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# Animal Keepers' Forum

January 1993



*Dedicated to Professional Animal Care*

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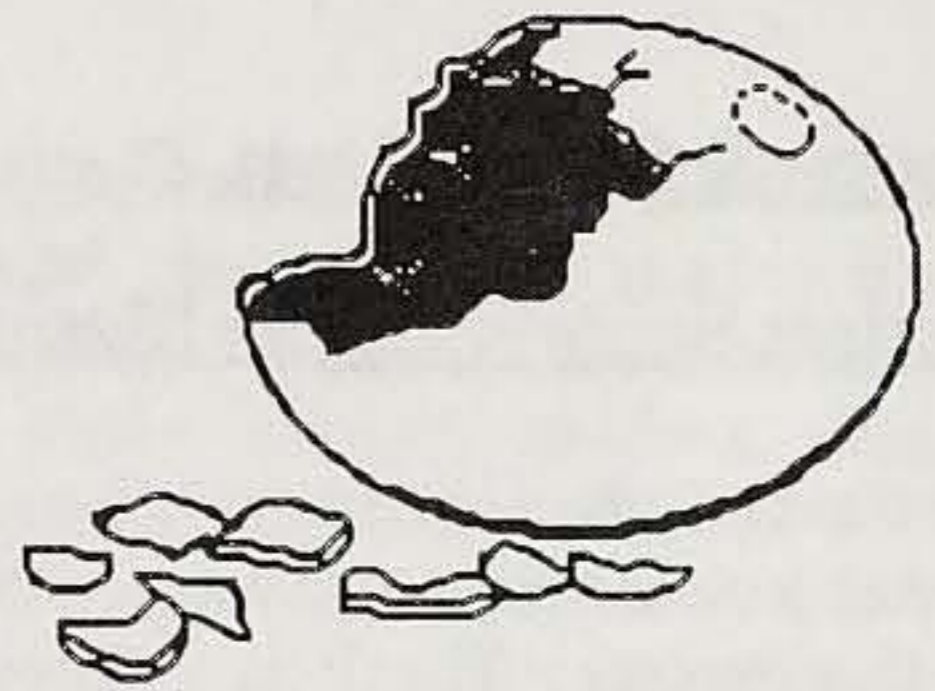
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# Births & Hatchings



**San Diego Zoo (San Diego, CA)...**The following mammal births (by Order) have been reported from July-November 1992:

**Artiodactyla** - 1.0 Slender-horned gazelle (*Gazella leptoceros*) [E/SSP]; 1.0 Gunther's dik-dik (*Madoqua guntheri smithi*) [1st time birth from pair]; 0.1 European mouflon (*O. Orientalis musimon*) [E]; 1.0 Cuvier's gazelle (*Gazella cuvieri*) [E]; 2.1 Mhorr gazelle (*Gazella dama mhorr*) [E]; 0.2 Kaffir crowned duiker (*Cephalophus grimmia caffra*) [1st time birth from 2 pair - one each]; 1.0 Mandarin sika deer (*C. Nippon mandarinus*) [E]; 1.0 Central Chinese goral (*Nemmorhaedus goral arnduxianus*) [E]; 0.1 White-lipped deer (*C. albirostris*) [U/E]; 2.0 MacNeill's deer (*C. elaphus macneilli*) [U/E - 1st time birth from pair]; 0.2 Barbary deer (*C. elephus barbarus*) [U/E - 1st time birth from pair]; 1.0 Kull's deer (*Cervus kulli*) [U]; 1.1 Western tufted deer (*Elaphalophus cephalopus*) [U]; and 1.0 Klipspringer (*Oreotragus oreotragus stevensoni*) [U].

**Perssiodactyla** - 1.0 Black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) [E/SSP - 1st birth for pair] - see related story this issue.

**Marsupialia** - 0.0.3 Northern koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus adustus*) [SSP/U]; 0.0.1 Goodfellow's tree kangaroo (*Den drolagos goodfellowi*) [T/U]; and 0.0.2 Parma wallaby (*Macropus parma*) [E].

