

# World Renowned Conservationist Concerned Over Arctic Oil Impact

By HELEN ATKINSON

Peter Markham Scott, world renowned conservationist and naturalist, remarked on his return from four days on the North Slope "I feel that BP Oil Corporation has a very genuine desire, indeed, the chairman of BP has a personal desire, to do the best he possibly can to get the oil out with the minimum of damage to the environment."

Scott traveled Alaska by plane, auto, and helicopter and covered the North Slope from Pt. Barrow to Prudhoe Bay, spending some time in the estuary of the Colville River, as well as in the areas of drilling activity.

He identified more than 22 species of birds, saw many caribou, and talked over the problem of fish running up sidestreams where the pipeline will cross.

He is concerned with the whole impact of BP Oil Corporation's operations in Alaska. The ecological research program being carried on by University of Alaska for Trans Alaska Pipeline

System under the direction of Brian Sage "is very interesting but pretty much of a crash program being done on short notice and over a short period," Scott said.

He would like to see a longer range program put into operation that would spread over a number of years.

"After all, this is a long time thing, it's not something that will just affect the pipeline route or the road for a year or two—it will be a long time influence on the habitat of the North Slope," Scott said.

At Barrow there is damage to the tundra on a large scale, Scott emphasized, because it has been abused there over a longer period of time. Scott came from England to Alaska to advise BP on how to minimize the effects of man on the biotope, how to conserve the habitat of man, and the various plants and animals which live in it.

Scott, a conservationist with an ecological outlook, is son of

famed Antarctic explorer Capt. R. F. Scott. He is also an internationally known ornithologist, author, lecturer, illustrator, painter, and strong conservationist.

He is a great outdoorsman and sportsman and won international gliding and sailing medals for his proficiency in the air and on the sea. His degrees and honors fill several pages.

He is active in many organizations, some of them being Wildlife, Natural Resource, and Nature Conservancy groups worldwide. He has explored in the Canadian Arctic, in Australia, the West Indies, Panama, Ecuador, the Pacific, Iceland, Africa, India, Thailand, and the Antarctic.

His parting remark was "The earth doesn't get any bigger, human population does. In Alaska you are not yet concerned with the major worry of the rest of the world—too many people and not enough space. I hope, in Alaska, that you will not spoil one of the most beautiful countries of the world."