

# ANIMALS NEWS



PRESS ASSOCIATION

## WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Animals Advisory Editor David Attenborough (left) presents C. V. R. Dowdeswell of Southam, Leamington Spa, with the gold medal he won as Wildlife Photographer of the Year. Mr Dowdeswell won the honour with his photograph of a tawny owl. The photo, in full colour, was reproduced in *Animals*, Vol 8 No 10.

**ATLANTA, USA**—Scientists at Emory University here have been feeding king-sized vodka cocktails to chimpanzees and orang-utans in an effort to get more facts about the nature of alcoholism.

'For obvious reasons we could not use human beings in a study aimed at producing alcoholism,' said one of the researchers, Dr Frances Fitz-Gerald. 'What we're after is to get some of our apes addicted to alcohol, so we can study them in order to help human alcoholics.'

Findings so far show that apes prefer plain fruit juice to alcohol-and-juice combinations. Some of the apes would drink only moderately, while others would not touch the stuff. Males tended to drink more than females.

**HLUHLUWE, SOUTH AFRICA**—A rare clash between a black and a white rhinoceros was recently observed in the game reserve here by a party of tourists. Fights between the two species are almost unknown.

Darkness set in before the outcome could be seen. Experts on these animals say the fight may be ascribed to an increase in the rhino population.

**SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**—The State Government of New South Wales is to consider a suggestion for a kangaroo reserve in the north-western part of the state. A legislative council member who is backing the plan said the red kangaroo would be extinct in three years at the present rate of slaughter.

**LONDON**—Foxes have been causing havoc at at least two zoos in England lately, and an all-out effort is being made to bring their numbers under control.

In Bristol Zoo, keepers set traps after foxes killed nearly £400 worth of water-fowl and other birds. The traps do not hurt the animals, which will later be released some distance from Bristol.

In Plymouth, zoo officials invited the local Fowey Hounds to rout foxes which

had been raiding the zoo's duck-pond. It is perhaps the only time a full-blown fox-hunt has taken place in the city's 200-acre Central Park. Two foxes were killed, one in a cemetery.

**BELFAST, N. IRELAND**—Wildfowling shooting on a lake near Enniskillen recently brought down a wild duck ringed by Copenhagen Zoological Museum, while another small brown duck shot near Lisbellaw bore a ring marked Moscow.

**MILAN, ITALY**—Three lions belonging to a circus near Milan died of cold in temperatures of 17°F. recently.

**EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND**—Hopes that reindeer herds may be established in the Scottish highlands on a large enough scale to make them a commercial proposition have taken a tumble—because of strict British quarantine regulations.

Mr Mikel Utsi, who is backing the idea, says many people have shown interest, but the initial capital needed to import reindeer and the high mortality rate among them during their quarantine at disembarkation ports have been severe deterrents.

**BLANTYRE, MALAWI**—Six people were killed recently and six more were mauled by crocodiles in the lower Shire River area of Malawi, according to a Health Department report.

**SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**—Packs of sharks in Sydney Harbour have caused the closure of several bathing beaches there. Experts have warned that the danger of shark attacks was acute. Recently a shark was seen to seize a dog.

**STUTTGART, GERMANY**—Monitor lizards have been bred successfully for the first time outside their native land at Stuttgart Zoo. Four specimens of the Australian water monitor, a dark olive-coloured animal, were the result. The young are very well marked, in contrast to the dark brown of their parents.

**OTTAWA, CANADA**—Canadians and visitors from other countries are visiting the country's national parks in steadily-increasing numbers—the 1965 figures were 16% above the total for 1964.

National parks in Canada cover a total land area of close on 30,000 square miles—about one acre of land for every Canadian.