**Primates** - 1.0 Francois langur (*Presbytis francoisi francoisi*) [E/SSP]; 0.0.2 White-faced saki (*Pithecis pithecis*) [T]; and 0.0.1 Slender loris (*Loris tardigradus*) [U].

**Rodentia** - 0.0.1 Patagonian cavy (*Dolichotis patagona*) [T/U].

**Carnivora** - 0.4 Transvaal lion (*Panthera leo krugeri*) [1st time birth to pair]; 0.3 Arabian wild cat (*F. silvestris tristrami*) [T]; 0.0.3 Dwarf mongoose (*Helogale parvula*) [1st time birth from pair]. *submitted by Curby Simerson, Assistant Animal Care Manager/Mammals, San Diego Zoo.*

**Silver Springs Wildlife Park (Silver Springs, FL)...**reports the following significant B&H for 1992:

**Mammals** - 0.2 Scimitar-horned oryx (*Oryx dammah*) [T]; 0.1 White handed gibbon (*Hylobates lar*) [E]; 1.1 Ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*) [1st for our park and for dam/0.1 DNS]; 6 Egyptian fruit bats (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*) [1st for our park/3 DNS]; 1.1 Reticulated giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata*) [21st and 22nd for our park but first for these dams. Female calf being bottlefed due to maternal rejection; male's delivery was keeper assisted due to complications/now back with mother].

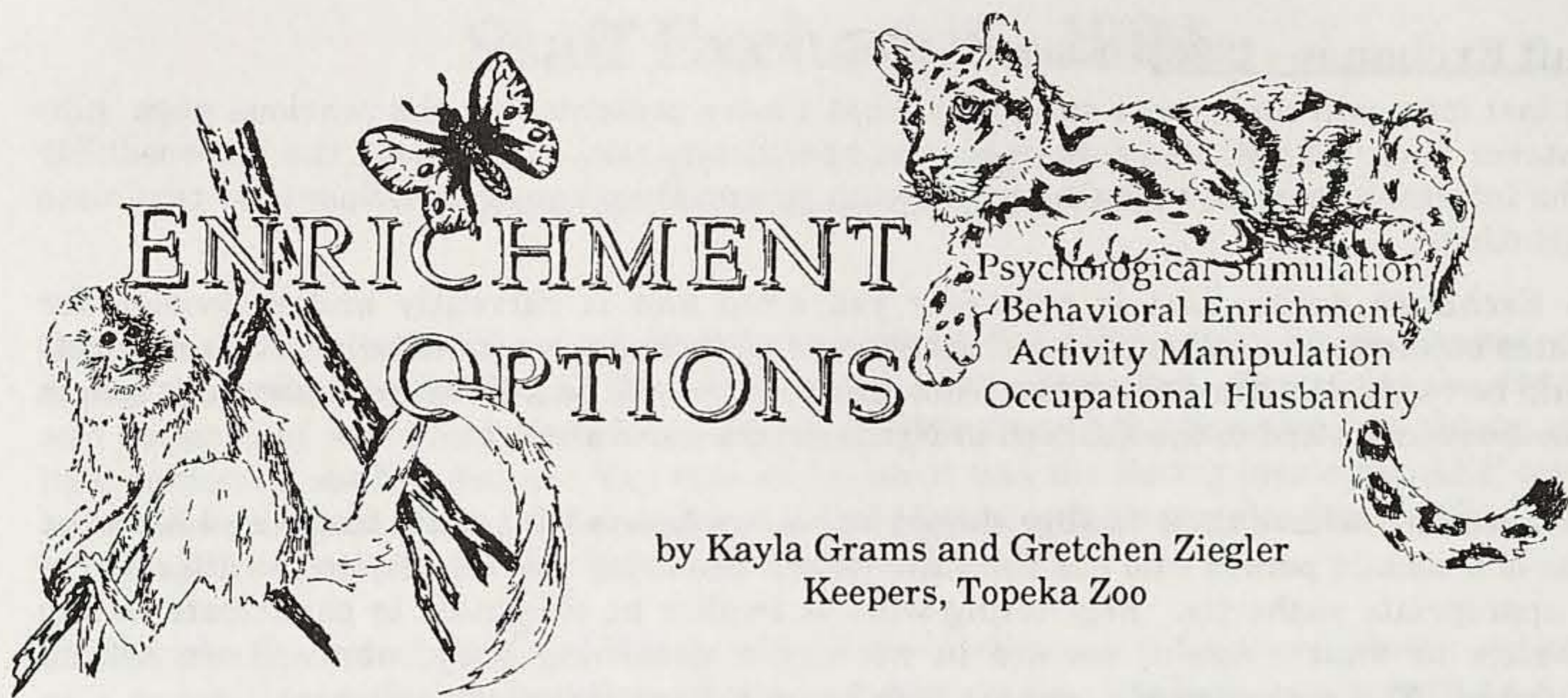
**Reptiles** - 4 Dwarf crocodiles (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*) [1st for our park/2 DNS - eggs incubated in natural nest built by dam for 95% of development, then due to repairs on habitat, were removed for artificial incubation until hatching.]. *submitted by Jo Ann Zeliff, Senior Zookeeper, Silver Springs.*

