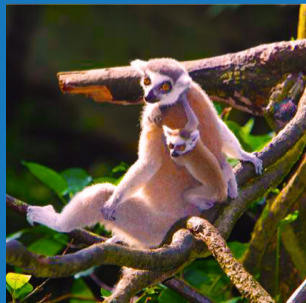


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THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE FOUNDATION FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES

Summer 2009 • 7th Edition



You Great Bustard! Read about it page 5

Beavering away in Scotland page 5

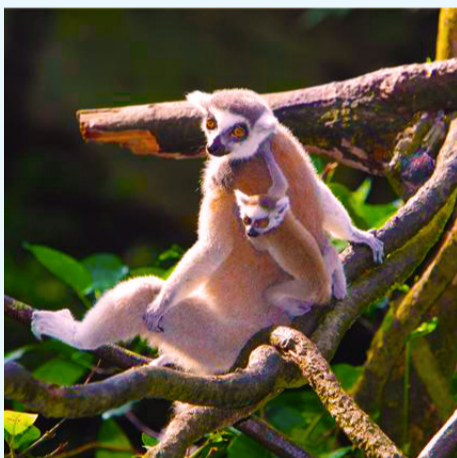
## Regular Features

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- 2 Message from the Founder
  - 6-7 Free centre page photo
  - 8 Correspondance Page, tell FES
  - 9 Unique Wildlife Crossword from the 'Environmental Concern Adviser' to UNESCO Schools' Group UK. Pit your wits against him ... now!
  - 10 Letter from our General Manager
- 

conserving  
**wildlife** Summer 2009

## Unique Features in this Issue



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### **A double for *Singapore Zoo***

Meet the Zoo's two species of lemurs Brought to you by *Singapore Zoo*



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### **ITV 6 o'clock News**

Report at Rottingdean Beach for the beach sweep results for 2008



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### **Center Page photo worth £14.95**

A unique photo taken by Andy Mydellton the wildlife photographer, has been exhibited at the Beck Theatre for 4 months, entered into the Wildlife Photographer of the year competition, and now published in a series of greeting cards

## We are experiencing greater UK biodiversity

in 2009 in some ways, at least. The official release of beavers, albeit for a trial period; together with the news that 3 great Bustard chicks have successfully hatched is heart-warming. It lifts some of the gloom caused by the credit crunch, MPs excessive expenses claims, as well as the chaos of global warming and climate change. Nobody welcomes pollution and its consequences, yet we have to suffer it against our wishes. Many believe it is because the politically naïve populations have been deliberately misled by our political leaders.

So raising awareness of environmental matters allows everyone to think clearly and choose what to do about these issues rather than blindly following selfish politicians. It is evident to thinking people that our political and industrial leaders often follow their own interests inside their hidden agendas; moreover they cleverly use the language of statecraft to camouflage these selfish policies. These actions are often based on making money for themselves or the people who put them and keep them in power.

Animals cannot be so deceitful. They simply exist and give us pleasure as they get on with their normal, natural lives. All they have to do is to be, to exist. This is the essence that our photographic exhibitions try to capture, and was the reason why the 'Tigers Realm' did so well at Liverpool Cathedral in their 'Year of the Environment'. The following week the exhibition was then transferred to Gunnersbury School to celebrate the World Environment Day. We had much excellent feedback from these two exhibitions and hope for the same with the new 'Himrain Project' exhibition at Rickmansworth Library.

**Andy Mydellton** is Vice-Chairman and Environmental Concern Advisor, UNESCO School's Group UK

Raising Awareness can give the power of new thinking and choice to the public at large. Then real changes in the environmental world will begin from the 'bottom up' rather than simply wishing for goodwill and benefits from the 'top down'. Only then perhaps, will we get what we really want as we will not allow our leaders to get in between us and our true desires again.

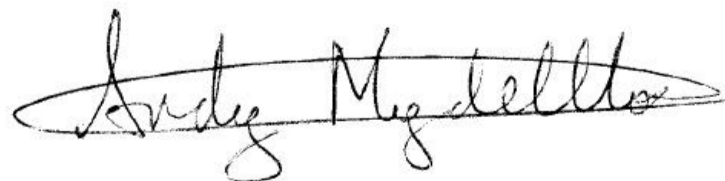
On lighter notes, due to EU directives, we can experience reintroduced species back into the UK, and there are reports later here in Conserving Wildlife. Hopefully these issues will help some of the public change their mind-sets and engage the concept of living inside nature. Once this happens on a large scale, the tipping point will occur and 'bottom up' pressure will create all sorts of successes.

