

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON HIS VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA, SPRING, 1952

This winter I had the honour to represent your Society on a visit to the National Parks of Cape Province and Natal. I would like to report that the Administrators, Government Officials, and National Park authorities gave me every assistance and I had the pleasure of being entertained at banquets by the Administrators of both Provinces.

The Wild Life Protection Societies were most helpful and I think we reached a greater understanding of mutual problems and brought about closer co-operation between our Societies and members.

In Cape Province I visited the Ronde Vlei Bird Sanctuary and the Bontebok National Park and, in the Eastern Cape, the Addo Elephant Park. In Natal I had the honour of being appointed Honorary President of the Natal Society for the Preservation of Wild Life and Natural Resorts.

I further had the privilege of recording two broadcasts at the request of the South African Broadcasting Corporation and, in fact, learnt a great deal as regards the problem of administrative difficulties in South Africa.

The outstanding feature was the helpful co-operation between the wild life societies, the Parks Board, and Government officials. The most pressing problems appeared to me the fencing of Addo and its elephants, the development of Hluhluwe, the saving of the mountain zebra, the oribi, and the white-tailed gnu.

I can assure any member of the Fauna Preservation Society of a very warm welcome by our sister societies, should they decide to visit South Africa, and I strongly recommend a visit to Hluhluwe, the home of the square-lipped rhinoceros, where the well-known conservator, Captain Potter, has recently been succeeded by his son, and where they are proving without a shadow of doubt that the wild animals' inherent fear of the human is not based on instinct, but is purely a result of experience.

May I commend to you all the pressing need of the spread of knowledge of these problems by every known method, and especially by the use of literature, radio, and the screen. Wild life is on trial perhaps for the last time.

Willingdon.