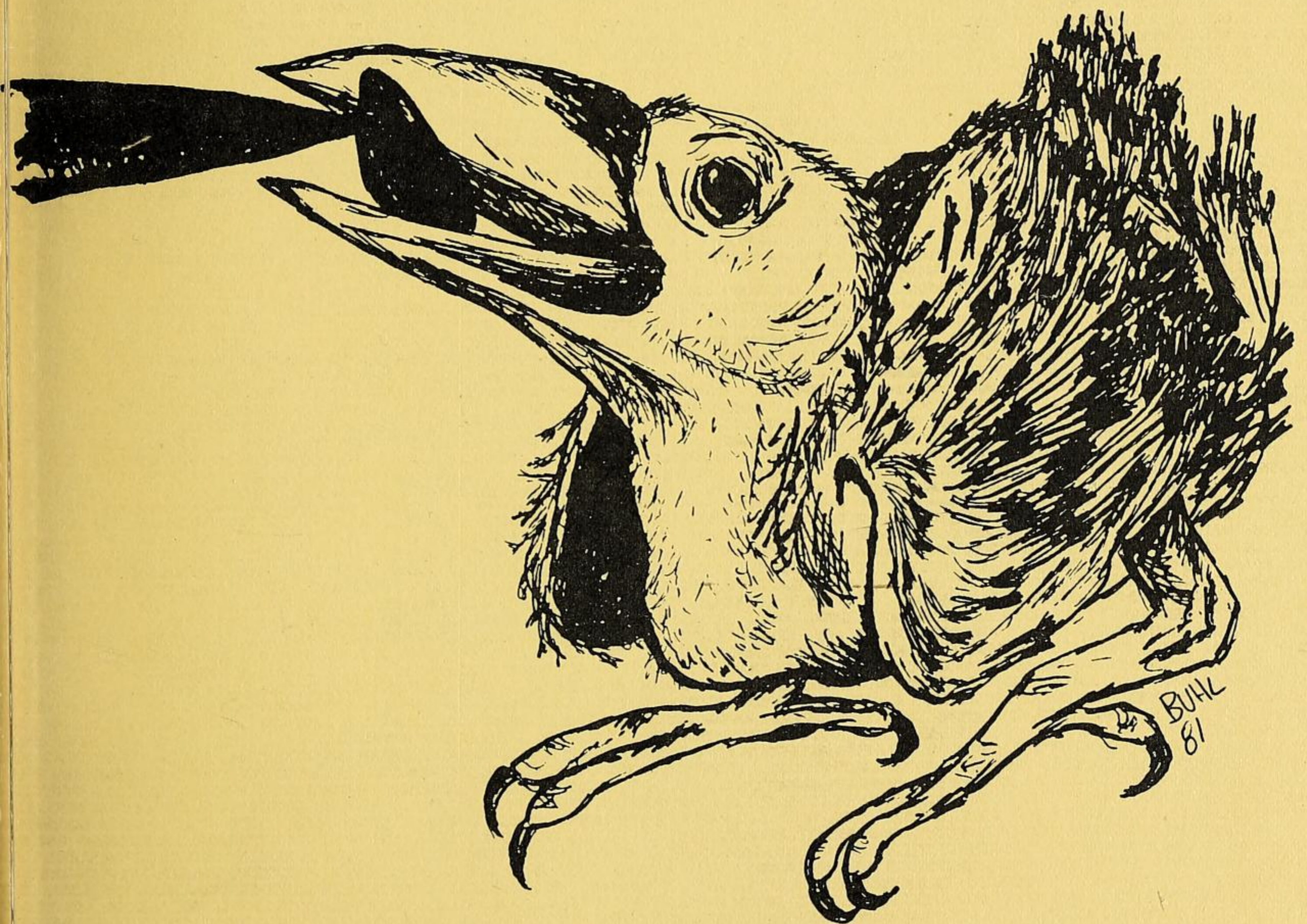


Animal Keepers' Forum



Dedicated to Professional Animal Care

FEBRUARY 1982

Executive Editor: Mike Coker
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Births & Hatchings



RECENT BIRTHS AND HATCHINGS AT SAN ANTONIO ZOO.....Cindy Roger

The San Antonio Zoo is pleased to announce the following births and hatchings for the month of December 1981. In Mammals, 0.1 Reticulated Giraffe, 0.1 Eland, 1.0 Addax, 1.1 Gemsbok, and 0.1 Thomson's Gazelle were born. The Aquarium produced 2 African Lyretail Cichlid, 10 Convict Cichlid, and an undetermined number of African Checkered Cichlids and African Zebra Cichlids. The Bird Department hatched 3 Painted Quail and 2 Diamond Dove.

