

## REPORT OF THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The nineteenth Annual General Meeting was held on July 16, 1966 at the British Council Hall, Jalan Bluff beginning at 7.30 p.m. The retiring President, Mr. Wong Yew Kuan, was in the chair and approximately fifty members were present.

The Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting had been published in the Journal (*Vol. 19 (4)* p. 247 *et seq.*) and were approved unanimously. There being no matters arising, the Meeting then received the Reports of the elected officers of the Society, which are summarised below.

### President's Report

The membership of the Society now stands at 846, made up as follows: —

Life members	...	31
Honorary members	...	17
Ordinary and family members	...	633
Junior members	...	144
Exchange members	...	21
		<hr/>
	TOTAL	...
		<u>846</u>

161 Ordinary and 69 Junior members had resigned or were in arrears. The figures showed an increase of 101 members over the last year's figure while there had been an encouraging rise in Junior membership of 40%.

The Society had encountered administrative difficulties due to the need for a good paid secretary at the meagre wages the Society could offer. Since efficiency could not be maintained without paid assistance, the Committee had accepted an offer from Messrs. Peat, Marwick, Mitchell to handle the Society's affairs. If this proved unsatisfactory, it would be necessary either to spend more on secretarial assistance, or for the Committee to be prepared to work more regularly and harder than in the past. On the second alternative, the key positions had been held by people who were very busy men and could not devote more time to routine Committee work. If the Committee was to handle administration and all other Society business, it needed energetic people with time to spare and who were keen to work.

The Society was grateful to its Patron, Tan Sri Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Majid, for his continued interest and assistance. The Society had been very active during the year, and the Singapore and Selangor Branches had reported successful years. The Negri Sembilan and Pahang Branches now appeared to have ceased to exist, but there was hope that a Malacca Branch might be set up in the future.

A joint meeting had been held with the Singapore and Selangor committees at Singapore and matters of policy had been discussed. It had been agreed that copies of 'Nature Conservation in Western Malaysia' should be distributed free to approved Institutions, and be given as a bonus to new members, once an addendum slip had been prepared. Schools joining the Society should receive both this and 'An Introduction to Malayan Birds' while stocks lasted.

The Society was financially sound and the Hon. Treasurer would submit his report later in the evening. A request to the Government for a \$5,000 subvention was being considered by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport.

In the field of conservation, several members had attended privately the Conservation conference in Bangkok in November 1965, and a note on the Conference had been published in the Journal (Vol. 19 (4) p. 242).

Progress had been made in preparing the first of a series of conservation posters which it was hoped would be assisted by a grant from the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport.

In reply to a question from the floor, Mr. Wong stated that stocks of Society publications were maintained by a number of book-sellers.

### **Secretary's Report**

Dr. Balasingam reported: 10 committee meetings were held during this year, including a joint meeting in Singapore with representatives of other branches.

The number of branches remained the same as last year, namely Selangor, Singapore, Pahang and Negri Sembilan, although membership in other states were sufficiently large to warrant the opening of new branches. This was particularly true of Penang, Perak and Malacca.

The Society had been able to produce a leathery turtle brochure, in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries, for free distribution

to tourists visiting the Rantau Dalam beaches. A series of conservation posters, depicting local fauna, was also in preparation.

The sale of Publications for the year had been satisfactory. However, the Society still had large stocks of 'Nature Conservation in Western Malaysia' and "An Introduction to Malayan Birds". The books were maintained in our office in the Muzium Negara through the courtesy of the Director of Museums.

The Committee was deeply indebted to its patron who has shown keen interest in the promotion of the Societies' activities.

Mr. Bullock, in the absence of Dr. Balasingam, drew members attention to the excess of stocks of both the Conservation issue, and Madoc's 'Birds', commented on by both the President and Hon. Secretary. The decision to dispose of some of this stock by donation had been reached because there was no prospect of moving it by normal sales. The Conservation Issue was becoming out-dated, while Madoc's 'Birds' had several competitors. Adequate stocks of both books would be retained for anticipated needs. An addendum slip would be prepared for the Conservation issue before it was distributed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Jones reported that an increase in membership during the year, in addition to the higher subscription rate, had enabled the Society to cover the cost of printing the journal out of the current year's subscriptions. This in itself was a satisfactory position, but sales of publications, of which large stocks were still on hand, showed only a slight improvement on the previous year. Unless these publications could be sold quickly at reasonable prices there seemed little prospect that the Society would be able to provide further funds for future publications out of its own resources.

