



The Zoo Review

WINTER 1975



The Zoo Review

Denver Zoological Gardens
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**THE DENVER ZOOLOGICAL
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1974-1975**

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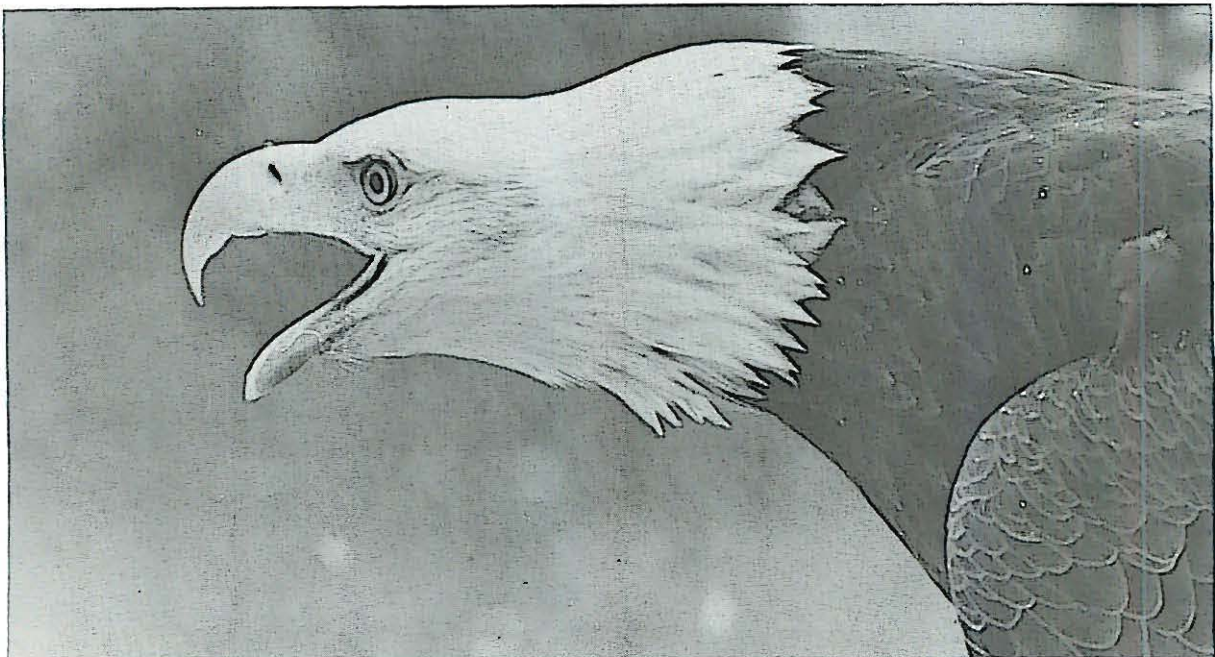
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The Denver Zoo now exhibits a pair of American Bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). With the approval of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an adult eagle was transferred to us from the Houston, Texas Zoo on September 25, 1974.

THE FRONT COVER

"Momba", the Denver Zoo's female Black rhinoceros delivered a healthy male calf on October 31, 1974. Since the baby was born on Halloween, we have named him "Spook". For more about rhinos see page 4.

STARTING A JUNGLE

The largest exhibit area of Denver's new "Bird World" will be the tropical rain forest. Visitors will enter through a simulated cave, walk through a lush jungle populated by colorful birds, and exit under the grotto of an elaborate waterfall.



To create the desired effect requires the efforts and talents of many people. Cement rockwork has been installed by the Julian George Company of California whose specialty is water amenities. The realistic nature of their creations is most impressive and will provide an excellent complement to the tropical foliage, as well as the birds.

In order to create an "instant jungle," the Denver firm of Interior Plantscaping has moved many large tropical plants into the "Bird World". Some of the plants required the services of a sturdy crane to set them in place. We intend to allow the plants to recover from transplanting for 3 - 4 months before birds are released into the various exhibits. We hope that zoo visitors will believe they have been transported to the tropics when the building opens next spring.



RHINOS For The Future

"Momba" and her calf within 24 hours after birth. Mother and baby were isolated off-exhibit for a week's time but may now be seen daily in the Pachyderm House.

Few people would regard a rhinoceros as cute! Even fewer would agree that they are attractive in any way. Rhinos are generally not near the top of most favorite animal lists. To some extent, the rhinos themselves are to blame, due to their notoriously short tempers and somewhat truculent nature. The rhino is perhaps a classic example of an endangered species that provokes the reaction, "Who needs them?"

Rhinoceroses are very ancient mammals dating back some 40 million years. The 5 modern forms are mere relics of a once numerous and widely distributed group. One of them, the long-extinct *Baluchiterium*, was the largest known land mammal. Today rhinos are represented by 3 Asiatic and 2 African species and are nowhere as numerous as they should be. At least 3 of the 5 forms are teetering on the very brink of extinction and optimism for their continued survival is guarded. This gloomy outlook is due to the persistent belief among Orientals that powdered rhino horn is a powerful aphrodisiac. Uncontrolled hunting for their horn and encroachment upon their habitat by man are the chief reasons for the plight of the rhinos today. The strictest controls possible could reverse the situation. Of the 5 species, only the Southern subspecies of the White rhinoceros is not listed as either endangered or vulnerable in the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) red data book. This latter form is an excellent example of what a concerted conservation effort can accomplish. Formerly very abundant on the grasslands of the southern third of Africa, the Southern White rhinoceros was virtually hunted to extinction by the late

1800's. A small group of the grey giants survived in Natal and, to its great credit, the South African government created the Umfolozi and Hluhluwe sanctuaries for their preservation. Sound game management principles were applied and today the species is secure, with a population numbering several thousand. The Natal Parks Board is now confronted with another serious problem! The annual rhino increment is 12 to 15% but the available land is not increasing at a comparable rate. Population translocations, zoos, and safari parks have absorbed some of the surplus but a limited hunting season has had to be instituted. The Northern subspecies of the White rhinoceros remains critically endangered.

