

AUTUMN 1969

# NATURE IN FOCUS



BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN  
INFORMATION CENTRE  
FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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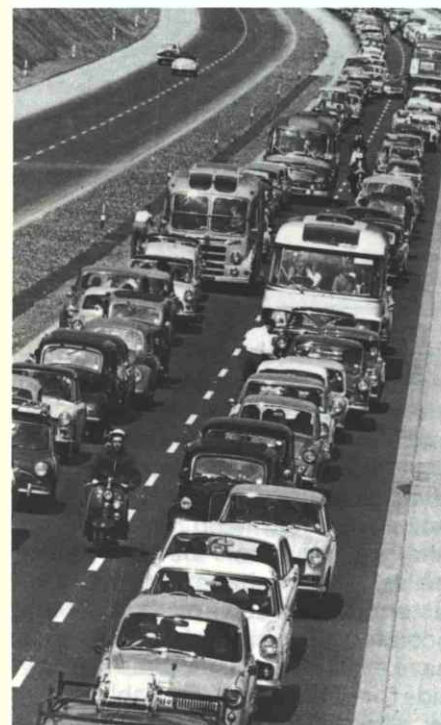
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Cover: Hikers in the Norwegian Fjords (Photo: Hans Hoffmann, Netherlands)

## editorial



The big return—Holiday traffic on the Rochester By-pass (U.K.) (Photo: Central Office of Information, London)

When this issue appears, the long trek back from the summer holidays will be over. Later, statistics will tell us how many millions of Europeans visited the coasts of the Mediterranean, the Atlantic, the North Sea or the Baltic; how many preferred the mountains and the Alps; how many families returned to their country houses or inaugurated second residences. However the figures turn out, one thing is fairly certain: the number of people seeking to escape from the towns and cities into the countryside will have increased.

Most of those returning will be physically and mentally rested and refreshed as a result of out-door living in healthier conditions—fresh air, less noise and the soothing, stimulating experience of "living close to nature". But many will also have been disappointed and shocked by the ugliness and the insanitary conditions in many of the holiday places, camping grounds and other sites they have visited. Some will even have seen, only too clearly, the scars made on the natural surroundings by last year's holiday makers. But how many will have thought enough about this to ask whether they themselves haven't contributed to the further deterioration of the countryside and how they could avoid this in the future?

Of course it is tempting to think "the damage I do is insignificant in relation to that done by all the others". It is tempting but it is nonetheless false. This thinking has to be reversed. "Charity" as they say "begins at home".

The Autumn may be a good time for all of us to ponder our own responsibility for our environment and one need not wait for next Summer holidays to mend one's

ways. Many of us will be out and about in the countryside during week-ends or for short holidays throughout the Autumn, Winter and Spring months. This means many new opportunities of keeping the countryside beautiful and enjoyable, or, on the contrary, of spoiling it. Today, there is less and less justification for claiming that one does not know the rules. As will be shown in the main article in this issue, there are now a large number of country codes explaining in simple language and frequently with excellent illustrations what we should and should not do when we are seeking recreation and regeneration in the countryside.

If each reader of this issue takes the trouble to write for copies of a country code, to one of the addresses indicated in the article, for his own family's use and for distribution to friends—then our holidays, that are at present gravely threatened, will be again what we all want them to be—a source of health and enjoyment.



# Country CODES country CODES country

Every social group, however small or simple its functions, endows itself with a variety of rules to keep it together and to promote the ends for which it has been created. In our complex, modern societies—as we all know—we are virtually entangled in laws, and regulations, frequently sanctioned by severe penalties, and rules of conduct of various kinds. Many of these latter are unwritten, handed down from parents, educators or simply the leading members of a group. Whilst punishment for transgression of such rules may occasionally be severe enough (e.g. exclusion from the group or, in gang warfare, a knife in the back), they are usually not backed up by administrative and legal sanctions. This does not mean that “wrongdoers” may break these rules with total impunity. The disapproval of other members of the community or group in question acts as a deterrent. Perhaps more importantly there is the realisation that compliance with these rules is for the common good and personal safety or well-being.

Occasionally the need is felt to put certain rules of personal behaviour into writing as a means of educating people and obtaining general adherence to these rules. These are then frequently published as “Codes”. A growing number of such Codes relating to our behaviour in the countryside have come into existence during the last two decades or so, in response to the increasing concern with our natural environment.

## The City Dweller

Those who live and work in the countryside are normally respectful of the environment from which they



Parking and picnicking in the Lake District (Photo © G. V. Berry, Kendal, U.K.)

draw their livelihood. But when the farmer goes to the big city he is more often than not ignorant of urban traffic rules and requires to learn these rules for his own safety and that of others. Conversely, the city dweller is used to doors which close automatically, to animals on leads or in cages, to dustbins emptied regularly and to hard-wearing concrete pavements. When visiting the countryside, he may not appreciate the consequences of leaving a gate open, or failing to clean up a picnic site before he returns home. The growing numbers of such “escapees” and the inherent vulnerability of the natural environment have brought these problems more and more into the open.

That is why “codes” and “rules” have to be set down clearly and publicised, if we are to ensure that the visitor to the countryside is aware of the social behaviour necessary in this environment. With the coming of the “leisure age” the need for such action becomes increasingly apparent. During the industrial revolution, people flocked to the towns to work. Now, stifled by the noise and fumes, bored by drabness and being crowded together in long lines of identical houses or soaring blocks of flats, they are returning to the country for physical relaxation and spiritual regeneration.

## Pressure

Obeying this urge, they pour out in their cars, on foot, by bus, train and bicycle by the thousand, in quest of space, fresh air, peace and a glimpse of open country. Many will, however, bring with them a paraphernalia of picnic baskets, chairs, tables, sandwiches, cameras, transistor radios and other so-called “comforts” which they still must have even when visiting the countryside for refreshment. Probably in days to come the transistorised TV will provide us with the spectacle of a family huddled in a lay-by gazing absorbedly at some programme. All this brings in its wake pressure on the countryside; the motor cars crowd the narrow roads, frighten animals, park on roadside verges; picnic papers, bottles and waste are thrown around; fires are lit and not always extinguished, pop music from transistors rends the silence of the countryside. Indeed at some of the more popular tourist spots there is an excuse for wondering if you have got away from it all at all or if you would have been wiser to stay in your own front garden.