**Sunset Zoological Park (Manhattan, KS)...**reports the following significant B&H for 1992:

**Mammals** - 1.1 Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens fulgens*) [E/SSP] [1st for our zoo/1st offspring from this pair]; 1.0 Binturong (*Artictis binturong*) [U]; 1.0 Black and white colobus (*Colobus guereza*) [T].

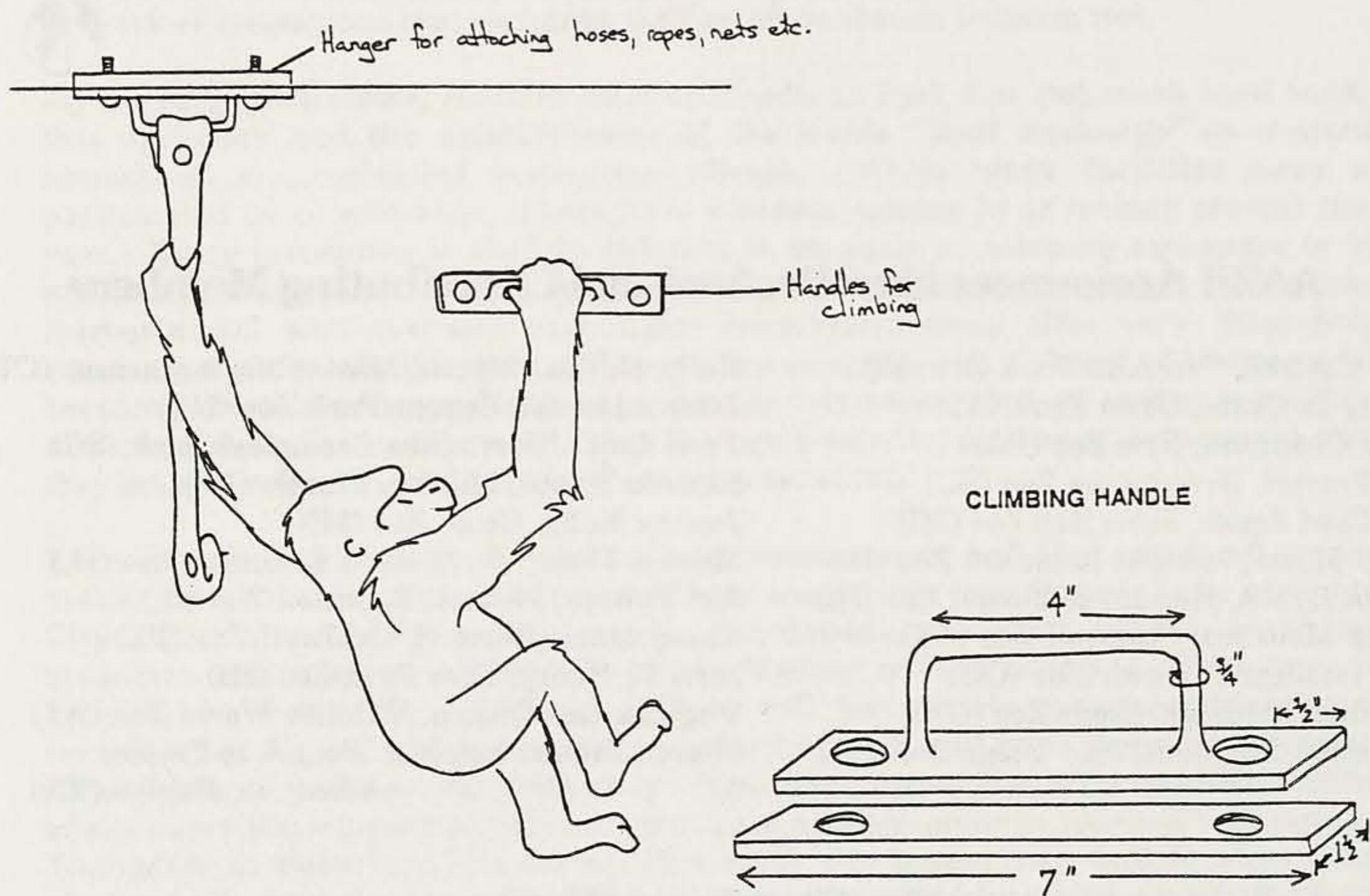
**Birds** - 1.0 Andean condor (*Vultur gryphus*) [E/SSP] [1st for our zoo - the egg was transferred to the San Francisco Zoological Gardens where it hatched and is being puppet reared. It will be released into the Andes upon maturity.]; 1.0 Florida sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis pratensis*) [zoo's 1st]. --*submitted by Jared Akers, Flint Hills Chapter President, Manhattan, KS.*