In Asia the rhino situation is dismal. Three forms cling to survival by a slender thread. They are: the Great Indian rhino which numbers perhaps 500 specimens in 8 reserves in India and Nepal, the Javan rhinoceros whose population estimates are 100 (or less), and the Sumatran rhino whose numbers may approach 200. Hope for the Javan rhino hinges on the fate of the Ujung Kulon reserve in western Java where the species seems to be making moderate gains under total protection. Here again, the main problem remains: poaching for rhino horn as well as habitat alteration by man. Only effective controls can prevent their total extermination.

Currently there are no captive specimens of either the Javan or Sumatran rhinos, but there is some reason for optimism concerning the Great Indian species since it is breeding successfully in several of the world's zoos. Basle, Switzerland has led the way with no less than 12 Indian rhinos having been born and reared there.

The Black rhinoceros is still the most numerous species and also has the widest distribution. It formerly ranged over most of the

African continent from southern Sudan and Somalia south to the Cape. Although the current population of 11,000 - 13,000 Black rhinos is scattered, the species is holding its own in the national parks and preserves of East Africa. IUCN regards it as a vulnerable species. Black rhinos are not really black in color but rather a darkish-grey. Their skin actually is prone to be the color of the surrounding soil as a result of the frequent mud baths which they enjoy. Perhaps a better name for this species would be the Hook-lipped rhino for its upper lip is notably prehensile. The lip is adapted to plucking the tender shoots of scrubby bushes which form their diet. Unlike the White rhino, which is a grazer and uses its wide flat mouth for eating grass, the Black is chiefly a browser. The Black rhino has 2 horns and the frontal one is usually the longer. 20 inches is about the average of wild specimens and the record is 53½ inches. Rhino horn is not true horn but a compacted, fibrous mass of dermal origin. It is not attached to the animal's skull. If broken, it will gradually regenerate.

Denver Zoo has a distinguished record with the Black rhinoceros. The first specimens in our collection were received on February 16, 1960 from Mombasa, Kenya after a 7 week ocean voyage. "Tombo," the male, was 8-9 months old on arrival and was a gift of the Boettcher Foundation. His mate, "Momba," was approximately 18 months old on arrival and was donated by the late Miss Helen Bonfils. Both were named as a result of a public contest sponsored by the Denver Zoological Foundation and the Denver Post. Since their arrival they have proven to be among the most popular residents of the zoo's Pachyderm House. Our first rhino calf, a male, was a stillbirth which occurred in January 1966. Alas, the exact date was not recorded and has been lost to posterity. Full success was achieved on January 19, 1968 when a sturdy, 50 pound female calf was born. This animal was reared and now resides in the Memphis, Tennessee zoo. "Momba's" third calf was also a female born on January 7, 1971. "Lij," as she was named, was retained by the zoo as a future breeder and has been paired to "Rhinestone," a male Black rhino born in the San Francisco Zoo on January 1, 1972. It is hoped that this pair will produce captive-born second generation

"Spook" is a sturdy young rhino; Note the beginning of his horns which will grow rapidly. This is the fourth Black rhino born at the Denver Zoo.

offspring when they mature in another year or two.

Now we have another baby rhino, "Spook," born on October 31, 1974 after a gestation period of 475 days. This Halloween baby, a male, is thus the fourth Black rhino produced at the Denver Zoo. The calf is strong, appears to be thriving, and we are justifiably optimistic that he will be fully reared. If so, our facilities will be bulging at the seams with rhinos and "Spook" will have to be sent to another zoo in about a year's time.

The captive reproduction of Black rhinos no longer creates quite the excitement it did when "Momba" and "Tombo" produced their first calf. However, it is still quite a noteworthy event. The latest edition of the International Zoo Yearbook logs 9 births in 9 collections for the year 1972, of which 8 were fully reared. This same source records a total of 139 Black rhinos in 68 of the world's zoos, of which 33 were born in captivity. These figures compare favorably with 10 years ago. In 1962 only 2 Black rhino births were recorded and, of the total captive population of 131 specimens, only 12 were bred in zoos. Thus, in a 10 year period, the population of captive-reared Black rhinos has increased by some 20 animals.

Fortunately, rhinos of all species appear to be long-lived in captivity. The Great Indian rhino has lived in excess of 40 years and the Black has achieved a longevity of over 30 years. With any luck, our breeding should continue for many years to come and produce several more young at the Denver Zoo. After all, the world needs more rhinos!

Clayton F. Freiheit
Director





Stanley or Paradise Crane (*Anthropoides paradisea*). The sleek, steel blue-gray feathering makes this one of the most beautiful of all cranes. It lays 2 blotchy, brownish eggs which both parents incubate.

CRANES

AT THE

DENVER ZOO

The Denver Zoo currently exhibits seven of the 15 living species of cranes. These are the European or Lilford Crane (*Grus grus lilfordi*), Greater Sandhill Crane (*G. canadensis*), Sarus Crane (*G. antigone*), Demoiselle Crane (*Anthropoides virgo*), Paradise or Stanley Crane (*A. paradisea*), West African Crowned Crane (*Balearica pavonina*), and East African Crowned Crane (*B. regulorum*). Cranes are large, long-legged, vociferous birds that belong to a highly varied order named Gruiformes. Their relatives are the diminutive chick-sized Hemipodes, pigeon-sized Sun Bitterns and the sometimes huge Bustards, plus 8 other various families.

Cranes are known from the fossil evidence to be somewhere between 40 - 60 million years old. They have been kept and bred in captivity since the time of the early Egyptians. Most species have been bred in captivity over the past 100 years, but not regularly, and only recently have strides been made in their

captive propagation and rearing.

