

and 1991, the Society followed with the translocation of the ultramarine lory (*V. ultramarina*), and have begun a census and management planning for the Nuku Hiva imperial pigeon (*Ducula galeata*).

In 1992 and 1993, a small flock of 14 ultramarine lorries was captured by project staff on the Marquesan island of Ua Huka and relocated to the neighboring island of Fatu Hiva, in hopes of establishing a second population of this nectar-feeding animals lives only on Ua Huka, and any catastrophe would seriously jeopardize the future of the species. If the flock on Fatu Hiva is successful and grows, it will act as a backup to the natural population on Ua Huka. Recent reports suggest that the translocated lorries are adjusting well and maintaining their numbers. The next few years will be exciting, as breeding is anticipated, which will further establish this population.

The Nuku Hiva, or Marquesan, imperial pigeon is one of the world's largest pigeons, with a range that has been reduced to only a few valleys on the rugged island of Nuku Hiva. Its status has been in question for many years, and clear documentation of its existence was necessary to plan for its future. A research team spent three weeks searching the island, and determined that the bird is now restricted to a small area on the north-west side, in a region where the native forest is largely undisturbed. They recorded 42 observations of the pigeon, and estimated that the total population now consists of somewhere between 150 and 300 individuals. Although introduced predators may constitute a significant threat to the species, its prospects for survival seem good, with proper habitat preservation. The islanders consider the *upe* (the bird's Marquesan name) to be their island symbol, and they are actively

seeking to protect the birds and the ecosystem upon which they depend.

Alan Lieberman, Cyndi Kuehler, Albert Varney and William Everett in *Zoonooz* Vol. 68, No. 3 (March 1994)

Only 50 Javan Rhinos

A camera-trapping survey in Java's Ujung Kulon National Park has revealed that only about 50 Javan rhinos (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) survive there. It was hoped that there were 60-100. The 34 cameras set up photographed an average of one rhino every five days: individuals were identified from skin markings, sex, size and estimates of age. Although the population has declined, perhaps due to poaching, some cameras captured images of mothers with young.

New Scientist, 21 August 1993

Death of an Oryx

Oman's oldest female oryx, Selma, the first calf to be born in the Jiddat al Harasis in Oman since the species became extinct in the wild in 1972, has died aged 13 years 3 months. She was born in 1980 in the Yalooni enclosure to Salama, who had arrived pregnant from the U.S.A., and was released into the desert with the first herd on 31 January 1982. Four generations of her progeny – over one-quarter of the total population of 175 – are now among the wild oryx in Jiddat al Harasis.

Oryx Vol. 28, No. 1 (January 1994)

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Copenhagen's Director Retires

On 1st May 1994, Bent Jørgensen retired from his position as Director of Copenhagen Zoo. The zoo has changed very much during his 15 years in the post, with a heavy building programme culminating in the opening of a new Tropical House in late April this year. The zoo is now very popular in Copenhagen, with an annual attendance of over one million visitors, and much money for investments coming in through sponsorships, foundations, private benefactions and legacies. Mr Jørgensen has also been active on the international zoo stage; he was one of the founders of the EEP and EAZA, and resigned last year as vice-president of IUDZG. As many of our readers will know, he also – while still in his teens – founded *International Zoo News*.

Bent Jørgensen's career has been a remarkable one. It may be best to let him tell the story in his own words:

'I decided to be the director of Copenhagen Zoo when I was 13 years old. I turned a "zoo freak" when a cousin came back to the island of Bornholm where I lived, with a guide book from Copenhagen Zoo. Reading the guide book, I could see that the zoo was a kind of Eden – with all the animals really there that I was reading about in the natural history volumes at the public library. It was at that time that I started to correspond with zoo directors all over the world – a correspondence which

ultimately led to the foundation of the first, primitive version of *I.Z.N.*

'In 1965, after taking my degree as a zoologist at the University of Copenhagen, I was appointed Chief Curator of Exhibitions at the Zoological Museum which had just moved to new quarters, and which had nothing but empty halls at that time. It gave me a chance to create a progressive kind of museum with a very dedicated staff – at a time when the Natural History Museum in London was still rather dusty!

'In 1979 I was appointed Director of Copenhagen Zoo, and a boy's dream came true – quite a kind of Hans Christian Andersen tale. But reality of course proved to be of a different stuff than dreams, and the last 15 years have been hard work – with much more time spent in offices, meeting rooms etc. than with animals. I have always held the view that a top executive (if you can use that term of a zoo director!) should not sit in his position forever, but now and then rethink his base. When you hear yourself now and then say "We have tried this before, and it won't work," it's one of the signs that you have become a prisoner of your own system. I thus feel that I can leave the zoo now – and prefer to do it at a time when the public tell me that it makes them bad to hear I'm leaving, instead of the other way round, when I would feel bad to hear that they were happy!'

Bent Jørgensen intends to move back to his native island, Bornholm, with his wife, and to occupy his time