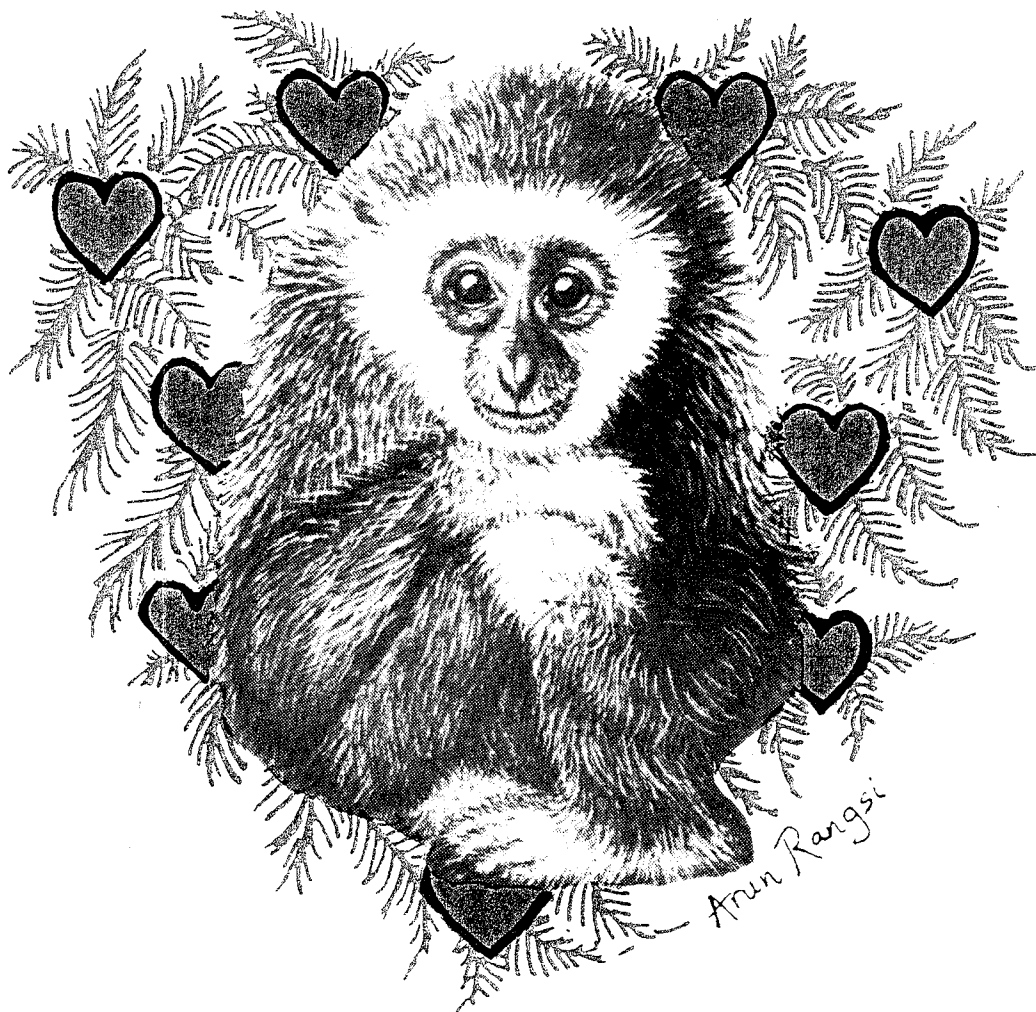




News

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DECEMBER 1994



Happy Holidays To Our Members

Dear IPPL Member:

January 1995 will mark the beginning of IPPL's 22nd year of service to our fellow-primates. Organizations specializing in particular species of primates that have caught the public imagination (such as gorillas, orangutans, and chimpanzees) proliferate, but IPPL has always worked hard for all primates—including the fascinating macaques and baboons—and always will.

1994 saw a big court victory for IPPL. In 1990, soon after IPPL asked the US Government to investigate Miami animal dealer Matthew Block for orangutan smuggling, I was hit with an "intimidation lawsuit" by Block under his business name. This lawsuit boomeranged, as IPPL worked even harder and, eventually, successfully, to make sure the orangutan case got prosecuted. Three of the smuggled orangutan babies had died, and the US government didn't seem to care, so IPPL stood up for these pathetic victims of trade.

After Block's indictment, he dropped his lawsuit, and I tried to get him and his lawyer sanctioned. There are far too many frivolous lawsuits clogging our courts and stifling free speech in the United States. The appeals court in Atlanta agreed with me, and ordered that Block's company be sanctioned—and possibly his lawyer Paul Bass also.

In November 1994, Dianne Taylor-Snow and I represented IPPL at the Fort Lauderdale Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The conservation observer groups present worked together closely in what we called the "Species Survival Network" (SSN).

There were some very strange "conservationists" present, including the Chairman of the Norwegian Whalers' Association, whose sealskin jacket was confiscated, a large contingent of "big game hunters," the head of a US trappers' association, and several international animal dealers.

SSN published a daily news bulletin *Eco* summarizing events. *Eco* was considered "unauthorized" literature and had to be placed on open tables. *Eco* was so effective that it infuriated the "management" observers. One day I even caught a trade lobbyist red-handed stalking off with a handful of *Ecos*!

There was a little good news from the conference: efforts by Norway to strip protection from the Minke whale failed. South Africa withdrew its proposal to trade elephant hides (sadly, a South African proposal to export sport-hunted rhino trophies passed). Efforts to weaken the treaty's criteria for species protection failed.

But much of the news was dismal. A proposal to strengthen treaty enforcement by setting up a Law Enforcement Working Group was rejected. An unenforced treaty is a joke. The proposal's going down the drain was partly due to circulation of an "anonymous" pamphlet, which falsely claimed that the existence of a law enforcement working group would threaten "national sovereignty." A "wildlife management" lobby which published its own newsletter later reported its delight at rejection of the proposal, which it claimed was a "victory for the sovereignty of the States."

For me the best part of the entire CITES conference was looking at the children's art work and reading their essays. Paintings by children from the Broward County schools filled every empty wall, and inspired hope for a better future for the world's wildlife when these kids grow up—if there is any wildlife left for them to save.

I would like to wish all IPPL members a happy holiday season and to thank all members for their generous support of our organization in 1994. Together, let's win more victories in 1995.



Appreciatively,

Shirley McGreal

Shirley McGreal

December 1, 1994

Cover: This lovely drawing of IPPL sanctuary gibbon, lab veteran Arun Rangsi, was drawn by Michele Winstanley of IPPL (UK).

MEET THE DRILL!

In the April 1993 issue of *IPPL News*, members were introduced to the Pandrillus project. The project involves one of Africa's most endangered and least-known primates—the drill. The drill's scientific name is *Mandrillus leucophaeus*.

Few people have ever seen a drill, even primatologists working in Africa. Drills are large short-tailed monkeys who spend part of their lives on the ground and part in the trees. They live in the rain-forest in groups usually consisting of 15–30 animals. Groups gather at certain seasons into temporary “super-groups” of up to 200 animals.

The only other member of this unusual monkey family is the mandrill whose scientific name is *Mandrillus sphinx*. Both species show extreme “sexual dimorphism,” a scientific term meaning that the males and females are very different. Male drills and mandrills weigh up to 35 kilograms, with mature females being only half their size.

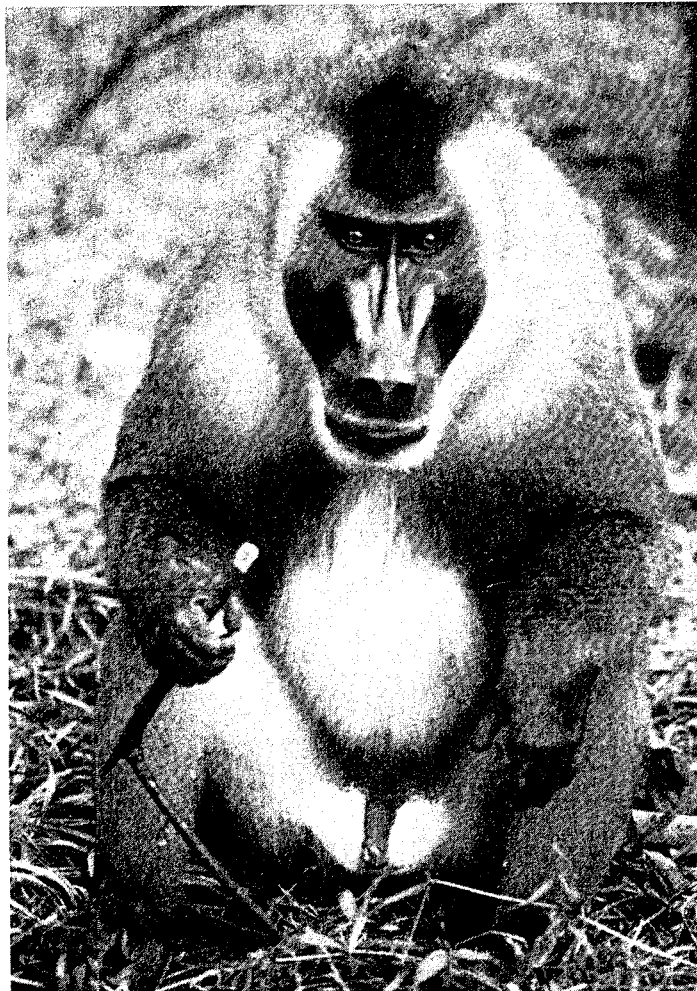
Wild drills and mandrills have hardly been studied and their ecology and behavior remain largely a mystery. As yet, only drills are listed in the “endangered” category in the World Conservation Union's *Red Data Book*. In fact, they receive the Union's highest conservation priority for African primates because of low numbers and habitat loss.

Why Drills are Endangered

There are 3 main reasons for the drill's critical status:

- Their natural range is only about 40,000 square kilometers (smaller than West Virginia or Switzerland). This area consists of the Cross River State, Nigeria; Southwest Cameroon; and Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea.
- The drill's habitat continues to be destroyed by logging, agriculture and other human development – only about half their original range is still usable for drills and other forest wildlife.

- Drills are hunted for “bush-meat” despite legal protected status in Nigeria and the Cameroon. Unfortunately there are few resources or incentives for law enforcement. Hunting is the biggest threat to their survival and drills are more vulnerable to local methods than other monkeys. Dogs track the group and hold them at bay in small trees, allowing the hunters to shoot several or even the whole group at once. Today, hunting is mostly commercial. Drill meat is sold for cash, not used for subsistence to feed the hunter's family, meaning that hunters kill as many animals as possible, not just what they need.