Cranes are found on every major continent except South America and Antarctica. The Whooping crane, and the Sandhill crane (including 3 sub-species) are residents of the United States.

The habitat of cranes in the U. S. is generally marshy wet lands which provide the feeding grounds for these magnificent birds. In the wild they eat a variety of food, including insects, fish, frogs, crustaceans, small mammals, eggs, fruit and grains. Being highly territorial, a pair of cranes may claim as much as a hundred acres of land as their home during breeding season. Cranes generally reach maturity at 4-5 years of age, usually mate for life, and once successful in breeding, will return to the same general area year after year if undisturbed. They are long-lived birds and there are records of a Siberian crane living 61 years in the National Zoo. Many captive cranes have exceeded 30 years in age.



West African Crowned Crane (*Balearica pavonina*).
Note the distinctive gold straw-like crest.

In addition to proper diet, the breeding of cranes in captivity is dependent upon proper facilities. Cranes do well if their territory is private and relatively undisturbed. We are providing this with our new crane pens in the range area. These spacious, private pens hopefully will provide the impetus needed to get our adult Sarus, Lilford and Stanley cranes breeding.

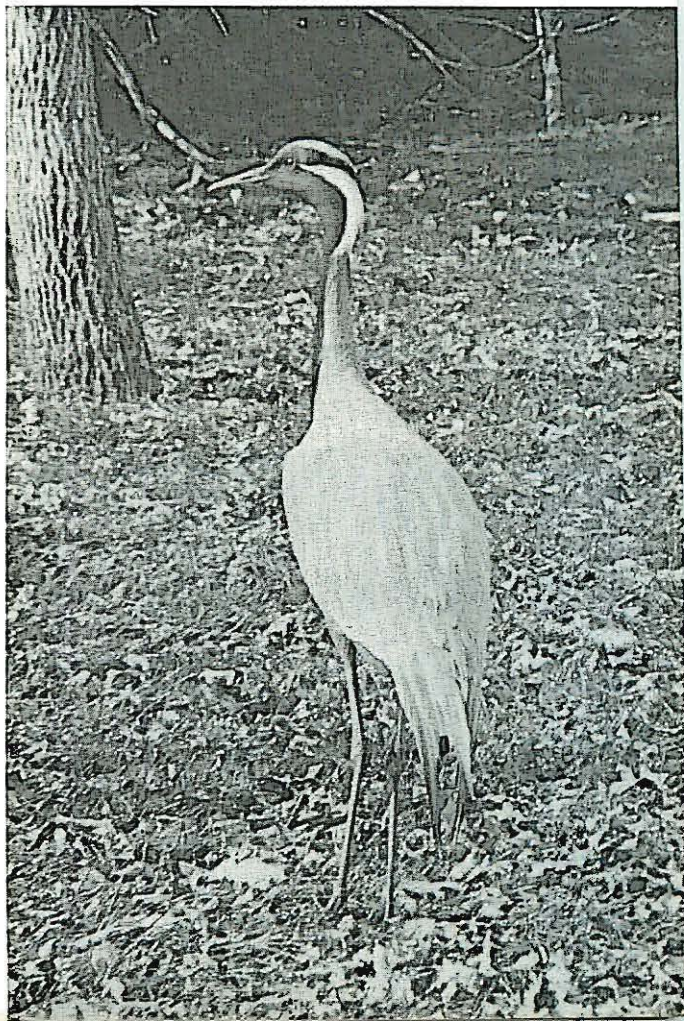
Man's continued encroachment upon the crane's habitat, plus hunting pressures (crane hunting is legal in Colorado) have placed most species in jeopardy. The Federal government, private game breeders, and numerous zoos are doing what they can to promote captive crane management, but for some species it may be too late.

Edward C. Schmitt
Curator

Cranes adapt well to captivity and adjust to zoo diets with very little trouble. The diet developed at the National Zoo a few years ago insured a stable nutrition and is valuable in captive reproduction. This diet consists of a standard game bird maintenance chow (the same that is fed to our waterfowl) plus turkey pellets which provide the high protein necessary to successful captive breeding. We also feed shredded lettuce and the cranes supplement their own diet by catching a variety of insects in their yards.

Cranes usually lay 2 eggs which both parents incubate for a period of 28-36 days. The young resemble domestic chicks with long legs. The youngsters grow rather rapidly, both parents caring for the chick and teaching it to feed. A young crane's legs will be approximately 90% grown by six to eight weeks of age, at which time the wings begin rapid development. It usually takes a year before the young crane assumes adult plumage.

Demoiselle Crane (*Anthropoides virgo*). The smallest crane, probably the most common in captivity. It adapts well and has been bred recently in a few zoos.



Photographer on the Loose

To have your cake and eat it too, is something most people would like to achieve, but somehow, seldom obtain. I am one of the fortunate. Photography is not only a chosen profession, but a hobby as well. Another favorite subject of mine for years has been animals. Put the two together and you have one of the happiest ladies around doing her thing.

Patience is the key word in this particular end of photography. You can't tell your subjects to smile or turn this way or that. It is a waiting game, but a most rewarding one for me. All those hours of backache, neck strain, eye strain and tired feet disappear when a print comes up clear, and there is that animal just as you might have posed him!

