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February 1989

Animal Keepers' Forum



Dedicated to Professional Animal Care

Viewpoint

Blood on Our Hands

By
Andy Lodge
Ngare Sergoi Support Group
Columbus, OH

Most of us know that the **black rhino** has been virtually wiped out in most African nations, with wild herds of any size left only in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

I am very involved with the efforts to save the black rhino in Kenya through my association and friendship with Anna Merz and her Ngare Sergoi Sanctuary.

The rhino can be put in fenced sanctuaries, where some degree of safety can be maintained for them; although the recent senseless and tragic slaughter of the white rhino in Meru proves these sanctuaries are by no means 100% safe.

The rhino's days of roaming free in the wild are over, at least in our lifetime. What the future holds for them - we will never know. Now there is another animal that is being systematically exterminated, the **African elephant**.

These great animals are being wiped out at an alarming rate by organized, well-armed bands of poachers. Using four-wheel vehicles, with automatic weapons mounted on the hoods, they are taking out entire herds including the young. Not only is **this** generation of elephants being wiped out but future generations as well.

And what are we in North America doing about it? We walk by stores with elephant-skin boots on their shelves as well as stores selling ivory trinkets and carvings - and say nothing! I have more respect for the poachers than I do for the people who buy this **blood-stained** merchandise, or for the people who just stand by - and do nothing.

Are people so wrapped up in their own little worlds, their own careers and personal comforts that they can turn a blind eye to the fact that we are **all** contributing to the extinction of the elephant?

I try, through my talks with colleges, schools, civic and other groups, to stress just how widespread the killing is in Africa. I sometimes wonder if anyone is listening, or if they just don't care; after all, Africa is eight thousand miles away...

Once again, I must turn to the only people I know who truly care, my peers, my fellow keepers. It is up to us to make an all out effort to get the ivory and boots out of the public eye. We must write the boot manufacturers, such as Tony Lema, Dingo and others. We must write our congressmen and demand to know why this is allowed to go on.

They will tell you that a certain amount is legal, which is true; but tell them it is a fact that 80% of elephant products brought into this country is illegally poached. As **one-third** of all elephant products are sold in North America, something **must** be done.

I sometimes wish, when I see people wearing ivory or elephant-skin boots, that they could see and smell the African landscape littered with rotting elephant carcasses; their faces cut off with chain saws; the dead babies lying beside their mothers. See young elephants, with only six or seven inches of ivory, killed and mutilated.

VIEWPOINT. *Continued*

As fellow professionals in the wildlife field, I hope you will take up the banner. **United we can make a difference**, and preserve the elephant for generations to come. God knows, our generation rates very poor marks concerning our environment and wildlife.

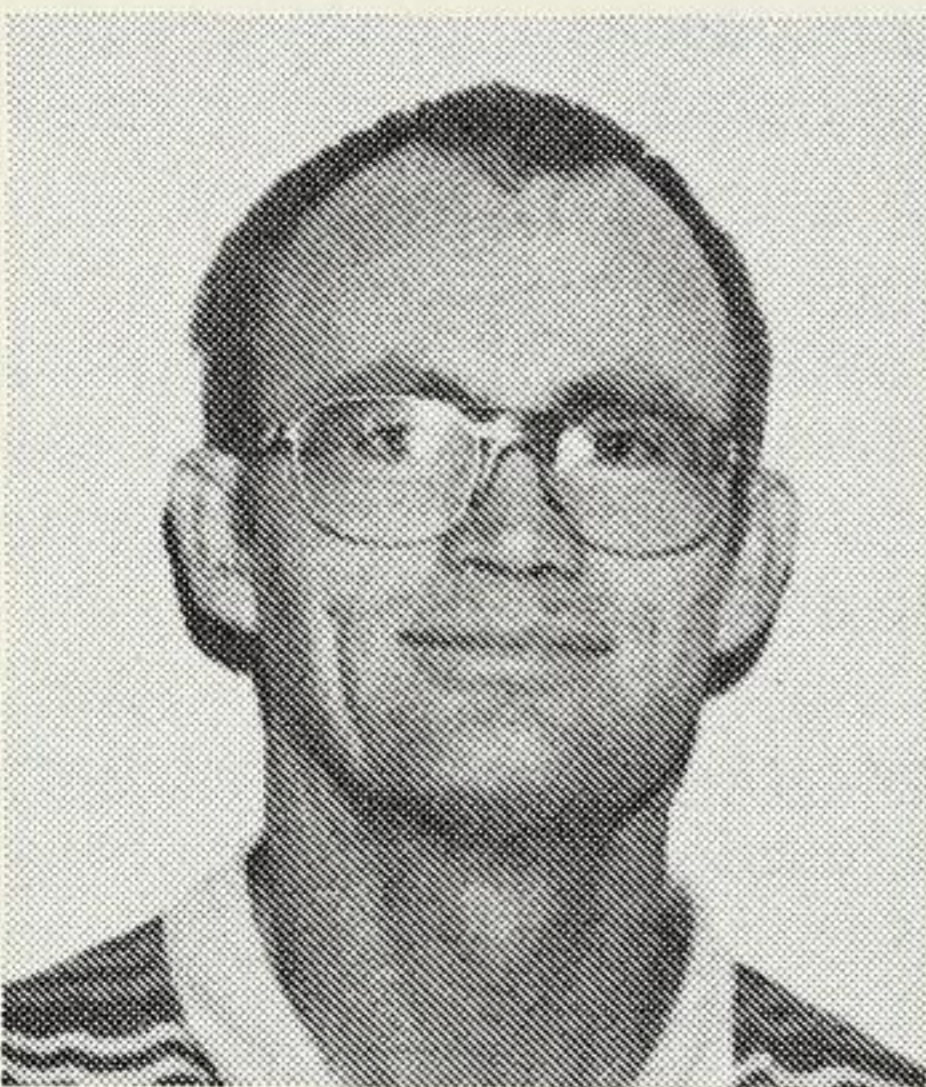
We must fight harder **now** to make a better future.

I'd like to leave you with one last thought. In 1972, there were 140,000 elephants in Kenya - today there are less than 10,000.

