

miles north of Toronto. The building has an exhibit hall containing aquariums and displays, and an auditorium for lectures and films. There are about 4½ square miles of woods, fields, and marshland for visitors to explore, either with the help of staff naturalists or using 'self-guiding' trails.

## **WEST AFRICA**

### **Wildlife management school**

Sufficient funds are now available for the opening in 1970 of the new West African wildlife management school—the *Ecole Formation de Specialistes de la Faune Sauvage*. The school will be similar to the existing College of African Wildlife Management at Mweka, Tanzania. Located at Garoua, Cameroun, the new school will welcome students from all over French-speaking Africa.

## **GREAT BRITAIN**

### **Slimbridge successes**

The Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge has just sent a further consignment of 50 young ne-ne, or Hawaiian geese, to the Hawaiian island of Maui. In 1949 there were estimated to be less than 50 birds of this species still living: now there are thought to be nearly 900. This success story is largely due to the breeding and repatriation programme undertaken by Slimbridge. It is planned to send another 50 birds next year, bringing to 200 the total of birds repatriated from Britain.

The Caribbean flamingo reared at Slimbridge last year is now in full adult plumage. In addition, the first Andean flamingo ever to be born in captivity hatched there in July, the last of an otherwise failed clutch of seven eggs. Now the Wildfowl Trust announces further success. They have a Chilean flamingo chick, with another nine eggs still to be incubated on other nests.

## **Oceanic pollution**

An excellent little survey of oceanic pollution, with some suggestions for possible control, has been published by the David Davies Memorial Institute of International Studies. Besides discussing the problem, there are useful appendices detailing the various organisations involved, regional conventions, and the complex web of legal implications and responsibilities. The booklet is available, price 6s, from the Institute at Thorney House, 34 Smith Square, London S.W.1.

## **IRELAND**

### **Rhinoceros birth**

The first rhinoceros to be born in Ireland arrived on 9 July 1969 in the Dublin Zoo. Both the parents were also zoo-bred—the mother in Rotterdam in 1960, and the father in Bristol in 1961. The baby African black rhino was born at 1.45 a.m., and observed by closed circuit TV. There was a minor disturbance three hours after birth, when it was noticed that the calf was

missing from the picture, and the mother appeared agitated.

Zoo night staff discovered that the calf had squeezed through the bars of its quarters, wandered down the service passage, and was outside the male's enclosure. The male rhino was trying to savage the baby through the wire. The baby was then carried back to its mother, who by now had also become aggressive, particularly when she saw her offspring in the arms of a human and beyond her reach. However, it was finally re-introduced into its stall, with some difficulty, whereupon the mother quickly calmed down. Bales of hay were stacked against the gate to prevent a recurrence of the incident.

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rectified in later programmes in the series.

In their new series *Eye on Life*, BBC-2 seem to have backed a winner: and the first programme, on insect life, was aptly named *The Winners*. The entertainment was there in abundance, with many eye-catching film sequences, but so was the information—answering such basic questions as how an insect differs from a spider, before going on to the marvels of insect life. The series centres on the struggle for existence in various groups of animals, including man, and will show some of the wonderful ways in which animals are adapted for the lives they lead.

*The World About Us* has recently returned to BBC-2 and has an interesting schedule of programmes. Although some programmes in this series have, in the past, suffered from poor commentaries, they do provide fascinating (and sometimes frightening) glimpses of our environment. I particularly enjoy the adventures of Jacques Cousteau and his team. Whereas many natural history programmes jump about a bit, Cousteau's programmes usually tell a continuing story and, by simply inserting dates here and there in the commentary, he gives the viewer a sense of involvement.

Cousteau's undersea world is brilliantly revealed by his team's camera-work, but I wonder how much longer they will be able to film in relatively undisturbed waters. Man has already made a terrible mess of the land and there were signs in the programme on California that the sea is going the same way. A few more programmes on the dangers of pollution would do much to focus attention on this growing problem.

*Wild World* returned to BBC-1 on 10 September and, although intended mainly for younger viewers, I am sure many adults derive enjoyment from it. I hope the series lives up to its title this time, embracing the whole living world and not just the animal kingdom.

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