

Animal Keepers' Forum

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Dedicated to Professional Animal Care

JUNE 1983

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Births & Hatchings

BRONX ZOO.....Margaret Price

Births and hatchings at the Bronx Zoo for the month of March 1983 include: Birds - 2 Malayan peacock pheasant, 1 Mauritius pink pigeon, 1 Red and white rail, 1 Inca tern, 1 Crested quail dove, 4 Lilac breasted roller, 7 Rothchild's mynah, 1 Congo peacock and 1 Silver gull; Mammals - 2.1.5 Mouflon, 0.0.2 Saddleback tamarin, 4.0 Degu, 1.0 Hammer headed bat, 1.0 Red brocket deer, 1.0 Proboscis monkey, 4.0 Wild cavy, 1.0 Egyptian fruit bat, 1.0 Nyala, 1.0 Sugar glider in pouch, 1.0 Yak, 1.0 Camel, 1.0 Patagonian cavy, 1.0 Talapoin monkey and 1.0 Pere David's deer; Reptiles - 30 Boa constrictors.

MEMPHIS ZOO AND AQUARIUM.....Robert L. Evans

The following births and hatchings were recorded during the month of April: 1.0 White rhino, 0.1 Pygmy zebu, 2.0 Pygmy goat, 1.0.1 California sea lion, 0.1 Camel, 1.1 Caracal lynx, 0.0.2 Puma, 0.1 Grant's zebra, 1.0 Bontebok, 1.0 Pere David's deer and 0.0.2 Chattering lory.

THE LONG BEACH ZOO.....Victor Pant

The Long Beach Zoo, one of the newest zoos in the United States, is proud to announce the following births and hatchings: 0.0.2 Chattering lory, 0.0.5 Cockatiels, 0.0.6 Peachface lovebirds, 0.0.6 Society finch, 0.0.4 Zebra finch, 2.1 Chinchilla and 0.0.1 Western toad.

WOODLAND PARK ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.....Mary Bennett

Births and hatchings for the months of January, February and March of 1983 include: 0.0.3 Vampire bat, 1.0 Lion (DNS), 1.0 Llama, 0.0.2 African crested porcupine (0.0.1 DNS), 0.0.1 Celebes macaque, 0.0.1 Potoroo, 0.0.1 Jersey cow, 0.0.3 Patagonian cavy (0.0.1 DNS), 0.0.1 Springhaas, 0.2 Cotswold sheep, 0.0.1 Prairie dog (DNS), 0.0.1 Band tailed pigeon, 0.0.6 Small-billed tinamou, 0.0.2 White-cheeked touraco, 0.0.1 Cotton-top tamarin, 0.0.1 Straw colored fruit bat, 0.0.2 Golden lion tamarin, 0.0.4 Lesser Bornean crested fireback, 0.0.2 Pygmy marmoset, 0.0.1 Edwards lory, 0.0.1 Lion-tailed macaque and 0.0.1 Ring-tailed lemur.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY ZOO.....Steven M. Wing

April 1983 B&H from the Milwaukee County Zoo include: 2 Humboldt penguin, 4 Canada geese, 2 East African crowned crane, 1 Vampire bat, 1.1.1 Ruffed lemur, 1 Japanese Macaque (DNS), 1 Two-toed sloth, 1 Masked palm civit (DNS), 1 Miniature horse (DNS) and 1.0 Malayan tapir.