## Other Dangers

Of course, some have a more genuine interest in the countryside, in nature, and wild life, and will not be guilty of the more obvious “crimes”



People always seem to be attracted to the coast-scene at Margate (U.K.) (Photo © Brian Hawkers, Sittingbourne, Kent, U.K.)

of the week-end tripper. But even they can be forgetful—or maybe just over-enthusiastic. The amateur bird photographer can disturb nesting birds, the rambler may unwittingly trample crops and the keen amateur botanist sees no harm in taking home pressed flowers for his collection. The hunter sees his sport as no different from, say, the athlete; a competition between man and the forces of nature.

Modern technology has added its own hazards. The polythene bag, so useful to picnickers, can be fatal to animals. The numerous disposable containers increase the litter problem, though the reduction in the use of the glass bottle mitigates at least one hazard for animals in the countryside. Sometimes, apparent kindness can work against the well-being of animals, particularly wild life. For instance the feeding of moor ponies by tourists makes these animals dependent on this and consequently unable, or unwilling, to fend for themselves during the winter, with a resultant reduction in their numbers.

There are often no direct regulations to cover many of these acts except when they become excessive, e.g. considerable noise or when a rare species of animal, bird or plant is threatened. But the accumulation of lesser acts by a number of people

can still be upsetting to the dwellers (flora, fauna and humans) of the countryside.

Human beings themselves are not the only defaulters—their domestic pets, particularly the dog, can be a cause of worry especially to sheep and deer. It may all be good fun and exercise for ‘Rover’ but it can mean harm or death to the harried animal or its young.

## Main Features of Codes

The country codes described later have been brought together as the result of a survey in member countries by the Centre. Whilst not claiming to be exhaustive, the selection can be considered as representative of existing codes in Western Europe. Whereas a few countries have two or more codes to their credit, some countries do not, to our knowledge, yet possess any code at all!

Most codes set out a relatively small number of rules of behaviour, either as maxims of what should be done by the individual or of what he should not do—or a mixture of positive and negative exhortations. They usually consist of short sentences in imperative form, followed by explanatory texts giving the reasons behind the rules and describing the consequences of non observance. They are frequently illustrated and

# Country CODES country CODES country

many use humour as the vehicle for getting the message across. The advantage of the illustrated code is that it can frequently be understood by children for whom the text may still present difficulties, while their impact on adults can be accentuated and retention of the rules made easier.

Country codes are very susceptible to all presentation media. Leaflets and booklets are, of course, standard, as are posters which are usually given as wide a distribution as possible, and are especially effective at transport centres, e.g. bus and railway stations, or in the vehicles themselves. Stickers, bookmarks and franking dies can very easily carry one or more maxims of any code. The rules can be very effectively shown in the form of a film, film strip or television trailer. Exhibitions, radio and press are also very useful at public holidays to reinforce the need to observe these codes. Also, being fairly succinct, they can easily be inserted in publications, handbooks and so on.

## Distribution

To illustrate just how wide and varied a distribution can be given to a Country Code, note can be taken of the figures for the various media given in 1968 for the British Country Code Campaign.

## Booklet

First published in May 1951, it has been reprinted seven times. Sales exceed 120,000.

1952, a display set of 12 poster cards was shown on circuits which included some 2,700 sites in all parts of the country, such as factories, shops, department stores, youth clubs and public libraries.

Sets were also displayed by voluntary organisations at conferences and exhibitions, and at many additional extra distribution points.

1953, a **wall sheet**, 30" x 40", printed in five colours, was produced in English and Welsh and displayed in schools throughout England and Wales. Copies were also displayed through voluntary organisations. Over 55,000 have been distributed.

1953, a **poster card**, 14½" x 9½" for semi-permanent display, was produced for use on premises where space is limited. Total issue, 10,000.

1954, a **film strip** with lecture notes was produced. Over 750 copies have been sold.

1956, **franking machine dies**. Sets of dies for use on postal franking machines were produced. 1964/67, special campaigns were operated in ten large towns in summer months, whereby some 20,000,000 letters were franked each year with selected maxims.

1956/58, a **series of humorous posters**, 12 in all, 14½" x 9½", each illustrating, by cartoon (Thelwell) and verse a maxim of the Code, was produced. Total issue 800,000. 1966/67, six of these posters were reproduced as postcards for distribution at National Park Information Centres and displays. Total issue 53,000.

1955/67 **roundels**, consisting of a country scene with a caption, were produced each year, mainly for display in London and provincial public transport vehicles. Total issue exceeds 635,000.

1958/67 a **country code leaflet**, explaining the ten maxims has been issued each year. 88,000 were distributed in 1966 and 1967.

1959/64 a **series of four posters**, 15" x 20", in full colour, each carrying a direct message of the consequences of violating the Country Code, were produced. Over 235,000 have been issued.

1961/67, **television trailers**. A series of one-minute trailers, illustrating the maxims of the Country Code were produced in animated cartoon treatment, for television screening.

**National parks posters**. The current series of wall sheets and "Our Heritage" posters, produced by the Commission, include the Country Code. 546,000 have been issued.

1966/67 a **bookmark** was produced for distribution through libraries, information centres and at exhibitions. Distribution of the first printing of 100,000 commenced in December 1966 and a further 200,500 were printed in 1967.

### Contents

While certain basic rules, such as "Do not light fires" appear in most codes, they do not, however, conform to a single pattern. Most of them obviously are designed for the particular circumstances and psychology in the country where they are issued, or indeed for specific situations or activities. Examples of the former are "Green 10" of the Netherlands, or the "Country Code" of Malta. Examples of the latter are the various mountain codes, or Water Sports Code, or Pesticides Code of the United Kingdom. Together, they form an interesting collection of the sort of "rules and regulations" that may be incorporated in a code. This information may be of assistance to anyone wishing to establish a code or revise an existing one.

