

News in Brief

Films for FPS Library

Sir Malin Sorsbie, of Kenya, has presented the FPS with a copy of his excellent film in colour of the wildlife of the Samburu Game Reserve, in northern Kenya, under the title "Escape to Samburu". The film was shown to members at a meeting in September by our new Vice-President, Col. Mervyn Cowie, and is now in the Film Library. Two other new films of African wildlife presented to the Society come from South Africa: "To Catch a Rhino" and "Lake Wilderness".

Zoo Federation

A Federation of Zoological Societies of Great Britain and Ireland has been formed, with Lord Cranbrook as chairman, to encourage the proper care of wild animals in captivity, and also to have regard for the conservation of rare species. Members will be asked to consult the Federation before acquiring rare animals.

Roan and Sable in Kenya

A 46-square mile game reserve has been gazetted in Kenya's Lambwe Valley, near Lake Victoria, home of the last remaining antelope in Kenya, and also of a rare monkey, the copper-tailed white-nosed monkey. The Government has also announced that the Shimba Hills, the only place in Kenya where sable antelope can be seen in any numbers, is to be declared a national park.

Increase in Sea Otters

The annual June census of southern sea otters off the Californian coast, to which they are now confined, showed an increase of nearly 100 in 1966: 591 as compared with 497 in 1965. Some of the increase may have been due to the better visibility from the smaller and more manoeuvrable plane used this year.

Help for the Alligators

The US Department of the Interior is seeking an amendment to the Criminal Code which would protect the Mississippi alligator, now an endangered species thanks to the value of its skin for making expensive shoes and handbags, which has led to poaching on a grand scale.

Polar Bear Permits Reduced

The Alaska Board of Fish and Game is restricting hunting permits for polar bears to 350 for the open season January-April 1967 (compared with 386 killed in 1966).

Return to Formosa

The Ornamental Pheasant Trust in Norfolk has presented ten pairs of the rare Swinhoe's pheasant to Taiwan (Formosa), where it has become exceedingly rare in the wild. Five pairs are to be released in

the wild, and the remainder distributed to experienced canary breeders, the most knowledgeable bird keepers in Taiwan, to build up a stock.

No Hunting of New Zealand Seals

New Zealand has extended the period of full protection for seals for another three-year period, until March 1969. The taking of seals has been prohibited in New Zealand since 1925, except in 1946, when the short open season was so disastrous for the seals that they have not yet recovered.

Young People Work for FPS

A number of young people have helped the FPS in very practical ways this summer. Josephine and Rosemary Burton, of Haslemere, Surrey, for the second year in succession organised a gymkhana at their home in aid of the RSPCA and the FPS, and sent £36 for FPS funds. Frances Glendinning, of Huddersfield, Yorkshire, made a collection for FPS in her form at Penrhos College, Colwyn Bay, and sent £1, and later in her holidays organised a Bring and Buy Sale at which she raised £31 11s 10d.

Butterfly Stamps for FPS

A member of the FPS in New Guinea, Mr A. F. Hutton, kindly sent the Society a complete set of a new series of butterfly stamps to be sold for the Society's funds. These were put up to auction at the Society's September meeting and sold to Mr David Shepherd for five guineas.

ICBP Greetings Card

An excellent colour photograph of a robin, Britain's national bird, by John Markham, is used for a greetings card suitable for use at all times of year, issued by the British Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation, c/o Natural History Museum, London SW7, at 1s. each. Size 6" x 4½".

South African Symposium

The Zoological Society of Southern Africa is holding a symposium on "Terrestrial Animal Ecology in Southern Africa" in Pretoria, July 11-14, 1967. Details can be had from the Hon. Secretary, c/o Zoology Department, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, South Africa.

Appeal for Greater Pesticide Controls

The Council of Europe has appealed to European governments to tighten controls on the use and sale of pesticides. It also asks for more research on pesticide contamination and effects on wildlife and the prohibition of imports of dangerous pesticides, and intends to make proposals for international regulations in the near future.

Muskoxen for Wrangel Island

A breeding colony of muskoxen is being started on Wrangel Island, in the Soviet Arctic, with animals bought from Canada.