by Kayla Grams and Gretchen Ziegler  
Keepers, Topeka Zoo

The design shown below was created by Rob Sutherland for the Calgary Zoo (Box 3036, Station B, Calgary, AB, Canada T2M 4R8). Rob gave a paper at the Gorilla Workshop called "Naturalistic Variation and Gorilla Husbandry". His paper included design variations to increase gorilla food gathering techniques and challenges. Thank you, Rob, for allowing us to include these designs for our column. We will be including more of these in the future.



**WHITE RHINOCEROS** - provide browse, logs to push, spread produce in the animal's yard.

**NILE HIPPOPOTAMUS** - provide various kinds of browse

**DOMESTIC PIG** - provide beer keg, round stones, wooden dumbbells, hollow logs; install a shower in the stall with a ring to pull; provide small logs, browse, bury pieces of produce in the yard the pig can root for.

--Betty Jean Schmitt, Keeper  
Virginia Zoological Park, Norfolk, VA



## 1992 AKF Survey Results, Continued

These results demonstrate that a majority of delegates responding felt positive about this year's improvements in the AKF. In addition, several helpful comments were made on the survey regarding various aspects of AKF. We appreciate your suggestions and will continue to solicit your comments. As always, we can only include the results submitted by those completing the survey. If you have opinions on the questions contained in this survey or would like to offer other suggestions, comments or constructive criticisms, please write to the Editorial Staff AKF, 635 Gage Blvd., Topeka, KS 66606.

We make every effort to respond to the desires of the membership when formatting each month's publication and your input is important. While not all suggestions are feasible to incorporate, we do try to use those which can be included. We strongly encourage all members to submit articles for the AKF as we need materials on all species and all aspects of exotic animal husbandry. Material need not be research oriented or lengthy - short husbandry ideas, diet suggestions, etc. are useful and important. Do not let your good information get buried in a daily report or in-house memo. Please share your knowledge and experience gained from your work in this field with your colleagues.