Is it likely to happen? Probably, but successes will be hard fought and hard won. It will take many years for little results to be realized. I'm pretty sure that it will take another generation or two for all of our native megafauna to be returned into the UK.

The Beach-cleaning results were also disturbing, as nothing has yet changed for the turtles that see plastic carrier bags as jellyfish. Instinctively, they eat the bags that are indigestible, and die. Fish also make similar mistakes with all sorts of plastics and metals. Birds get caught up with larger rubbish such as fishing nets, anglers line and discarded rope. Broken glass, fisherman's hooks and syringes also hurt innocent day-trippers and family sunbathers.

The long awaited Marine Bill may address some of these issues, although some of us have heard more than just rumours that it has already been watered down. Let us hope that these are just 'rumours'. ☒

All the best,



**Andy Mydellton**

# LEAPING LEMURS AT SINGAPORE ZOO!

## A double for Singapore Zoo

It was a double celebration this Spring in Singapore Zoo with the arrivals of two members of the endangered lemur family. The red ruffed lemur gave birth in March, shortly followed in April by the ring-tailed lemur. The new additions were a cause of great excitement - particularly the red ruffed lemur, being the first such birth for the Zoo since the species was added to the collection in 1991.

In total, there are 14 lemurs in the Zoo's collection, several of which are maintained off-exhibit as part of a breeding programme. The term "lemur" is derived from the Latin for 'ghost', probably because of the animals' large reflective eyes and the wailing cries made by some species. Lemurs are primates, related to monkeys and apes but, unlike most primates, the female lemur is the dominant member of the species. Lemurs belong to a separate and ancient

group called prosimians, which first appeared in records around 55 million years ago. This means prosimians predate the first monkeys by around 10 million years, making them extremely important in evolutionary studies. Fossil prosimian remains have been found in all corners of the world.

Sadly, lemurs in the wild have not had an easy time. Displaced in other parts of the world by monkeys and apes, the Madagascan lemurs had lived safely for many years without competition. There, they were able to evolve into the many species known today.



Nowadays lemurs are once again threatened. Since humans arrived on Madagascar some 1,200 to 1,500 years ago, 16 species have become extinct, most likely due to habitat destruction and hunting. Mainly tree-dwelling (with the exception of the Ring-Tailed Lemur), they are dependent upon the larger fruit trees for their survival, both for food and nesting. But it is these very trees which are the most prized by logging companies. This, together with the Madagascan natives' habit of using a "slash and burn" technique to eliminate their previous year's crops, is rapidly destroying the lemurs' natural habitat. In 1987, World Wildlife International declared lemurs to be the most gravely endangered group of primates in the world.

### Singapore Zoo

**Singapore Zoo is part of Wildlife Reserves Singapore and has been designated a wildlife rescue centre by the governing authority.**

**Set in a rainforest environment, the zoo's world famous "Open Concept" is home to over 2,500 specimens from 315 species, 16% of which are threatened. The Zoo has attained a strong reputation internationally for its conservation initiatives and breeding programmes.**

**To better meet the healthcare needs of its animals and work towards its aspiration to become a leading global centre of excellence for veterinary healthcare and research, a purpose-built Wildlife Healthcare and Research Centre was set up in March 2006.**

### PHOTO CAPTIONS

Red Ruffed Lemur  
Photo: Bjorn Olesen

Ring-tailed lemur  
Photo: Wildlife Reserves Singapore

Written by Marilyn Graves

# WE ARE DIRTY – OFFICIALLY!

THE BEACH SWEEP RESULTS FOR 2008 WERE RECENTLY RELEASED BY THE MARINE CONSERVATION SOCIETY – AND TOLD A SAD TALE. BEACHES THROUGHOUT THE UK AS WELL AS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WERE CLEANED BY CONSERVATIONIST ORGANIZATIONS ON THE 3RD WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER, 2008. THIS GAVE A CLEAR SNAPSHOT OF THE STATE OF OUR COASTLINE, AS WELL AS HOW IT COMPARES TO THE REST OF THE WORLD. THIS IS POSSIBLE DUE TO THE WAY THAT BEACH CLEANING IS DONE. AS THE LITTER IS LIFTED FROM THE BEACH, ALL OF THE ITEMS ARE LOGGED DOWN ONTO PRE-PRINTED FORMS; THEY ARE THEN PUT INTO CATEGORIES SUCH AS METALS, PLASTICS, PAPER ETC AND THEN TOTALED UP. ALL OF THESE FORMS ARE THEN SENT TO DATA CENTRES WHERE THE INFORMATION IS COLLATED AND ANALYZED.