(Editor's note: A number of groups around the country, including several zoological societies have been making efforts to contact wholesale merchants who carry both ivory and elephant skin products. Here in Topeka, our Friends of the Topeka Zoo organization contacted a number of merchants in our area who had advertised elephant skin boots for sale. Due to our efforts at least one store, J.C. Penney, agreed to return these products to their distributor and discontinue their sale. We are still putting pressure on those who have not responded. So, you can make a difference by your actions. Keep in mind that any long journey must begin with the first step. Have you taken yours?)



Meet Your RCs...John Turner, Regional Coordinator for Colorado, New Mexico and Texas



I was born in 1943 and decided in 4th grade that I wanted to work with nature (not "people"). I received by B.A. in Zoology from the University of Montana in 1965. I got a job as a seasonal laborer on the grounds crew at the Denver Zoo in the summer of 1965.

In the summer of 1974, I volunteered with a local, private wildlife center/rehabilitator, and am still affiliated with it (now the North American Wildlife Center). I was hired by the Denver Zoo in the fall of 1974 and trained and worked all sections except elephants and the hospital. I was the regular keeper for Bear Mountain section (grizzlies, Polar Bear, Sea lions, small reptile building and domestic barnyard) for one year, until undergoing an ileostomy in 1977. I then worked one year as relief for the sections in Bird World. I was then assigned as the regular keeper for the "Children's Zoo"; actually a small animal section (amphibians to mammals, monotremes to primates) where I worked for five years.

In 1983 I took the summer course at the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust on the Island of Jersey and have since worked as floating relief keeper at the Denver Zoo.

I joined AAZK and AAZPA in 1976/77. I attended the Animal Behavior Workshop in Seattle, WA in 1986.

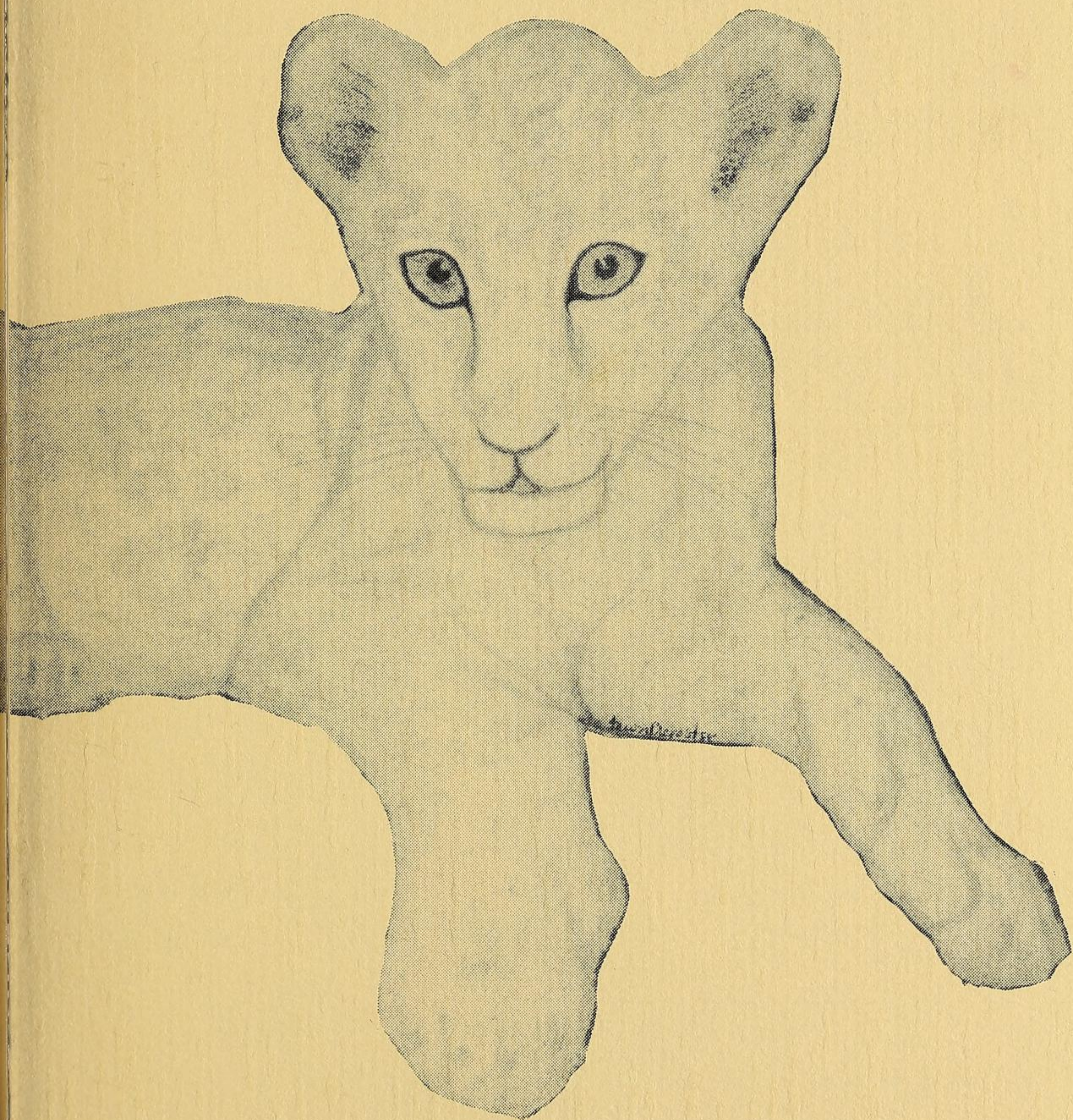
We formed our Rocky Mountain AAZK Chapter in 1984. In 1986, our corresponding secretary suggested I might fill the Regional Coordinator position as being meeting's secretary did not require much of my time. I applied enthusiastically and was accepted by the AAZK Board of Directors for this position.



Animal Keepers' Forum

QL
76
A598
N24

April 1989



Dedicated to Professional Animal Care

Scoops and Scuttlebutt, Continued

(Ed. Note: Only professional members of AAZK may vote in a Board of Directors election. Ballots and biographical sketches of the candidates will be mailed to all professional members in May. Completed ballots must be returned to AAZK Administrative Offices postmarked no later than 1 June 1989.)