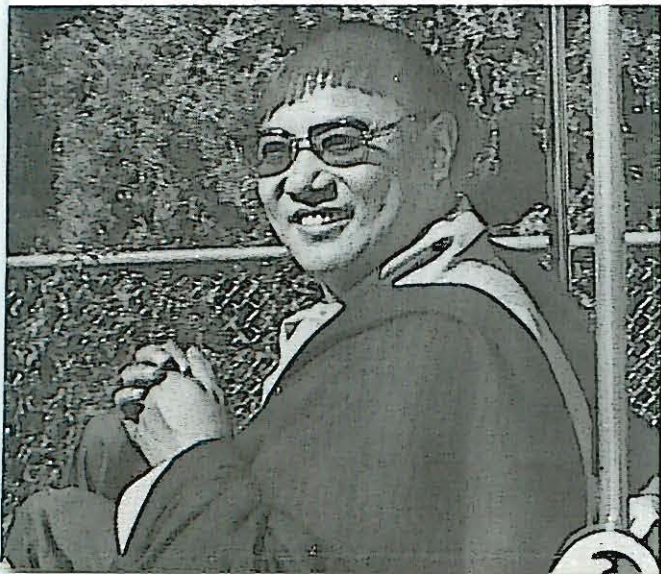
Most shots in animal photography are classified as "grab" shots. To reiterate, you can't pose the animals, so as I wander around the Zoo, there is always the hope of a good shot around the corner. Sometimes I will spend an hour or more in front of one paddock. I find myself talking to the animals, muttering aloud and making faces, which sometimes gets the animal's attention and often causes passers-by to give me very strange looks! Before I go

any further, I must mention that I have a marvelous helper in Editor Barb Steenhof, who graciously puts up with my tramping around and occasional outbursts of disgust in the darkroom. More often than not she is my right hand and sometimes my left, and she is marvelous for new ideas and suggestions.

Animal photography can be frustrating as well as rewarding. Needless to say, throwing objects at the animals to get their attention is highly frowned upon. So in lieu of that, Barb and I will jump up and down, yell raucously and act like idiots occasionally. One day, to get a good picture of a lioness eye, I had Barb dart back and forth in front of the glass window to keep the lioness alert, (under the watchful eyes of her keeper.) We kept this up for almost half an hour until I felt I had a shot that was suitable.

I'm sure a lot of people would think that to stand in one spot for a long time would be tiring and boring. But, it really isn't at all. When I was photographing "Frankie," our polar bear, I spent a good part of the morning with him. After an hour or so of my constant chatter, I guess he'd had enough of my company, because he finally sprawled on his rock

A Notable Visit

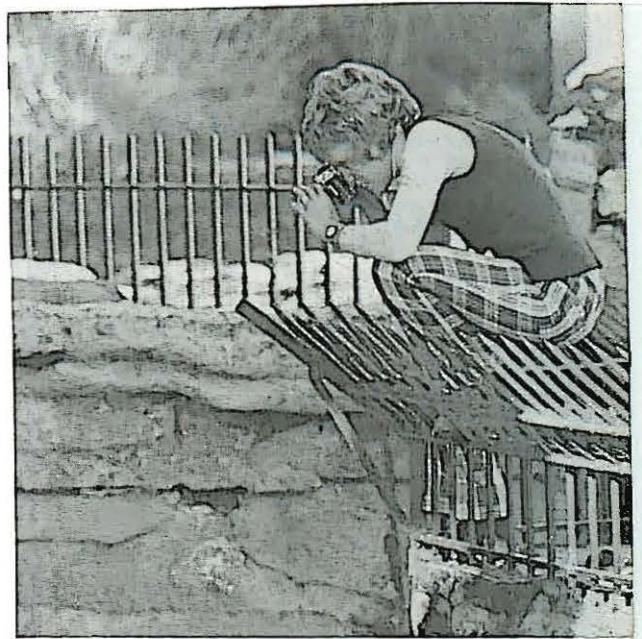


On October 3, 1974, Curator Ed Schmitt got quite a surprise with the announcement that the Panchen Lama, His Holiness, Gyalwa Karmapa of Rumtek Monastery, Gangtok, Sikkim, would be visiting the Zoo for the day. The Zoo Liner was quickly called into service for the bulk of the Lama's party, while Ed drove His Holiness around in a golf cart. His Holiness particularly enjoyed the train ride in the Children's Zoo and the cotton-topped Marmosets in the Primate House. Ed also found out, much to his delight, that his distinguished guest was a bird fancier. Around noon, Ed, Rex Williams and Judy Matthews were invited to share lunch which the Lama's followers had prepared beforehand. A dumpling was served called Mo-Mo, which looked strange at first, but was quite delicious. What started out to be a mild uneventful day, turned out to be delightful and quite an experience for everyone.

and not too politely told me to get lost by opening his mouth and growling! There was my picture. That one moment made the entire morning worth the effort of being patient.

On occasion, I have frightened myself, too. When we obtained "Rhinestone," our young male Rhino, Paul Linger suggested we get some photographs of him. We went back behind the enclosures and I started to take pictures of our new pachyderm through the bars. When I looked through my lens, it appeared as if there were no bars in front of him. As I was snapping away, all of a sudden he rushed forward. I flew back against the wall, heart pounding madly, certain I was going to be trampled. Everyone thought my reaction was quite funny and if I could have scaled the wall, I'm sure I would have done so! This brings up a point that one should not forget. These animals are not tame, and sometimes we have a great desire to get closer to them. It takes a few times like "Rhinestone" or the male Cheetah going through his threat procedure to make me remember that the best way for me to get close to the animals is through my lens.

We have had some funny experiences, too. There was the day we were photographing the giraffe. We were chattering away and I was clicking my shutter here and there, when one of those lovely reticulated ladies blew her



nose all over me! And, may I suggest, if one is going to photograph in the bird house, that a hat is worn. I did not cover my head on my first trip in there; I now wear a hat if I'm going to spend any time at all with the birds!

These are just a few instances that have occurred since I have been with the Zoo. Every day is different, every animal is an individual, and to photograph these lovely creatures is a great privilege for me. The pleasant surroundings, the constant hubbub plus the terrific cooperation from all of the staff have helped to make my photography a successful and rewarding experience.