THE FOUNDATION FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES HAS AN ADMIRABLE RECORD OF BEACH CLEANING AT ROTTINGDEAN BEACH OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS. AS A RESULT, ANDY MYDELLTON THE SOUTHERN REGION SPOKESPERSON FOR THE BEACH SWEEP PROJECT WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SHANE CLARK TO GIVE AN INTERVIEW FOR ITV (SEE FRONT COVER).

IN THIS 6 O'CLOCK NEWS ITEM IT WAS REPORTED THAT BRITAIN'S BEACHES ARE GETTING DIRTIER, INCLUDING THE WHOLE OF THE SOUTH COAST. SADLY BRITAIN HAS ALSO BECOME ONE OF THE DIRTIER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD. THERE IS LITTLE COMFORTING NEWS FROM THE RESULTS AND THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO DO SOME THING TO STOP THIS AWFUL SCENARIO FROM GETTING EVEN WORSE.

## YOU GREAT BUSTARD!

A trio of Great Bustard chicks has been seen on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire. It is the first time since 1840 that this has happened. For 177 years the Bustard has been extinct in the UK, and with no realistic chance of returning without a deliberate reintroduction programme. So under European Union legislation (the Habitats Directive, 1992) the government is obliged to reintroduce animals back into the UK wherever it is possible.

It took many years for a feasibility study to confirm that the Bustard could exist in the UK countryside once more. Therefore a 10 year trial from 2004 began. Since then releases have been made each year, and will continue to 2013. There have been casualties, but also successes from every year of release. However, this news of 3 new chicks shows that the Great Bustard should be back for good – let's hope so!



## BEAVERING AWAY IN SCOTLAND

At last the Beaver has returned to the UK – even if it is only for a 5 year trial period. The Beaver is now the first mammal to be deliberately reintroduced into the UK countryside and can now be found in Knapdale Forest in Argyleshire. Beavers were overhunted for its pelt and became extinct over 400 years ago except for a few privately owned individuals kept in huge enclosures.

Alongside other conservation groups the Foundation for Endangered Species campaigned for this reintroduction. Whilst the previous Scottish government refused permission, the present government acceded to our lobbying and gave the go-ahead. This was despite the proven fact that Beavers are a 'Keystone species'. Beavers build dams that create ponds; in turn these increase fish stocks, improve water quality and increase biodiversity such as flowers and insectivores.

The Foundation for Endangered Species believe that this should have been done many years ago as Beavers have been reintroduced into 24 other countries at over 150 sites. Despite outstanding successes abroad some influential Scottish landowners are not supportive of this programme due to their own interests and inward thinking. But let us hope for more good news in the near future and for the Beavers permanent return.



Dear FES

I've recently taken over an allotment and am loving every minute of it. I'm trying to be as 'green' as possible by not using chemicals etc and growing the right sort of flowers for butterflies as well as vegetables for me and I'm not using peat. Gardeners have used so much peat over the years that British peat bogs and mosses have almost disappeared. But while many firms are selling peat free mediums, others are simply importing peat from other countries, such as Ireland. As so often happens - just moving the problem on.

The trouble is, the modern trend is for easy, 'instant' gardens. TV has a lot to answer for with every programme apparently starting with stripping everything out and dumping it in a skip. Just what happens to the contents of those skips we fill in our pursuit of our instant gardens and what happens to the creatures that for years have been hiding in those untidy corners?

I did a lot of clearing, of course, but I've also left bits and I'm planning to dig a small pond as I regularly find frogs in my compost heap. Others have had grass snakes. I don't suppose I'm going to find any rare species in my little plot in south London, but you never know – we do have bumblebees. At any rate, I might be doing a little something towards making sure that the wildlife which is still in good supply stays that way.

