

Society pages

Andrei G. Bannikov

Professor Andrei Bannikov, who died in late 1985, was one of the USSR's most eminent conservationists and zoologists, and a Vice-President of the FFPS from 1976. He travelled regularly to Mongolia and was an authority on many of the animals of Soviet Central Asia and Mongolia, notably saiga, onager, Bactrian camel and Przewalski's horse. He wrote many books on a wide range of subjects, including co-authoring the USSR Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians, and editing the first USSR Red Data Book. He was active in international conservation, as a Council Member of IUCN and, for six years, a Vice-President of IUCN. Many members will recall his address to the FFPS in 1977, where his lively sense of humour, strongly accented English, and flowing patriarchal beard left a lasting impression.

John A. Burton

Gifts and Grants to FFPS

The FFPS is most grateful for the gifts of £25 and over listed below, and also for the many smaller donations received between 1 October and 31 December 1985.

Oryx 100% Fund	£
St Katharine's Fund (earmarked for East African Wildlife Society)	750
E. Robertson	50
E.D. Medcalf	30
P.E. Bannister, E. Van Bergen	25
Mountain Gorilla Project	
Sarah Jackson Trust	400
Nestle's	300
Members of Lloyds and Lloyds Brokers	250
FFPS North West, F.R. Mills, E. Portelly, J. A. Rossi	100
D. Bannister, L. Bass, E. Bernard, C. Cadbury, P. Cowie, Dulwich College Survival Society, E. Isaac, O.P. Marland Charitable Trust, W. Oakley, J. Russell	50
Powlesland Family	45
M.S. Bellis	40
A. Farbus, M.E. Rogers	35
D.M. Evans, B.G. Hewlett	30
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M. Angove, J. Arriss, R.P. Balnares, P.E. Bannister, R. Beattie, B. Birch, M. Bradstreet, B. Burkitt, F.S. Butler, W. Collier, P. Cooper, A. Cope, D.B. Collins, D. Cornish, J.M.V. Dawkins, W. Douglas, C. and M.W. Evans, R. Godfrey, G. Goodwin, E. Haddison, I. Hayes, H. Horsfall, E. Lattimer, M. Mills, F. Proud, K. Ramsbottom, M. Roberts, H. Rushton, S. Scull, M. Smith, M. Taylor	25
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Bat Project

W. Hingley	100
M. Marston	50
M.W.A. Rae	46
U.D.G. Werner	35

Herpetological Project

World Wildlife Fund (earmarked for Herpetological News)	1000
M. Marston	50
Wildlife Hospital Trust	25

General Fund

E. Kleinwort	100
Offenheim & Cunderford Charitable Trust	840
St Katharine's Fund	400
Nestle's, Trustees G. Leach	250
Bruce Coleman	246
T. Lundy, F. McNab, Peter Nathan Charitable Trust	100
C. Cadbury, L. Hoffman, E.D. Parrinder Estate B. Warburton	50
G. Merlen	27
D. Morgen	25

Premises Appeal

An appeal in November 1985 resulted in a welcome response from 85 of the Society's Life Members. Donations were sent to the Society's major projects, to the Oryx 100% Fund and to the General Fund. The Premises Appeal Fund, however, benefited most, receiving a total of £3887.90 by 27 January 1986. The Society would like to thank all those Life Members for their generosity.

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Mountain Gorilla Fund-Raising

Our special thanks go to the boys of the Lower School World Wildlife Society and the Survival Society from Dulwich College, south-east London, for their hard work and support of the Mountain Gorilla Project. A total of £575 was raised in less than six months.

The FFPS would also like to thank Barbara Dunn, Mary Rae, Keith Rawlings, Gerard de Nys and Graham Noble for their fruitful fund-raising efforts. The Society is also extremely grateful to Mary Portelly, George Brown, Greer Hart, Mr T. H. Rose, Mr and Mrs Rossi and Roy Brooker for their continued kind support for the project.

Oryx 100% Fund grants

At its meeting on 3 December 1985, the FFPS Council approved the following grants:

£800 to Dr Graham Lenton (Buckinghamshire, UK) for radio transmitters and a receiver to monitor the effectiveness of a breed-and-release programme for barn owls in parts of Britain where they have declined.

£500 to Paul Munton (London, UK) towards his study of endangered, rare and little-known predators in the Wahiba Sands, Oman, with reference to their prey, in particular the endangered sand gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa marica*.

£500 to Chris Thouless (Cambridge University, UK) for his study of the green peacock *Pavo muticus imperator* in the Huai Kha Wildlife Sanctuary, Thailand. The project aims to provide the first description of its ecology, identify suitable areas for captive-bred birds and discover the reasons for its being hunted.