Librarians Group Offers Bibliographies

The AAZPA Librarians Special Interest Group is offering over 40 bibliographies and reading lists to interested persons. A free list of what is available can be requested from Suzanne Braun, Bibliography Coordinator, Indianapolis Zoo Library, 1200 West Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46222.

Herp Colloquium Planned for '89 AAZPA Conference

A special colloquium on the Conservation and Captive Propagation of Reptiles and Amphibians will be held in conjunction with the 1989 Annual Conference of the AAZPA in Pittsburgh, PA from 24-28 September. For details contact: *Kevin Bowler, Audubon Zoological Gardens, 6500 Magazine St., New Orleans, LA 70178. (504) 861-2537.*

Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary Update

The following letter was received at the *AKF* office from Anna Merz, founder of the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary in Kenya. It is a copy of the letter sent to The Ngare Sergoi Support Group, Columbus, OH. Since Andy Lodge has spoken to many AAZK Chapters about the rhino sanctuary, and a number of Chapters have held fundraisers for the Sanctuary, we thought it would be of interest.

Dear Members,

Yesterday I received from the Trustee of the Ngare Sergoi Charitable Rhino Turst in Jersey, C.I. his account for the year 1988 showing that donations from your Support Group under Andy Lodge amounted to the truly amazing sum of \$23,800. I cannot tell you how deeply grateful and appreciative I am of all of you who by your work and your generosity have made possible the collection of this huge sum of money which amounts to about 25% of the running cost of the Sanctuary which in 1988 totalled \$96,420. Added to this money I also received from your Group 9 pairs of field glasses.

My trustee tells me that this year he has already received from you a further \$3,500 and Andy has brought with him a very powerful night scope (value \$1600) which will make a very great difference to the efficiency of our night patrols.

On behalf of the rhinos, and we now have 17 of these magnificent animals in our care, and one behalf of all of us here please accept both my congratulations and my heartfelt thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Anna H. Merz

Attention---Correction!

In the March 1989 AKF, an advertisement promoting an African Safari sponsored by the Ngare Sergoi Support Group appeared on page 93. The dates for the safari were listed incorrectly. The dates are October 15-28, 1989 not October 15-18 as listed. We apologize for any confusion this error may have caused.



Births & Hatchings, Continued

Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Garden, Mysore, India...the following B&H were reported by Pundareeka Rao, sponsored foreign keeper of the Zoo Atlanta AAZK Chapter: 6 Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris*), 1 Tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), 1 Sloth bear (*Melursus ursinus*), 1 Black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*), 1 Indian gazelle (*Gazella bennetti*), 3 Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*), 3 Fallow deer (*Dama dama*), 3 Indian porcupine (*Hystrix indica*), 1 Thamin deer (*Cervus eldi*), 1 Leopard cat (*Felis bengalensis*), 4 Palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*), 2 Nylghaie (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), 2 Sarus crane (*Grus antigone*), 2 Black swan (*Cygnus atratus*), 1 Burmese peafowl (*Pavo muticus*). New arrivals include: 1.1 Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*), 1.1 Civet cat (*Civettictis civetta*), 1.0 Mouse deer (*Tragulus meminna*), 1.1 Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) and 1.1 Runner ducks (?).
submitted by Susan Barnard, Zoo Atlanta AAZK Chapter, Atlanta, GA.

Metro Toronto Zoo...for the third year in a row, the Metro Toronto Zoo has achieved remarkable success in breeding the Puerto Rican crested toad - a creature so rare that it was thought to be extinct until 1980. In 1986, the Metro Toronto Zoo was the first zoo in the world to successfully breed these toads naturally, and as a result, was awarded the Canadian Association of Zoological Parks and Aquarium's Award for Outstanding Achievement. As a result of this breeding success, Bob Johnson, Curator of Reptiles, was able, as part of a cooperative SSP breeding project between MTZ, the Buffalo Zoo, and the Puerto Rican Dept. of Natural Resources, to return 350 of the toads to Puerto Rico. So far, over 3,000 of these severely endangered toadlets and tadpoles have been released in Puerto Rico and 300 have been distributed to other zoos in the world who wished to start their own breeding programs. *from Metro Toronto Zoo News Release Feb. 1989.*

Philadelphia Zoo...significant births at the Philadelphia Zoological Gardens from December 1988-February 1989 include: Mammal Dept. - it was a very successful winter for primate births. The most important being the birth of a female Western lowland gorilla (*Gorilla g. gorilla*). The baby named Kola is the third offspring of our breeding male John and mother Samantha. Our group now contains 3.3 animals; the remaining adult being Snickers who is the mother of a nearly four-year-old male, Anaka. Samantha's other two youngsters are eight-year-old female Jessica, and nearly five-year-old Chaka. The Philadelphia Zoo and its primate keepers are firmly committed to allowing its young gorillas to be mother-reared. Our only fatality to date was a five-month-old male of Snickers who died of Shigellosis in 1983. Mother-reared animals function better as adults and almost always become successful breeders later in adulthood. Gorilla infants that are pulled for hand-rearing, except for extreme circumstances, should be considered an admission of failure of gorilla husbandry.

Other primate births included a 1.0 Spectacled langur (*Presbytis obscura*), the first offspring of a new breeding group recently formed, 0.0.2 Senegal bushbaby (*Galago senegalensis*), and 0.0.1 Geoffroy's marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus geoffroi*). This baby is the second offspring of a female born at Philadelphia and was sired by a native Brazilian-born male.

Other important mammal births included a female Reticulated giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) who was named Suzie after Curator of Mammals K. Kranz's wife. This is the sixth offspring sired by our male Rafiki. A male Gunthers dik-dik (*Madoqua guentheri*), a Mexican fruit bat (*Artibeus jamaicensis*) and 0.0.6 European harvest mice (*Micromys mintus*) were also born during this time period. The latter are the subject of a keeper research project in the zoo's Small Mammal House. *submitted by Robert Berghaier, Chapter Liaison, Philadelphia Zoo AAZK Chapter, Philadelphia, PA.*

Los Angeles Zoo...the L.A. Zoo is pleased to report significant occurrences for the months of January and February.