Albert Budden  
Twickenham

Dear FES

I would like to know what line FES and its readers take on the cloning of endangered animals. I've read a few bits about it recently but there seem to be a lot of mixed feelings about it.

I read somewhere that scientists managed to clone an extinct species of mountain goat (I'm not sure how that was possible but apparently it worked). But unfortunately, the new-born kid only lived for a few minutes because of its deformed lungs. It seems this is a problem that cloning hasn't sorted out yet. As an animal lover, this sounds horrible to me and I can't help thinking that all these scientists really care about, is getting their names down in a book somewhere for being the first man to clone a panda or whatever.

Surely, the answer is educating people to make sure that our beautiful animals don't face extinction in the first place. In fact, if anything, I would have thought that refining cloning techniques could work against preservation. If cloning is an option, isn't there a possibility of people thinking, "Oh well, what does it matter about conserving these animals. We'll carry on hunting (or whatever) and just clone a load more when they run out." Or am I just being cynical?

Elizabeth Adams  
Colchester

Andy Mydellton answers these letters in the next issue... so find out next time!

Dear FES

I was shocked to read on the Ulster Wildlife Trust's website that they aren't fully supporting the protection of the Irish hare.

The Trust says that the Irish hare isn't proved to be in decline. I don't live in Ireland, but I have family there who I visit frequently and who live in rural northern Ireland. They are convinced that numbers have obviously dropped over the years. Hardly any Irish hares are seen nowadays and those that are, are seriously threatened by hunting and coursing.

Records kept by country estates show that numbers dropped by around 80% between 1900 and 1970. The Department of Agriculture reported a decline of 50% between 1986-1995 while a survey published last year found only 187 hares in existence.

Yet the Ulster Wildlife Trust says there is no long term evidence that the Irish hare is endangered, as numbers fluctuate anyway. Surely reports from 1900 to 2008 are long term enough? How long do we have to wait before the decline in numbers is accepted as being a problem and someone will do something about it?

The trouble is, by then it may well be too late. This unique animal needs protection now, by including it in the Wildlife Order of Northern Ireland.

Michael Stacey  
Leytonstone

## "The Tiger's Realm" Photographic Exhibition at Liverpool Cathedral

### Email

Just a quick email to say the exhibition has been a success...  
From the education offices – liverpool cathedral

### In our Visitor's Book, some of the comments from around the world included...

Tuki – japan, unbelievable  
Flora – liverpool, fantastic magnificent  
Katya – Tashkent, we love it  
Marcin k – poland, its wonderful  
Andres molate – colombia, excellent  
Dlinde Le – spain, wonderful!

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Thanks and happy fundraising.

