once common in the area, but had virtually vanished because of excessive hunting. WWF also aided the shipment to Lal Suhanra of blackbuck antelopes bred in Texas from Indian stock. Like the marbled teal, the blackbuck was once common in the area but had completely disappeared. It is hoped that Lal Suhanra will be a reserve of some stature within five to ten years.

Black rhinos, Katanga impala, and tsessebe antelope have been wiped out in the Congo, and several other animals are nearing extinction, according to Dr Jacques Verschuren, a Belgian awarded the WWF Gold Medal last November for his courage in defending the Congo Parks during the turmoil of the 1960s. Dr Verschuren is most concerned about the white rhino which has suffered a dramatic decline in numbers, from 1,300 to perhaps less than 30.

Zoo News

A rather unusual newcomer arrived at Colchester Zoo, Essex, recently: it is a baby whose father is a zebra and whose mother is a donkey, which makes him a zedonk. In fact this event is not all that extraordinary. Zebras have mated with donkeys (and with horses) many times before, and the offspring of the union are known by a variety of different names, among them zeedonk, zebroid, zebronkey, and zeehorse. Raymond Hook of Kenya has bred these animals in fairly large numbers, but nevertheless Colchester's new arrival is certainly an eyecatcher.

A great deal of building has been taking place at two Scottish zoos. At Glasgow Zoo a new tapir house was recently completed; at first its only occupant was a baby elephant, but the arrival of the tapirs soon put a stop to that. A new building for the smaller monkeys is expected to be finished at the end of the summer. Some ring-tailed lemurs are to be housed immediately and also some chimpanzees, for whom an extension to the main building has been added.

A new llama enclosure has also recently been completed, which should allow the animals very much more space than they have been accustomed to. A young orang utan has recently been born and appears very healthy and happy. There have also been a number of births in the reptile house, mainly among the smaller reptiles such as geckos.

At Edinburgh Zoo the impressive new monkey house, which we mentioned in our zoo news of September last year, is almost complete. This spacious building, which is not scheduled for completion until the middle of this year, looks as if it may be ready much earlier. It is hoped that like the pygmy hippo house which was finished last year, it will be a great success. The latest construction plan to be completed is a new clouded leopard enclosure.