J.C – A rescued adult male drill

Drill Rescue Center Founded

The “Drill Rehabilitation and Breeding Center” was founded by Liza Gadsby and Peter Jenkins who have worked as volunteers in conservation and research in Cross River State, a region containing much of Nigeria's estimated 5% remaining forest, since 1988.

Results of their drill survey in Nigeria (currently continuing in Cameroon) are a cause of dismay. They show that drills might not survive into the 21st century without special attention.

Drills are rarely seen in captivity: nine zoos in the USA and Europe work with a small population of about 60 drills.

During their work, Liza and Peter saw young drills, by-products of the “bush-meat” trade and orphaned in infancy, living in solitary

captivity. They saw this as an inhumane disgrace and also considered that, if brought together in one place, the drills could live in family groups and maybe produce youngsters to augment the diminishing population of this beleaguered species.

In 1991, in collaboration with the state Ministry of Agriculture and Cross River National Park, they founded the

Drill Rehabilitation and Breeding Center to rescue these drills.

Project Funding

Peter and Liza started the project with their own money, Land Rover, medical supplies, computer and other equipment, but later formed an informal charity *Pandrillus*, to magnetize much-needed assistance. The project is funded by direct donations, much of which comes from Nigerian sources. The rapid growth of *Pandrillus* is largely thanks to its appeal as a grassroots initiative involving local residents, businesses, media, and government.

In addition to local donations of cash, animal food, building materials, etc., the project receives important support from the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society, the International Zoo Veterinary group, British Airways Assisting Conservation, Apenheul Zoo in the Netherlands, and Hanover Zoo in Germany.

IPPL (UK) provided tranquilizing dart equipment and accepts donations on *Pandrillus*' behalf in the USA.

27 Drills!

The project now shelters 27 drills, nearly 30% of the world captive population, and also provides sanctuary for 7 young chimpanzees. An adult chimpanzee is cared for at a defunct zoo nearby.

The project never buys animals but goes to great lengths to encourage "owners" to donate them voluntarily to the project, often bringing them to see the project's happy, healthy drills living together as an added stimulus to persuade them to give up their animals. Should this gentle persuasion fail, park rangers, forestry officers or police are called on to apply gentle pressure, or confiscate as a last resort.

The project newsletter gives full credit to animal donors and strives to maintain contact. Former drill owners continue



Logging roads open drill habitat to hunting and slash and burn agriculture: western Cameroon



Peter (kneeling) with "Bendeghe Drill" after rescue by park rangers and plainclothes policemen (standing left): project staff and chief of security (standing right)

to write or visit to see how the project is faring, and typically become conservation proponents.

"Richard Iferi"

Three year old drill "Richard Iferi" was found living in a wooden box in a remote village. Peter and Liza visited his owner, renowned herbalist David Iferi, and after much follow-up correspondence and encouragement from park staff near his village, Mr. Iferi arrived in Calabar one day with Richard Iferi in great pomp and circumstance. Since then, colorful Mr. Iferi has visited every six months, for a night out in Calabar, and to bring bananas and other fruit from his farm for Richard Iferi (now age 5) and his friends.

First Drill Baby

On 19 July 1994, the Drill Rehabilitation and Breeding Center reached a real milestone with the birth of its first captive-bred drill. The baby drill was given the name "Mgbochi." His 6 year old mother "Miki" was donated with a younger male "Petit" by Gendarme Major Dagobert Mgbochi and his wife Matilda in Eyumojock, Cameroon.

The father, 8 year old Billy O'Ban, was confiscated in Calabar by Cross River National Park General Manager Clement Ebin in June 1990. Miki was introduced to Billy's enclosure on Christmas Day 1993, and all three have now been reintegrated to the "core drill group," where Miki is a model mother—to all the drills' fascination.

Pandrillus even sent out a birth announcement to project supporters:

*The Drill Rehab and Breeding Center
is pleased to announce
the birth to Miki, of a male
MGBOCHI*



Liza Gadsby (center)
Peter Jenkins (right)
John Lewis DVM (left)

This is the first birth for the project. Mgbochi was born at 23.10 p.m. on the 19th day of July after 172 days of gestation. Liza and 4 year old female drill Scarlett Ebe observed the birth, while Peter and Elaine stood by. Miki had one-minute contractions for one hour and the birth lasted only a minute. She immediately began cleaning the baby and healthy squawks were heard. By morning, Mgbochi was suckling. As far as we know, this is the first drill birth ever witnessed and the first drill birth in captivity in Africa.

Both parents were born in the wild. Their mothers were killed by hunters when they were infants themselves.

The Core Group

The "core group" comprises 16 of the project's 27 drills that have been fully socialized and health-screened for TB, hepatitis, HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), SIV (simian immunodeficiency virus), etc. The other 11 drills are in various stages of quarantine. Two more "core group" females ("Scarlett Ebe" and "Bemi") are now pregnant.

One of the project's main objectives, creation of a natural-sized, reproducing, drill social group is almost attained.

Educational Program

Another important goal is featuring the captive drills in conservation education in this habitat area, something overseas captive breeding programs cannot do.

The Center receives thousands of visitors: for most, it is the first time they have ever seen a drill or a chimpanzee.

Wildlife conservation will only succeed if people living in habitat areas are supportive. The opportunity to observe and learn about animals firsthand helps people develop sympathetic attitudes towards wildlife in general and primates in particular.

School groups are encouraged to visit, and the children enter a writing and drawing contest about the primates. Many return with their parents, who return again with their friends, and so the interest in wildlife spreads! Other project plans include providing research opportunities to local university students.

Future Plans – Phase 1

Ultimately, Pandrillus hopes to release a drill group back into the wild, but only if habitat protection is first achieved.

The next big step is constructing the permanent facility in the forest, a 5–6 hectare (12–15 acre) electrified enclosure in former drill habitat where they may roam, forage and sleep naturally in the trees, simulating their life in the wild.

The site in the Buanchor village enclave of Afi River Forest Reserve is 200 kilometers north of Calabar, where the present facility is located. An annual lease fee will be paid to the community, which has earmarked the 1994–95 funds to build the village's first secondary school.

The site is 20 kilometers from Cross River National Park, which will provide visitors a chance to view the park's most endangered primate which they are unlikely to see in the park itself.

Capital construction includes a veterinary infirmary, an education center, housing for resident staff and visitors, and



Senior drill caregiver Joseph Akpan teaching schoolchildren about drills

road and bridge upgrading. Buanchor Village will benefit from improved road access, employment opportunities, and medical lab testing services. Major support for these costs has been provided by the Whitley Animal Protection Trust of Britain and also by Wilhelma Zoo, Stuttgart, Germany.

Future Plans – Phase 2

Phase 2 is development of a community-based anti-poaching and conservation education program for the adjacent Afi massif where wild drills, gorillas and chimpanzees survive. Hunting was intense, so earlier this year Chief Douglas Owan of Buanchor recruited an anti-poaching team from the surrounding communities, backed by the Chiefs of 20 villages which traditionally hunt on the mountain.

Pandrillus now supports this effort, which includes work-

ing with the Cross River State Forestry Department (Pandrillus' government collaborator) to realize a proposed reclassification of the Afi massif to the status of Wildlife Sanctuary.

This will help preserve the mountain's primates, and also an important watershed for many downstream villages.

Pandrillus is helping Buanchor develop a small tourist trade, to employ ex-hunters as guides and porters to carry visitors into the beautiful, rugged Afi massif. The close proximity of the national park is mutually beneficial.

Pandrillus is also involved in primate survey work and conservation project development in the region, home to many endangered primate species, and continually lobbies government agencies, national parks, and industry on behalf of primate conservation.

Cameroon Sanctuary

In Cameroon, which contains about 80% of remaining drill habitat, Peter & Liza are trying to complete their survey of remaining drill populations, funded by FFPS, to help develop a plan with the Cameroonian government to save the species.

Peter is also working with the Cameroon government, IPPL-sponsored volunteer Kay Farmer, and Jim Cronin of Monkey World, England to establish a chimpanzee rescue center at the old Limbe Zoo, with financial assistance from Chessington World of Adventure, England. The Limbe sanctuary now maintains 12 chimps, 6 drills, 2 gorillas and 8 other endemic primate species.

IPPL is sponsoring an upcoming visit to Africa by Dr. John Lewis of the International Veterinary Group. Dr. Lewis will continue his work providing for the health of the animals at the sanctuaries.

HOW YOU CAN HELP PANDRILLUS

If you would like to help support Peter and Liza's work rescuing drills and chimpanzees, please send a donation to IPPL, POB 766, Summerville, SC 29484, USA or IPPL (UK), 116 Judd St. London WC1H9NS, England. Please mark your check clearly "For Pandrillus."

AAVS STUDENT AWARD

The American Anti-Vivisection Society is soliciting nominations and applications for its 1995 AAVS Student Animal Advocate Awards. Two secondary school students anywhere in the United States who have demonstrated their commitment to animals will be awarded \$100. Student animal protection groups are eligible for \$250 awards.

Criteria for eligibility include, but are not limited to, active participation in efforts to help animals: participation in peaceful protests or community outreach events, and other active expressions of individual or group concern for animals.

Teachers and neighbors may nominate deserving students by contacting **AAVS Student Animal Advocate Award**, 801 Old York Road, #204, Jenkintown PA 19046-1685.

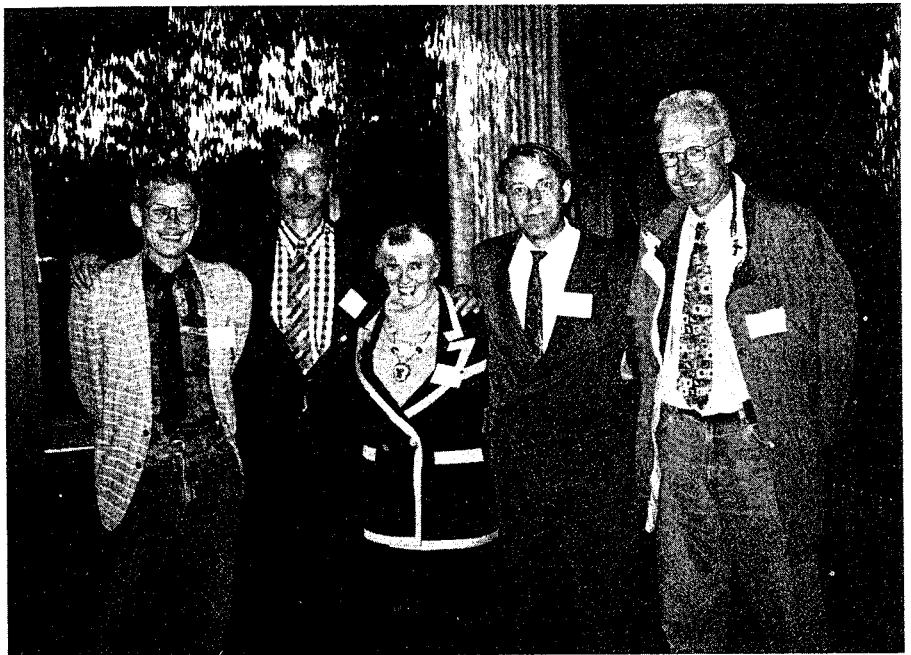
POLICE LEAGUE CELEBRATES – IPPL IS THERE!