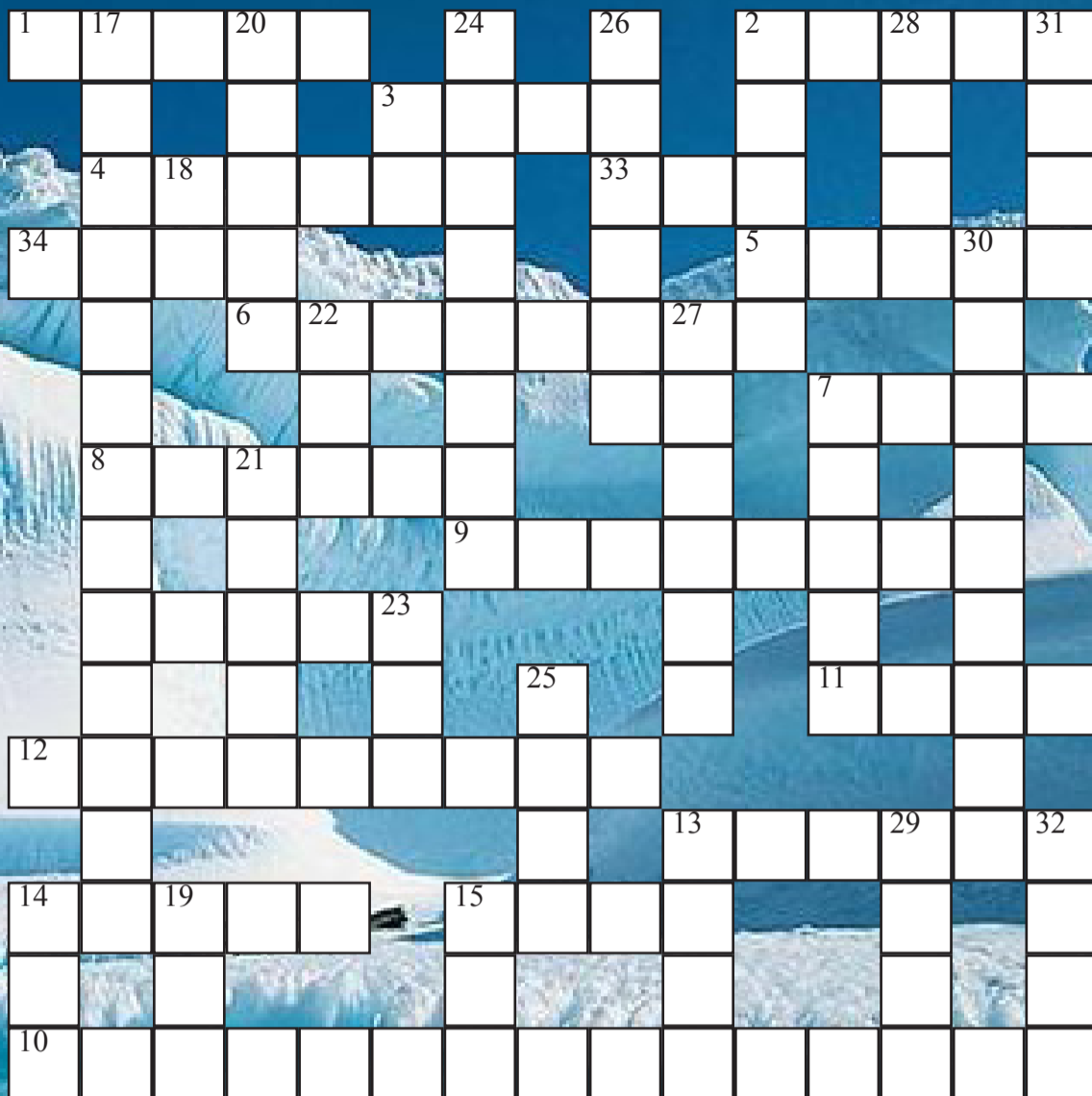
*If you would like to comment on anything in Conserving Wildlife please contact us at [shane.fes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:shane.fes@hotmail.co.uk)*

**Across**

- 1 South American Camel
- 2 Human (see 29 down)
- 3 Fruit and Grandmother
- 4 Pike-like Fish
- 33 Power for Photosynthesis
- 34 Sharp Teeth
- 5 Jane Goodall's Park
- 6 Namibian Swamp
- 7 They increase DNA in species
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- 9 Australian Jumper
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- 13 Early Plant Life
- 14 Calculator-Snake
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- 16 Andy Mydellton's Wildlife program

**Down**

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- 18 -AN. Panda
- 19 River in UK
- 20 Exotic Fruit
- 21 Infected Dog
- 22 Baby Goat
- 23 Circle Around the Poles
- 3 Initials of a Cold Wind
- 24 South African Mammal
- 15 Adulthood
- 25 Mad Bird?
- 26 Amazon, London, Congo
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- 13 On a Tree
- 2 Eland Relative
- 7 Type of Bog?
- 28 One of the Tribe, School, Group?
- 29 (See 2 Across) Sapien
- 30 Famous Comedian (See 8 Across)
- 31 Young Birds Mouth
- 32 Nape



Send in your answers to the editor, and the first correct one will receive a mysterious prize from the Wildlife Zone.

## MARGIE CONNELL REEF – EXPLORING THE UNDERWATER WORLD

**BOOK REVIEW**

Author : Scubazoo

Plunge into the worlds most beautiful underwater landscapes, without so much as getting your toes wet! Here is a book that will transport you to the 'rainforests' of the deep. Every page surprises and delights, with vivid colours and fascinating creatures in their wondrous habitats. From delicate sea horses to majestic whale sharks, Dorling and Kingsley have published a book which sits proudly on any coffee table.

Scubazoo are a team of professional photographers, marine biologists and conservationists based in Sabah, Malaysia, close to areas of great marine bio-diversity, who are dedicated to preserving these areas of natural beauty. The book also has a section on reef conservation and maps indicating coral reefs and mangrove swamps and their importance in the environment.