The San Antonio Zoo recently received AAZPA First Breeding Awards for the Agile Gibbon and Turkish Viper. They have previously been awarded First Breeding Awards for the White Rhino, Giant Pitta and African Spurred Tortoise.

GAUR BIRTH AT BRONX ZOO.....J. Doherty

On 24 October 1981, a female gaur calf was born at the Bronx Zoo. The parents of the calf are the same pair that produced the male calf born in the Zoo on 11 August after superovulation and cross-species embryo transfer to a Holstein cow (see story Sept. 1981 AKF).

DALLAS ZOO ANNOUNCES DECEMBER ARRIVALS.....Penny Tadman

December 1981 births and hatchings at the Dallas Zoo include: 2 Suni Antelope (1 died the same day), 5 Black swan, 1 East African Oryx, 2 Greater Kudu, 1 Whitecheeked turaco, 1 Dik-Dik (died same day), 3 Spotted leopard, 1 Blackbuck and 1 Nile Lechwe.

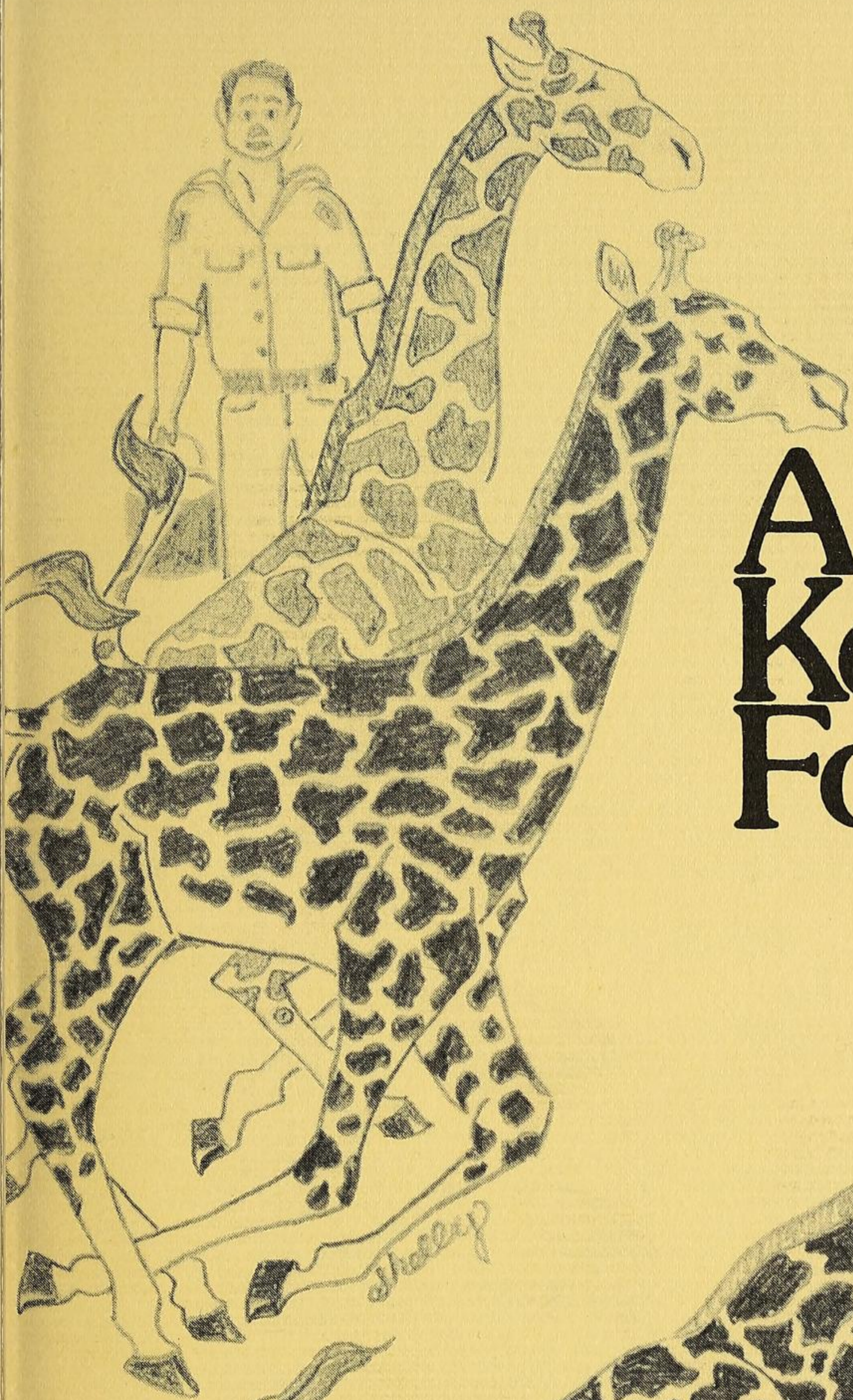
SECOND HALF OF 1981 BRINGS MANY "B&H" AT RIVERBANKS ZOO

*Submitted by L. Glover, bird of prey keeper
and A. Vecchio, cat and bear keeper*