On 29 September 1994 the Dutch Police Wildlife League held a conference to celebrate its 75th anniversary. The conference was held in Tilburg, the Netherlands, and was attended by 600 Dutch law enforcement officials, all of them wildlife enthusiasts. IPPL was honored when the League extended an invitation to IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal to attend the meeting as its guest.

A new wildlife crime unit has been established in Interpol, which may bring more coordination and cooperation to the war on wildlife crime. This unit is being directed by Fred Den Hertog of the Dutch police, who has an unenviable task ahead of him since so many countries place little or no emphasis on wildlife law enforcement.

In some countries animal dealers have ingratiated themselves with governments, as exemplified by Indonesia's delegation to the 1992 CITES conference consisting of 18 people, 13 of them animal dealers, one alleged to be an orangutan smuggler by Kurt Schafer.

The highlight of the conference for Dr. McGreal was meeting four members of the Dutch prosecutorial team handling the cockatoo smuggling case against Krijn (Kenny) Dekker. The team is led by Mr. J. Scheffer. Initially the prosecution lost its case, but won on appeal. Dekker was sentenced to 18 months jail, which he is now appealing. A decision on this appeal is



Shirley McGreal (center) with Prosecutor Scheffer (on her right) and Dekker case police team

expected early next year.

In 1993, Dekker was indicted by a Miami grand jury for his alleged role in the "Bangkok Six" orangutan shipment. He has been officially declared a fugitive from US justice.

IPPL thanks the Dutch Police Wildlife League for its friendly hospitality to our Chairwoman, who felt very safe in the company of 600 police officers!

THE DUTCH PHONE-TAP

While investigating suspected wildlife smuggler Krijn (Kenny) Dekker's suspected bird smuggling activities, the Dutch police wisely placed a phone-tap on Dekker, who was also one of Matthew Block's alleged conspirators in the "Bangkok Six" orangutan shipment. Dekker was indicted for orangutan smuggling by a Miami grand jury in 1992, and has since been declared a "fugitive" by the US Justice Department. This means that he could be arrested if he ever enters the United States.

While the Dutch police were taping Dekker's incoming phone-calls, Matthew Block was supposedly taping his phone conversations with Dekker for the US Government, as part of Block's effort to secure leniency for himself.

The US Government later decided against filing its planned 5K1.1 motion (giving Block leniency) when it learned that the Dutch police seemed to have more tape-recordings of Block-Dekker conversations than the government did. Miami Prosecutor Guy Lewis had been so enthusiastic about Matthew Block's total "cooperation" that he had even agreed in advance that he would help Block. However, during the Block sentencing hearing held on 16 April 1993, the US government alleged that it had been double-crossed by Block.

Meanwhile, the Dutch investigation of Dekker continued and the Dutch had high hopes of catching Dekker red-handed, possibly in possession of smuggled Australian cockatoos, and seizing many incriminating documents from him.

However, this did not happen as planned. The Dutch trustingly confided their imminent plans to arrest Dekker to the US Government. This turned out to be a serious mistake. The information fell right into the hands of Block's lawyer Michael Metzger. The Dutch police claim that they have a tape-recording of Metzger phoning Dekker to tip him off about his upcoming arrest and advise him to get rid of any illegal birds and incriminating documents he might possess, which Dekker apparently did—if he indeed possessed any.

The Dekker prosecution team was understandably very unhappy about the US Government jeopardizing its case. They also expressed to Dr. McGreal their surprise that the US Government had not even asked for copies of the Dekker-Block tapes or the Metzger-Dekker tape or tapes. Clearly, the US Government, which knows that the tapes exist, does not want to know what is in them, for some as yet unclear reason. This appears to reflect a curious lack of intellectual curiosity.

DISPUTE OVER FLORIDA MONKEYS

According to the 25 August 1994 issue of the Los Angeles Times, 3,000 rhesus monkeys released on Summerland Key, Florida, USA are at the center of a controversy. Florida environmentalists complain about destruction of red mangroves, water pollution and alleged escapes of monkeys.

The monkeys, owned by Charles River Laboratories, a subsidiary of Bausch and Lomb (known for its "Ray-Ban" sunglasses), are bred for research, with about 400–500 monkeys being sold annually for experimentation. The monkeys are disease-free and very expensive.

Wetlands biologist Curtis Kruer expressed his anger at the situation, telling the Times:

Charles River has gotten away with murder, and the state [of Florida] has been remiss if not criminal in the way they have dealt with it. They have allowed state-protected trees to be used as food for a commercial monkey-breeding operation.

In August 1994, Charles River issued a "Customer Bulletin" stating that it was retaining its monkey breeding

operation, but that its primate import business was becoming a non-profit organization called the "Biomedical Resources Foundation."

The "earnings" from the non-profit would be directed to three other non-profits: the Foundation for Biomedical Research (which is closely associated with the National Association for Biomedical Research, an animal experimentation lobby), Tufts Veterinary School, and the Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

In September 1994, IPPL contacted Charles River for further information about the reorganization, commenting:

Given that monkeys are the biggest losers (an entire shipment of 110 monkeys shipped to another company arrived dead in Miami in August 1992), was any consideration given to using at least part of the earnings to support projects for the conservation and protection of the world's remaining wild monkeys?

As of 1 December 1994, no reply had been received.

YOUR LETTERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE – AGAIN

The April 1994 issue of IPPL News reported observations by knowledgeable observers of chimpanzees for sale in pet shops in Saudi Arabia. One shop, Fayfa's in Jeddah, was reported to be holding 5 young chimpanzees.

Information provided to IPPL indicated that chimpanzees may have been shipped by charter jet from Tanzania to Saudi Arabia, although the animals could have originated in the troubled nation of Zaire and been smuggled into Tanzania. IPPL members were asked to send protest letters to the Saudi Ambassador in their country of residence and the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (NCWCD) in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia.

It seems that your letters worked AGAIN. At the conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in November 1994, the Saudi government observer distributed an undated press release which he told IPPL should have been dated 7 November 1994. The press release noted that:

Wildlife authorities confiscated chimpanzees held by pet shops in Riyadh and Jeddah in a simultaneous operation today. The chimpanzee is regarded as an

endangered species whose international trade is banned by a conservation treaty.

The press release noted that NCWCD had confiscated three chimpanzees from a large pet shop in the city of Riyadh and five baby chimpanzees from the Jeddah branch of "the same company," (presumably Fayfa's).

According to Prince Saud Al-Faisal, Managing Director of NCWCD:

The confiscation is in line with the Kingdom's policy of effective international cooperation for the conservation of endangered species.

The pet shop had claimed that the chimpanzees were obtained through captive breeding, but could not prove its claim. The confiscated animals were placed at Riyadh Zoo. Prince Saud commented:

Stern action is necessary to eliminate the international trade in the species.

IPPL is pleased at the confiscation and plans to monitor future developments in Saudi Arabia closely.

THANKS TO INFORMATION PROVIDERS AND LETTER-WRITERS

IPPL wishes to express its appreciation to the concerned people who provided us with information about the presence of the chimpanzees at Fayfa's, and with relevant press clippings and photographs of the animals. Thanks also to our active members who wrote letters to Saudi authorities requesting an investigation of the situation.

ORANGUTAN SMUGGLER'S LICENSE REVOKED

On 30 August 1994, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) made a final decision not to renew Worldwide Primates' license to import and export primates from the United States. Licenses must be renewed annually.

On 3 August 1992, Dick Endress, a former Miami wildlife agent now working at the USFWS Region 4 headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, had approved then owner Matthew Block's placing the Worldwide Primates company in his wife's name, after Endress had conferred with Miami wildlife agent Jorge Picon (soon after to become Block's partner in two government "sting" operations).

Under US Fish and Wildlife Service regulations, a conviction for a felony violation of the Lacey Act "disqualifies any such person" from receiving a permit. Block's guilty plea to felony wildlife smuggling left Region 4 with no choice but to revoke his license if the region determined that the transfer of ownership was a sham.

James Pulliam, then Director of Region 4 of USFWS, determined that the transfer was indeed a sham, alleging the following:

- 1) Block had taken personal change of a shipment of primates that reached Miami Airport on 20 August 1992 with all 110 monkeys dead.
- 2) During the "Mexican Gorilla Sting" trial, Block admitted that he had personally delivered around 100-200 monkeys to Mexico in September or October of 1992.
- 3) Block phoned the Atlanta regional office of USFWS personally on 10 February 1994 regarding renewal of his license.
- 4) In the "Gorilla Sting" trial, Block testified that he had imported around 60 primate shipments during 1992 and 1993 and had been present at the airport to receive about 95% of the shipments.
- 5) In an 11 July 1994 article in the Miami Herald, it was reported that 33 baby monkeys had been stolen from "the breeding facility he [Block] and his wife own."
- 6) On 25 August 1994, Miami wildlife inspector Tracy Reed reported that she had been told by an official of

the Dade County Aviation Department, which oversees Miami International Airport, that Matthew Block had been issued a "VIP airport pass" to enable him to enter "restricted and secured" areas of the airport. His wife had no such "VIP" pass.

In view of these circumstances, wrote Pulliam:

The preponderance of facts...would lead a reasonable person to believe that the name-change of principal officers for Worldwide...was merely an attempt to shield Worldwide from the criminal and irresponsible activities of Mr. Matthew Block.

In regard to Block's claim that he had been promised by both Miami wildlife Agent Jorge Picon and prosecutor Guy Lewis that his guilty plea to a felony charge would not affect his animal dealing license, both men denied having made such a promise.

Unfortunately, revocation of his import-export license may not bar Block from continuing animal dealings that do not involve animals entering or leaving the United States. The "Bangkok Six" shipment, for example, was to have been shipped from Indonesia to the then Soviet Union without the animals ever setting foot in the United States.



IF YOU WROTE JUDGE KEHOE, BE PROUD YOU DID!

If you were only of the many IPPL members who, in December 1992, wrote a letter to Judge James Kehoe asking that prosecutor Guy Lewis' MISDEMEANOR plea-bargain with Matthew Block be rejected, you should feel very proud of the results of your efforts. Judge Kehoe insisted on a FELONY plea. A misdemeanor plea bargain would have allowed Block to continue his animal dealing business in and out of the United States. Writing letters for the animals works! At least some of the time!

SURPRISE! MORE DELAYS IN "BANGKOK SIX" CASE

IPPL members who have been following the "Bangkok Six" orangutan case will not be surprised to learn that there have been yet more delays!