Caused by a careless picnic fire (Photo communicated by the French National Agency)



### Conclusion

Even though they may not have legal force in their own rights, many codes do refer to laws and regulations carrying sanctions and penalties. Just as these codes are not "laws", the offenders are not "criminals" in the accepted sense. With the usual exceptions, most people who fail to observe these codes do so unwittingly and out of ignorance of the consequent harm. Once aware of the codes, the majority can quickly see the sense in them and strive to abide by them. Thus it is extremely important that, in the first place, there is a code, and secondly that as many people as possible are made aware of it. Then, not only will the environment, and all the animals and countryside dwellers benefit, but also all those who travel into the countryside in search of a little happiness and peace.



# Country CODES 1 general codes

Practical informations concerning these codes on page 22.



### Country Code (United Kingdom)

A well established (1951) "code of conduct for the guidance of persons visiting the countryside", contains ten maxims. Basically published as an illustrated booklet with line drawings by James Lucas. Fairly detailed explanatory notes.

1. Guard against all risk of fire.
2. Fasten all gates.
3. Keep dogs under proper control.
4. Keep to the paths across farm land.
5. Avoid damaging fences, hedges and walls.
6. Leave no litter.
7. Safeguard water supplies.
8. Protect wild life, wild plants and trees.
9. Go carefully on country roads.
10. Respect the life of the countryside.

(1)



### "Green 10" (Netherlands)

A general code for behaviour aimed particularly at visitors to the countryside. Published as an illustrated colour booklet, it makes use of a little "comic strip" character to emphasise the points humorously, yet seriously. Considerable background text.

1. Do not damage trees and bushes.
2. Leave flowers alone.
3. Leave birds and other animals in peace.
4. Be extremely careful with fire in the woods, heather and dunes.

5. Do not dump rubbish.
6. Everybody should help in safeguarding the peace of nature.
7. Park cars only in parking lots.
8. Consider others when placing your tent or caravan.
9. Obey local rules and regulations.
10. Respect common property and that of others.

(2)



### Country Code (Malta)

Issued (1969) because of concern with the diminution of the Maltese countryside. It is hoped that this code will be adopted by every resident and visitor. Infringement of the code is stated as being an offence against nature and humanity. The preparation and publication of this code forms part of the European Conservation Year 1970 National Programme in Malta. It is published as a booklet with illustrations and expanded by a rather literary text.

1. Make the countryside safe.
2. Keep the countryside clean.
3. Provide a peaceful countryside.
4. Respect wild life.
5. Protect trees and wild plants.
6. Preserve private property.
7. Safeguard the water.
8. Conserve the soil.

(3)



### "Guest of Nature" (Sweden)

An illustrated booklet which gives texts based on the principle that people visiting the countryside are "guests" of those who live and

work there. Under the photos short texts, drawing attention to the existence of laws where appropriate, are inserted with the following captions:

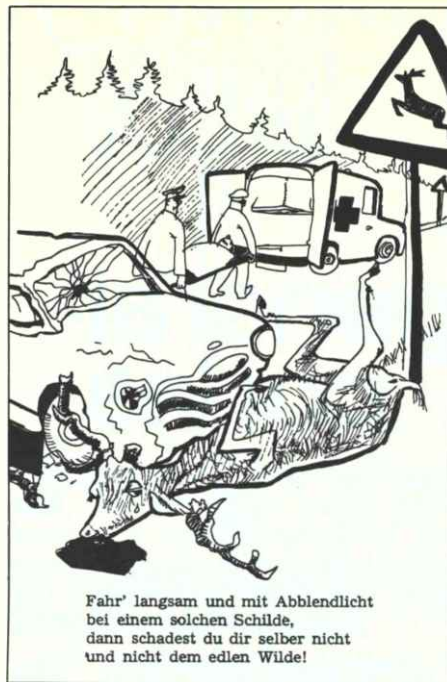
1. Land and gardens.
2. Cultivated land and fields.
3. Shut the gate!
4. Fire in forests and fields.
5. Cutting branches.
6. Flowers, berries and mushrooms.
7. Birds—their nests, eggs and young.
8. Camping or fishing.
9. Would you like to picnic here?
10. Dogs and cats.
11. Would you like to tread here? <sup>(4)</sup>



### Country Code (Federal Republic of Germany)

A general code issued as a booklet in the form of rhymes under humorous drawings. Can also be used as a wall chart. The gist of the contents are as follows:

1. Do not touch young animals because the mother may not accept them afterwards.
2. Do not pick flowers in great numbers.
3. Keep your dog on the lead.
4. Be careful with cigarette ends.
5. Do not light fires in the woods.
6. Do not disturb the birds.
7. Please bury your rubbish or take it away with you.
8. Do not disturb animals at their feeding place.
9. Do not chase animals.
10. Drive carefully where there is a "Beware of Deer" sign.
11. In the countryside behave in a reasonable manner. <sup>(5)</sup>



Fahr' langsam und mit Abblendlicht  
bei einem solchen Schilde,  
dann schadest du dir selber nicht  
und nicht dem edlen Wilde!

Rule 10 of the Country Code of the Federal Republic of Germany



### The 10 Commandments of the "Friends of Nature" (Belgium)

Issued as a rhymed document and general guide to the Belgium population, residents and visitors alike. Maxims are expanded by a sentence or so.

1. Protect nature in its entirety.
2. Respect all living things.
3. Don't use poisons and traps.
4. Protect animals and birds.
5. Respect crops and plantations.
6. Don't pollute rivers and streams.
7. Take care with fire.
8. Preserve the beauty and cleanliness of the country.
9. Don't disturb the silence of nature.
10. Learn nature conservation. <sup>(6)</sup>



### 10 Commandments of Nature Conservation (Austria)

Issued as a rhymed 1-page document by the Land of Kärnten with a view to achieving protection of its

environment. Main points form part of a longer sentence.