Once again we have had a very successful year here at Riverbanks Zoo, Columbia, SC. We successfully bred forty-seven bird species which is 36.7% of our total species number. Thirteen species were first-time births for Riverbanks. The mammal department recorded second generation births for our White-faced saki monkeys and Black howler monkeys. We also recorded our first siamang birth.

Other births include: 2.0 Eclectus Parrot, 0.0.2 Pied hornbill, 0.0.3 Schalow's touraco, 0.0.6 Blue bill weaver, 0.0.3 Sun conure, 0.0.3 Gouldian finch, 0.0.1 Black footed penguin, 0.0.5 Purple grenadier, 0.0.5 Red-crested touraco, 0.0.4 Rothchild's mynah, 0.0.5 Blue crowned motmot, 0.0.9 Roul roul, 0.0.4 Luzon bleeding heart dove, 4.2 White-faced tree duck, 3.1 Cape teal, 9.2 Ringed teal, 3.1 Black-necked swan, 0.0.3 Emerald toucanet, 0.0.2 Fairy bluebird, 1.3 Brazilian teal, 0.3 Laysan teal and 4.5 Wood duck. In mammals -- 0.1 Siamang, 0.0.1 White-faced saki monkey (F2), 0.0.2 Black howler monkey, 1.0 Bennett's wallaby. The mammal department has also recently acquired 2.4.0 Lion-tailed macaque and 1.1.0 Golden lion tamarin.





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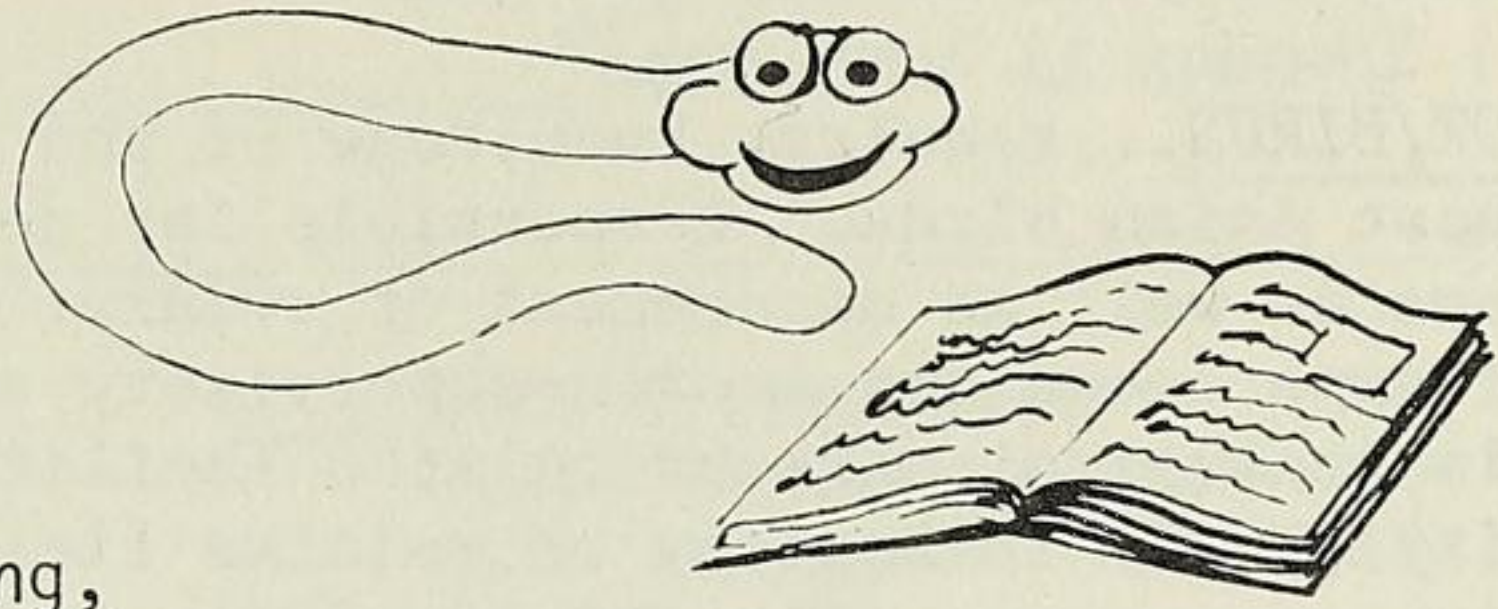
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Book Review