The bank balance of \$6,894/- at the end of the year was adequate for immediate requirements. A further amount of \$5,470/- remained on fixed deposit for the purchase of future publications.

In answer to a query, Mr. Jones explained that the valuation of books was based on a simple formula, while the provision of \$24,000, was made in anticipation of failure to clear stock. Since the valuation did not represent an actual expenditure, the provision was not a loss.

### Editor's Report

Mr. Bullock reported that during the year, parts 2 & 3 and 4 of Volume 19 were produced and circulated to members. This did not complete Vol. 19 since it had been decided by the Committee after consultation with the Branches to accept a proposal from the Society's auditors that the Journal and financial years should run concurrently. Consequently, it had been agreed that a further part should be issued. Although it had been hoped to circulate part 5 to members in about May, this had proved impossible since sufficient contributions to complete the issue were not obtained until late June. The complete issue was with the printers and should be circulated in early August.

No great difficulty in completing Vol. 20, part 1 was anticipated since this would include the Bird Report 1965 which had already been received, as had three other contributions. There was, however, nothing in reserve and further contributions were urgently required. The number of contributions which were being received was still too small to both maintain standards and keep up the desirable rate of publication. The Committee had chosen to attempt to maintain standards and he hoped that members would agree that this was more important than publication on the dot.

No additional publications had been made, since none had been received. He was, however, hoping to produce a special issue on the Malayan Forest as an extra rather than as a special part of the Journal, thereby allowing more scope. Again, the response to requests for articles has been very disappointing but it was intended to concentrate on this projected publication in the next few months.

Dr. Whitmore suggested that a circular letter to members might well encourage offers for the projected special publication on the 'Malayan Forest'. The Editor agreed to do this.

The Meeting then received the reports of the Selangor and Singapore Branches and noted with regret that no information had been received from the Negeri Sembilan and Pahang Branches. These reports, together with the several conservation reports are summarised on the following pages.

**Election of Officers and Committee**

<i>President :</i>	Dr. E. Balasingam
<i>Honorary Secretary :</i>	Tunku Abdul Aziz
„ <i>Treasurer :</i>	Mr. A. K. Jones
„ <i>Editor :</i>	Mr. J. A. Bullock
„ <i>Asst. Editor :</i>	Miss Lim Siew Ngo
<i>Committee :</i>	Mr. Lim Boo Liat
	Mr. M. Nadchatram
	Miss Ow-Yang Oi Lan
	Mr. E. Pushparajah
	Inche Salleh
	Dr. T. C. Whitmore

Messrs. A. S. Johnston and Yip Yoon Wah were formally elected in their capacities as Chairmen of the Singapore and Selangor Branches respectively, to serve on the Committee.

Hon. Auditor: Mr. Ng Seng Whye.

Under any other business, the following matters were proposed and accepted.

- (i) that the Banker's Order should state the amount of the subscription.
- (ii) that the Parent Society should ask the Selangor Branch to expose the Society's publications for sale at their indoor meetings.

There being no further business, the Business Meeting was declared closed at 8.40 p.m.

Dr. A. J. Berry then gave a most interesting talk on 'The Zoology of Malayan Sea-Shores' which was illustrated with many fine slides.

In concluding the meeting, Mr. Bullock proposed a vote of thanks to the British Council for the use of the Hall, and asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. H. R. Mills, who would be leaving Malaya shortly, for the many kindnesses and courtesies he had shown the Society.

**BRANCH REPORTS (in summary)****Selangor Branch**

Mr. Yip reported: 'The past year has been an active and interesting one for the Selangor Branch which held to its basic policy

of indoor and outdoor meetings on alternate months. There were seven indoor meetings including a full-colour film meeting, and six outdoor meetings during the year.

Our speakers in the indoor meetings covered a wide range geographically, from an oceanographic expedition in the South China Sea through the natural history and peoples of the Pacific Islands to the rain forests of South America. A group of visiting ornithologists from several South-east Asian and Far Eastern countries also gave an illustrated talk about the birds of their countries and their experiences in bird ringing.