Judy Matthews

Zoo Foundation Trustees Elected

The annual meeting of the Denver Zoological Foundation was held on November 20, 1974. At this meeting the following members were elected to serve three-year terms on the Board of Trustees:

Mrs. Edward G. Billings
Mr. Kenneth R. Bunn
Mr. Joe Ciancio, Jr.
Mr. William C. Dabney, Jr.
Mrs. Darrell J. Hamilton
Mr. Sidney G. Hoskins
Mrs. Thomas Keesling
Mrs. Forrest E. McGrath
Mr. Aksel Nielsen
Mr. Kent Rickenbaugh
Mr. Charles L. Warren

Mrs. McGrath and Mr. Bunn are both newcomers to the Foundation's Board.

Officers for 1974-1975 were also elected. They are:

Chairman of the Board: Mrs. Arthur E. Johnson

President: Mr. Willard N. Greim

Executive Vice President: Mr. William H. Kistler

First Vice President: Mr. W. W. Robinson

Second Vice President: Mr. John Ferguson III

Treasurer: Mr. Jerry W. Moore

Secretary: Mrs. Darrell J. Hamilton

Charles L. Warren

Chairman, Nominating Committee

New Veterinary Program Launched

With the arrival at the Zoo of Michael Stoskopf, a senior Veterinary student from Colorado State University, a new preceptorship program has been launched that could have tremendous benefits for both animals and veterinarians alike.

Through the cooperation of Dean William Tietz of C.S.U.'s College of Veterinary Medicine, the zoo staff, and Dr. Donald LyVere, veterinarian, the program will provide a working-learning situation for Mike for a 3-month period. At the end of three months, student Dave Green will begin his term at the zoo until Spring. A review of the program will be made in March by the educational committee of the Foundation to determine if further funds should be sought to continue the program.

Since Dr. LyVere must limit his time at the zoo due to his regular animal practice, he said that some of the things that have frustrated him at the zoo can now be handled by the student. He has already asked Mike to begin working up a better radiologic technique chart for a specific X-ray machine that can apply to the various species of animals. This should prove to be a valuable reference file on normal and abnormal radiographic findings. Other duties include bacteriological cultures and sensitivity studies, blood counts and blood chemistries; parasitology checks throughout the zoo, performing post mortems on some of the smaller animals and assisting with the larger ones.

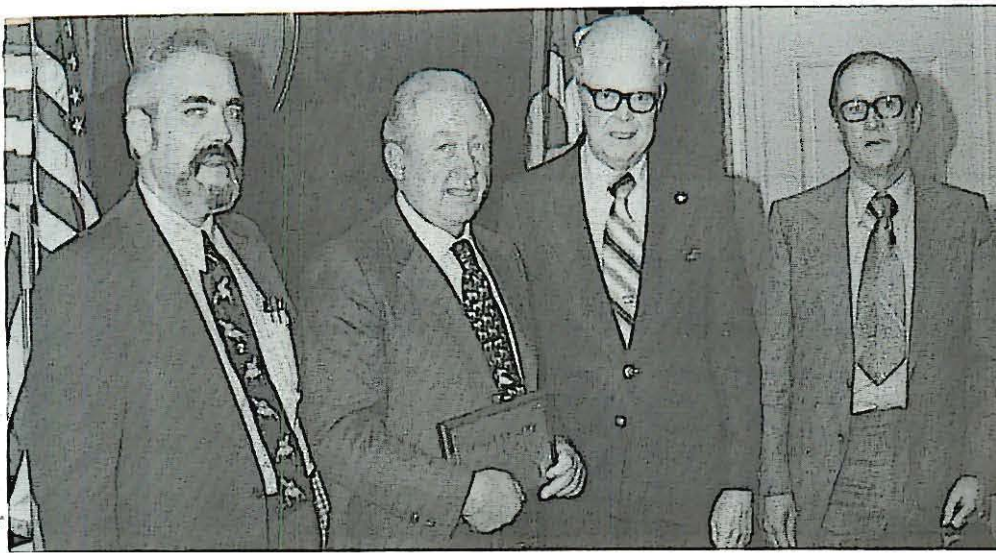
In connection with the pathology examinations needed at the zoo, C.S.U. has agreed to perform this service free for one year through its new diagnostic laboratory on the campus.

After the first few weeks at the zoo, Mike stated that it is a tremendous experience for him. His interest in veterinary medicine has always been focused on zoo animals (he worked as a keeper at Marineland in California), but the opportunity to study exotic animal diseases is extremely limited in any of the veterinary schools in the U.S. "Being involved with a zoo on a day-to-day basis, I can better appreciate the various problems of the zoo other than strictly veterinary medicine and keep a better perspective of the overall situation. By joining the Denver zoo team, I am benefiting by the long years of experience Dr. LyVere has on the front lines of the infant science of zoo medicine. Of equal value are the years of practical experience in handling animals and observing zoos that Rex Williams and Barney Lienemann provide. Ed Schmitt and Paul Linger are both very acquainted with many facets of zoo medicine, which along with their varied experiences and training as zoologists provide me with day in and day out tutoring. I am also learning a great deal by watching Clayton Freiheit's tremendous ability not only as a zoologist and animal man, but as a manager and organizer. Hopefully the zoo is benefiting from my stay also. I'm busy all day, every day and enjoying every minute."

Mrs. Thomas Keesling
Chairman
Education Committee



Senior veterinary student Mike Stoskopf examines an ailing Spider monkey in the course of his daily duties.



Zoo Foreman Rex Williams was honored as the City and County of Denver's Employee of the Year at a ceremony in the Mayor's office. Director Clayton Freiheit, Rex, Mayor William McNichols and Parks & Recreation Manager Joe Ciancio, Jr. are shown in the photo.