The Snake Book: Habitat, Collecting, Care and Feeding

By Roy Pinney

Review by Mike Dee
Los Angeles Zoo

Not since Carl Kauffeld wrote his last book (Snakes, The Keeper and The Kept) have I enjoyed a book as much as I did this one. Roy Pinney has been interested in snakes throughout his life. I first met Roy a few years ago when he visited the Los Angeles Zoo. We discussed snake collecting and book collecting. The following year, I was able to visit Roy in New York, and we did a little snake collecting in some rattlesnake dens. Roy was very knowledgeable and it was an enjoyable experience.

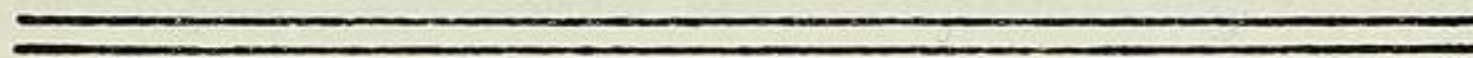
The book is divided into seven chapters, the first being devoted to some of the more colorful herpetologists of the 1900s. Their short biographies are most interesting.

The remaining chapters cover physiology, snake behavior, snakes in captivity, venomous snakes, men against snakes, and opportunities in Herpetology.

Chapter 4 is by far the most interesting chapter on keeping snakes in captivity. For someone just starting a reptile collection or working in a zoo, this chapter should be a must to read. The author has gone to great lengths to compile different sources on the feeding, breeding, longevity, sexing, diseases and water needs of captive snakes. It also has a chart listing the more common snakes kept in captivity and what they eat.

This book is moderately priced (\$12.95) by today's standards. I would have liked color photos in the book, but you will have to be satisfied with the color photo on the dust jacket.

If you know a budding herpetologist, an amateur or a professional, this publication should be of great value to them.