1. Always be aware that any interference with nature can have unforeseen effects.
2. Keep water clean.
3. Do not degrade the landscape.
4. Do not interfere without good reason in a well-established water cycle.
5. Do not destroy the soil.
6. Do not pollute the air.
7. Do not burn material which can be left to decay naturally.
8. Protect and conserve the plants and animals of your homeland.
9. Take care that the forests are protected from misuse and destruction.
10. Help to increase forest cover. <sup>(7)</sup>



### Urgent Appeal for Nature Bavaria, Federal Republic of Germany

Issued by the Land of Bavaria in the form of a one-page leaflet. Maxims are expanded in the leaflet.

1. Please protect the plant cover.
2. Please leave the fauna alone.
3. When you drive or walk, please keep to the roads.
4. Real enjoyment in nature requires quietness.
5. Do not disturb the beauty and peace of the forest and its animals.
6. Help, by your example and guidance, to safeguard the beauty and variety of the landscape. <sup>(8)</sup>



### Twelve Commandments for Nature Protection (Italy)

These are included as a chapter in a book called "Nature and Man" by Alessandro Ghigi. Major points of each paragraph are as follows:

1. Don't roll heavy stones down the mountainside.
2. Don't uproot trees growing on the mountainside.
3. Don't devastate the woodlands.
4. Don't cause forest fires.
5. Don't tear up flowers or plants by the roots.
6. Don't litter the ground with papers and other rubbish.
7. Don't poison the waters.
8. Firmly oppose the discharging of unpurified industrial waste in public or private waters.
9. When sea fishing, use large-mesh nets which will permit the small fish to escape; don't trawl within 3 miles of the coast.
10. Don't hunt in the Spring.
11. Don't disturb nests.
12. Don't kill small animals. Oppose the indiscriminate use of pesticides which may prove deadly to animals and even to man himself. <sup>(9)</sup>



### Men, Nature and Landscape (Switzerland)

An illustrated brochure, by the Swiss Society for the Protection of Nature, which outlines behaviour under the following headings:

Degradation as often found in Europe (Photo: Seppjäger, Frankfurt)



1. Responsibility?
2. Landscape in danger because of the population explosion.
3. More people need more space.
4. Artificial landscape—loss of habitat for flora and fauna.
5. Polluted water damages life.
6. Polluted air threatens our health—noise becomes a nuisance.
7. Recreation in the open air.
8. Without knowledge of nature there is no intelligent use of it.
9. Protection of nature and landscape. <sup>(10)</sup>



### The Task of Nature Conservation (Federal Republic of Germany)

A small booklet illustrated by line drawings giving possible means of action under 20 points concerning the relationship of man, nature and landscape.

- A. Protective conservation
  1. Protection of plants.
  2. Protection of animals.
  3. Natural monuments.
  4. Nature protection areas.
  5. Landscape protection.
- B. Landscaping
  - I. Economical
    6. Water works.



### The Countryside A code for Women's Institutes (United Kingdom)

This "code" is really more of an information leaflet. Text with photographs and a "mark your own score" type questionnaire, suggest action



whereby members of women's institutes can help in protecting the environment and persuade others to do the same. The main problems which could be tackled are set out under the following headings:

1. Water.
2. Air pollution.
3. Litter.
4. World population.
5. Trees.
6. Pylons (electricity supply lines).

(12)



### The 10 Commandments of Fagnard (Belgium)

In a special illustrated booklet giving information about the Hautes Fagnes Nature Reserve, 10 commandments appear;

1. Keep quiet—do not use transistors.
2. Don't smoke.
3. Don't light fires.
4. Respect the young plantations and trees.
5. Keep to paths by using nature trails and fire breaks.
6. Leave your dog at home.
7. Respect and protect the monuments of the Fagne.
8. Admire and study the plants and flowers but leave them in their natural setting.
9. Protect all animals, don't touch the young foals and respect nests and the young birds.
10. Keep empty bottles, cans and other wrappings in your bag so that the site is not soiled after you have passed by.

(13)

Nests should remain unmolested: Whiskered Tern on nest (© World Wildlife Fund)



### Nature Protection Through Correct Conduct (Federal Republic of Germany)

This is a new type of country code which has been developed in the form of coloured photograph postcards. A conservation society concerned with problems of the German Waddensee has started this series of postcards aimed at tourists and holiday makers, especially children and youngsters, at the coast.

No. 1 *Young Harbour Seal*  
Text on the back of the postcard:

"Young Harbour Seals (mid-June and July) are often on their own for a while, but not abandoned by their mothers. Only if they are real 'howlers' (young seals which have lost their mothers) do they need human help. The only correct action is to leave the animal where it is and to inform a Seal Hunting Gùider or an experienced adult!"

No. 2 *Shore birds are breeding on the ground* (showing a Kentish Plover with its 2 eggs and 2 chicks)

The text reads:

"Lack of caution is dangerous for clutches and chicks. If you find them, you must know that the adults are close! In order to allow them to come back, only glance at the nest and then move off quickly."

The series is to be continued. (14)

# Country Codes 2 special codes



### The Mountain Code (United Kingdom)

This code is intended to help people enjoy the mountains and hills safely, in peace with others and with due respect for the ideals of conservation and rights of landowners. Short maxims are given, illustrated by cartoons. As well as repeating the ten maxims of "The Country Code" (mentioned earlier), it also includes the following:

1. Most people enjoy the quiet of the countryside. Loud voices and the noise of portable radios disturb others.
2. It is dangerous to throw stones and dislodge boulders.
3. Do not pollute water.
4. Keep to footpaths through farm and woodland. If in doubt ask permission.
5. Camp on an official site or obtain permission from the landowner.
6. Take all your litter home.
7. Remember the danger of starting a fire.
8. Avoid startling sheep and cattle.
9. Avoid disturbing wild life.
10. Enjoy the plants, flowers and trees, but do not remove or damage them.