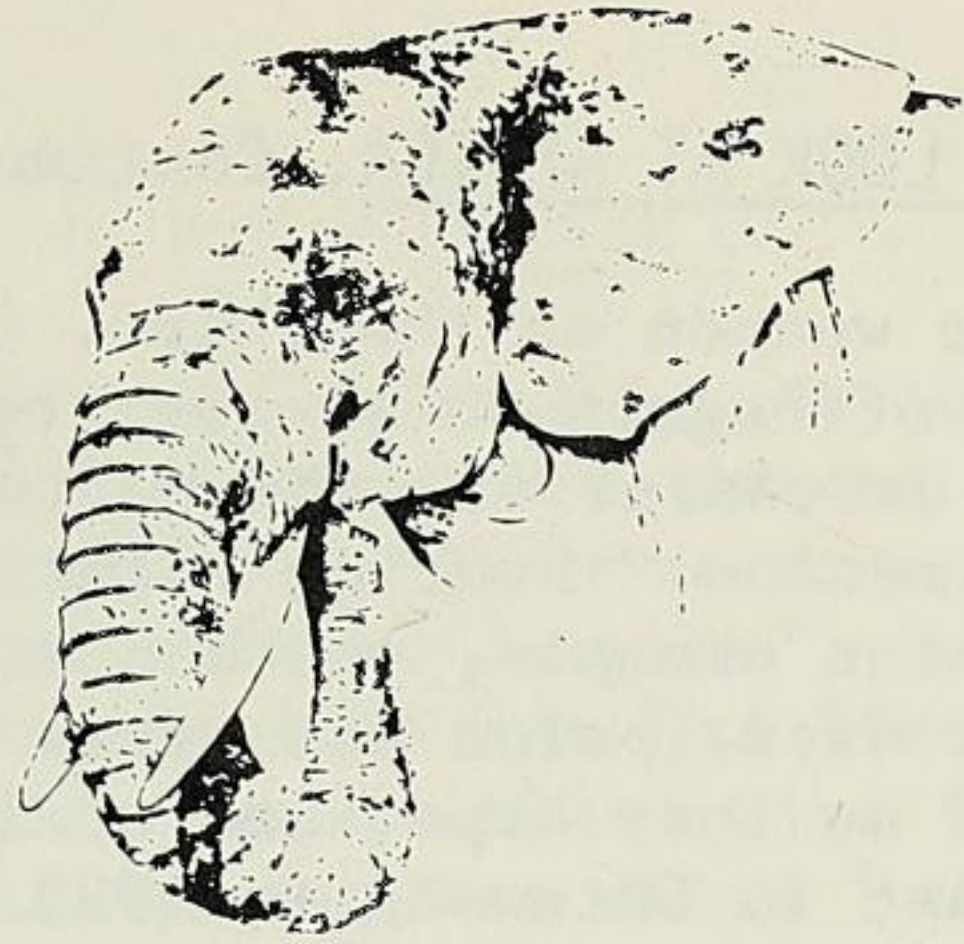
SAN DIEGO ZOO AND WILD ANIMAL PARK.....Karen S. Mosser

B&H for April 1983 include: 0.0.5 Ring-tailed lemur, 0.0.2 Brown lemur, 8.5 Black and white ruffed lemur, 7.7 Red ruffed lemur, 0.1 Francois' leaf monkey, 1.0 Pygmy chimpanzee, 2.0 Chinese dhole, 1.0 Mhorr gazelle, 0.1 Indian gaur, 0.1 Arabian oryx, 1.1 Sand gazelle, 4.1 Slender-horned gazelle; Birds - 0.0.1 California condor, 0.0.2 Razor-billed curassow, 0.0.9 Mikado pheasant, 0.0.2 Palawan peacock pheasant and 0.0.1 Nicobar pigeon.

A SECOND LOOK AT AFRICA

By

Mary L. Swanson, Carnivore Keeper
Fresno Zoo, Fresno, CA



For nearly four weeks in late July and early August 1982, I accompanied my director, Dr. Paul Chaffee, on another tour of Africa. In 1980, some of our group had gone with him to west and east African countries. But now we were going to a less commonly visited part of Africa, southern Africa, at a totally different season--winter. We were to see animals deep in South Africa, in Zimbabwe, and in Botswana. It turned out to be a terrific trip, worth every cent I had to mortgage my house for, in order to pay for the trip.

We began by flying over the Kalahari Desert and the vast Okavanga Delta to Botswana, where we were met by our crusty guide, Doug Skinner. In unusual game-viewing trucks he had pieced together himself, Doug took us to our tent camp at Moremi Game Reserve, set in the middle of a beautiful mopane forest and on the edge of the Okavanga Swamp. Camping out in Botswana in winter can be very COLD at night, but it was still one of the best parts of the whole trip. We were to move camp two more times in our Botswana tour---and each camp site would have its excitements--lions wandering through camp at night, or baboons, or vervets, and elephants in camp in daylight, or the wild dogs and honey badgers raiding a garbage can at night.