To summarize events for new members, six baby orangutans were confiscated on Bangkok Airport on 20 February 1990. They had been shipped in coffin-like crates labelled "Birds." Three of the babies were shipped upside-down. All were desperately sick, and several of them later died.

Within weeks of the shipment, IPPL was able to obtain information and documents pointing to the involvement of Miami animal dealer Matthew Block, who had been dealing in animals since he was just 15 years old. Block had amassed considerable wealth and even boasted the US Government as one of his customers.

IPPL handed over information to the US Fish and Wildlife Service which we believe could, and should, have led to a rapid indictment in the case. But weeks passed and nothing happened.

In the summer of 1990, IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal was contacted by German animal dealer Kurt Schafer, then a resident of Bangkok. Schafer had accompanied the baby orangutans from Singapore to Bangkok, and he had planned to accompany them to Yugoslavia, from where they would be shipped to the then Soviet Union.

Schafer expressed his remorse over participating in the deal and provided IPPL with further details of the shipment and of the continuing contacts between himself and Block, a fact of which Block was not immediately aware.

Schafer also expressed his puzzlement as to why the US Government appeared to be so "protective" of Block and so uninterested in prosecuting him.

IPPL and other organizations worked hard to get the US government to act, and finally Block was indicted on 20 February 1992, two years to the day after his crime. Then Block's trial, set for August 1992, got postponed because of Hurricane Andrew.

In November 1992, the *Miami Herald* announced that a plea-bargain had been signed. There was to be a hearing on the deal in December. Suspicious that the US government might have agreed to a "slap on the wrist" deal, IPPL organized an international letter-writing campaign to Judge James Kehoe regarding the seriousness of this crime against baby apes belonging to a highly endangered species numbering less than 32,000 in the wild.

Later events provided the wisdom of IPPL's action. Judge

Kehoe threw the Government's deal with Block out because he considered it "contrary to the public interest." Block later pled guilty to a single felony count. In April 1993 Kehoe sentenced Block to 13 months jail.

Not much for such a horrible crime. But when the rejected plea-bargain was disclosed, it turned out that the government had indeed agreed with Block that his horrendous crime was not a "felony," but deserved only "misdemeanor" status. As if Block were a naughty boy!

After his sentencing in April 1993, Block appealed his jail sentence to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta, claiming that he had "cooperated" with the US Government by setting up two "sting" operations for Miami wildlife agents. More delays followed. Case documents actually got mislaid. Block's lawyer Metzger killed himself in March 1994, which won Block a lengthy delay as he had to find a new lawyer.

Finally a schedule was set for the appeal. Block's opening papers were due in September 1994. Then, with the consent of Miami prosecutor Guy Lewis, a delay was granted till October 1994! In October a new delay was granted till December, again with Lewis' consent!

According to the Court of Appeals in Atlanta, two delays are granted automatically if both prosecution and defense agree. These delays would not have been granted if Miami prosecutor Guy Lewis had not agreed to them. Lewis, who was in a desperate hurry to incarcerate 5 Mexicans entrapped by Block and Picon in a victimless "sting" operation, is clearly in no hurry to get Block to jail.

If a further request for a delay is made, as appears possible if not certain, knowing the tortuous path the orangutan case has taken, the 11th Circuit judges will have to give their permission.

During the trial of the five Mexicans entrapped by Matthew Block and Miami wildlife agents in 1993, questions arose about the seemingly endless delays in the Block case. Prosecutor Lewis promised the judge and jury that Block was on his way to jail! Lewis was, or pretended to be, totally sincere when he said this.

However, even if the case progresses normally starting in December, the earliest Block could be in jail would be over 5 years after he committed his crime. Meanwhile he has been free to travel the world and continue his animal dealings.

Meanwhile, as Block continues to enjoy his freedom and unrestricted world travel on a personal surely bond, his orangutan victims lie underground.

DELAY IN SANCTIONS CASE!

Shakespeare-lovers may recall the famous soliloquy in which Hamlet speculates "To be or not to be, that is the question." One of the causes of Hamlet's distress was "the law's delays!"

As many readers know, the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, Atlanta, Georgia, ruled in July 1994 that Worldwide Primates (a company determined by the US Government to be controlled by Matthew Block despite having been transferred to his wife's

name) and possibly its lawyer Paul Bass were to be sanctioned for filing a frivolous lawsuit against IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal. The case was returned to Judge Kenneth Ryskamp to determine an appropriate sanction.

IPPL members who followed the initial lawsuit may wonder why the lawsuit was returned to the same judge who the appeals court determined had mishandled it in the first place. It

hardly seems fair on Shirley McGreal, but sadly that is the way the US justice system operates.

The case had already been seriously delayed because Judge Ryskamp had mistakenly marked the file of the civil case "Closed" without deciding on the pending sanctions motion!

On 15 June 1992, Miami Magistrate William Turnoff had held a hearing on this sanctions motion at which he suggested that he would deny sanctions, but that:

It ain't over till the fat lady sings, and, of course, no matter what I do, you're going to have a review from Judge Ryskamp.

On 2 July Turnoff announced his recommendation against sanctions. Months and months of waiting for Judge Ryskamp's decision began, during which it was hoped (wrongly) that the judge was taking so long because he was writing a careful and thoughtful decision. The wait went on and on—until it was discovered that Ryskamp's office had closed the case file by mistake. The delay would have gone on for ever!

"I DON'T KNOW"

John Doggett, Chief of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Law Enforcement Division does not know how many of the nation's wildlife agents speak one or more foreign languages!

Knowledge of foreign languages is essential for all international investigations. Smugglers are not going to hold their conversations in English for the convenience of US wildlife agents! Doggett stated that:

Knowledge and speaking ability of a foreign language is not a requirement for Special Agent positions...we do have a number of agents who are bi-lingual but we do not maintain any statistics on how many agents speak more than one language nor what language they may speak.

In response to IPPL's question about mean and median salaries of wildlife agents, Doggett responded:

I do not have any information on the mean and median salaries paid to our agents.

Doggett did confirm, however, that agents receive "automatic overtime" payments of 25% of their base salaries. Amazingly, even with that generous overtime pay from US taxpayers, wildlife agents are still allowed to have outside

Within a day of this situation coming to his attention, Judge Ryskamp announced in an 11-line order that he was refusing to grant sanctions. He provided no explanation of his decision. As a result of Ryskamp's decision, McGreal's successful appeal was prepared.

On 17 October 1994, IPPL's attorney Thomas Julin filed a motion to recover attorneys' fees of \$112,646,50. On 27 October 1994, Worldwide Primates and its lawyer filed a request for an "enlargement of time" to file their response, i.e., they asked for a delay. Tom Julin's opposition papers were due on 11 November 1994. However, Judge Ryskamp did not wait for a reply, granting the requested delay immediately.

Now both Worldwide Primates and its lawyer Paul Bass have requested yet another delay, claiming they are hiring separate lawyers because they are, or are pretending to be, estranged.

Meanwhile, Matthew Block's expensive residence in South Miami is up for sale. This property now houses several hundred monkeys. There are rumors that the company itself is up for sale. How that will affect the sanctions issue remains to be seen.

employment. One, still an agent, was reported in the 28 June 1993 issue of the *Washington Post* to be running a "shooting range" where Muslim extremists, including some of the defendants in the World Trade Center bombing, allegedly performed "paramilitary exercises."

In response to a question about how much of his agency's budget is spent on foreign travel by agents, Doggett responded:

This office has no information on total percentage of the Service budget spent on foreign travel.

In response to an IPPL enquiry about why 110 monkeys that arrived in Miami dead on 20 August 1992 were entered into the USFWS computer as "Live," Doggett stated that:

There is obviously an error in the computer entry. It has been corrected to read "Dead."

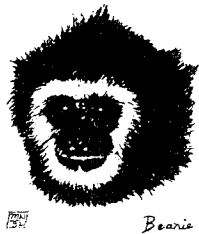
Admitting that more "quality control" of information entered into the law enforcement computer system was needed, Doggett noted that the agency was:

Attempting to contract this function [record-keeping] to a private contractor.

IVAN LEAVES SHOPPING MALL

For 27 years Ivan Gorilla lived alone in a shopping mall in Tacoma, Washington, USA. Animal-lovers protested Ivan's solitary incarceration for years, but the US Department of Agriculture defended the facility. It was only when the B and I shopping center went bankrupt that serious negotiations began to take place, leading to Ivan's departure to Atlanta Zoo on 11 October 1994. Ivan is reported to be settling down well.

CHRISTMAS GIFT ITEMS



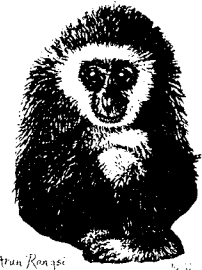
Beanie



Igor



Shanti with Michele

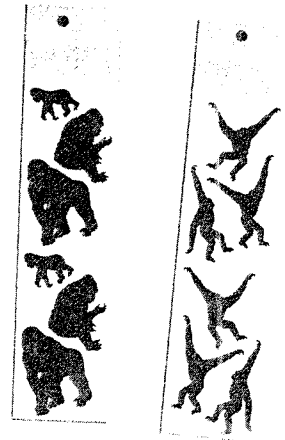


Arun Rangsi

NEW: Lovely note cards featuring IPPL gibbons Beanie, Igor, Shanti with Michele and Arun Rangsi

Artwork by Michele Winstanley

12 for \$10



Gibbon gift wrap: \$4.50 for 3 packs postpaid

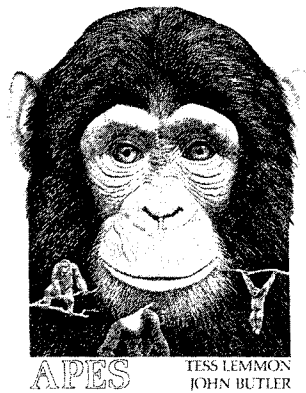
New: Gibbon and Gorilla Stickers
5 assorted sheets, \$5 postpaid

BOOKS FOR SALE

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"Baboon Orphan"
Hard cover: \$8
Overseas: \$12



"The Apes" by Tess Lemmon
Hard cover: \$16
Overseas: \$20



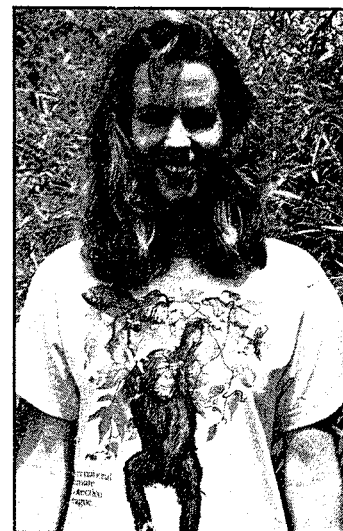
"Among the Orangutans"
Hard: \$15 • Soft \$8
Overseas: \$20 and \$12

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 XXL White only

Gorilla sweats: \$25
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 back mother/baby.*

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A SUMMER WITH ORPHANED CHIMPANZEES

by Ellen Messner

During the summer of 1994 (between my second and third year of veterinary school), I was sponsored in part by the International Primate Protection League to work with confiscated chimpanzee orphans in Uganda. The Uganda Wildlife Education Center (formerly known as the Entebbe Zoo) serves as an orphanage for chimpanzees that are confiscated from the illegal animal trade. Poachers obtain babies from the wild by killing adult female chimpanzees and taking their offspring.