Their work has been featured on the BBC, Discovery Channel and National Geographic and they have included a DVD which adds another dimension to this visual treat. Sales of the book support the work of the Marine Conservation Society, who have included a forwarding section.

Alongside the spectacular photographs are captions, identifying the sea creatures, and giving an insight into the thoughts of the photographer.

Reading about the Australian sea lions and their playfulness, while looking into those big brown eyes staring out at me from the page, made me remember the acrobatic cavortings of the pups that I had been lucky enough to swim with.

Eye popping bright pink, yellow, orange, corals and I'm back on the Barrier Reef thinking of those zinging blue starfish. The graceful ray scenes reminded me of a trio who I thankfully didn't land on, as I jumped off the side of a boat!

Scuba divers will love REEF. Each close-up surprises you, as if the fish were actually swimming up to your mask with every page turned. There's also that wonderful feeling of being in deep clear water and gazing up at the sun through a school of fish only you don't have to worry what type of shark that is swimming with them because you're really in your living room. Alongside the beautiful lurk the predatory and poisonous. Colourful coral snakes...very much like the one that swam in front of me while snorkelling off Phi Phi Island in Thailand... REEF's blue ringed octopus...dead ringer for the one I spotted in a Sydney rock pool! Mangrove swamps and jungles of Kalimantan...watch out for the crocodiles that glide alongside your boat while monkeys crash through trees overhead.

It's a book to remind you of places and creatures you might have seen but also to inspire you to reach out into the unknown. Challenging you to seek out new adventures in the underwater world. (Still have to swim beside those giant whale sharks!) Reminding you what is below the depths and that it's worth preserving.

“Are we on the verge of being an endangered species?”

*Letter from our General Manager*

Dear Readers! .....

The chance of a hot, dry summer has very good odds in the UK. This may be difficult to believe, given our recent summers, but temperatures are rising. Six of the ten warmest years noted on record in the UK were between 1995 and 2004. The past century as shown the average global temperatures have risen by 0.74 degrees Celsius, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and will keep rising by between 1.1 and 6.4 degrees Celsius over the next century. This is great news for the beach-cleaning team perhaps; but, alas, bad news for mankind. Experts say rising temperatures may lead to increased drought as well as flooding as the polar ice melts. This is likely to place an additional 80 – 120 MILLION people at risk of hunger with 70 – 80 percent of these being in Africa. Worldwide floods affected 7 million people in the 1960s to 150 million today. U K winter floods cost nearly 500 million pounds in the year 2000 for the farming industry alone.



I know it is very easy to state figures and facts but Global Warming is happening - and affecting life on the planet. It is already changing the food chain. Even if mankind is at the top of the chain, does this give the right to be complacent? Are we on the verge of being an endangered species?

**Ron Bishop, General Manager**

THE GREEN SHIELD AWARD

David Bellamy presented the Green Shield award to ‘Weatherspoons’ recently due to their recycling scheme. In this they fill up their vans with items for recycling, rather than unthinkingly return the empty vans. This is unusual for any chain outfits, as many of them cite ‘insurance’ as a ‘problem’. This is a bogus claim, covering up the fact that most other companies and their managers simply do not want to be bothered with such a task. THE FOUNDATION FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES wish to congratulate ‘Weatherspoons’ on the deserved award.



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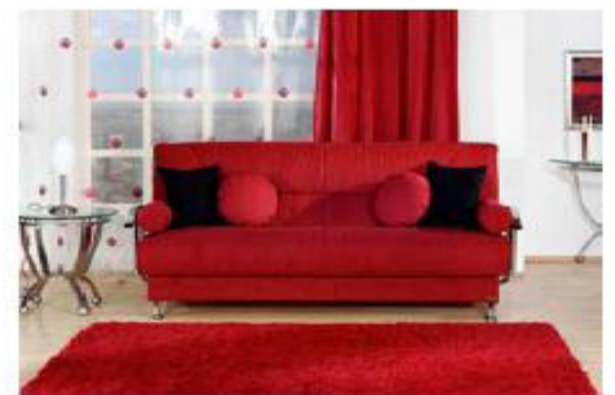
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## Subscriptions & Donations

If you would like a hard copy of Conserving Wildlife, annual subscriptions are available at £20 per annum or £2 per month including p&p. Alternatively make a donation using the form provided and get one issue of Conserving Wildlife Free.

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