But best of all was our close access to the wild animals. In Botswana there are few people (only 800,000 pop. in an area similar in size to more populous Kenya), and, in winter, few tourists. So we had the freedom of seeing hundreds of animals without the disturbance of other tourists' vehicles very often. We could spend hours at a waterhole if we wished, and we were even able to view animals by "walking safaris".

The Okavanga River begins in Angola, flows eastward, but never reaches the Indian Ocean. Instead it disappears into the earth after forming the great swamp known as the Okavanga Delta out in the Kalahari Desert. Here, by boat (a few steps from our tent camp) we viewed marvelously beautiful plant life of reeds, etc. with abundant species of birds--including the striking pygmy goose, and African jacanas living up to their nickname of "lily trotters"--and, of course, lots of hippos and a few crocodiles.

On land we saw numerous species of mammals and birds--huge herds of cape buffalo at sunset, the red lechwe antelope that lives in swampy areas, elephants, impala, roan antelope, hyenas, wild dogs, lions, honey badgers, sable antelope, sassaby (tssesebe) and hundreds of bird species. Among the latter we had the thrill of seeing two rare species, the saddlebilled stork and the wattled crane, feeding together in the same little piece of marsh.

Other sights were not always so pleasant. Near the border with Namibia, we found a poached white rhino, one that had only recently been re-introduced to Botswana where white rhinos had all disappeared a few years ago. This rhino had been dead less than 48 hours and vultures were just beginning to work on the carcass. He had been deprived of his horn, of course, by the poachers. Our guide, Doug, told us that it was common practice for poachers to come by helicopter across the river from Namibia, use an

A SECOND LOOK AT AFRICA, Continued

automatic weapon on the rhino, then use a chain saw to remove the horn, and take off again--a process taking only 10 minutes total! Nearby, we found 36 carcasses of cape buffalo, shot with automatic weapons for no apparent reason. Hunting safaris are also common in Botswana, priced by species--for example, one can still hunt elephant for \$600 per day, minimum of 21 days (price and terms taken from ad in an airline magazine). Doug told us they hope that at least the elephant will be taken off the "game" list in Botswana in 1983.

On this trip we were seeing southern Africa during a severe drought, which meant the animals were congregating more at the few waterholes, making it easier for us to view them. The year before, Dr. Chaffee had been visiting the same area and the contrast was startling. At that time, the Savuti Channel had been filled with water. This year it held only three feet of muddy water. At one spot we sat on the bank and counted 55 hippos, 16 big crocodiles, and a mass of huge catfish struggling to keep their bodies wet. Herds of 25-30 bull elephants kept coming to drink and bathe. Shy kudu slipped in briefly. We took endless pictures, but slides could never give our friends back home the full effect--because the over-crowded muddy waterholes exuded a terrible stench, like a gigantic sewer. Many of our party were overwhelmed with pity for the animals (one young hippo was dead already). But our guide told us that the adult animals would probably survive because when they became desperate enough, they could trek 30 miles to another source of water.

Soon we arrived at the Chobe River ourselves and saw what he meant. Here were hippos wallowing in deep water covered with aquatic vegetation, troops of chacma baboons on shore, and both bull elephant herds and matriarchal elephants herds with tiny babies, bathing, drinking, rolling in the mud and returning to the river. Some even played in the water. We were able to walk near and drive amongst the hundreds of elephants. Later some of them wandered nonchalantly through our camp, calmly chomping bushes.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our nearly 10 days of camping out--the "game" runs at dawn, the incredible numbers of birds and mammals, and the delightful evenings around the campfire. But now it was time to move on--to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. Seeing the famous falls was one of the great experiences of the trip. Even though this was a drought year with "low" water, the falls were spectacular. It was even more exciting to fly over the huge falls in small planes. Along the misty paths by the falls we saw two animals seen only in this area--the Trumpeter Hornbill and the Chobe Bushbuck (the latter sub-species occurs only in a 100 sq. mile area of Africa).