The babies are sold on the blackmarket as pets or for export to other countries. Enforcement of Ugandan law, which makes it illegal to own or sell chimpanzees, entitles the Uganda Game Department to confiscate chimps that are kept as pets or discovered before being smuggled out of the country.

Once a chimp has been confiscated, the animal is sent to the Uganda Wildlife Education Center (UWEC). Orphan chimps do not possess the skills necessary for survival in the wild and are therefore cared for and raised by humans at the center.

I first learned about the UWEC's orphanage in an article that described the return of four chimpanzees from Moscow back to Uganda. The chimps had been smuggled out of Uganda to the then Soviet Union for the entertainment business and, thanks to the international attention and outcry, they were eventually returned to their country of origin.

I was impressed by the dedication of the Ugandans to take care of these chimpanzees in a country where people also struggle to survive.

Sadly, these four chimps were not an isolated incident in the illegal animal trade. In the past year, the Ugandan Game Department has confiscated seven baby chimpanzees. The seven now live at UWEC where they are cared for and raised in groups.

Twenty-eight chimpanzees in total reside at UWEC, all confiscated as babies and juveniles and now ranging in ages from one and a half to twenty-five years old.

Most organizations in developing nations such as Uganda are lacking in resources. The UWEC is no exception. There is hardly enough money each month to feed the animals. The keepers who care for the chimps are woefully underpaid, making the equivalent of \$15 per month.

Items that zoos in the West take for granted, such as electricity and running water, are luxuries in Uganda. This makes maintaining an animal facility very difficult.

Outside organizations and businesses donate money and materials to keep the Center functioning and the animals fed. Emergency veterinary services are generally given on a volunteer basis by expatriate veterinarians who donate their time and materials. Although the UWEC is running over capacity for the number of chimps it has, there is no other place for them to go.

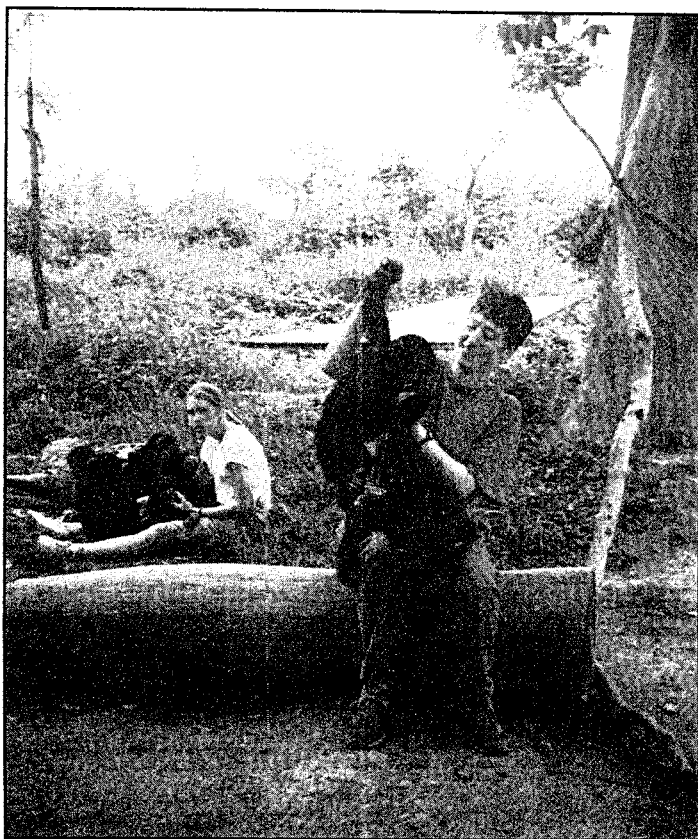
As a veterinary student, I felt I could help the UWEC in its

efforts to care for its chimpanzees and increase the level of veterinary care that the UWEC provides for its animals.

Parasites are a relatively minor problem in a country such as the United States but in Africa they can be devastating both to people and to animals. Chimpanzees are susceptible to the same parasites as humans and conditions in Uganda make parasites an unavoidable part of life. The close contact between people and animals in the facility makes it possible for parasites to spread between caregivers and animals.

By equipping the Center with basic instruments and training the staff, I hoped to enable it to monitor and treat the chimps for parasites on a regular basis and greatly increase the quality of the animals' lives. In June 1994, I flew to Uganda to set up a diagnostic parasitology laboratory, with funding from IPPL, the Tufts Veterinary School International Department, the International Wildlife Coalition, and equipment donated by several organizations.

The Center proved to be a pleasant surprise, I was prepared for the worst type of conditions there. However, Christine Manning, a British woman who had worked at the London Zoo as an animal caregiver for five years, has been managing the animal care aspects of the Center for the past two and a half years. It is due to her dedication that I found the animals at the center to be clean and well fed. The physical environment was not attractive, but it was functional.



Ellen and Friends

Each month was a struggle to find enough money in the budget to buy essentials such as food for the animals and soap for cleaning. Yet somehow the staff maintained the center at an acceptable level.

Just prior to my arrival there had been severe illness among the chimpanzees. Despite the efforts of the veterinarian and caregivers, three deaths had occurred. It was thought that the cause was an infection of protozoa, a type of parasite, one that I should be able to detect.

I began my work before the laboratory was even set up, using Christine Manning's office as a temporary lab. Within my first two days at the Center, a chimp baby became ill. Using my equipment, I was able to diagnose a protozoal infection. We immediately began treating her with appropriate medicine.

Over a period of six weeks, the parasitology laboratory was set up and the rest of the chimpanzees were surveyed for parasites. The results were recorded, and all infections were treated.

After completion of treatments, all groups were checked

again and determined to be free from parasites.

In order to maintain the laboratory as a functioning part of the center once I left, a transfer of skills, as well as equipment, was necessary. Ideally the staff would continue the monitoring of the chimps on a regular basis. The caregiver with the most dedication and seniority was chosen to run the lab.

My job was made more challenging by the fact that, although the senior caregiver was very bright and spoke three languages, he was almost completely illiterate. But, using pictures and lots of practice, he became quite skilled at the laboratory work despite his handicap.

By the end of my time at UWEC I had the satisfaction of seeing healthy animals and a functioning parasitology laboratory with a schedule for monitoring the animals. Hopefully, with the monthly monitoring and examination of all animals showing illness, the Center will be able to prevent any further deaths due to parasites and keep the chimps on a higher plane of health.

AFRICAN NATIONS SET UP WILDLIFE TASK FORCE

On 9 September 1994, six African countries agreed to set up a wildlife law enforcement task force. These countries are Kenya, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The aim of the agreement, which was signed in Lusaka, Zambia, is to reduce and ultimately eliminate illegal trafficking in African wildlife.

The Task Force will have an international legal charter and be responsible to a Governing Council made up of Parties to the Agreement. The Task Force will collect and assemble information on the activities of the region's animal smugglers. It plans to work closely with Interpol, which has recently formed a wildlife crime unit. The Task Force would be able to conduct cross-border investigations and prosecutions. It

will also have an intelligence officer responsible for data collection and analysis.

The President of Zambia, Mr. Frederick Chiluba, commented:

The Agreement provides a legal basis for cooperative law enforcement so far achieved nowhere else in the world. Many will now be eager to see how successful we shall be in implementing this proposed convention in practice.

Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program, stated that she hoped that the Lusaka Agreement would inspire other regions to establish cooperative agreements to end the illegal wildlife trade.

SMUGGLERS ARRESTED

Thanks to the efforts of Uganda's Criminal Investigations Department, the Global Crimes Research Group, Ugandan investigative reporter Ndyakira Amooti, and Interpol, a smuggling gang operating out of Entebbe Airport was caught red-handed.

The gang specialized in primates, parrots, and leopard skins originating in the war-torn nations of Rwanda and Zaire. Among suspected destinations of smuggled wildlife were

Dubai, Hong Kong, Japan and Kenya. Four animal dealers were arrested.

Smuggler Livingston (Tony) Kityo brought one of the chimpanzees to the GCRC in a box marked "Mombasa" and explained to the investigators that he normally transports the primates by road via Kenya to Uganda, for export through Entebbe Airport. Kityo unfortunately escaped arrest but the Uganda police are looking for him.

AIR FORCE CHIMPS CHANGE HANDS

The New Mexico State University formerly operated a chimpanzee colony on Holloman Air Force Base, Alamogordo, USA. The chimpanzees were initially acquired by the US Air Force for space research. Space chimpanzees Ham and Enos were both trained at Holloman. The chimpanzee colony was later turned over to the Albany University Medical School, New York, USA and then to New Mexico State University.

The Air Force chimpanzees recently changed hands. The Coulston Foundation and the Air Force signed a lease agreement on 27 September 1994, ignoring protests by animal activists and concerned scientists. The chimpanzees will remain at the Holloman Air Force base.

RECOMMENDED READING

The Hot Zone

The Hot Zone was published in 1994 by Random House. The book tells the dramatic story of the outbreak of an Ebola-like virus at Hazleton Research Products monkey quarantine warehouse in Reston, Virginia, USA. In 1989, monkeys imported from an animal dealer in the Philippines began to fall sick and die.

Military scientists decided to kill all of the 500 monkeys then housed at the Hazleton facility. To do this, they tried not to handle the potentially infectious monkeys. Each animal was held in place by a mop-like device and injected by a needle on the end of a stick. The terror and fear of the monkeys confronted by "killer humans" in space-suit like garb is hard to imagine, but it is not the point of the book.

The monkeys were found to be infected by a virus similar to the highly lethal Ebola virus which caused gruesome deaths (described in graphic detail in *The Hot Zone*) to many humans in Zaire and Sudan in 1976. Ebola is one of the dreaded filoviruses which include the Marburg virus, also a killer.

How a virus resembling Ebola, an African virus, reached the Philippines is not fully answered in the book: one suggestion is that it entered the Asian nation with African wild animals brought in for hunting purposes.