Zoo Foreman is City Employee of the Year

Charles R. "Rex" Williams, Zoo Foreman, was honored as the Career Service "Employee of the Year" at a ceremony in the Mayor's office on November 20, 1974. Mayor William H. McNichols, Jr. presented the award which is bestowed upon city employees who have demonstrated unusually high standards of service. Also present at the ceremony were: Joe Ciancio, Jr., Manager of Parks and Recreation, and Zoo Director, Clayton F. Freiheit. This is the first time that an employee of the Denver Zoo has received this distinctive honor.

Rex Williams began his career at the Denver Zoo in 1947 as a Zookeeper Apprentice after serving 2½ years in the U. S. Marine Corps.

He was wounded in service on Okinawa. Rex was appointed as a permanent Zookeeper in April 1949. On May 16, 1954, he was appointed a Foreman upon the recommendation of then Zoo Director Clyde A. Hill. He was appointed to his present position of Zoo Foreman in 1961.

During his more than 27 years at the Denver Zoo, Rex has seen it grow from a small collection of primarily native species into a large, modern zoological park. Much of our zoo's excellence can be attributed to Rex's personal efforts. He is a valuable member of the "zoo team" and we congratulate him on his selection as Employee of the Year.

ZOO TALK

Beginning this Spring, "An Introduction to Birds" will be added to the tours offered to schoolchildren of the Denver area. A special course covering general ornithology, and Denver Zoo birds in particular was conducted by Curator Edward C. Schmitt. The tour will utilize the new Bird World as well as other bird areas in the zoo. Tour guides and other interested friends of the zoo who attended the sessions found the course to be highly interesting and informative.

On September 10th, the Zoo Associates entertained 150 guests from fifteen Senior Citizens centers at the zoo. Special Zooliner tours were conducted, and refreshments were served throughout the day. The purpose of this special occasion was to say "thank you" to the men and women who gave their time to address thousands of membership brochures last spring. The weather was beautiful, and a good time was had by the guests, the zoo staff and the volunteer hostess-guides. Arrangements

were made by Mrs. James Harris.

On October 8, 46 members of the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Auxiliary were guests of the Zoo Associates at the zoo. Denver guides conducted tours and a delicious luncheon was prepared and served by Mrs. Gary Holcomb and Mrs. Edward Schmitt. Organizing the day was Mrs. Norman Jones.

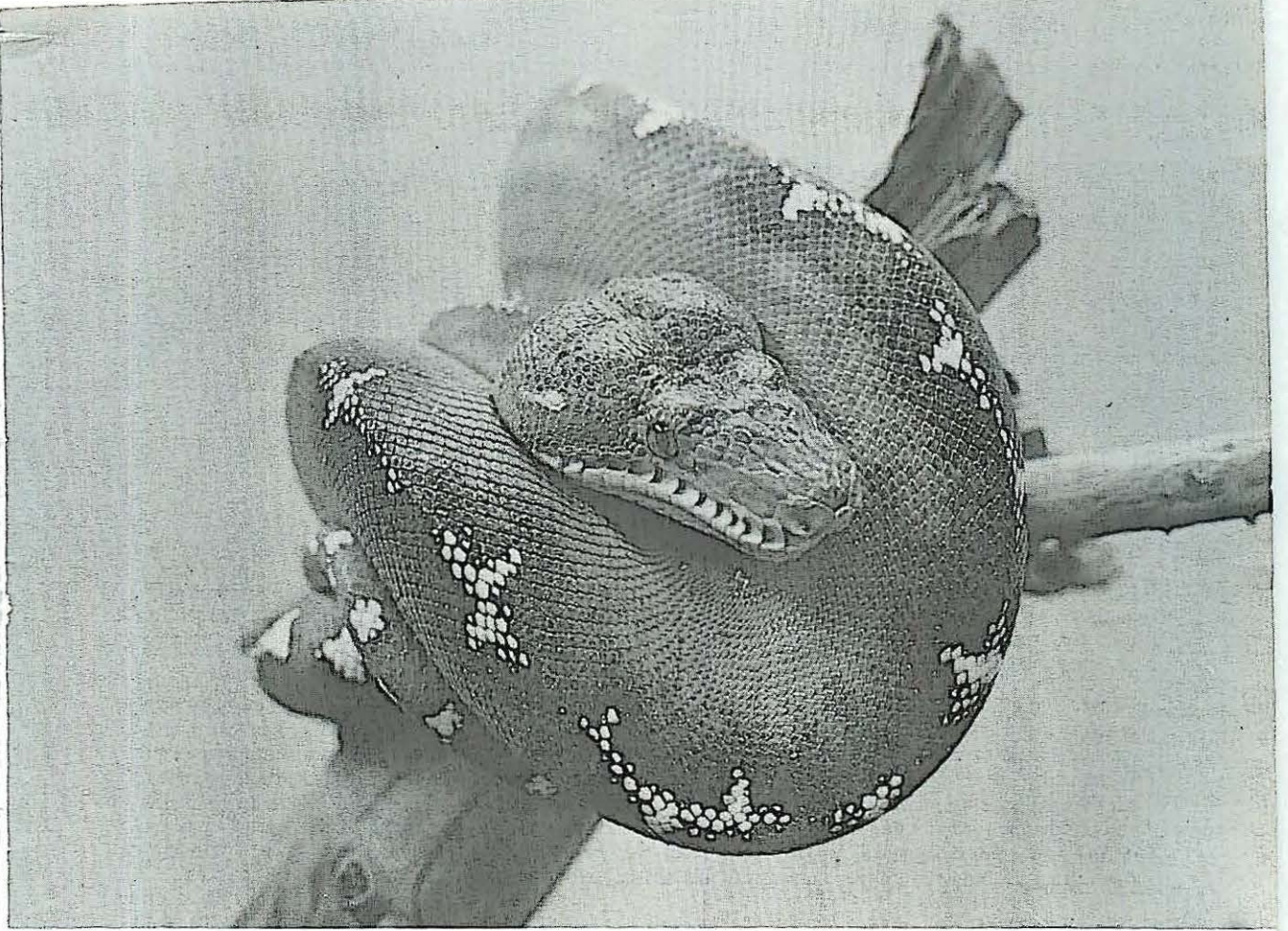
A childrens' art contest has been initiated this year for schoolchildren who participate in our guided tours. The theme—"What I remember best about my trip to the Zoo." Winning entries will be exhibited each week, and there will be a grand prize at the end of the school term in May.