Our outdoor meetings have taken us up the quartz ridges, Reid's Ridge in Ulu Gombak and Bukit Perangin in Kanching Forest Reserve, Fraser's Hill and nearer home to the Ampang forests on a special bird outing, and to Kepong to see the experimental plantations. And for members who participated in the outing to Ulu Langat Forest Reserve, they had the unsavoury experience of being rudely sprayed upon by fine jets of a watery discharge from numerous cicadas on a *Shorea guiso* tree.

It is heartening to record here that more and more students and other young people are actively participating in our outdoor meetings, and this encouraging feature augurs well for the future of the society. This is no doubt due largely to the enthusiasm and hard work of some teachers who have whipped up considerable interest in natural history amongst their students. In order to kindle or sustain this interest, several members of the Committee have agreed to offer their services in private school outings and nature study trips.

On the financial side we have managed to stay clear on the credit side.

As in past years the Branch organised and staged the Annual Exhibition in the National Museum by kind permission of the Director of Museums. The Patron of our Society, Tan Sri (Dr.) Abdul Aziz b. Hj. Abdul Majid was kind enough to come and deliver a speech and to officially declare open the Exhibition. There was active participation by individual members, secondary schools in Kuala Lumpur, the National Museum, Friends of Templer Park Society and the Batu Caves Protection Association. There is no doubt that the success of this Exhibition was largely due to the hard work and enthusiasm of the exhibitors and other members, and our thanks are due to all of them.

### **Singapore Branch**

Mr. Johnston reported: During the year ending 31st May, the Branch committee had striven to provide members with as wide and varied a selection of indoor and outdoor meetings as possible. There were 12 outdoor expeditions, a number of which took us into deep jungle in pursuit of our particular fancies—at times at considerable physical effort. Our indoor occasions numbered 18 including 3 Bird Section meetings, the AGM, and our annual satay party in December. At this last event we were most fortunate to hear a short talk from Prof. E. J. H. Corner, who happened to be passing through Singapore. Another of the year's highlights was the talk on Forest Research we heard from our President, Mr. Wong Yew Kuan, who was down here on a visit from Kuala Lumpur.

Besides a joint committee meeting with the Parent Committee and the Selangor Branch the Singapore committee met six times during the year, in addition to which committee members put in many hours of hard work.

At this juncture I would like to echo the thoughts of my predecessor as Chairman to the effect that the Society owes a great deal to the zeal and enthusiasm of a number of "old faithfuls" at the University of Singapore, several of them not on the committee at all. To all these people I would like to express my grateful thanks for their active participation in the life of the Society. Those of us who are laymen, as I am, lean very heavily on the wealth of knowledge that is always so readily and interestingly imparted by these, the true brains of the Society. The depth of their knowledge always leaves me filled with mixed awe, admiration and envy.

Last but by no means least on my list of thank-yous is Prof. John Harrison. He has devoted much time and effort to the writing and publication last month of the first-ever book by the Singapore Branch of the Malayan Nature Society, "An Introduction to the Mammals of Singapore and Malaya". With the proceeds from the sale of this work we hope, in due course, to publish another low-cost book of both popular and student appeal. Prof. Harrison will not be back from leave until next month, but I know you would like to join me in thanking him for his very considerable and very worthwhile efforts on behalf of the Society and the cause of the advancement of knowledge.

The publication of Prof. Harrison's book has, as members will probably realize, been made possible by the continued \$1,000 annual

grant we have received from the Singapore Government to whom we owe our most sincere gratitude.

### CONSERVATION REPORT

#### (a) **Turtle Conservation** (E. Balasingam)

The Department of Fisheries and the State Governments are continuing their policy on the conservation of the turtles.

The green turtle hatchery established in Semarak, Kelantan last year, has almost doubled its output of hatchlings. Similar results have been obtained in the leathery turtle hatchery in Dungun, Trengganu.

A brochure explaining the need for conservation of the leathery turtle and non-interference with them during the nesting season, has been prepared and distributed this year.

#### (b) **Rhino Report** (David L. Strickland)

June marks the ninth month of my work in Malaya. I have succeeded in gathering some data relevant to the ecology of the Sumatran Rhinoceros, but admittedly not as much as I had originally hoped for.