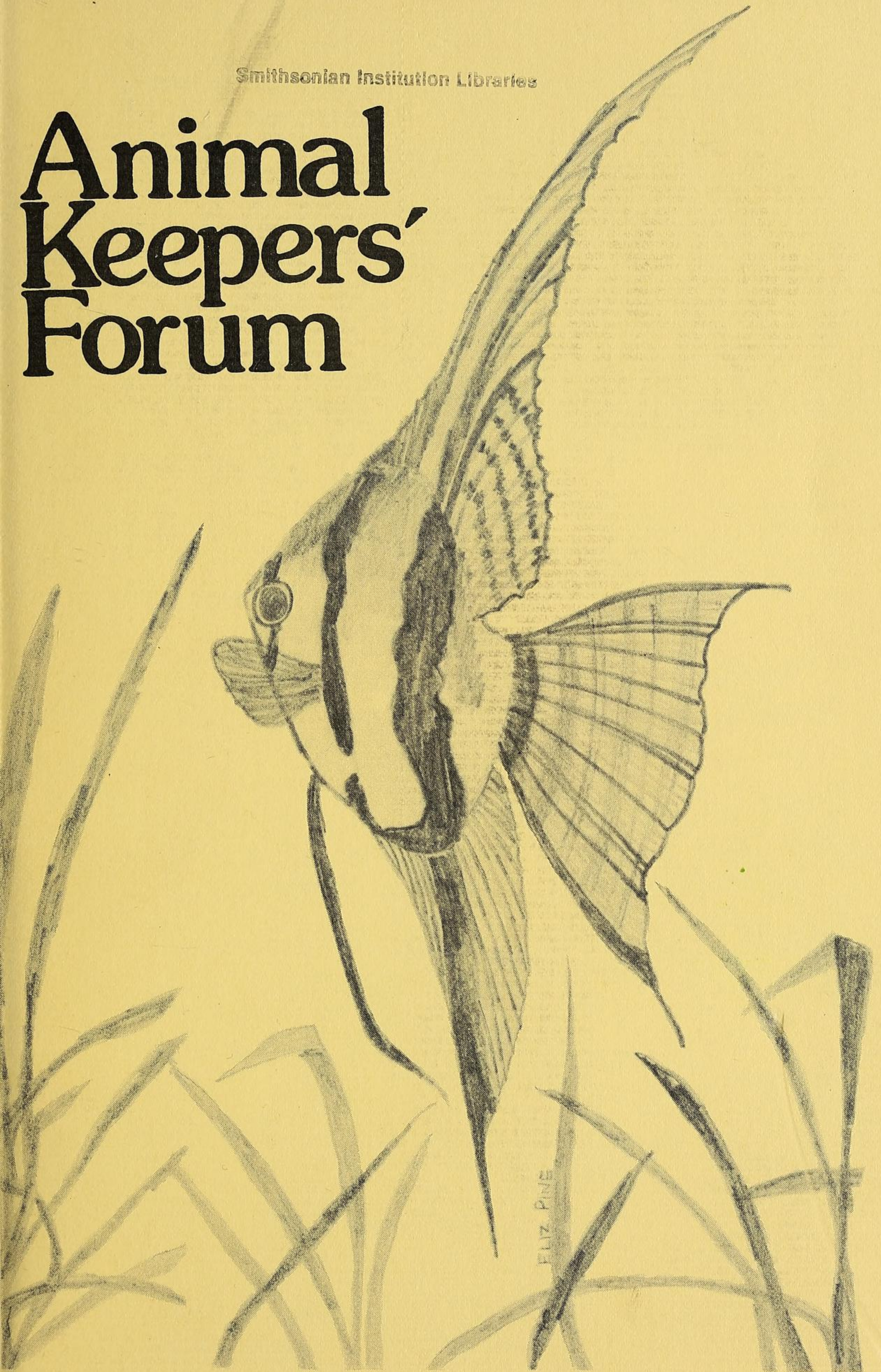


LATE-BREAKING B & H ANNOUNCEMENT

Mike Dee of the Los Angeles Zoo notified the AKF office that on 16 February, 1982 0.1 Indian rhino was born. This birth marks the seventh in U.S. zoos. The breach birth was videotaped and Mike has promised to send a full report detailing this rare occurrence for future AKF publication. The L.A. Zoo also recorded the birth of 1.0 Zebra duiker in Feb.

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BIRTHS AND HATCHINGS, continued

INDIAN RHINO BORN AT LOS ANGELES ZOO.....Michael Dee

A female Indian rhino calf was born at Los Angeles Zoo on 16 February 1982 after a gestation period of 496 days. She weighed 90 pounds at birth and was 24 inches tall. She nursed for the first time at 7 hours and at 7 weeks of age weighs about 250 pounds and stands 30 inches at the shoulder. As of this date (eight weeks), the calf has not defecated. This appears to be normal procedure for Indian rhinos. The birth was a breech and from the time fetal membranes appeared to the first breath was one hour. Both mother and daughter are doing well. The calf is called "Meetha" (Hindu for Sweet) and should be joined sometime around the first of August 1982 by a half-brother or half-sister.