Birds: After several months of courtship behavior, one of our pairs of California condors (*Gymnogyps californianus*) laid LA Zoo's first California condor egg on 20 February. The egg was laid by a pair of young birds (female Cachuma and male Cuyama) that were

Chapter News

Assiniboine Park Zoo Keepers Association (AAZK)

Elections were held for our Chapter in February. New officers are:

President.....Mark de Denus
Vice President.....Tim Kelly
Secretary.....Joseph Gatien
Treasurer.....Bob Sydor
Chapter Liaison.....Val Norquay

We were pleased to present Andy Lodge's "On the Brink of Extinction" in November of 1988. We were able to raise \$1200 U.S. to support the Ngare Sergoi Black Rhino Sanctuary in Kenya.

We will be participating in Wildlife Week again this year during April. We find it an excellent way to promote education and public relations. This year we will investigate the potential of the Ecosystem Survival Plan (ESP) as initiated by the Greater San Francisco Bay Area AAZK Chapter.

We have at present two keepers participating in zookeeper exchanges. Stace Seguin has exchanged with Julie Staines from Dublin, Ireland and Barb Hafner is in Miyazaki City, Japan. We are expecting a keeper from Miyazaki in the summer.

APZKA is now sponsoring K.K. Sharma from Ram Nivas Gardens in India. We are looking forward to correspondence with him.

--Valerie Norquay
Chapter Liaison

Binghamton Chapter AAZK

On 10 January 1989, the Ross Park Zoo staff formed the Binghamton Chapter of AAZK. This was due, in part, to the commitment of the Ross Park zookeepers to assist Burnet Park in hosting the upcoming 1989 National AAZK Conference to be held in Syracuse, NY.

Some possible fundraising ideas have been photo contests, coffee, hot chocolate and chili sales along with car washes as the weather warms. We're also planning a breakfast with the animals in early summer. Those of you who have hosted or co-hosted a conference must have some great fundraising ideas you'd like to share. Please contact: Deidre Flaherty, Secretary, Binghamton Chapter, 185 Park Ave., Binghamton, NY 13903. Any information you could supply would be greatly appreciated.

During the conference we plan to have Zoolympics and lunch for the delegates at the Ross Park Zoo. We're all looking forward to meeting many other zoo professionals and sharing information.

--Deidre Flaherty, Secretary

St. Louis Zoo AAZK Chapter

Recently elected officers are:

President.....Joe Knobbe
Vice President.....Louise Bradshaw
Secretary.....Alyce Wilkins
Treasurer.....Frank Fischer
Chapter Liaison.....Rick Smith

In 1988 the St. Louis Chapter hosted a lecture given by Gedde Caddick, General Curator for the Belize Zoo. The slide presentation covered the topics of rainforests, the Belize Zoo, and Third World zoos. Other speakers hosted in 1988 included Melize Riechman, Sierra Club, on rainforest conservation, and William Wiese of The Nature Conservancy (this lecture resulted in our Chapter joining The Nature Conservancy). In August our garage sale raised approximately \$600. President Joe Knobbe was sent to the National Conference to represent our Chapter and to give a paper on "Monitoring Perineal Swelling in Cercopithecine Monkeys". Other 1988 activities included social gatherings and aluminum recycling.

--Rick Smith, Chapter Liaison

Animal Keepers' Forum

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May 1989



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Chapter News, Continued

Zoo Atlanta AAZK Chapter

One of our AAZK Chapter members recently took a tour of Africa at which time donations in our Chapter's name were made to the following: the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary operated by Anna Mertz, and The African Wildlife Foundation.

Most recently our Chapter was an active participant in the AAZPA Southern Regional Conference held at Zoo Atlanta. We assisted with the Breakfast Roundtable discussions and other Chapter members made presentations at the conference. We would like to extend our appreciation to the 306 delegates who were in attendance at the conference.

Another project our Chapter has currently undertaken is aluminum can recycling. We intend to keep this project ongoing.

- Lisa Hughes, Chapter Liaison

St. Louis AAZK Chapter

Our lunchtime lectures are a success. We have had two per month. Lecture topics have included Cheetah Survival Program, Primate Behavior, Crowned Pigeon Chick Feeding, and Hoofstock.

On 23 May we will host Andy Lodge, Columbus Zoo, who will present his lecture on Black rhinos. We look forward to this lecture and plan on a successful fundraising outcome. Also on 1 June we will have a rock band concert benefit for black rhinos - "Rockin' for Rhinos". Everyone is welcome. Out-of-town visitors please call Rick Smith (314-781-8037) and we'll find accommodations for you. "Rockin' for Rhinos" will benefit the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary. Future benefit concerts are being planned.

We are also beginning to create a paper recycling plan for the zoo. Come and join in the fun on 1 June!

- Rick Smith, Chapter Liaison

Bronx Zoo AAZK Chapter

Rosemarie Gnam gave a presentation at our March meeting about the research she has done on the endangered Bahama parrot of Abaco Island. She set up a program of education and research and hopes, with the cooperation of the Bahama National Trust and island residents, to create a local parrot reserve in Abaco. The population of the Bahama parrots on Abaco is unique because they are ground-nesters, using natural limestone cavities. Very few parrot species nest on the ground and scientists are interested in knowing more about how this unusual behavior evolved and how it may effect the parrots' survival.

Our speaker in April was Daniel Katz, President of the Rainforest Alliance. He gave an enthusiastic talk on the goals of the Alliance and how it has been able to get people and corporations involved in trying to stop the destruction of tropical rainforests. The Rainforest Alliance is made up primarily of volunteers. It has been particularly effective in getting pharmaceutical and architectural groups concerned about the future of species diversity in the rainforest.

--Wendy Worth, Chapter Liaison

Tucson Chapter AAZK

The Tucson Chapter had a Valentine's Day aluminum can crunch and raised \$170.00. In our sincere desire to support animal conservation worldwide, we will be sending the money to the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary. We're sure Andy Lodge and Anna Mertz will use the money to further their efforts in rhino conservation.