After we left Victoria Falls, we went on to Wankie National Park (now called Whange) in Zimbabwe. There we had three excellent young naturalists guides taking our group out to view animals from land rovers. During our stay they taught us the basics of reading elephant tracks so we could tell the direction they were going, the size of the animal, etc. They showed us elephant rubbing trees and stumps where elephants had rubbed the bark smooth and shiny scratching their skin. Local people chip off bits of these rubbed areas to make beautiful buttons. We also found huge holes where elephants had dug down to reach mineral-rich dirt to eat. We spent hours at waterholes watching Chapman's zebra, Masai giraffes, sable antelope, and many other animals drinking. This was especially nice during the beautiful sunsets. At night we went out for "spotlight" runs, where we saw hundreds of spring hares, grey duikers, common jackals, bush pigs, and, for me, the great delight of seeing a magnificent leopard only 12 feet away.

After all too short a stay in this fascinating park, we flew to the Cape

area of South Africa, spending time in Capetown and Zululand. At our Zululand Safari Lodge, we found two magnificent white rhino grazing right outside our room doors, accompanied by cattle egrets. We were disappointed in a visit to Hluhluwe Game Reserve (pronounced "sheh-shloo-wee") because management had just done a controlled burn and the wildlife had fled. We intended to visit Umfolozi Park where the Fresno Zoo's white rhino had come from, but, it too had been burned. So instead, we went to Mkuze Park, where they have a large photographic blind (called Msinga) built out into the middle of a waterhole. The floor is covered with rubber--the rule is silence and no smoking and one watches the animals through a foot-high slit in the walls. We spent an astounding two hours here filming hundreds of zebra, wildebeest, impala, chacma baboons, many birds, kudu, the beautiful shaggy nyala antelope and three colors of wart hogs (grey, light rust and rusty-red). We wished we had more time.

Then we went on to one of the biggest highlights of the trip---we spent the night with the Zulu people in a place called Kwabhekithunga Kraal. We had a marvelous visit with this loving, warm, spirited people who make up the largest ethnic population in all South Africa. We learned a great deal about their customs, history, music and art. It was not a phony Disneyland-type tourist set-up. We were truly welcomed by these beautiful people. I would not be suprised (and would hope it happens soon) to hear that the Zulu will be the governing majority in South Africa.

The remainder of our time in Africa was spent in the Capetown area, shopping, eating great food, and visiting the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Point, where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet. But even on the Cape we found native animals--in a park that was stark and wind-blown, but had Cape hyrax, chacma baboons, ostrich, many sea birds, Cape hartebeest, springbok and the beautiful bontebok.

Our nearly four weeks in southern Africa was marvelous. We had experienced elephants at virtually touching distance. We had seen animals that exist only in this part of Africa. My list of animals sighted included species of 38 mammals, 2 reptiles, and 120 birds, plus several insect species. We had seen unforgettable sights, such as Giant Kingfisher catching fish, young bull elephants sparring, vervets stealing sugar from our camp table, and that beautiful leopard sauntering through the brush at night.

There were also the sad memories of the poached rhino, the tacky, ugly elephant's foot stool with the zebra skin seat, and the elephant ivory carvings for sale everywhere. The worst sight was getting off the plane in New York to find that some of our fellow passengers were claiming guns at the luggage rondeval--guns they had used on a hunting safari in Botswana.

But we knew we had had the better trip. We had sat peacefully at waterholes watching beautiful African antelope, elephants, zebras and birds. We had captured them on film, not with a bullet. We had seen them while there was still time to see them in the wild. We could only hope that the governments of southern Africa can soon afford stronger efforts to preserve these magnificent animals.



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| Laurence Gledhill Joanie Stinson | Woodland Park Zoo Phoenix Zoo | WA, OR, ID, MT, WY, AK CA, NV, AZ, UT, HI |
| Vacancy | | Canada |