£500 to the Yayasan Indonesia Hijau (Bogor, Indonesia) to help produce a poster of Bali's endemic birds, in particular the Bali starling. The poster will be displayed in schools and public places.

£350 to Anthony C. Sebastian (Sarawak, Malaysia) for his study of proboscis monkeys at Samunsam Wildlife Sanctuary, which contains the largest

known population of proboscis monkeys in Sarawak. Information on habitat use is particularly urgent in view of threats from logging and proposed road and power lines, and the results will be used to propose any changes necessary in boundaries or cable routes.

£250 to Dr Kenneth Ashby (University of Durham, UK) towards his study of the populations of banteng *Bos javanicus* and feral water buffalo *Bubalus bubalis* in Buluran National Park, Java, Indonesia. Numbers of banteng may be declining to the point of extinction in the park, due to competition from the water buffalo.

National Bat Year

Britain's National Bat Year was launched on 29 January 1986. The FFPS has joined with the Mammal Society, the Vincent Wildlife Trust (VWT), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC), the Royal Society for Nature Conservation and about 60 local bat groups in a major effort to publicize the plight of the country's bats and their needs, as well as to raise funds for conservation.

The FFPS's Bat Conservation Officer, Tony Hutson, has a key role to play and is being assisted by a full-time publicity officer, funded jointly by the WWF, the NCC and the VWT. Apart from a general co-ordinating role, the FFPS has prepared a mobile exhibition for use nationally, is issuing press releases, and, in conjunction with the Zoological Society of London, will be completing the construction of an artificial bat cave at Whipsnade Zoo.

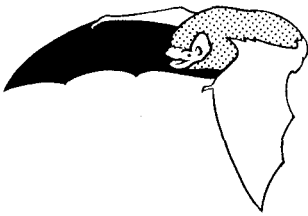
Throughout Britain, local bat groups will be organizing a variety of events, from lectures and exhibitions, to bat-walks and barbecues. The public will be encouraged to participate by collecting information on bats using summer roosts, by sponsoring bat roosting boxes and by improving their homes to attract bats to live in and

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around them. A booklet is being produced by the FFPS to help with this. This, together with an extended range of 'bat' sales goods, will be available from the FFPS.

Despite the protection that the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 gives to all British bats and their roosts, they are still in trouble—from destruction of roost and hibernation sites, both natural and man-made; from human intolerance, misunderstanding and disturbance; from chemicals used for timber treatment; and from agricultural chemicals, which reduce the range of insect prey available and may also contaminate the insects that bats eat.

Let us hope that after 1986 the status of Britain's bats will be improved and that more people will be active, or at least interested, in their conservation.



Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition

Details available from the Press Office, Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD. Closing date 30 June 1986.

London meetings

London meetings are held in the Meeting Rooms of the Zoological Society of London on the Outer Circle of Regent's Park. Each includes a wine and cheese buffet supper, and tickets are available from the FFPS, 8–12 Camden High Street, London NW1 0JH, telephone 01-387 9656. Please assist catering arrangements by ensuring that you book your ticket at least one week in advance of the meeting date. A stamped self-addressed envelope would be most appreciated. For further details of meetings please see the insert in this *Oryx*.

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Local group meetings

Bristol and the West of England Group

Details from Ian Redmond, 38 Lime Road, Ashton Gate, Bristol BS3 1LT. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Cambridge Group

Details from David Chivers, Sub-Department of Veterinary Anatomy, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge CB2 1QS. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

North-West Group

Thursday 17 April 1986 at 7.30 pm: An Evening of Tropical Forests. Charles Secrett will give a talk followed by two short films at Chester Zoo. Tickets at £3.50, including wine and buffet supper, are available from Nick Ellerton, telephone 0244 380280.

Oxford Group

Wednesday 30 April 1986 at 8.00 pm: Jonathan Kingdon will talk on 'Conservation in Uganda'. Come at 7.00 pm for wine and cheese and meet the speaker—cost £1.50. At Department of Zoology, South Parks Road, Oxford, in Lecture Theatre A. Tickets available from Louise Butler, Department of Zoology, South Parks Road, Oxford.

Ramsar Convention Conference

The Third Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention will be held from 27 May to 5 June 1987 in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. It coincides with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the declaration of the first migratory bird sanctuary to be created in North America, at Last Mountain Lake, north of Regina.

Mountain vegetation symposium

An international symposium on mountain vegetation will be held from 1 to 5 September 1986 in Beijing (Peking), China. Topics will include management, utilization and protection. Details: Mr Chen Weilie, Institute of Botany, Academia Sinica, Beijing, China.

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