We also held our general election in March and newly elected officers for the year are:

President.....Leslie Wood
Vice President.....Chuck Waters
Secretary.....Barbara Palmer
Treasurer.....Jill Hickey
Chapter Liaison.....Gale London

--Gale London, Chapter Liaison

Animal Keepers' Forum

QL
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June 1989



Tim F. P. Knight

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Chapter News, Continued

and their docents started the closing up routine. One of my added responsibilities that day, due to a keeper being on vacation, was to bottle feed a young male Thomson gazelle. Having raised three such babies since being employed at the zoo, I take this chore for granted and have forgotten how much of a true joy this can be. Seeing my docent, Lisa, feed that baby made the thrill of it all come back to me through her eyes. I'm sure it's a memory she'll cherish for some time as she watched in amazement as "Rudy" sucked the bottle down in his usual record time.

Five o'clock arrived and docents and keepers were exchanging their goodbyes. The docents expressed many thanks for an interesting day and also the desire to take part in another adventure like this one soon. I'm sure that this will help them in their volunteer work here at the zoo as they are asked many questions by the visitors and now have some "first hand" experience with the actual workings of the animal areas. I knew we had truly made them feel like "animal keepers for a day" as I overheard one docent remark, "All I want to do is get home and take a hot shower!"

--Betty A. Grogan, President

AAZK Welcomes Newest Chapter

AAZK is pleased to welcome the Greater Baltimore Chapter to the Association. Chartered in January of 1989, the Chapter includes members from the Baltimore Zoo, The National Aquarium at Baltimore and the Maryland Science Center. They currently have 27 members. Their mailing address is: Greater Baltimore AAZK Chapter, Baltimore Zoo, Druid Hill Park, Baltimore, MD 21217.

Newly elected officers are:

President.....Rosemary Jalink
Vice President.....Karen Brown
Secretary.....Christine Bartos
Treasurer.....Joanne Shaffer
Chapter Liaison...Kathy Bennett

San Diego AAZK Chapter

Our Chapter held a fund-raiser for the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary by selling tickets to a special AAZK April meeting featuring Andy Lodge as our guest speaker. We hosted talks at the Wild Animal Park and the San Diego Zoo and conducted a bake sale and raffle after the talks. We were able to raise \$2,837.35 from ticket sales, raffle, the bake sale, and a donation box set up at each talk. Members did not mind paying for a ticket for the special meeting, and many zoo employees who could not attend the talks donated money to the cause. The Oak Crest Junior High School's Ecology Club, in Encinitas, CA, raised over \$150.00 for Ngare Sergoi from car washes and T-shirt sales. Andy spoke at the school and the kids were thrilled to see how their efforts for conservation are put into action. As a result, the kids have decided to "adopt" Ngare Sergoi for continuous support.

We communicated with the other chapters in California and were able to coordinate Andy's visit here with the Fresno and Los Angeles chapters. Both chapters hosted Andy as a speaker for a combined total of over \$5,000.00 raised for Ngare Sergoi by all three chapters. We plan to continue with increased communication between chapters for future events.

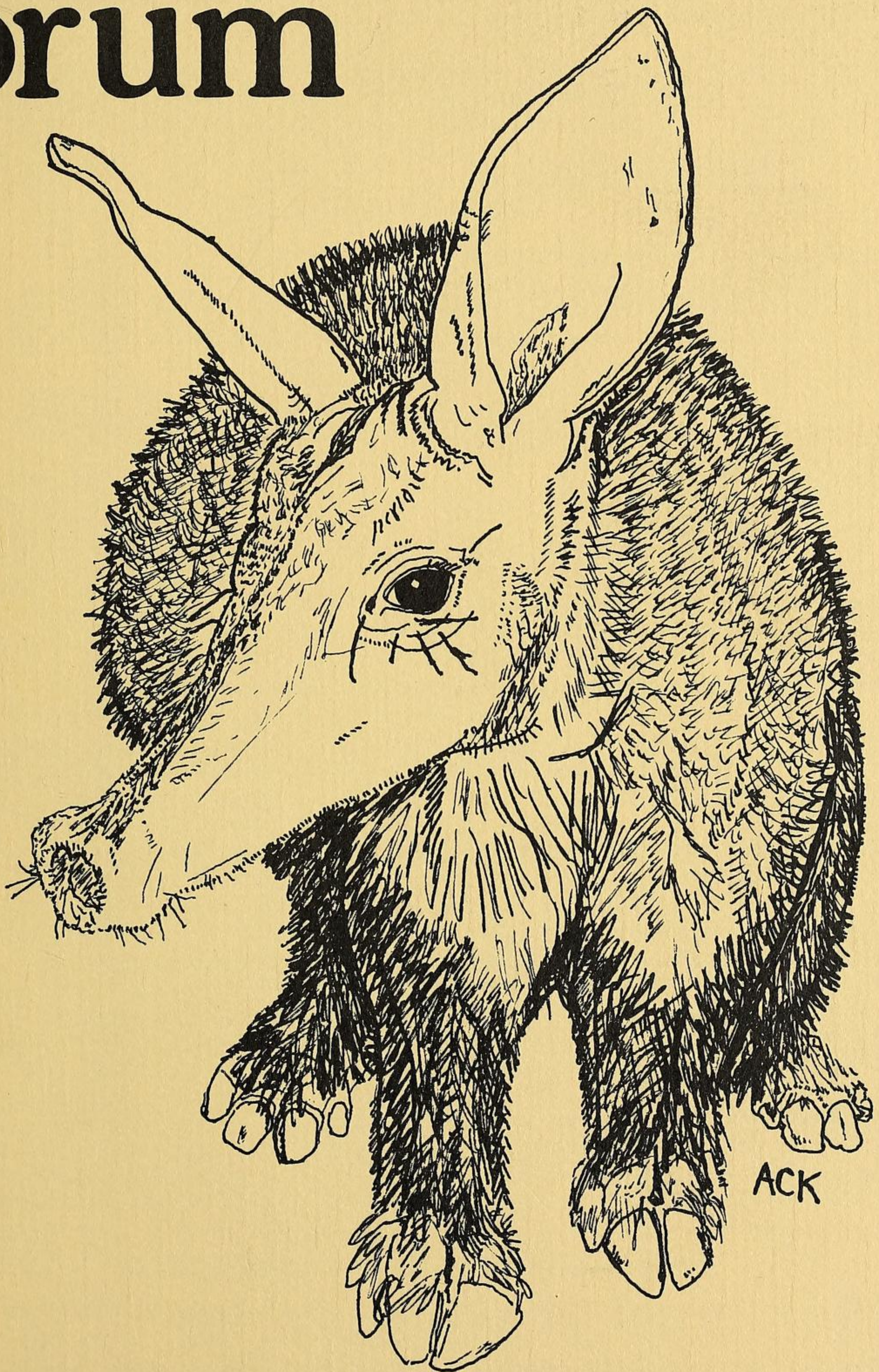
Our guest speaker for May was Ollie Ryder from the Center for the Reproduction of Endangered Species (CRES).