RECENT BIRTHS AT THE FRESNO ZOO.....Mary L. Swanson

Spring has brought many births to the Fresno Zoo. February brought the birth of 1.1 African Crested porcupines, 0.1 Malayan Sun Bear. March saw the births of 1.0 Masai Giraffe and 2.2. Mouflon (including one set of twins). April's births included 1.3 Bengal tigers and 3.7 Eastern Timber Wolf.

One tiger was partially white and did not survive due to a nervous system disorder. 1.2 wolf cubs were weak and did not survive. 0.1 wolf and 0.1 tiger cubs are being hand-raised in the nursery.

TOPEKA ZOO ANNOUNCES RECENT BIRTHS AND HATCHINGS.....Mike Coker

The Topeka Zoo staff is pleased to announce these new additions to our family: 0.0.2 Cotton-headed tamarin, 0.0.1 Blue-crowned pigeon, 0.0.2 Giant Indian Fruit bat, 0.0.3 Rothchild's mynah, 1.0 North American porcupine, 0.0.2 American Golden eagle, 0.0.1 Two-toed sloth, 0.0.1 Saddleback tamarin and 0.0.4 Budgeriar.

CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO'S NEW ADDITIONS.....Charles Voracek

Recent births at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo include: 0.0.7 Rhesus monkey, 0.0.1 Spider monkey, 0.0.1 Ring-tailed lemur, 0.0.1 Jaguar, 0.0.1 Eland and 0.0.3 Kodiak Bear. The baby lemur and spider monkey were the first of this species born at Cleveland.

SANTA BARBARA ZOO ANNOUNCES RECENT LEMUR BIRTHS.....Jeff Berglund

The Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens is pleased to announce the successful births of two Black and White Ruffed Lemurs (Lemur variegatus) on 6 April 1982 and two Brown Lemurs (Lemur fulvus) on 24 April 1982.

Congratulations to the Santa Barbara Zoo for being granted accreditation in the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA) on 22 February 1982.

APRIL B & H FROM THE SAN ANTONIO ZOO.....Cindy Roger

The San Antonio Zoo is pleased to announce the following births and hatchings for the month of April. The Bird Department hatched 1 Sacred Ibis, 3 Giant Canada Goose, 2 Plumed Whistling Duck, 4 Moluccan Radjah Shelduck, 9 Orinoco Goose, 9 Mallard, 1 Palawan Peacock Pheasant, 2 Grey Peacock Pheasant, 2 Black-breasted Button Quail, 1 Demoiselle Crane, 2 Red and White Crake, 2 Double-striped Thick-knee, 2 Diamond Dove, 1 Yellow-backed Chattering Lory, 3 Sun Conure, 1 Pygmy Kingfisher, 3 Shama Thrush, 4 Green-winged Pytilia, 3 Red-cheeked Cordon Bleu, 2 Society Finch, 2 Red-bellied Buffalo Weaver, and 3 Black-winged Starling.

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Births & Hatchings

DALLAS ZOO.....Beth Lasher

The following are the births and hatchings at the Dallas Zoo for the month of September 1982: Mammals - 4 Patagonian cavy, 1.0 Dama Gazelle, 1.0 Lowland gorilla, 1.0 Klipspringer, 0.1 Blackbuck antelope, 0.1 Slender-horned gazelle (DNS), 0.1 Greater kudu. Reptiles - 2 Pueblan kingsnakes, 3 Jalisco kingsnakes, 3 Central American kingsnakes.

BROOKFIELD ZOO.....John S. Stoddard

September 1982 births and hatchings at the Brookfield Zoo include: 0.0.2 Arrow poison frogs, 0.0.5 Cuban anoles, 0.0.1 Turquoise tanager, 0.0.1 Blue-grey tanager, 0.0.2 Flame-faced tanager, 2.0.4 Mongolian jird, 1.1 California mouse, 0.0.3 African grass mouse, 0.0.6 Spiny mouse, 0.0.7 White-toothed shrew, 0.0.2 Goeldi's marmoset, and 0.3 Collared peccary.

On 19 August, two Guinea baboons were born on Baboon Island. This unusual event is the first twin birth at Brookfield since 1968. The mother and both youngsters are doing well.