As I reported earlier, I have been using the Sungei Dusun Game Reserve as my primary study area. Over the months I have become familiar enough with the area to map the movements of rhinos there fairly accurately. I have now been able to establish what I feel to be the approximate range of two individuals. There is at least one more individual at Sungei Dusun, but its tracks are seen very infrequently. I have not as yet seen any of these animals in the flesh, despite considerable effort. All of my data has been deduced from track measurements. For that reason I can confirm only three individuals at Sungei Dusun. Even though I have found tracks measuring at many intervals between 16 and 23 cm., the variability of track size even following the same animal makes the method of doubtful use in differentiating between animals of approximately the same size. Three animals is a very conservative estimate. I feel that five is probably more accurate, but using the present technique that is only a guess.

The artificial salt lick I have created at Sungei Dusun is working out nicely. The rhinos are visiting the spot much more frequently now. But I have not been able to spot one from the platform which I built over this wallow. I have tried on occasion to get photographs



using trip-lines, but due to camera malfunctioning, lines being cut, mechanisms rotting, etc., I have been unsuccessful.

I have also been gathering plant material upon which the rhinos are feeding, and the Forest Research Institute is helping me with the identification of that material.

Outside of Sungei Dusun I have been surveying other areas believed to be inhabited by Rhinos. I have thus far found three additional animals but have learned little from them other than what was already established at Sungei Dusun.

In the next few months I will be more thoroughly analyzing my data in an effort to write a comprehensive report that will be of use in establishing and maintaining efficient reserves for this animal.

Mr. Strickland also reported that a permit for the trapping of rhino in the Ulu Bernam Reserve had been issued on behalf of the National Zoo. Apart from considerations as to the suitability of zoos in general as conservation projects, a matter on which conservationists were still arguing, he considered that it was thoroughly improper to start a trapping project in a reserve, especially when rhino were present elsewhere. Also he was seriously alarmed at the mode of capture which it was intended to use, i.e. the use of tranquillisers. Although these were sometimes successful, this was usually where the correct dosage was known, which is certainly was not for the rhino. He cited cases of elephant, tigers and wild pigs being unintentionally killed in Malaya because of an inadequate knowledge of dosages, and thought it highly probable that the rhino so captured would be more suitable for the National Museum than the National Zoo.

It was agreed that Mr. Strickland should prepare a paper for presentation to the A.G.M. of the Zoological Society.

**Gunong Pantai.** Mr. Wong reported that action was being taken to gazette a major segment of the area as a Virgin Jungle Reserve.

# MALAYAN NATURE SOCIETY (Kuala Lumpur Main Branch)

## Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st May, 1966

1965	EXPENDITURE		1965	INCOME
	Stock at 31st May, 1966:			Subscriptions Received:
\$ 1,500	Journals ...	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 5,927	Current and Arrears \$7,127.64
8,980	Malayan Wild Flowers ...	8,652.00		Prepaid at 31st May,
5,835	Malayan Birds ...	5,475.00	693	1966
12,260	Nature Conservation ...	11,916.00		1,323.00
200	Neck-Ties ...	336.00	100	Sundry Receipts ...
		\$27,879.00		126.45
				Profit on Sale of Christmas
6,737	Cost of Printing Journals ...	7,104.10	—	Cards ...
1,820	Secretarial & Accountancy Fees	2,529.00	269	184.12
350	Audit Fee ...	350.00	1,042	Interest on Fixed Deposit ..
192	Printing and Stationery ...	674.00		257.27
1,412	Postages ...	439.18		Grants and Donations ...
6	Bank Charges ...	27.34		—
347	Sundry Expenses ...	405.70		\$ 9,018.48
197	Neck-Ties ...	—		
219	Depreciation of Furniture and			Sales:
	Office Equipment	181.00	970	Journals ...
		4,606.22	1,317	1,114.32
			354	Malayan Wild Flowers ...
			285	1,999.00
			194	Malayan Birds ...
				263.43
				Nature Conservation ...
				148.77
				Neck-Ties and Badges ...
				234.50
				3,760.02
				Stock at 31st May, 1966:
			1,500	Journals ...
			8,652	1,500.00
			5,475	Malayan Wild Flowers ...
			11,916	7,950.00
			336	Malayan Birds ...
				5,145.00
				Nature Conservation ...
				11,619.00
				Neck-Ties ...
				132.00
				26,346.00
			1,025	Excess of Expenditure over Income
				for the year ...
				464.82
\$40,055		\$39,589.32	\$40,055	\$39,589.32