

IGUANA NEWSBRIEFS

RED GREEN IGUANA

We suggest all IIS members attempt to obtain a copy of the September-October issue of *Audubon Magazine* published by the National Audubon Society. On page 63 of this issue is a full page color photograph of one very red male *Iguana iguana*. The photograph accompanies an article on the Llanos of Central Venezuela, a vast grassy savanna half the size of Texas. Unfortunately, no other information is provided about this most colorful variant.

NO PROBLEM FOR IGUANAS

August 23, 1992 — Hurricane Andrew stormed through the Northern Bahamas. North Eleuthera, Spanish Wells, and Harbour Island all experienced severe destruction. The westerly track of the storm at 25:5 N was well north of all Bahamian iguana populations. None were believed to be seriously affected. Our sympathies are with the the Bahamians who were. We hope they will achieve a full recovery from this serious storm.

IGUANA SMUGGLING CONVICTION

Tom Crutchfield, a Florida reptile dealer was convicted of conspiring to smuggle four endangered Fiji Banded Iguanas, *Brachylophus fasciatus* into Miami, Florida in 1989. Others have been indicted, including Anson Wong of Malaysia who reportedly shipped the Fiji Iguanas in a shipment of other animals. The Fiji Banded Iguana is the more widespread of the two endangered Fijian iguana species. There are thirty-four legal Fiji Banded Iguanas in the United States. Crutchfield was convicted in June in Miami. The U.S. Attorney is seeking a prison sentence and fine. Crutchfield is expected to appeal the conviction.

CYCLURA PROGRAM

On July 9, 1992 IIS President Robert Ehrig presented a slide program on *Cyclura* for the Tampa Bay Herpetological Society. The program featured habitat comparisons of three species of *Cyclura*. Tampa Bay couldn't have been a more hospitable group. Deborah Nuefeld and Janet Truse assisted in the presentation.

BREEDER'S EXPO

Third Annual Captive Breeder's Exposition was held at the Twin Towers Hotel in Orlando, Florida on August 15th and 16th, sponsored by the Central Florida Herpetological Society. Wayne Hill, President of Central Florida Herpetological Society reported that there were over 4,000 attendees this year. Accolades go to the Expo staff who were all courteous and helpful. For the third time the Expo was a huge success and a lot of fun. IIS members Deborah Nuefeld, Janet and Dennis Truse, Lori and Rachel Sandlin manned the IIS booth with live exhibits of five *Iguana iguana*, one *Cyclura nubila*, and one *Ctenosaura similis*. Due in part to the live animals, the IIS booth was very popular and resulted in fifteen new members and two renewals. On behalf of the International Iguana Society, we would like to welcome all our new members.

GREEN IGUANAS IN PUERTO RICO

I.I.S. member, D. Scott Gallagher reports green iguanas, *Iguana iguana* turning up in the wilds of Puerto Rico with greater frequency. He recently sent us a photograph of a very large male retreating into a wetland on the island. The popularity of green iguanas as pets has increased in recent years. The San Juan Star, July 31, 1991 announced "The Day of the Iguana has Arrived," and "Iguanas are the Hottest Pet in Area Pet Shops." Green iguanas have been imported into the island for many years, but never in the numbers that are presently arriving. Puerto Rico native *Cyclura* species have been extinct for over one hundred years, but the variety of tropical habitats on the island may prove hospitable to *Iguana iguana*.