CINCINNATI ZOO.....Rick Heithaus

The summer of 1982 saw the birth of two large mammals at the Cincinnati Zoo Elephant House. On 16 August, a male Masai giraffe was born to Fred and Georgette. Unfortunately, Georgette died shortly after the delivery due to complications during the birth. It was her second offspring, Georgette having been born at the zoo in 1976. The baby "Hugo", adopted by the Cincinnati Tall Club and named after their logo, is being bottle fed and hand-raised. After seven weeks he has grown five inches and gained approximately 100 pounds and is doing fine.

On 29 September a female black rhinoceros was born at the Elephant House. It was the third offspring for the mother, Baruti, a 13-year-old from the wild, and the eighth for the father, John, a 28-year-old who came to the zoo from Germany in 1957. The baby weighed about 60 pounds at birth and the mother is taking good care of her. The gestation was 15 months and 2 days; 29 days shorter than her last gestation. The zoo has another breeding pair of black rhinos kept in the African Veldt area. This pair is expecting their third offspring early next year.

Both offspring were born during the 16-month renovation of the Elephant House which presented some minor problems that were worked out. Christmas will bring us another giraffe from our other female Masai and possibly births from both our pygmy hippos.



Legislative News

Compiled by Kevin Conway

ELEPHANT AND RHINO EXPERTS PLAN SURVIVAL STRATEGIES

An international group of specialists met at Wankie in Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) on 31 July 1981 to finalize action plans to conserve elephants and rhinos on the light of loss of habitat and fears that recent exploitation, especially of rhinos, has been excessive. The weeklong meeting was the climax to several years of intensive study of the situation confronting elephants and rhinos in Africa, and the international trade in ivory and rhino horn. The surveys were sponsored by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the New York Zoological Society (NYZS), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

African Elephants

Early assessments during the survey of African elephants (Loxodonta africana) had indicated that there were probably at least 1,300,000 elephants in Africa--a figure which has been widely quoted. As a result of later surveys, the specialists concluded at Wankie that the total African elephant population could range from a minimum of 1,100,000 to some 2,600,000.

The uncertainty arises mainly from the extreme difficulty of assessing elephant numbers in the vast and dense forests of the central African basin, which cover about one-third of the potential elephant habitat--much of it in Zaire. Some 600,000 elephants have been accounted for in detailed surveys--principally in savanna lands in eastern and southern Africa. In unsurveyed areas sample surveys made by air and on foot, combined with assessments of elephant numbers on extrapolation (using an index of elephants per square kilometre of suitable habitat) and informed guesses, led to the conclusion that there at at least another 500,000 elephants, and possibly 2,000,000, to add to the 600,000 of the 'accurate' surveys.

High priority is being given to detailed surveying of the central African basin in order to arrive at a reasonably accurate figure.

Although overall numbers are high, it was agreed that Africa's elephants are declining in almost all of 34 countries in which they are still found, and especially where they are easily assessible to poachers or where their habitat is being taken over by expanding human populations. Reasonably stable African elephant populations exists only in Gabon, Ivory Coast, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, and South Africa, but they represent only a very small proportion of the overall population. In addition, Zimbabwe is notable for its 47,000 elephants whose population growth is kept in check by regular culling to protect the habitat.

African Rhinos

The Wankie meeting found that the northern subspecies of the White rhinoceros (Ceratotherium simum cottoni) was in a critical situation, with fewer than 700 surviving in the wild--almost all of them in southern Sudan and northern Zaire.

The Southern White rhino (C.s. simum) which was thought to be extinct until a few were found in Natal at the turn of the century, have thrived under protection and there are now over 2,500 in South Africa and 300 in other countries of the region, apart from the considerable number sent to zoo in other parts of the world.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS, Continued

Black rhinos (*Diceros bicornis*) have suffered massive declines in numbers in the past decade--for example, they have probably decreased by 90% in Kenya alone. It is estimated that there are now between 15,000 and 18,000 Black rhinos surviving in 18 countries, with the largest concentrations in Tanzania and Zambia. Almost everywhere they are being heavily poached for horn, which goes to the Yemen Arab Republic to make dagger handles, and to the Far East for medicinal use.

Conservation Measures

The Wankie meeting recommended conservation measures based on the biological importance of various elephant and rhino populations, their conservation status, and the economic and national factors, such as human population expansion, impinging on them.