The Denver Zoo continues to show free educational movies on the third Saturday morning of each month in the Education Building. For further information, consult the Friday zoo column in the Denver Post, or call Mrs. Devereaux Josephs at 761-3620.

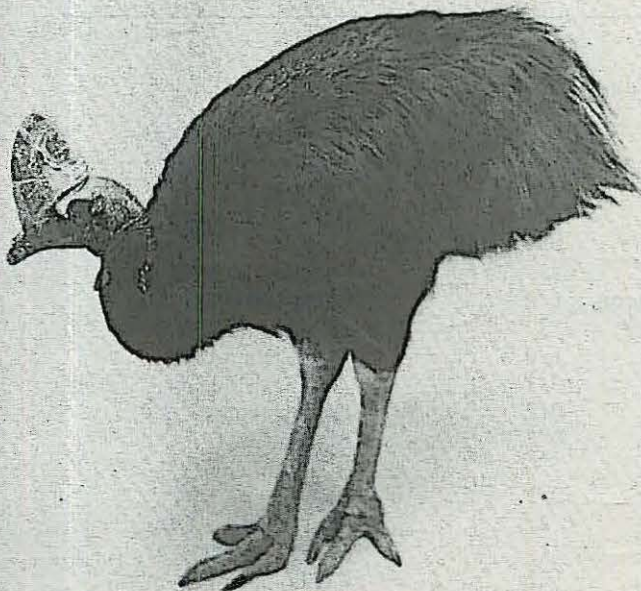
AROUND THE ZOO



An adult male Andean condor was received from the Dallas, Texas Zoo in mid-November as an indefinite breeding loan. Such loans are becoming increasingly more common as zoos attempt to pool their resources to encourage captive propagation. *Vultur gryphus* is the largest flying bird in the world and is regarded as an endangered species. Our pair of condors will be housed in the large raptor aviary when it is completed next spring.



▲
The Emerald tree boa is native to the dense tropical forests of northern South America. Tree boas remain tightly coiled around sturdy limbs to await the passage of small animals and birds upon which they feed. This species is aptly named as its coloring is a striking emerald green. A pair of these interesting snakes was received recently and may be viewed in the Children's Zoo reptile exhibit.



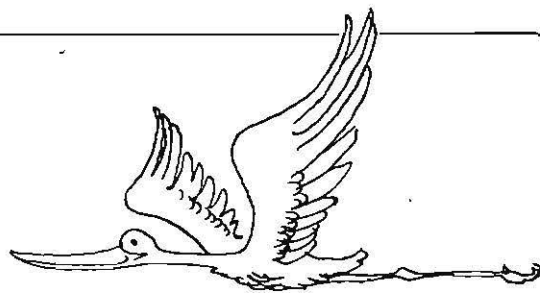
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The arrival of a pair of Double-wattled cassowaries on November 3, 1974 completed the Denver Zoo's collection of ratites or ostrich-like birds. Cassowaries are native to Australia, New Guinea and adjacent islands where they inhabit thickly forested areas. Their heads are crowned by a bony helmet-like casque which may protect the bird's skull as it runs through dense brush. Note the long, sharp toenails which are effective protective weapons. The eggs of cassowaries are pale-green in color. Our cassowaries will be exhibited next spring in a grassy yard adjacent to Bird World.



Captive births of Giant anteaters are noteworthy zoo events. Volume 14 of *The International Zoo Yearbook* records a total of 153 specimens in 76 of the world's zoological collections. With this number in captivity, it is somewhat surprising that births are so uncommon. The same source records only 3 births of Giant anteaters during 1972. Giant anteaters are classed as rare by the IUCN.

Denver Zoo's pair of Giant anteaters have produced offspring every year since 1972. Their first baby was premature and only lived a few hours. The 1973 baby was full-term but was rejected by its mother and our attempts at hand-rearing failed. On October 23, 1974 a third baby anteater was born and appeared to be well cared for by its mother. After the 6th day it became apparent that the baby was being neglected and it was taken to our Animal Hospital. Despite a somewhat shaky start, "Amillio" seems to be thriving. He has learned to nurse from an infant nipple and is growing steadily. At this point, we are optimistic that this unusual baby will survive. The front feet have been kept bandaged to prevent "Amillio" from damaging himself and his nurses with his sharp, well-developed foreclaws.

Notable Newcomers



1/0 = male 0/1 = female
1 = sex undetermined

Acquisitions

1/1	Malayan tree shrew
0/1	White-handed gibbon
1/0	Reindeer
1/1	Double-wattled cassowary
1	White pelican
3	Black-crowned night heron
3	African spur-wing plover
1/0	Andean condor
2	Hooded vulture
2	African tawny eagle
1	Bald eagle
1/1	Audubon's cara-cara
1	Blue-and-gold macaw
0/1	Grand eclectus parrot
2	Spectacled owl
1	Keel-billed toucan
1	Black-necked screamer

1/1

1/1

2

2

Births and Hatches

3

1/0

2

1/0

0/1

0/2

0/2

1/0

0/1

2

1

2

* = failed to survive

American goldeneye

Hooded merganser

Aldabra tortoise

Emerald tree boa

Demidoff's galago

Giant anteater

Patagonian cavy

Black rhinoceros

American bison

Greater kudu

Blackbuck

Roan antelope (*)