Our Chapter has decided to use recycled paper for all flyers, newsletters, etc. We also no longer supply styrofoam cups at meetings -- anyone wanting coffee must bring his or her own cup! The response has been positive to our conservation efforts and the Zoo no longer uses styrofoam cups at the food stands as well.

--Celeste Schwenn, Chapter Liaison

Animal Keepers' Forum

July 1989



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Births & Hatchings, Continued

Another Malayan peacock pheasant (*Polyplectron malacense malacense*) was hatched adding to the Bronx Zoo's collection of this lovely species. --submitted by Wendy Worth, Chapter Liaison, Bronx Zoo Chapter, Bronx Zoo, NY.

Columbus Zoo... ungulate births and acquisitions were the prevalent events at the Columbus Zoo during April and May, while our Aquarium continued to experience great success with its pupfish and cichlid breeding programs and we had our first emu chick hatch.

In these two months, the Aquarium hatched 42.75 Salton Sea pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*) and the following Lake Victoria cichlid species: 0.0.333 *Psammochromis riponianus*, 0.0.243 *Prognathochromis pellegrini*, and 0.0.340 *Haplochromis obliguidens*.

The Aquarium has also acquired its first Tiger-striped catfish (*Merodontotus tigrinus*), a wild-caught specimen. This freshwater catfish, found in the Madeira River in western Brazil, was not scientifically described until 1981. They are about three feet long and have a whitish body and orange fins covered with oblique black stripes, hence the common name. Their river habitat is being exploited for gold dredging, thus exposing the fish to increasing human activity and pollution.

We had our first Emu chick (*Dromaius novae hollandiae*) hatch on 2 April after 52 days of incubation. The parents, acquired in August 1988 from Hiram College, had not bred prior to this. The 0.0.1 chick was raised on a diet of greens, grated carrots, ratite pellets, vionate, and oyster shells. Other notable avian hatchings include 0.0.1 Ne-ne goose, 0.0.3 Pintail ducks, and 0.0.20 Rheas (both normal and white color phases).

Several ungulate births and a litter of white tigers were the most notable mammal births this spring. On 9 May, our 19-year-old Reticulated giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata*) cow, Noinu, gave birth to a female calf. The infant was standing within 54 minutes of birth and appeared strong, but subsequently she refused to nurse and had to be tube fed for several days as she also rejected a bottle. However, she finally got the right idea and began to nurse off Noinu after a few days, much to everyone's relief. She continues to do well. The sire is 10-year-old Drew. This calf joins one born in January, making this the first time we have two giraffe calves concurrently. Taj, our four-year-old white tiger (*Panthera tigris*) gave birth to 3.0 cubs on 20 May. We were very pleased to discover her displaying excellent maternal care with this litter, as she rejected last year's cubs, her first. Taj was born in Columbus.

Also on 20 May, a 0.1 Topi (*Damaliscus lunatus topi*) was born. This birth is significant because it is our first female topi calf. She is also the last offspring for our breeding male, who died of unknown causes a few months ago, and who sired a total of four calves. We are now in the process of obtaining a new male. The Zoo had its first Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) calf born on 28 May to our second female and it continues to do well. The 1.2 adults were brought in to be a part of our Children's Zoo barn area. Finally, on 25 May, 1.1 pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*) fawns were born. Due to the species' high-strung nature, all fawns are pulled for hand-rearing after 24 hours to help ensure less stress during shipping out procedures. Our adult group of 1.3 are all four years old.

Our first pair of Warthogs (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*) and three new Black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) are the most significant mammal acquisitions this spring. The warthogs, both about a year old, arrived on 5 April from the L.A. Zoo. They are co-owned by our Zoo and International Animal Exchange. These curious looking members of the swine family are noted for their tusks, the facial warts that give them their name, and their peculiar habit of sticking the tail straight up when running. On 10 April, we received two female black rhinos on loan from the Cincinnati Zoo, a mother and her calf. Princess, age 19, is on a short-term breeding loan and will be paired with Clyde, our 37-year-old bull. Her eight-month-old calf, Kulida Kifaru, which is her fourth, will stay on a long-term loan and is slated to be paired with a young male from San Diego when they reach an appropriate age.

Births & Hatchings, *Continued*

Finally, on 4 May Columbus received another rhino, an older female from San Diego called Mulenda. She had a calf in 1976, but has since failed to conceive. Therefore, our Zoo, as a participant in the black rhino SSP Program, agreed to take her as an exhibit loan animal to free up space in San Diego for some wild caught rhinos. --submitted by Carl Gyarmaty, Columbus Zoo AAZK Chapter, Powell, OH.

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo...significant births and hatchings from January through March 1989 include:

Mammals: significant births of primates included 1.0 Hanuman langur (*Presbytis entellus*), 0.0.1 King-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*) and 1.0 Black and white colobus (*Colobus guereza kikuyuensis*). Cheyenne Mountain Zoo holds one of the largest collections of Black and white colobus in the U.S. and has successfully bred them since the early 60's.