In 1982 IPPL obtained documents through the Freedom of Information Act regarding the use of many lethal disease agents in US military experimentation (see *IPPL Newsletter*, May 1982). This experimentation was conducted at the US Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Disease at Fort Detrick, Maryland, USA. IPPL obtained autopsy reports showing the appalling deaths inflicted on the doomed monkeys subjected to a variety of hideous potential biological warfare agents.

A significant omission from Preston's book is a close examination by the author of the disgraceful conditions found by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) when, following the outbreak, it inspected the facilities of US primate importers. Many facilities were temporarily closed down. CDC found absolutely disgusting conditions at several of the facilities.

Preston blames the emergence of AIDS, Ebola, and a host of other dangerous viruses on "the ruin of the tropical biosphere" and hints at the inevitability of future outbreaks, suggesting that:

The earth is mounting an immune response against the human species...perhaps the biosphere does not like the idea of five billion humans...the earth is beginning to rid itself of an infection by the human parasite.

The Hot Zone can be purchased or ordered from any bookstore.

Monkey Wars

Monkey Wars was published in 1994 by the Oxford University Press. The author, science writer Deborah Blum, discusses

the issue of primate research and the pros and cons of experimenting on apes and monkeys. The book is well-written and well-indexed. Unfortunately the photo section consists of only six pages of photos, all showing laboratory primates appearing contented and playful. There are no photos of the grim reality of primates in restraint chairs or undergoing experimentation.

Monkey Wars describes the strange liaison between Miami wildlife smuggler Matthew Block and scientists associated with the Tulane University Primate Center, Louisiana, USA. Blum reports that Tulane wanted to obtain mangabey monkeys directly from Africa and that:

Block acted as banker, holding funds for Tulane, providing the scientist [Gormus of Tulane] with a Worldwide Primates American Express card.

Tulane tried to get mangabeys from Sierra Leone and paid \$22,500 up-front to animal dealer Franz Sitter (called "Bryant" in the book). According to Blum:

Gormus notified Matt Block that a big advance was required. Block wired the money to Africa. Then Gormus waited and waited for the animals. And waited and waited and flew back to Africa and flew back to Louisiana and gave up...Despite several other attempts to collect, that was the end of any promises from Bryant. It was also the clear disappearance of Tulane's \$22,500. At one point [Gormus'] boss, Pete Gerone, contacted the university's lawyers to see if the money could be recovered by going to court. They finally decided, however, to write it off to being suckered.

An interesting section of the book describes the debate between virologists and transplant specialists regarding transfer of monkey organs into human bodies. Many animal-lovers object to this practice on moral grounds. However, *Monkey Wars* shows that there is also a very strong scientific case against inter-species transplants because of the potential for transmission of killer primate viruses into the human population.

Monkey Wars can be purchased or ordered from any bookstore.

The International Directory of Primatology

For those wanting to know more about the world of primatology, IPPL recommends the *International Directory of Primatology*. The directory lists research facilities, educational programs, foundations, zoos, sanctuaries, conservation groups and information resources.

IPPL is included in the directory. Deborah Blum tells in her book *Monkey Wars* about the problems this caused for editor Larry Jacobsen.

When he was putting together the International Directory of Primatology, Jacobsen decided to include Shirley McGreal. He knew she was controversial, but, after all, she did house almost 20 gibbons and give small

grants for conservation research. Officials at the Yerkes Primate Center promptly announced that they were pulling out of the directory. They didn't want to legitimize an animal activist. McGreal has been banned from other information directories. The Washington Regional Primate Center has told her outright that nothing she does, not even her conservation reports, will appear in its listing, a clearinghouse of written reports on primates.

In the case of his own directory, Jacobsen argued Yerkes back in, pointing out that McGreal was clearly

identified...The point mattered to him, "I'd like to see, for better or worse, the whole picture represented."

The *International Directory of Primatology* is available for \$15 US or \$23 US (other countries). Orders should be addressed to:

Larry Jacobsen
Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center Library
1220 Capitol Court
Madison WI 53715-1299, USA

BIRD SMUGGLER JAILED

On 8 February 1994, California bird dealer Richard Furzer was sentenced to 18 months jail for conspiring to smuggle parrots worth hundreds of thousands of dollars from Africa to the United States. Hundreds of African schoolchildren had contacted the case judge demanding tough punishment for Furzer's predation on their continent's wildlife.

Indictments in criminal cases list the "overt acts" of alleged conspiracies. Eleven "overt acts" were listed in the Furzer case. Furzer was involved in all 11. Willie Lawson of the now-defunct Miami animal dealership "Pet Farm" was alleged in the indictment to have been involved in 9 "overt acts." Two Senegalese dealers were also named. However, to the best of IPPL's knowledge, only Furzer was indicted.

On 11 October 1994, the US Public Broadcasting System presented a fascinating program called "The Great Wildlife Heist." The program dealt with the problem of parrot smuggling, emphasizing the Furzer and related cases.

Furzer was caught in a US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) "sting" operation called "Operation Renegade." Wildlife agent Rich Leach acquired a bird quarantine station in Los Angeles and used it to import thousands of birds and obtain information about the parrot trade and traders. Leach had previously been involved in another bogus US Government animal dealership: the Atlanta Wildlife Exchange, which traded in smuggled reptiles to entrap herpetologists.

In the course of running his bird import business Leach found out that Nan Crandall, a US Department of Agriculture employee, was assisting wildlife smugglers and accepting rare birds as "gratuities." Crandall was later fired and sentenced to 18 months jail, which she is now appealing.

The program showed the appalling mortality that occurs in the wild bird trade. Viewers are shown suitcases containing PVC pipes into which drugged birds are stuffed, and special vests in which eggs of endangered birds are carried by couriers working for the major bird traffickers who do not handle their illegal shipments themselves, just as the "drug lords" do not handle the narcotics they smuggle.

Miami animal dealer Mario Tabraue was interviewed in federal prison in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Tabraue is serving a 100-year sentence for narcotics smuggling and murder of a federal witness. To a backdrop of photos of himself posing with exotic animals (including a baby orangutan) Tabraue, who dealt in wildlife as well as drugs, described a ghastly shipment of 35 smuggled hyacinth macaws that he received in 1987.

The sick macaws were treated by Miami veterinarian Tom Goldsmith, who specializes in exotic wildlife, and was once Matthew Block's vet. Goldsmith described the heavy mortality suffered by the macaws, saying that they "died in droves," and that "Everything indicated that they were smuggled birds."

According to Tabraue:

They were in real bad shape. They had their tails cut off, they had stress feathers showing on them, they were real bony, skinny. The tails were cut off because that's the way they make them more compact for purposes of travelling in a smuggled way...they're put in PVC pipes, supposedly, with little holes for them to breathe...They came from Chicago. Tony sent them to me.

The "Tony" referred to by Tabraue is Chicago parrot dealer Tony Silva. According to Goldsmith, Silva was a close friend of the daughter of President Stroessner of Paraguay, who would fly to Chicago in her Lear jet bringing in lots of endangered animals. To the best of IPPL's knowledge, nobody has been indicted yet in connection with the macaw shipment, which Tabraue admitted was in clear violation of US wildlife laws.

Among the most sought-after birds are parrots, especially macaws and cockatoos, including Major Mitchell's, and white and red-tailed cockatoos. Despite Australia's ban on export of all native birds, initiated 40 years ago, many American collectors own large numbers of Australian parrots.

"The Great Wildlife Heist" is available on video in the United States for \$19.95 (US). To place your order, please call 800-255-9424.

HUMANS - ENDANGERED SPECIES?

There are over 5 billion people in the world. Nonetheless, according to the *Washington Times*, four Republican congressmen and various anti-wildlife lobbying organizations are trying to list human beings as an "endangered species" under the US Endangered Species Act!

HEALTHY LANGURS FACE DEATH

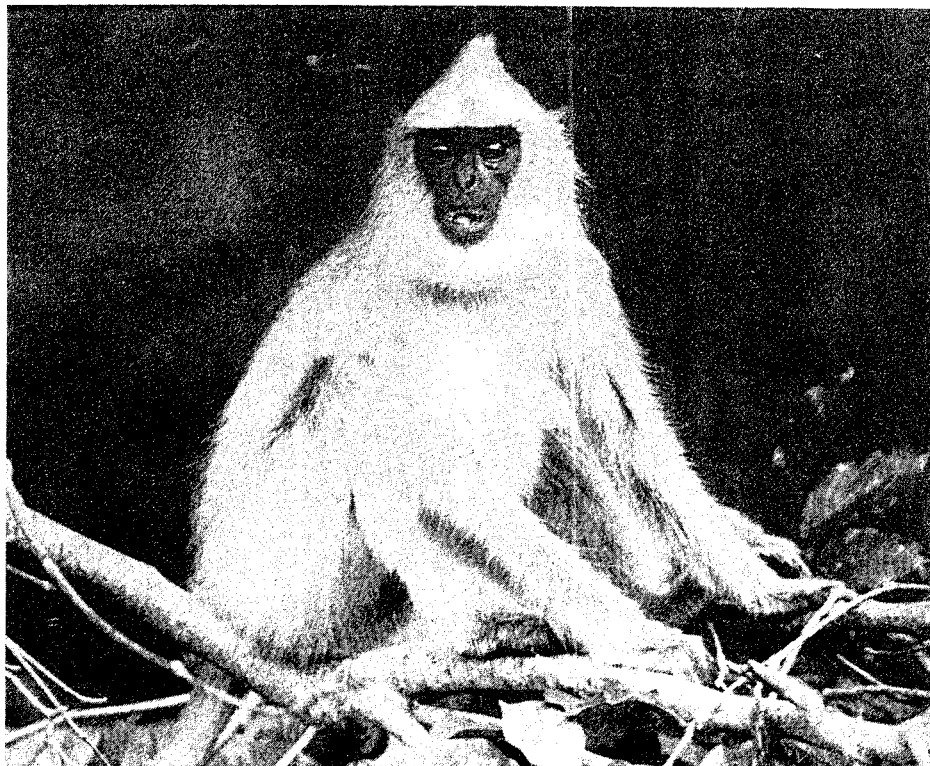
According to the 11 November 1994 issue of the *Daily Californian*, an independent student newspaper, the University of California at Berkeley, California, USA, may euthanize (kill) a group of Hanuman langurs. The animals are part of a colony of Indian-origin primates maintained since 1972 at the Field Station for Behavioral Research near Grizzly Peak.

The colony is directed by Dr. Phyllis Dolhinow of the Anthropology Department. According to the *Californian*, Dolhinow and her students have studied five generations of langurs. The studies are reported to be observational and non-invasive. However, according to Dolhinow, if she cannot raise the \$20,000 needed to maintain the monkeys by the end of 1994:

They will become the final part of the biological study. They will be euthanized.

Dolhinow pointed out that the anthropology department no longer has funds to support the monkeys. Apparently she is not in a position to support her monkey friends from her own pocket. Dolhinow considers that observing primate behavior has academic importance, and notes that over 2,000 students have studied the langurs since the colony was founded.