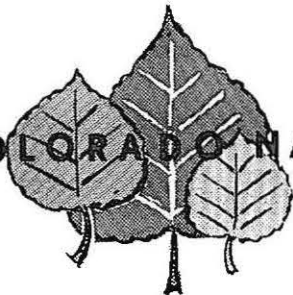
Beisa oryx

Gray rhea

Superb starling

Pacific parrotlet

A COLORADO NATIVE



THE BOBCAT

Although the bobcat (*Felis rufus*) is quite abundant and widely distributed through the state, comparatively few Coloradans have ever caught a glimpse of this elusive animal in the wild. Aside from the fact that it is active mainly at night, the cat's coloration provides it with excellent camouflage. And because of its extreme wariness, it is able to escape detection easily. The bobcat has adjusted well to the gradual replacement of its natural habitat by towns and cities, and will frequently live in an area where local residents are unaware of its presence. It is this ability to adapt readily to a varied and often hostile environment that has been chiefly responsible for its survival.

The bobcat is the most common of North America's wild felines; it is found throughout temperate and sub-tropical areas from Canada to Mexico. In Colorado, the greatest number of bobcats occurs in the forested foothills and canyons of the western part of the state, although they are equally plentiful in many areas of the eastern plains and semi-arid regions of the south.

The name bobcat is descriptive of its short tuft of a tail which appears bobbed. It may resemble a very large house cat, but its bigger ears are slightly tufted and it has long thick cheek whiskers. Weight will range from 15 to 30 pounds; length about 3½ feet. Its spotted coat varies in coloration from buff to reddish brown, mixed with grey and white.

In any description of the bobcat, a comparison with the Northern or Canadian lynx (*Felis lynx*) is inevitable, since the two are closely related and similar in appearance and habits. However, the lynx is greater in size, lighter in color, more heavily furred, has longer ear tufts and cheek ruffs, larger feet and lives in more northerly areas. The lynx is probably still present in parts of our state, but must be regarded as an extremely rare Colorado mammal. So the chances are that any short-tailed cat you may see is a bobcat, not a lynx.

Breeding usually occurs in late winter; it is then that the loud caterwauling of the male can be heard a mile away. After a gestation period of 50 to 60 days, an average litter of two to four young is born. The female cares for the kittens in a den located in a rock crevice or hollow log. The young are blind at birth and heavily spotted. They are weaned at two months, and may remain with the mother during the first year. The average life span in the wild is ten to fifteen years; longer in zoos where the record bobcat longevity exceeds 30 years.

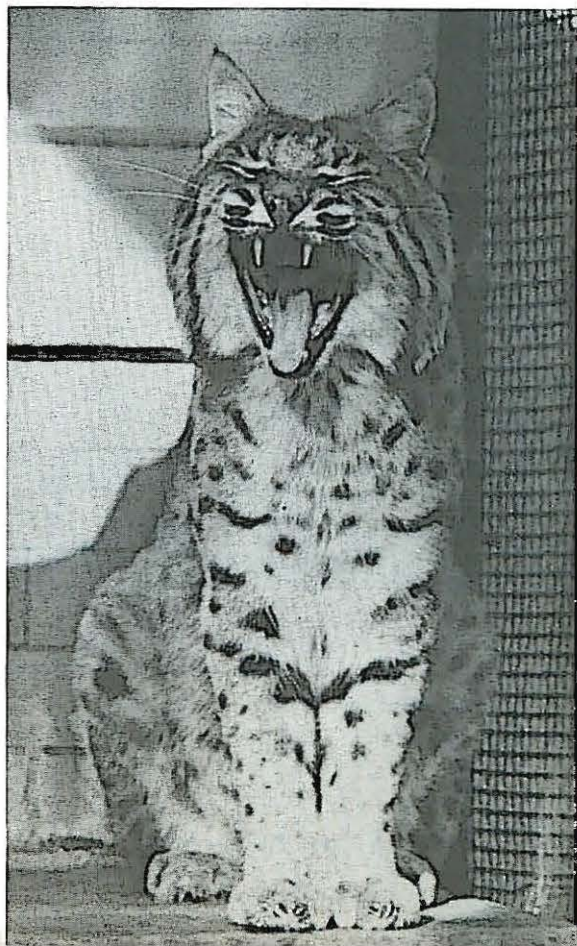
A solitary hunter, the bobcat feeds on rabbits, rats and mice, squirrels and birds, and will occasionally raid chicken houses or take lambs, small calves and deer. Since its diet is so varied, it rarely encounters food shortages and thus does not roam far beyond the normal territory of four or five square miles. The bobcat seldom tracks its

prey, but hunts by using its extraordinary keen vision to spot a potential victim, then stalking and pouncing upon it. Sometimes called a wildcat, the bobcat is very strong for its size. When cornered, it is a ferocious fighter—an enemy who can “lick his weight in wildcats” is rare indeed.

Despite the fact that the bobcat performs an important role in the balance of nature, mainly by keeping rodent and rabbit population in check, many states still declare a bounty on it. Since bobcats sometimes prey on domestic animals, they are presently classified as varmints (or predatory mammals) in the statutes of the state of Colorado, and thus afforded no protection. A large number of bobcats is taken each year by hunters and trappers. A prime bobcat pelt can be worth as much as \$40 to \$100 in the fur market.

Notwithstanding adverse conditions, however, the bobcat continues to thrive. Naturalist-author Roger Caras predicts that the bobcat will be the last of the larger North American carnivores to go, long after the other wild felines, bears, wolves and even the coyotes have been eliminated. Meanwhile, in a world of vanishing wildlife, the bobcat is holding its ground.

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The Rocky Mountain wapiti, or elk, is still quite common in Colorado where it is a carefully managed game animal. During the fall rutting season, the bugling call of our adult bull echoes throughout the zoo. The Denver Zoo herd usually numbers 10 - 15 animals and several young are born every year.

WINTER ZOO HOURS

10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.