Another significant birth in the Mammal Dept. was a male Bongo (*Tragelaphus eurycerus isaaci*), born 14 March 1989. The dam is 10 years old and this is her first calf. She cleaned him, but would not nurse him. The calf was left in a stall with the mother except when being bottle-fed. After several weeks, the mother allowed the calf to nurse and supplemental bottle feeding continued. So far, both are doing well.

Birds: 0.0.2 King vulture (*Sarcorhampus papa*) hatched this quarter (0.0.1 DNS). For more information about our history on breeding this species, please see 1989's AAZPA Regional Conference Proceedings. submitted by Nanette Bragin, Chapter Liaison, Cheyenne Mountain Chapter, Colorado Springs, CO.



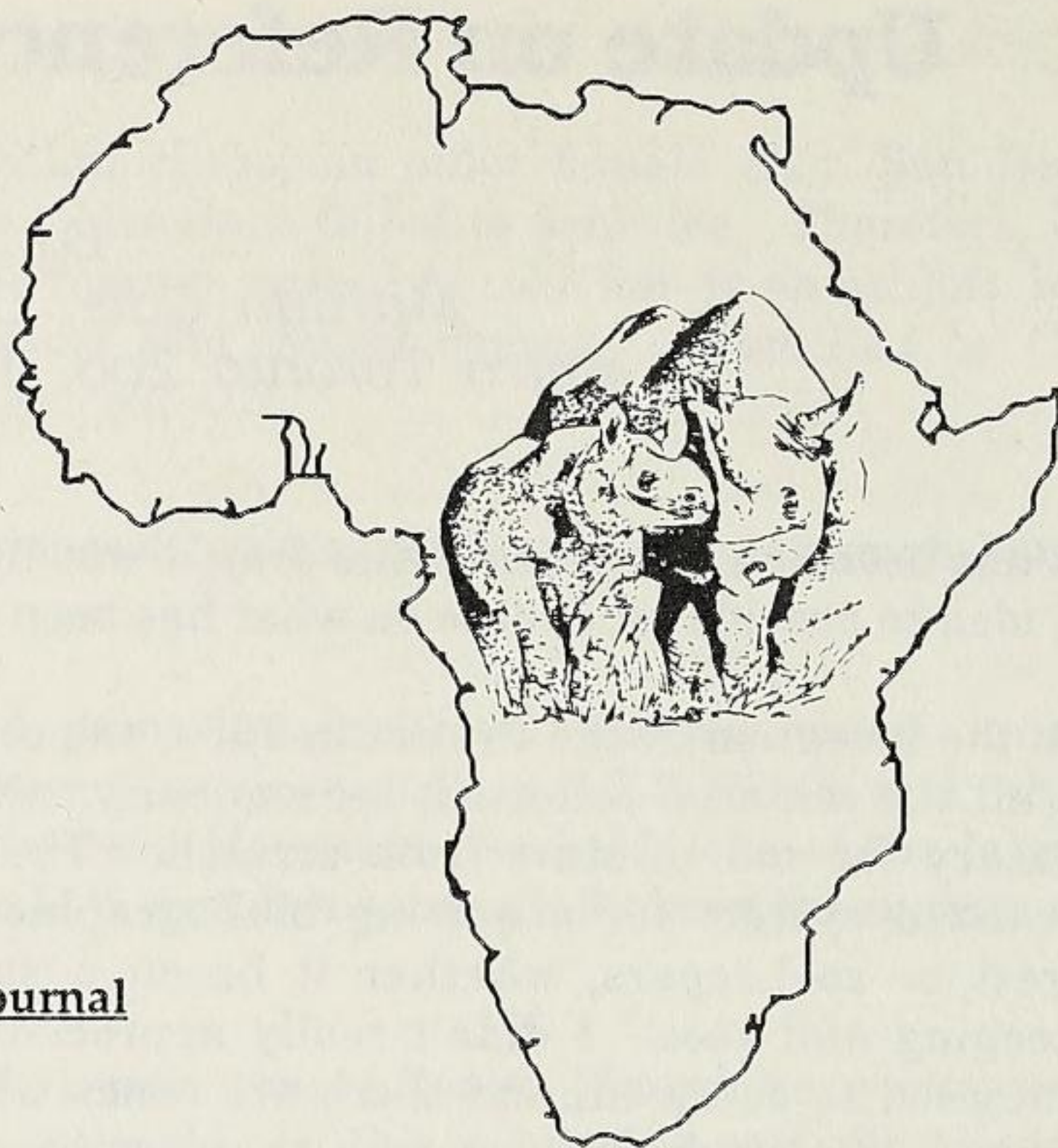
White-cheeked Gibbon (*Hylobates concolor concolor*) mother and infant born recently at the Bronx Zoo. (©New York Zoological Society Photo)



Kenya Diary 1988

Part 3

By
Andy Lodge
Keeper, Columbus Zoo
Columbus, OH



On the Brink of Extinction: A Ngare Sergoi Journal

March 31, 1988 - Dan and I went to Nanyuki again today, this time to take two men to the doctor and to pick up the payroll for the reserve. On the way back we stopped at a place called Kentrout, an excellent place to eat and also one of the locations where you can see Colobus Monkeys. I had seen them there two years ago, but we weren't lucky enough to spot any today.

We are to leave for Nukuru tomorrow to have a look at the government rhino sanctuary there. As I mention this reserve in my talks, I want to know a little bit more about it and its plans for the future.

April 1 - Said good-bye to Anna this morning and left for Nukuru.

Went to the Abidires Mountain area to look up Peter Jenkins and drop off an empty cooking gas cylinder to be filled. Mr. Jenkins wasn't there so we left it with the warden.

Went then to the Abidires Country Club to see about a tour of the Solia ranch, that's another rhino sanctuary. They said it would cost us about a hundred dollars to see the reserve. We said "screw it" and left. Francis Dyer (Anna's sanctuary foreman) said he'd fly us over when we got back if possible.

Went on to Nukuru for the night, found a little hotel called the Mau View Lodge. It cost us ten dollars for a double per night. This hotel will never be on a tourist's itinerary; the cost even covered breakfast.