Members wishing to express their opposition to the possible



Hanuman langur

Photo: Siddhardha C. Buch

killing of a group of healthy monkeys, just to save money, or to suggest alternative solutions, may contact: **Chancellor Chiang-Lin Tien, 200 California Hall, University of California, Berkeley CA 94720, USA**

"THE STING"

The Arts and Entertainment Channel (A & E) on US cable television produces some excellent programs. One of these is the series "American Justice." A recent program called "The Sting" featured "entrapment" operations, using four cases as examples.

One of these cases was the Miami "Gorilla Sting." Working closely with orangutan smuggler Matthew Block as his partner, Miami wildlife agent Jorge Picon succeeded in entrapping 5 Mexicans, none with criminal backgrounds, into trying to buy a captive-born gorilla from Miami Zoo. The "Gorilla Sting" case received massive publicity when a Miami wildlife agent, dressed in a gorilla suit, sat in a foul-smelling shipping crate in a plane and, during the arrest, jumped out and, frantic for a cigarette, lit up!

The "American Justice" program takes a much closer and thoughtful look at the "sting" than the US media has done to date (the Mexican press has ridiculed the whole affair). The program shows considerable footage of the six baby orangutans smuggled by Block, shows the ghastly crates in which they were shipped, and reports the deaths of several of the babies, even showing a close-up autopsy photo of one of the animals. It also shows footage of Block running through the streets of Miami to escape an NBC film crew. Block was covering his head with his coat.

Picon boasts proudly of his success in playing the role of a "mafioso" and duping the Mexicans. Guy Lewis, prosecutor in both "Bangkok Six" and "Mexican Sting" cases, is also interviewed and says that the Mexicans, especially the zoo director) should have known that what they were doing was illegal (which is equally true of Block).

The program presents the important role played by IPPL in pushing for Matthew Block's prosecution, and reports that Block is still not in jail. Some viewers may be left wondering why the US government would want to spend money working with somebody like Matthew Block to entrap five foreigners who did not harm a single animal, for the purpose of getting them jailed at US taxpayers' expense, rather than letting Block serve his brief jail term.

Through looking at four very different "stings," the program questions the ethics of law enforcement employees performing criminal actions, and notes that juries tend to find entrapment operations basically unfair and un-American.

Unfortunately, commercial video copies of "The Sting" will not become available for several months. If you have a special interest in viewing this program, please call Jonathan Towers of A & E at 312-923-4920. He can provide made-to-order copies for \$45.00 (US).

SHIRLEY GIBBON IS FINE!

In August 1994, IPPL Chairwoman Shirley McGreal visited the Wanariset Orangutan Project outside Balikpapan, West Kalimantan, Indonesia. The project works primarily at preparing confiscated orangutans for reintroduction into the nearby Sungai Wain forest.

However, a few macaques and gibbons have reached the project. During her visit Ms McGreal befriended one gibbon, a friendly female living alone in a very small cage. The project staff wanted to see her in a larger enclosure, but lacked the funds.

Ms McGreal left a donation of \$500 so that new housing could be built. The grateful staff named the gibbon "Shirley!" The new enclosure shown below should be completed by now—and occupied by "Shirley."



Shirley's new enclosure

However, thanks to the remarkable generosity of IPPL members, housing and care can now be provided not just for Shirley, but for many more gibbons and monkeys and, if the need arises, orangutans.

The availability of IPPL-sponsored housing will make it possible for Indonesian authorities to move aggressively to confiscate more gibbons and monkeys from smugglers and

abusive owners. With no place to go, there can be no confiscation program.

Wanariset veterinarian Kris Warren reported in November 1994 that Shirley Gibbon was doing fine. Dr. Warren thanks IPPL members for their generous help.

TARANTULA SMUGGLER GETS EIGHT YEARS

IPPL members outraged at the 13-month "slap on the wrist" sentence handed down to Miami orangutan smuggler Matthew Block for the 1990 international smuggling of six baby orangutans will be pleasantly surprised to learn that wildlife smugglers do not get treated as leniently in Los Angeles, California, as they do in Miami, Florida.

On 7 November 1994, Stephen Earl Cook was sentenced to 105 months (eight and three quarter years) imprisonment for smuggling over 600 endangered red-kneed tarantulas, an endangered species of spider, from Mexico into the United States. Cook was convicted on five smuggling counts. His crimes were committed in 1993.

The Los Angeles tarantula case was, obviously effectively, prosecuted by Assistant US Attorney (AUSA) Nathan Hochman. The Miami orangutan case was prosecuted by Assistant US Attorney Guy Lewis.

IPPL applauds US District Court Judge Manuel Real for taking the tarantula case so seriously. Judge James Kehoe of Miami tried his best in the Block case, and rejected a disgraceful misdemeanor plea-bargain engineered by AUSA Lewis.

However, Kehoe's hands were tied by consolidation of the four original charges into just one by AUSA Lewis, and by ineffective presentations by Lewis and Miami wildlife Agent Jorge Picon at Block's sentencing hearing in April 1993.

Block is still not in jail. There have been seemingly interminable delays in the processing of his appeal: his appeal brief is not even due till 2 December. The government then has 42 days to respond, and then Block gets 17 more days.

Even if no further delays are granted, Block will still be free on the 5th anniversary of his horrible crime.

Miami prosecutors boast of their special unit for handling environmental crimes. However, a comparison of the results in the cases of the "Red-kneed tarantulas" and the "Bangkok Six orangutans" suggests that the wildlife might fare MUCH better, and the wildlife smugglers MUCH worse, if this unit were disbanded!

A HUNDRED PAGES OF INFRACTIONS

The Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) prepares an "Infractions Report" for each Conference of the Parties.

This year's report, circulated at the November 1994 Conference of the CITES Parties in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA, was a dismal catalog of illegality, fraud, and abuse. Worse, it certainly constitutes just the "tip of the iceberg" of world wildlife crime, because the CITES Secretariat does not learn of successfully accomplished crimes and not all crimes are included in the report.

The "Infractions Report" omits the names of all alleged smugglers and, despite the large number of courageous and aggressive non-governmental organizations working on wildlife crime issues, the only group whose work gets any recognition is TRAFFIC, a conservative trade-monitoring component of the World Wildlife Fund.

The Secretariat found the exporting and importing countries equally to blame for CITES violations, noting that:

Countries in the developed world are to be blamed as much as developing countries for ignoring the requirements for implementation of CITES. A poor economy may be a plausible excuse for inadequate CITES controls in a developing country, but inadequate controls in the developed world are likely to be the result of a lack of political will by governments.

Among the infractions reported to CITES '94 were:

Non-Compliance by Italy

Because of Italy's failure to enforce CITES, the CITES Secretariat recommended in June 1992 that parties not issue CITES documents for shipments bound for Italy. Italy is a major importer of furs and reptile skins.

The embargo was "sabotaged" by South American exporting countries and, sadly, the Governments of the United States and Switzerland. Several South American dealers exported their shipments to the United States for re-export under US documents to Italy, a practice known as "laundering."

Italy has since passed new legislation to implement CITES. However, its effects remain to be seen.

Non-Compliance by Indonesia

Indonesia has long been notorious for export of CITES-listed species. Export quotas are often ignored (e.g. in the case of the pigtail macaque). The Scientific Authority supposed to approve exports is totally ineffective, and Indonesian laws to implement the Convention are weak. Illegal trade is rampant.

The CITES Secretariat asked Indonesia to provide a report on its plans to enforce CITES to the Secretariat by 1 January 1994. By the end of March 1994 no report had been received. Indonesia has been asked to implement measures

to enforce CITES by 1 February 1995. Failing that, the CITES Standing Committee will recommend a one-year suspension of trade with Indonesia by the treaty's member-nations.

Fur Shops in Kathmandu, Nepal

Skins of endangered species, many originating from Kashmir, India, have been offered for sale in the fur shops of Kathmandu, Nepal. Among the species involved are clouded leopards. At the CITES '94 conference, India and Nepal decided to hold a meeting to discuss this still-unresolved problem.

Skin Laundering in Colombia

Colombia maintains several "breeding farms" for caiman crocodiles. However, the country appears to be exporting more skins than could have been born at the farms, with wild-caught caimans being "laundered" through captive breeding operations.

Colombian law allows only the export of skins less than 1.2 meters long. Caimans in one suspect shipment were found to have had their tails cut off by ingenious crooks. The CITES Secretariat plans a mission to Colombia in early 1995 to review the situation.

Chimp Infractions

In November 1991, Polish authorities asked the CITES Secretariat to verify the validity of two Guinean export documents offered by a circus wanting to import a 4 year old chimpanzee to Poland. Poland did not issue the requested import permit. Guinean wildlife authorities never responded to a Secretariat request for information.

In June 1992, two chimpanzees transported by air from Zaire to South Africa were confiscated. The animals were sent to what the Secretariat calls "a wildlife orphanage in Zambia." In fact this is Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage run by Dave and Sheila Siddle.

In December 1992, the Government of Egypt requested the Secretariat to confirm the validity of a permit from Guinea for the export of four chimpanzees (wrongly listed as Appendix II on the document). The export permit was a clever forgery. In a later incident, a similar forged document was presented. The Egyptian importer named on both forged Guinean export documents denied any involvement in the chimp smuggling scheme.

In August 1993, Spanish authorities confiscated one chimpanzee already in the country. The animal had been shipped to Senegal on a forged Guinean export permit and was then re-exported from Senegal to Spain. The Guinean "exporter" was a non-existent zoo!

In December 1993, the CITES Secretariat was informed that an Egyptian circus had entered Kenya with several undocumented chimpanzees and other Appendix I species. Despite efforts by the Kenya SPCA to have the chimps con-

fiscated because of the inhumane manner in which they were kept, the circus left for Tanzania and then moved on to Uganda, where four chimpanzees were confiscated. The circus operators escaped punishment by fleeing to Kenya.

By March 1994, the circus had acquired three more chimpanzees. Kenyan authorities were notified but failed to act, and the circus left for Tanzania, where no action was taken.

Then it left for Zambia, probably expecting similar tolerance for its smuggling activities. However, in July 1994, Zambian authorities seized two of the chimpanzees. The dubious activities of the circus appear to have been aided by the owner's apparent high-level "connections" in the Egyptian Government and his ability to get diplomatic intervention exerted on his behalf.

In December 1991, a Zairean company offered the Swedish Trade Council chimpanzees in exchange for fish and methane gas. Zairean authorities were asked to investigate the offer, but nothing was done.

Other circus chimpanzees of suspect origin, as well as a gorilla, turned up in Spain, Greece and finally Italy. Italy confiscated the gorilla and chimpanzees. Still more problems involving dubious orangutan and chimpanzee dealings were described.