(15)



### Mountain Code (Austria)

A code entitled "Hiker, Climbers—Watch out!" is published jointly as

a wall chart (text only) by the Austrian Mountain Rescue Service and the Kärnt Mountain Service. It is basically in two parts: 1) rules to avoid accidents, 2) rules to protect nature. The head points of the latter are as follows:

1. Don't pick any protected plants.
2. Don't capture and kill protected animals—leave their habitat in peace.
3. Accord full protection to all plants and animals in nature reserves.
4. Leave game alone. Don't touch young animals.
5. Leave all plants and animals alone.
6. In the countryside you should behave as a responsible person. Do not make unnecessary noise with radios or motors.
7. When driving a car watch out for hikers.
8. Don't damage road surfaces.
9. Protect mountains and fields and the fences, walls, etc.
10. Do not start fires.
11. Do not litter the landscape—especially the water. Leave the spot at which you stopped as you yourself would like to find it.
12. Happiness for all will result from obeying these rules.

(16)



### Outdoor Studies Code (United Kingdom)

This code was written as a supplement to the British Country Code to remind those who were planning and undertaking field studies of their special responsibilities: personal safety, respect for the interests of





others and the conservation of the areas used. Produced as a leaflet, texts are given on the following exhortations:

1. Plan and lead excursions well.
2. Take safety seriously.
3. Choose and use your area carefully.
4. Respect ownership.
5. Think of other users of the countryside.
6. Leave the area as you found it.
7. Avoid disturbing plants and animals.
8. Do not collect unnecessarily.
9. Safeguard rare species.
10. Give no one cause to regret your visit.

(17)



### Forest Rules (Federal Republic of Germany)

Two sets of Forest Rules are issued by The German Forest Protection Society, one nationally and one regionally, both as one page leaflets.

- A.
1. Be quiet in the forest in order not to frighten the animals.
  2. Please keep to trails and foot-paths.
  3. Keep your dog on a leash.
  4. Please do not smoke or light fires in the woods.
  5. Please don't break branches.
  6. Please do not pick any flowers, but enjoy them where God created them.
  7. Never touch a young healthy animal because its mother is likely to be nearby and could refuse it afterwards.

8. Please do not deposit any rubbish in the forest (papers, tins, bottles, etc.).
9. Please don't ruin the appearance of a tree by carving the bark with figures etc.

B. The forest thanks you:

1. If you don't smoke.
2. If you don't turn it into a rubbish dump.
3. If you keep quiet in the woods.
4. If you keep to the roads when walking or hiking.
5. If you park your car only in parking places.
6. If you don't use your motor cycle or moped in the woods.
7. If you put your tent and caravan in the places provided.
8. If you keep dogs on a leash.
9. If you don't damage the trees, bushes and flowers, and leave the animals alone.
10. In other words, if you behave as you would at home.

(18)

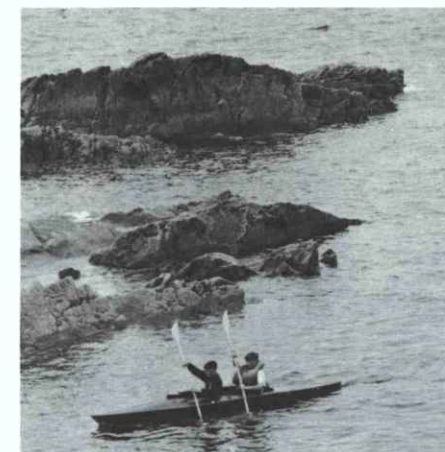


### Ten Commandments for Nature Photographers

In an article written for Europhot, Paul Géroutet, scientific adviser of the World Wildlife Fund, has drawn up a set of rules appealing to photographers to exercise care when "hunting with a camera." The maxims shown below are accompanied by more detailed explanations.

1. Respect for life is a priority everywhere and at all times.
2. Respect the reserves.

Water Sports need a special code (Central Office of Information, London)



3. Respect property.
4. Be discreet.
5. Don't leave traces of your presence.
6. Be very careful with nesting birds.
7. Don't frighten animals.
8. Don't search for rarity at any price.
9. Behave properly.
10. Don't hesitate to interfere when you see these rules being broken.

(19)



### The Water Sports Code (United Kingdom)

With the increase in recreational uses of water, and in particular the number of stretches of water serving a multi-recreational purpose, a special code has been drawn up covering recommendations for recreational users of inland waters. Published as a small booklet with line drawings, they include the following which apply to conservation:

1. Avoid damaging banks and shoreline vegetation.
2. Avoid using areas important to wintering wildfowl, nesting birds and spawning fish in the appropriate seasons.
3. Do not trespass on private banks or moorings.
4. Do everything possible to avoid pollution. Do not throw litter or rubbish into the water or leave it lying about on the banks.

(20)



### Pesticides A Code of Conduct (United Kingdom)

This is a rather specialised code which gives guidance to organisations and individuals, who deal with, use, or study the effects of pesticides. These are set out under the following headings; each with a rather attractive symbol:

1. The role of the Government.
2. The role of the manufacturers.
3. The role of the distributors.
4. The role of advisers.
5. The role of agricultural and horticultural users.
6. The role of gardeners.
7. The role of conservationists.

This last section urges conservationists to:

- A. Maintain constant surveillance to ensure that wild life and essential amenities of the countryside—waterways, seashore and territorial waters—are being safeguarded.
- B. Report objectively to the nearest office of the appropriate Ministry any observed adverse effects of pesticides on land, air, water and wild life.
- C. Co-operate with government, manufacturers and distributors in measures designed to prevent the misuse of pesticides.