High priority was given to building up the small breeding herd of northern White rhinos at the Dvur Kralove Zoo in Czechoslovakia, and another group at San Diego. Protection of the wild survivors needs to be improved in the Garamba National Park in Zaire, and also in southern Sudan.

To save the Black rhino, anti-poaching measures also need to be stepped up and translocation undertaken of animals to protected areas from ones where they are exposed to poaching. Special attention was recommended for *D.b. longipes* in Cameroon and the Central African Republic, for *D.b. michaeli* and *D.b. ladoensis* in Kenya, and for *D.b. minor* in Tanzania and Zambia.

Recommended priorities for elephant conservation, in addition to the status survey in the central African basin, include the small desert herds in the Kaokoveld in Namibia and in the Gourma area of Mali; the fragmented and beleaguered forest populations on West Africa, and the savanna ones in Niokola Koba, Senegal, and the W National Park (which is divided between Niger, Benin, and Upper Volta)--also those of Selous in Tanzania, Garamba in Zaire, and in the Central African Republic.

The meeting also recommended that IUCN/WWF should make representations to governments and traders to achieve effective controls and conservation measures. It was agreed that the future of rhinos would remain in jeopardy as long as trade in their horn continued, and so special efforts were recommended to divert users in Yemen and eastern Asia to substitutes.

Great importance was given to achieving universal acceptance and effective application of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES). It was suggested that their secretariat should be expanded.

Summing up the results of the Wankie meeting, the Chairman, Dr. David Cummings, Chief Ecologist of Zimbabwe's National Parks and Wildlife Department, said: "Although so much has to be done all over Africa, our meeting has identified a small set of priorities which requires strong and immediate action. There is no doubt that the Northern White Rhino in Sudan and Zaire is in an extremely precarious position. But the success in saving the Southern White Rhino shows that dedicated efforts now could certainly save the northern form from extinction.

"The Black Rhino is declining at an alarming rate, and the major focus for action is to arrest the trade in rhino horn, as well as to secure key Black Rhino populations in Tanzania and in the Luangwa Valley in Zambia.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS, Continued

"There will inevitably be a continuing reduction in the numbers of Africa's Elephants as a result of increasing human population and the demand for land. The key issue is to focus on conservation of elephants in a wide range of habitats throughout the continent. This is why we stressed the importance of the West African Elephants. Overall, careful thought needs to be given by African governments [as] to what land and habitat should be conserved before their options are closed."

The finalized action-plans are being presented to African leaders as the basis on which they can plan the future integration of conservation of wildlife resources with economic development.

"If the right decisions are taken and implemented now, Elephants and Rhinos can continue to play their traditional roles as sources of meat, ivory, and other products, as as part of the living culture of the people of Africa. The international community has a duty to help with funds and expertise", the Director-General of IUCN, Dr. Lee M. Talbot, declared. It is toward such ends that WWF/IUCN are continuing to strive.

---Peter F.R. Jackson in
Environmental Conservation



"Getting There"

By
Gary Lillo
Animal Keeper, Topeka Zoo

Finally there comes an opening at the Zoo,
And so you stand in line, 200 others and you.
They give you a smile and paper and pen,
They want your life history, other jobs and when.
It takes you awhile then you tell them you're through,
She takes them and says, "Don't call us, we'll call you".
So, then all you can do is wonder and wait,
Then after a few days it's all you can take.
But then the phone rings, they say it's the Zoo,
And tell you you've made it, to the interview.
You jump for joy, that you've made it that far,
But still 50 others are right where you are.
Then the day comes to talk to the crew,
The Director, the curator, Sr. Keepers and you.
One by one they drill you on all that you know,
You really get nervous, but try not to show.
After what seems like a day, they say they are through,
They give you their thanks and another, "We'll get back to you".
Then it's back to the waiting, as you've done for so long,
And you start thinking, maybe you said something wrong.
Then finally a letter comes straight from the Zoo,
They've made their decision, it turns out to be you.
At first you can't believe it, you think it's a dream,
But now you know you're part of the team
Of thousands of others who had in their hearts
The feeling you have to want to do your part.
Now, you've been there awhile, you know all the ropes,
You share feelings with others your dreams and hopes.
And you don't mind all the shoveling, hosing and sweeping,
For there's no greater satisfaction than those you get
From animal keeping.