The bewildered Secretariat commented:

In some cases, CITES documents were never presented for trade. In others, authentic documents were used to cover animals other than those indicated on the documents. Documents were also issued by [governments] without enough evidence that the animals were either bred in captivity or pre-Convention... Added to this problem is the inadequacy of border controls for circuses, resulting in chimpanzees of illegal origin circulating throughout Europe without difficulty.

Phony Tanzanian Export Permits

Dozens of shipments of birds and reptiles have been leaving Tanzania under false permits. After an investigation, the CITES Secretariat sent a "Notification to the Parties" describing the problem in detail and providing the names and addresses of 20 Tanzanian companies involved in the scam.

The Secretariat requested parties not to accept any shipments from Tanzania without first clearing the validity of the export permits with the Secretariat. The result was a flood of enquiries. The US alone produced 19 false permits. The Secretariat did not receive cooperation from Tanzania, stating diplomatically:

Considering the magnitude of this illegal scheme, the Secretariat is surprised and disappointed that it has not received information from the Management Authority of Tanzania of any actions taken against persons or companies using permits determined to be either false or otherwise invalid.

Falcon Trade

Falconry is a popular sport in the Arab world and some parts of Europe. Many falcon species are endangered and extremely valuable. A joint investigation by Danish, German and French authorities revealed a major falcon smuggling ring in Europe, North America and Mediterranean countries. As yet, none of the known participants has been prosecuted: a German suspect fled to Spain to avoid prosecution.

Diplomatic smuggling

Because diplomatic baggage is often exempted from normal customs procedures, some diplomats sadly became wildlife smugglers. On 15 July 1992, Customs officials at Kigali Airport, Rwanda, confiscated a young chimpanzee and a young Eastern lowland gorilla which had arrived on a flight from Goma, Zaire. The smuggled animals were consigned to an employee of the Egyptian Embassy in Rwanda.

The chimpanzee had travelled under an expired 1989 permit. The gorilla was accompanied only by a veterinary certificate signed by a Zairean vet. Both animals were confiscated. Neither the Zairean nor Egyptian governments have taken action against their nationals involved.

The Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the CITES Secretariat in March 1993 that, after a "thorough investigation by the competent Egyptian authorities," it had determined that the Egyptian Embassy in Kigali, Rwanda, had not been involved in any wrong-doing. Further, the Egyptian Embassy in Kigali had stated that the smuggled shipment was completely legal!

On 18 May 1992, Italian inspectors checked a crate arriving from the Sudan labelled "furniture." Inside they found 46 elephant tusks, 450 pieces of worked ivory, leopard and python skins, and 95 ostrich eggs. The crates belonged to an employee of the Italian Embassy in Khartoum.

Other diplomatic crimes included smuggling of rhino horn from Zimbabwe by Korean diplomats: smuggling of rhino horn into Taiwan by a member of the Bhutanese Royal Family: various infractions by United Nations troops in Cambodia, Mozambique, and Somalia: and an attempt by a United Nations Development Program employee to sell rhino horn.

Ivory hidden in cabbages!

On 21 September 1992, Belgian authorities confiscated a shipment of frozen vegetables which included monkey and duiker meat. 192 ivory carvings were found hidden in cabbage and manioc roots.

Ivory Dyed!

In April 1993, South African authorities arrested a Congolese resident who was in possession of 80 kg. of ivory blocks and tubes which had been stained to hide their identity by making them look like wood.

The smuggler confessed that another part of the consignment was en route from the Congo to Belgium. Belgian



Confiscated rhino heads on display at CITES '94
One has missing horn

authorities were tipped off and items weighing 110 kilograms were confiscated. The consignment was listed on the bill of lading as "unfinished wooden pen covers made from walnut." The coating had to be scraped off before the ivory showed through.

Rhino Horn scandals

Despite an international ban on rhino horn trading, several confiscations reflecting the deaths of many rhinos are referred to in the 1994 Infractions Report. In June 1992, Dutch authorities seized 20 rhino horns and 81 elephant tusks in an incoming shipment from the African nation of Malawi en route to Taiwan. The shipment was described as "hard wood and stone handcraft."

The items were returned to Malawi but no prosecution is known to have occurred. In December 1992, 13 rhino horns were found in a shipment of deer meat en route from Hong Kong to Taipei.

On 6 December 1991, a Singapore Customs inspector ignored a warning from the driver of a van transporting incoming cargo crates from Indonesia that he might "cut himself" if he opened the crates. The courageous inspector ignored the warning and opened them anyway. He found 10 rhino horns in a plastic bag concealed under a layer of wood chips. The horns were suspected to come from the highly endangered Javan or Sumatran rhino species, a terrible tragedy. Both species now number less than 1,000 in the wild.

Opportunity Lost

An opportunity to intercept smuggled wildlife was thrown away in May 1992. The CITES Secretariat was tipped off that an illegal shipment of live parrots and monkeys was on board an Aeroflot flight from Peru to Moscow, Russia. The air waybill indicated that the birds and primates were to be re-exported from Moscow to Madagascar. The waybill also listed the name and phone number of the shipper, a German national.

The Secretariat immediately tipped off Russian, German, and Madagascar authorities. However, the illegal shipment sailed through unimpeded to Madagascar and was then sent on to Mauritius.

Frustrated, the Secretariat expressed its outrage in diplomatic language:

The Secretariat deeply regrets that an illegal shipment of CITES species was able to reach its final destination unimpeded.

Inhumane Shipment

CITES requires that wildlife shipments be humanely packed and handled. Sadly, the Infractions Report contains no less than 6 pages of listings of inhumane shipments.

Dead on Arrival – 1

Nineteen of 70 birds shipped from the Solomon Islands in the Pacific Ocean to Denmark in December 1991 died due to lack of food and water.

Dead on Arrival 2

In March 1992, there was heavy mortality among 425 birds during a 5-day horror flight from the Ivory Coast, West Africa, to Denmark.

Dead on Arrival – 3

In April 1992, 227 snakes, 240 lizards and 935 turtles left the United States on an ill-fated flight to France via Switzerland where it was detained because passengers complained of a "strong smell" coming from the cargo hold.

The wretched animals had been shipped in styrofoam boxes enclosed in cardboard boxes. There was no ventilation at all, which caused the deaths of most of the creatures.

The airlines involved were Lufthansa and Swissair, which should have rejected the crates since they did not comply with international airline regulations.

The US government's feeble excuse for allowing this appalling shipment to leave the country, despite being packed in a totally illegal manner, was that wildlife inspectors cannot inspect every wildlife shipment.

Dead on Arrival – 4

The December 1992 issue of IPPL News told of the arrival in Miami, Florida, USA of a shipment of 110 monkeys from Indonesia, all dead. The animals were all alive when checked during a transit stop in Germany.

The "Infractions Report" blames the deaths on "poor ventilation in the cargo hold of the aeroplane" and notes that the airline (Lufthansa) was fined US \$3,000. This amounts to around \$27 (US) for each dead monkey.

The US apparently attempted to "cover up" this appalling shipment by entering the dead monkeys as "Live" in its law enforcement computer. The shipment only came to public knowledge when Kurt Schafer, a witness in the Matthew Block orangutan smuggling case, overheard wildlife agents

discussing it. Schafer drew the shipment to IPPL's attention on his return home.

Dead on Arrival – 5

In February 1993 a shipment of 100 African grey parrots originating in Zaire reached Belgium in over-crowded containers with no spacer bars. Every single one of the 100 birds was dead.

Dead on Arrival – 6

In April 1993, 700 African grey parrots from the Ivory Coast reached the United States in 28 containers. The crates had no "Live Animals" or "This Way Up" stickers. Ventilation was inadequate. On arrival, 500 of the 700 birds were dead. The carrier was Air Afrique, which is notorious for carrying wildlife in appalling conditions.

Dead on Arrival – 7

In October 1993, a shipment of 250 reptiles reached Switzerland from Hong Kong with all 250 animals dead. The containers were grossly overcrowded.

Dead on Arrival – 8

In November 1993, the United Kingdom received a shipment of 180 hummingbirds from Peru. The birds did not belong to the same species as those listed on the export permits. Mortality was high in these very fragile birds.

Mail Smuggling

Millions of parcels move through international mail and courier services daily. Among them are unknown numbers of packages containing smuggled wildlife and wildlife products such as skins, plants and live reptiles.

Moscow Bird Market

A CITES Secretariat staff member visiting Russia found specimens of several CITES-listed species, including endangered Goffin's cockatoos, for sale on the Moscow Bird Market.

Primate Smuggler Sentenced

The report notes that as a result of an "extensive investigation" in the United States, a US national was charged in February 1992 with smuggling six orangutans and two siamangs internationally.

The report also notes that this US national (actually, Matthew Block) was sentenced in April 1993 to 13 months in federal prison and received a fine of US \$40,000. The report fails to note that Block has never spent a single day in prison although nearly five years have passed since his crime and 20 months since his sentencing. The fine was actually \$30,000.

Netherlands Bird Case

This case involved Kenny Dekker, an associate of Matthew Block, and other Dutch bird smugglers. Dekker is now facing 18 months jail and an associate 12 months.

Dutch authorities informed the CITES Secretariat that they had received excellent cooperation from Australian authorities but that:

The investigation was jeopardized when sensitive information about it was disclosed during an interview with a witness in the US.

The report fails to identify by whom the "sensitive information" (i.e. a tip-off that Dekker was to be arrested within a few days) was disclosed. However, Dutch police sources allege that it was a US Government official.

HOW YOU CAN LEARN MORE

Readers may obtain a copy of the entire 101-page 1994 CITES Infractions Report from IPPL Headquarters for the cost of copying and mailing, which is US \$10 for US orders or \$15 for overseas orders.

NEWS FROM RWANDA

In August 1994, Ian Redmond and Dieter Steklis of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund travelled to Rwanda with a BBC film crew to meet representatives of the new government, assess the condition of Rwanda's gorillas, and negotiate the resumption of Karisoke's anti-poaching patrols.

Dr. Steklis met the new Prime Minister and the Minister for the Environment and both officials affirmed their commitment to continued protection of the mountain gorilla.

Redmond and Steklis travelled to the Karisoke Research Center. They found the center badly damaged by looters, with research data scattered everywhere. They also found cow dung in the middle of the camp, the first time in more than 20 years that cattle had been herded so far into the Virungas.

The study groups appeared to be in better shape than anticipated although two gorillas were missing, a young male and an adolescent female. Redmond and Steklis believe that the female moved to another group but fear that the young male is dead. However, four babies had been born since the war began.

From the outbreak of Rwanda's civil war in April 1994, the Karisoke rangers bravely stayed at their posts, only leaving in July when millions of Rwandans fled across the border to Zaire. In August the rangers started to return to their posts despite the danger.

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