(21)





# rhine pollution rhine pollution

During the latter part of June 1969, a supply of poisonous substances escaped into the Rhine. As a result of this regrettable incident, hundreds of thousands of fish were killed and water supplies imperilled, even though it was to combat just such threats that the European Water Charter was launched in May 1968. As a reminder of the continuing need for urgent action against water pollution, the Committee of Ministers adopted the following Resolution:

**Resolution (69) 26  
on the poisoning of the waters  
of the Rhine  
adopted by the Ministers'  
Deputies on 25 June 1969**

*The Committee of Ministers,*

*Deploring the poisoning of the waters of the Rhine, which is causing considerable damage,*

*Conveys its sympathy to the populations affected by this disastrous pollution,*

*Recalls that the Council of Europe has made the conservation of nature and natural resources one of its objectives and that the member states have laid down principles for water conservation in the European Water Charter, proclaimed on 6 May 1968;*

*Calls upon all the governments of member states to increase their efforts to reduce water pollution, to ensure the rational use of water supplies and to intensify their co-operation within the Council of Europe with a view to agreeing on common action in this field.*

**"Femmes d'aujourd'hui"  
Communiqué**

Also concerned about this disaster, the "Message in the Sea" campaign (the activities of which have been reported in "Nature in Focus") whose organisers, the Franco-Belgian weekly women's magazine "Femmes d'Aujourd'hui", have given considerable assistance to the Council of Europe in disseminating the



Krefeld, Germany, 24 June 1969 (A.P. Photos)

European Water Charter, issued the following communiqué:

The results are being analysed and will be published in collaboration with the Central Hydrographic Service of the French Navy and the Nature Conservation Service of the Natural History Museum in Paris.

However, World Operation 'Message in the Sea', noting the scale of the disaster which confirms the warnings which it has been their aim to issue throughout the world, intends to draw immediate attention to the first results of 'Message in the Rhine'.

"On 5 May 1968, on the occasion of the promulgation of the European Water Charter, World Operation 'Message in the Sea,' in co-operation with the Council of Europe, launched 'messages' in the Rhine at Strasbourg. These 'messages' were intended to be used to study the causes of pollution and to show that 'to pollute rivers is to pollute the sea into which they flow'.

— The messages launched at Strasbourg have been found on the

German, Dutch and French banks, and in the Rhine estuary.

— On the one hand a rapid spread of polluting elements has been noted. On the other hand, depending on the currents, the spread has been held back in stagnant zones, formed by temporary obstacles. This hold-up varies from a few weeks to several months depending on the nature of the obstacle.

Consequently, it is important to take account of:

— the fact that the coastal zone on both sides of the Rhine estuary is vulnerable and that careful watch should be kept;

— the fact that there are, in certain parts of the Rhine, zones where 'pockets' or 'spots' of noxious substances will remain which must be eliminated before they are broken up and carried downstream again by the current;

— the fact that it is indispensable that pollution activities must be



# pollution rh

considered at international level. It is unthinkable that, as has been observed, industries should continue to discharge, with impunity, noxious wastes which, depending on the currents, can degrade the coastal zones belonging to other countries, even rather distant ones.

The maximum effort must therefore be made to speed up the implementation of the necessary measures at European level, along the lines of the enterprise undertaken by the Council of Europe."

**Draft Convention**

In May 1969 the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe debated a Report\* presented by the Belgian Senator, Georges Housiaux, which contains a proposal on a draft European Convention on the Protection of Fresh Water against Pollution. This text has now been referred by the Committee of Ministers to the competent experts of the Council for an opinion.



(\* Doc. 2561 available on application to the Centre)



# 1970 european CONSERVATION year

## NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Austria

Austria is now involved with its preparations for ECY 1970; plans include the publication of a document "Nature Conservation in Austria"; a special stamp showing the "Krimmler Wasserfälle", a natural feature which was granted the European Diploma; plans to create a National Park "Hohe Tauern" for 1970. During the Vienna Festival 1970, there will be talks on "Nature and Man". Prominent politicians, scientists and experts from all parts of Europe will give talks on this problem.

In co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry "Forest Day" will be given special attention in schools. The importance of the forest as a factor of economic and recreational value will be illustrated by means of lectures and excursions. In 1969, a "Forest Week" with the motto "The Forest in the Industrial Economy" will be organised.

The publication of a manual for Nature Conservation entitled "Natureschutz von A bis Z" (Nature Conservation from A to Z) is also planned.

### Cyprus

Publicity and education of the public on the importance of nature conservation will be assured by

lectures, films, the issue of stamps and leaflets, excursions to certain beauty spots, etc.

A study will be made of existing legislation with a view to arriving at suggestions for its modification and/or the enactment of up-to-date laws aimed at the conservation of nature in general. Recommendations will be submitted aimed specifically at the protection of flora and fauna.

### Finland

A national committee has been formed, chaired by the Prime Minister, Mr. Mauno Koivisto. This Committee has appointed a working group to take charge of planning and of programmes and activities for European Conservation Year.

Five special groups have been set up to study specific topics and to propose themes and actions. These groups deal respectively with:

- legislation and administration;
- information and education;
- nature reserves, landscapes and regional planning;
- nature and leisure;
- protection of the environment against pollution, litter, etc.



## GENERAL NOTES

### Netherlands Booklet

A special booklet has been produced in the Netherlands as an introduction to European Conservation Year. The publication was made possible by a grant from the Ministry of Culture, Recreation and Social Welfare. More than 20,000 copies will be distributed.

A well-known Dutch novelist gives a general introduction, explaining why a joint effort to keep the environment clean may be a matter of life or death. This is followed by more factual information on what will, or can, be done in 1970.

*(For further details or copies apply to the Netherlands National Agency; for address see inside back cover)*

### Postmark

The Tree and Star Symbol of the European Committee has been incorporated into a special post frank now in use in Paris to draw attention to European Conservation Year 1970.

### Swiss Sticker

An attractive, postage-stamp size, 3 colour sticker has been produced in Switzerland to publicise European Conservation Year 1970. It is also being used in the Federal Republic of Germany.

### British booklet — German version

The authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany have now made available a German version of the booklet produced by the United Kingdom on European Conservation Year 1970.

### Study Course

In the framework of European Conservation Year 1970, the Italian Government plans to organise a study course on "The problems of ecology in the programmes of adult education". The course will take place from 10-25 April 1970 at the "European Centre of Education", Villa Falconieri, Frascati, near Rome. The participants will be: representatives from national authorities responsible for adult education; educationalists and or scientists specialised in the teaching of science to adults.

The subjects discussed will be "man's place in nature and the positive and negative effects of his activities therein" and teaching by audio-visual and technical aids and mass media methods.