Births & Hatchings

BRONX ZOO.....Margaret Price

B&H at the Bronx Zoo for the months of August and September 1983 include: Mammals - 4.0 Patagonian cavy, 0.1 Gaur, 0.2 Thomson's gazelle, 0.1 Grevy's zebra, 6.0 Bushy-tailed jird, 0.1 Sable antelope, 1.0 Yak, 2.0 Lesser long-tongued bat, 5.- Pen-tailed bettong, 2.0 Axis deer, 5.0 Collared peccary, 0.2 Blackbuck, 2.0 Saddleback tamarin, 1.0 Formosan sika deer, 3.0 Guanaco, 1.1 Wisent, 0.1 Red brocket deer, 4.0 Capybara, 1.0 Mouflon, 1.0 Hammer-headed bat, 1.0 White-handed gibbon and 0.1 Reeves muntjac; Birds - 7 Crested tinamou, 1 Palawan peacock pheasant, 1 Green wood hoopoe, 2 Malayan fairy bluebird, 1 American barn owl, 5 American ruddy duck, 2 Andean gull, 1 Caribbean Chilean flamingo, 7 Rothschild's mynah, 3 Black-winged stilt, 3 Golden-breasted bunting, 2 Tufted puffin, 1 Green jungle fowl, 2 White-quilled black bustard, 3 Mauritius pink pigeon, 5 Ringed teal, 1 Black-rumped hemipode, 2 Northern masked weaver, and 2 Crested quail dove; Reptiles - 30 Hispaniolan boa, 1 South American big-headed turtle, 11 Black-lipped cobra, 1 Eastern painted turtle and 3 Eastern box turtle.

JACKSONVILLE ZOO.....Anne Wiggins

The following are the B&H for January-September 1983: Mammals - 1.4 Pygmy goat, 1.2 Sitatunga (1 DNS), 0.0.10 Capybara (5 DNS), 1.2 Eland (1 DNS), 0.2 Guanaco, 0.1 White rhino (DNS), 0.2 Ring-tailed lemur, 2.0 Hartebeest (1 DNS), 0.1 Cape Buffalo, 0.1 Sable antelope and 0.1 Grant's zebra: Birds - 12 Masai ostrich (5 DNS), 3 Sacred ibis (1 DNS), 4 Leadbeater's ground hornbill (1 DNS), 2 Sulphur-crested cockatoo (1 DNS), 3 Kookaburra (1 DNS), 1 Pondicherry vulture, 1 Lesser magellan goose, 2 Abyssinian blue-winged goose (1 DNS), 1 Demoiselle crane, 20 Vulture guinea fowl, 62 Golden pheasant (16 DNS), 5 Mandarin duck (2 DNS), 4 Indian spotbill duck (1 DNS), 20+ Indian peafowl, 5 Peach-faced lovebird, 2 Yellow-collared macaw (2 DNS), 4 Illiger's macaw (4 DNS), 2 Rothschild's mynah (2DNS), and 20 Wild turkey; Reptiles - 2 New Guinea snake-necked turtle (1 DNS), 6 Nile crocodile (1 DNS), 4 Eastern musk turtle, 4 Leopard gecko and 1 Amazon tree boa.

SAN DIEGO ZOO AND WILD ANIMAL PARK.....Jody Courtney

Selected B&H for August 1983 include: Mammals - 1.1 Barasinga deer, 3.1 Arabian oryx, 0.1 Hartmann's mountain zebra, 0.2 Addax, 0.2 Scimitar-horned oryx, 2.2 Asian lion, 1.0 Okapi, 1.0 Addra gazelle and 0.0.2 Pygmy marmoset; Birds -- 0.0.4 Malay argus pheasant, 0.0.2 Renauld's ground cuckoo, 0.0.2 Eyton's whistling duck, 0.0.4 Kenya crested guinea fowl, 0.0.3 Black-breasted button quail and 0.0.2 Amboina king parakeet; Reptiles -- 0.0.4 Aruba rattle snake.

DALLAS ZOO.....Tami Jones

September 1983 B&H include: Mammals - 0.0.5 Patagonian cavy, 0.1 Dama gazelle, 0.1 Sable antelope (DNS), 0.1 Axis deer; Birds - 0.0.5 Red-vented bulbul, 0.0.4 Society finch, 0.0.1 West African crowned crane, 0.0.4 White-headed piping guan, 0.0.1 Gouldian finch, 0.0.1 Oriental turtle dove (DNS); Reptiles - 2 South African chameleon (*Bradypodium ventrale*), 0.0.2 Australian snapping turtle (*Elseya latisternum*), 1.0 Central American kingsnake (*Lampropeltis triangulum polyzona*).