April 2 - Met an English student named Owen at the hotel who was traveling around Kenya. Gave him a lift out to the park. We had coffee, then Dan and I went to find Jock Dawson, the man who runs the rhino reserve. After alot of driving around, we found his camp but he was on safari and wouldn't be back until tomorrow. Spent the rest of the day looking around Lake Nukuru National Park, found a campsite and spent the night.

April 3 - Got up early and went back over to Mr. Dawson's camp, found both he and his wife at home. They are quite nice, we had coffee and talked at length about the reserve. The reserve cover 56,000 acres with a 78km fence, powered by solar like Anna's. At the moment there are nineteen rhino on the reserve.

It's a huge reserve and very difficult to patrol. Mr. Dawson has five rangers and two fence walkers. I hope this is enough although it seems a very small staff to protect such a large reserve.

Kenya Diary - 1988, *Continued*

The rhino have access to the whole park. I hope the animals have the sense to stay out of areas where the tourists are. But time will tell how successful this reserve will be. It is run by the government and should have the financial support to be successful. For the rhinos' sake I hope so.

Mr. Dawson had one of his rangers take us in a rover to see the entire operation. We spent about three hours traveling about the reserve. Some of the areas make great habitat for rhinos. We thanked them for their hospitality and went back to our camp.

The East African Safari, a car rally that goes all over Kenya, came by the Nukuru Park, so we parked on the side of the road and watched the race for awhile.

Tonight we stayed at a deserted camp with a Samburu man who keeps watch over it. He was great. Shared his food with us, of course it was boiled cabbage and Ugali.

Slept in an old tent that was still there. Dan woke me about 1:30 a.m. A herd of buffalo were moving by very close to the tent, kind of an unnerving sound, but we stayed very quiet and they passed us by.

April 4 - Got up early and left for Ngare Sergoi. We stopped by the wardens at Abidires to pick up the cooking gas, but because of the holiday they couldn't get it filled.

Got back to Anna's about four o'clock. Anna informed us that Easter Sunday the vet had flown up and they darted Godot (Anna's alpha male rhino) and put him in the holding boma. I was very disappointed that I was not here for the move. Anna said she had no idea that they would do it on Easter and that was one of the reasons she thought the best time for Dan and I to go to Nukuru was over the holiday.

Although I was sorry I missed it, I am glad that it went alright, that no one was hurt, and that Godot is OK.

With him in the holding boma, Anna can now get on with weaning Samia. Anna said she was sorry I missed the knock-down but that I was lucky enough to be in on the elephant knock-down last year, something not many have an opportunity to witness. I guess that eases my disappointment a little.

April 5 - Dan is sick this morning. Anna says it is probably a slight case of malaria which he most likely picked up on the camel safari. To counteract it she gave him four malaria pills and told him to drink lots of water and use lots of blankets to sweat it out. This he is doing.

Went up to take a look at Godot in the holding boma. He seems quite calm. Fed him a sack of lucerne. Anna wants us to start crate training him as soon as the crate arrives. We're still looking for a safe place to transfer him. Whether this will be done while we're still here, I don't know.

Dan seems to be feeling less sick tonight and he ate some supper. He should be a lot better tomorrow.

April 7 - Pretty quiet here the last couple of days. Just doing the rhino watches and looking over some of Anna's notes. Anna went to Nairobi to check on Karl and see about bringing him up to Nanyuki to a nursing home. It's a lot closer to Lewa Downs.

Dan and I went to Isiolo today to get bracelets that I sell in the States to raise money for Anna. Dealing for these bracelets is a complete hassle, but I have to do it as the bracelets sell well in the States.

April 8 - Met Anna and Karl at the Nanyuki airstrip this morning. We took him to the nearby nursing home and got him settled in. A plane is to take him to Switzerland as soon as it can be arranged.

Kenya Diary - 1988, Continued

I have been reading reports coming in about the killing of the cave elephants in the Mt. Elgon area. These are the Kitum Cave elephants. Kitum Cave is famous as the only place in the world where elephants venture into caves for salt. The reports are saying that poachers are even killing small elephants with only five or six inches of ivory. Many reports state the poachers have begun to use sub-machine guns mounted on tops of jeeps and rovers to slaughter the elephants. They just kill the animals and take a chain saw and slice off their faces.

How long will people keep buying ivory trinkets for their own selfish egos? We in the U.S. are certainly contributing to this horrible slaughter. If people could see and smell what is done to the elephant, maybe they wouldn't buy ivory, but I doubt it. People don't care as long as it doesn't affect them, and the killing is eight thousand miles away. After all, elephant skin makes nice boots and golf bags; these are a great conversation piece.

April 9 - Left for Meru National Park today. Plan on staying about three days. Want to talk to the warden about the plans for the rhino sanctuary there.

Meru is a large remote park and probably the least visited of most of the national parks. To reach it you must drive in 30km on a very rough road. We bounced around for about a hour to get to the main gate.

The park has little huts called "bandas" that have a bush kitchen, bath and bedrooms for 140 K.S. a night, about \$10.00. Tenants have to bring their own food and necessities with them, but it's a lot more comfortable than camping and a whole lot cheaper than staying at the lodge.

We drove around the park most of the day. It's a very diverse park with some really remote areas. The foliage in some areas is almost primeval.

On the way back a ranger stopped us to ask if we had seen a tour bus. I guess it left this morning at 7:00 a.m. with three elderly people and nobody has seen or heard of the bus or passengers since. The ranger was going to get the plane and start a search. They have no water or food and one woman is not well and needs a walker to get about.

I sometimes wonder if tour companies ought to plan trips for people who are not physically fit for treks through these kinds of parks. As of 7:00 p.m. we haven't heard whether the rangers have found them or not.

To be continued.....

(Note: Andy is available to give talks and a slide presentation on the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Project. If you are interested in having Andy speak to your Chapter or group you may contact him at (614) 766-3413. If you would like to make a contribution to help in the Sanctuary's work, you may send it to: Ngare Sergoi Support Group, Inc., 5814 North Meadows Blvd., Apt. D, Columbus, OH 43229. Tax-deductible contributions should be made payable to "Ngare Sergoi Support Group, Inc.")