# short notes

Krimml Waterfalls (Austria)



## European Committee



The European Committee for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources of the Council of Europe, grouping leading governmental experts from 18 countries, met in Strasbourg from 16-19 June 1969.

The Committee agreed the terms of two recommendations, the first on the control of pesticides and the second on sea pollution. These will be examined by the Committee of Ministers in the Autumn.

The experts sounded a note of alarm on account of the rising amounts of wastes that need to be disposed of without endangering life or disfiguring the environment. They also reviewed progress within the Committee's intensive programme of work, in particular on water conservation, the protection of coastal areas and soil conservation.

Preparations for European Conservation Year 1970 were reviewed. The Committee noted with satisfaction that most member countries

have set up important programmes at national level and that official invitations to participate in the European Conservation Conference were being issued to countries in Eastern Europe and to the United States and Canada.

Mr. R. E. Boote (United Kingdom) was elected Chairman of the European Committee and Mr. Kesteloot (Belgium) and Mr. Tendron (France) were elected Vice-Chairmen.

## Krimml Waterfalls (Austria)

The Council of Europe Nature Diploma, awarded for the site of the KRIMM WATERFALLS (AUSTRIA), was presented by Mr. Peter Smithers, Secretary General of the Council, at a ceremony held on May 30. The presentation was made to the Salzburg provincial authorities in the "Hall of Knights" of the "Residence", Salzburg.

The Krimml Waterfalls are in the heart of the Austrian Alps near the Tyrolian border, in which lies the highest mountain of Austria, the "Grossglockner" (3798 m.). In 1961, the Krimml Falls were declared a "National Monument".

The falls plunge in three successive cascades down a 400 metre precipice. They are accounted among the finest alpine falls in the world because of their height and the abundance of water. The European Committee for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources was represented at the ceremony by its former Chairman, Mr. E. Dottrens (Switzerland).



Wollmatinger Ried (F.R.G.)

## Wollmatinger Ried Nature Reserve (Federal Republic of Germany)

On Saturday 28 June 1969, the Wollmatinger Ried Nature Reserve, which forms part of the region of Lake Constance and the Ermatingen Basin, received the Council of Europe Nature Diploma. Mr. Fadil H. Sur, Director of Economic and Social Affairs, presented the Diploma to Prof. Wilhelm Hahn, Minister of Education of Land Baden-Württemberg, on behalf of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

The Wollmatinger Ried reserve comprises (a) riparian dykes on which grow white willows, buckthorn and brome-grass and which by their height constitute an animal sanctuary during floods and (b) 1,000 acres of marshland of exceptional beauty in which a wide range of rare and protected plants, including several varieties of orchid, are to be found. The reserve is a nesting-ground for a large number of rare and remarkable aquatic birds and a resting and wintering area for numerous migratory birds.

The reserve enjoys the same system of protection as Lake Constance. The German authorities have also furnished the required guarantee regarding the perimeter of the reserve, the purification of the water and the limitation and control of shooting.

The European Committee for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources was represented at the ceremony in Constance by its Chairman, Mr. Robert Boote (United Kingdom).

## Stuttgart Meeting

80 delegates from 13 countries, including Eastern European countries, took part in the European Conference on the work of "Verein Naturschutzpark E.V.", which was held at Stuttgart on 2 and 3 May 1969, under the presidency of Mr. Hochstrasser, Honorary General Consul, on the sixtieth anniversary of the Park. Amongst the guests were, M. Sten Renborg, Deputy Director of Economic and Social Affairs of

the Council of Europe, M. Hayo Hoekstra, consultant expert of the Division of Environment and Natural Resources of the Council of Europe, Mr. E. J. H. Berwick, Secretary General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Professor W. A. Plattner, Chairman of the International Commission for the protection of Alpine Regions (CIPRA) and Professor J. P. Harroy, Chairman of IUCN's International Commission on National Parks.

The national reports have given an excellent insight into the preparations for European Conservation Year 1970. They show how it is intended to awaken the consciences of people on matters concerning nature conservation, shaping the environment, national parks and natural sites, by means of exhibitions, seminars, public conferences, publications, courses, film shows, and radio and television broadcasts.

All the participants were agreed that European Conservation Year 1970 must not only consist of information activities, but also achieve practical results and stimulate the necessary scientific research.

It was unanimously stressed that the possibilities for encouraging conservation of the biosphere and the environment should not only be brought home to the general public but also to all those in the appropriate responsible positions in government.

The more the countryside suffers from the growing demands of people, from the population explosion and from ever more complex technology, the greater the necessity for the counter-weight of places to relax

# short notes

and to enjoy one's leisure. More leisure demands more available space: national parks, natural parks and green belts. For relaxation and leisure pursuits, spacious, but neglected, areas are ready-made to meet the needs of society, both now and in the future.

It was also always necessary to underline the fact that protected areas and open space allowed natural things to grow and develop and were, by this criteria, indispensable.

These primary tasks necessitated not just simply the spread of ideological principles but also concrete solutions by the state and local authorities, as well as by national and international organisations concerned with these problems, as it was only by the communal effort at the highest levels of regional planning that success would be achieved.

As Mr. Sten Renborg emphasised in his introduction "Nature conservation today lays the foundations for tomorrow's Europe".

## Film Review

The Council of Europe's Division for General and Technical Education holds an annual film viewing session. Those films selected as being of outstanding merit receive funds from the Council for Cultural Co-operation to provide other language versions in order that the films may be seen and appreciated throughout Europe. For 1970, the subject chosen is Nature Conservation.

*(For further information contact Mr. G. Bemtgen, Head of the Division for General and Technical Education, Council of Europe)*

## Film Award

At the Sixth Film Week sponsored by the Council of Europe and held at San Sebastian (Spain) on 17th-21st June 1969, the international jury awarded a Diploma of Quality to the Italian film "Biologia della Libellula" (Biology of the Dragonfly) produced by Carlo Proten.

## American Exhibition

"Can Man Survive"—an exhibit that addresses itself to nothing less than man's continued existence—is being held at the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

The Museum's special exhibit is a compelling statement on the occa-

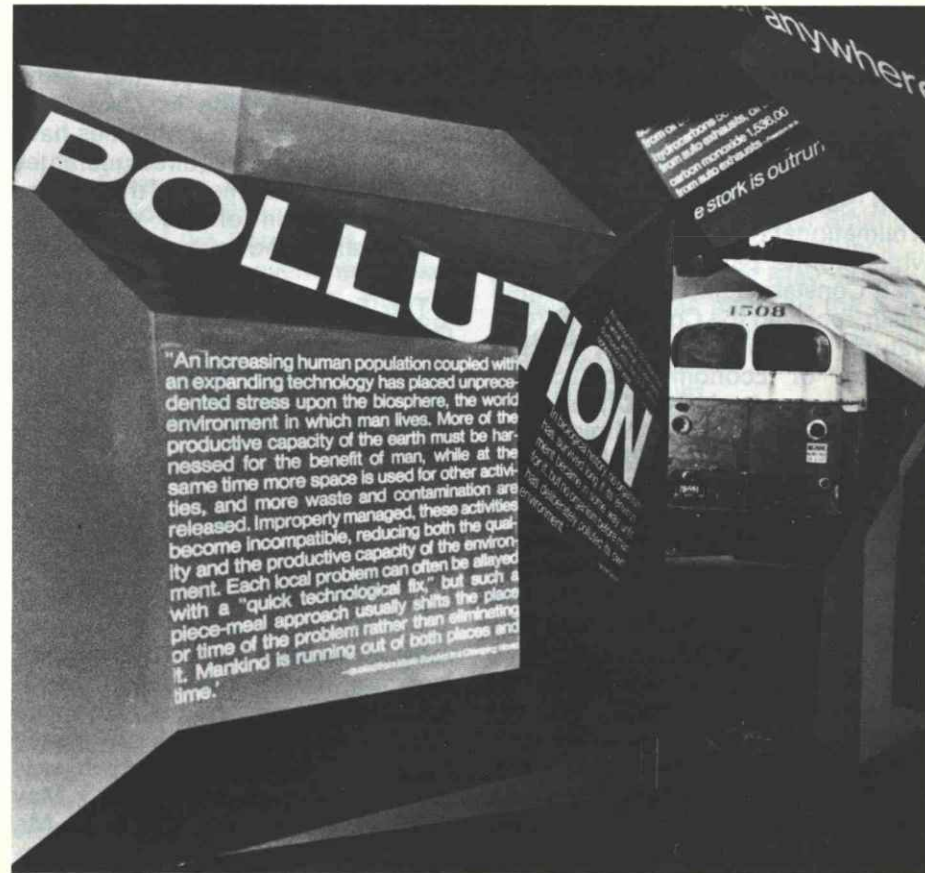


Photo: Dimensional Communications Inc. U.S.A.

# short notes

sion of its Centennial. "Can Man Survive" dramatically shows how man's heedless exploitation of his environment, coupled with an accelerating technology and human population, have resulted in staggering problems in such areas as air and water pollution and urban decay.

Taking two years to make at a cost of some \$650,000 "Can Man Survive?" is shown in the Roosevelt Memorial Hall on the Museum's second floor. The exhibition area is suspended without interior support from a Takanaka Truss, a large, clear-span space frame that is being used for the first time in the United States.

As one walks up the entrance ramp and into a carpeted tunnel or "conditioning chamber", outside noises abruptly cease. Slowly, there is the awareness of new sounds, the sounds of nature: birds singing, water splashing, SILENCE. One is quickly drawn into this new environment and becomes involved both intellectually and emotionally.

The entrance tunnel opens into a softly lighted room. Here, two films simultaneously projected on ten-foot screens quietly illustrate the most essential of points: that all nature is delicately balanced and interrelated, that all life is dependent on this balance and that for any life to exist, there must be sufficient food, water and oxygen.

Moving on, one sees more film, photographs and objects, all of which trace man's development of and relationship to technology. In this section, man's technology—from the early seeds of agriculture to the most recent developments in automation—are viewed positively, at times even humorously.



In the next room, the theme and the mood radically change. Now one is confronted with the negative image of technology. The music becomes increasingly discordant. The walls begin to close in, with asymmetric pieces jutting out from all directions. Visual images of pollution, the population explosion, ugliness, decay grow more and more intense, disjointed, disorienting.

Suddenly, one is moving down the exit ramp. It is quiet again. Looming up are the words "Air, Water, Food, Space". One is looking in a mirror now, seeing himself and the illuminated question: "Can Man Survive?". And a recorded voice repeats the answer again and again: "It's up to you. It's up to you. It's up to you".

"Can Man Survive?" was produced by Dimensional Communications, Inc. of Paterson, N.J. Dr Harry L. Shapiro, Chairman of the

Museum's Department of Anthropology, was the scientist in charge. Gordon R. Reekie, Chairman of the Museum's Department of Exhibition and Graphics Arts, was Co-ordinator. Music was written by Eric Salzman, the well-known composer of electronically integrated sounds.

The Museum's Centennial exhibit will remain open for two years. It is estimated that the exhibit area can accommodate about 500 persons an hour and that the average visitor will spend 30 minutes inside.

Because of the large cost of mounting "Can Man Survive?", there will be an admission charge of \$1 for adults, 50c for children and 35c for students who come in classes that make advance reservations.

*(The above is the text of the Press Release issued in connection with the opening of the Exhibition in May 1969)*

# short notes

## "Pete"

It will be remembered that the main article in the second issue of Nature in Focus was devoted to litter, and the activities of the "Keep Britain Tidy Group" were extensively covered. However, this year's campaign will introduce a new public figure—"Pete". Pete will bring the human touch to the litter problem. He is a reminder of the fact that wherever litter is dropped, somebody, somewhere has to pick it up. Pete appears on most of the posters, stickers and other publicity material used in the campaign.

"Pete" ("Keep Britain Tidy" Group)



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- (1)  
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(Book published by  
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