## Bowling for Rhinos '93 Update

*from Patty Pearthree, BFR Coordinator  
Indianapolis Zoo, Indianapolis, IN*

I will be sending out cards this month to determine who will be bowling in the 1993 BFR event. Please return them as soon as possible. Also, please note the following rules for eligibility to win the sanctuary trip:

### Bowling for Rhinos Sanctuary Trip Rules

- \* The top two money raisers each year in "Bowling for Rhinos" will win a two-week trip to the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary near Isiolo, Kenya.
- \* The two individuals will visit the sanctuary together and arrange their trip through Andy Lodge, Ngare Sergoi Support Group, Inc.
- \* The two winners may each bring a guest but the guest **must** pay their own expenses and be able to lodge in the same room as the winner.
- \* The winners' trips are paid for by the Ngare Sergoi Support Group, Inc. and **not** out of "Bowling for Rhinos" funds.
- \* The winners must be **paid, National AAZK members at the time** of their bowling event.
- \* **The same person can only win the trip once.** This is to encourage more people to try to win and give an opportunity for more people to visit the sanctuary and see the benefit of their hard work.
- \* Canadians count their total in Canadian currency. Therefore, if a Canadian raises \$5,000 but it only equals \$3,000 in US dollars, their \$5,000 counts in the contest.
- \* Only money which is turned in to the BFR Coordinator **by August 15th** of the same year can be counted in the contest.



## Chapter News, Continued

of frogs for a Masters thesis. A new genus may have been discovered, and definitely some new species. A list is being compiled of the species on the Reserve which gets 3000 inches of rain a year.

The total price for the Columbian acreage is \$23,000; \$19,000 has been paid by the Puget Sound Chapter. They are hoping to raise the balance through the sale of Rain Forest Crunch® candy, aluminum can recycling, and selling Rain Forest acres (\$20 buys 1/2 acre and \$40 buys 1 acre).

--Minutes of 11 November 1992  
Chapter Meeting

### Indianapolis Zoo AAZK Chapter

It has been a busy summer and fall for our AAZK members. In July we had a membership drive. As a way to financially assist the Association and attract new members we paid a new member's national dues if they joined in July. Our outcome on this membership drive was 15 new members and \$415.00 sent to AAZK, Inc. We also have a point system and if a member had earned 10 points, we paid the renewal for their national dues as well. To date we have sent \$175.00 to AAZK, Inc.

In August, the zoo is the hot spot for "Animals & All That Jazz", weekly jazz concerts. For the second year during the concerts, our Chapter held bake sales. This year we raised over \$700.00 and this money was used to assist four members to attend the National Conference.

During September we held a garage sale. With a big thanks to the zoo's many volunteers for donating items for the sale, over \$500.00 was raised. We could have probably used a bigger garage for all the stuff we had.

We also purchased another acre of rainforest in Costa Rica with our sales of Rain Forest Crunch®. In December we sold hot chocolate during the "Christmas at the Zoo" activities.

--Julie Route, Chapter Treasurer

### The North Carolina Chapter AAZK

Here's an update on the activities of the North Carolina Chapter AAZK. On 20 May our Chapter held Bowling for Rhinos at the Family Sports Center in Asheboro. The event raised \$2,700.00 for the Ngare Sergoi Support Group!

The June meeting took place at the Museum of Life and Science in Durham, NC. Michael Sandy gave us a great tour of the animal facilities; then we were allowed to explore all the educational areas of the Museum.

The Chapter held a doughnut sale fundraiser in July and raised approximately \$200.00. We also participated in "Fall Festival", an annualevent put on by the Randolph Arts Guild in Asheboro. This year we had AAZK and zookeeping information available as well as two fundraising projects. One was a raffle with three prizes and the other was to "take your picture with a snake" for a small fee.

The August meeting included a tour of the Natural Science Center of Greensboro by Hannah and Paul Decker. We also said our good-byes to one of our founding members, Louise Martin, who left in late August for Madagascar. She will be spending a year there doing field studies on the Greater fat-tailed dwarf lemur (*Cheirogaleus major*). She will be greatly missed, but we wish her the best of luck!

In September the Chapter voted to send \$100.00 to aid the Hurricane Andrew victims in South Florida. Six Chapter members attended the National AAZK Conference in San Diego, Sept. 27-Oct. 2. One member, Gisela Wiggins, presented a paper at the conference. We enjoyed the conference very much (especially the Zoolympics) and wish to thank the Conference Committee for putting on a great one!

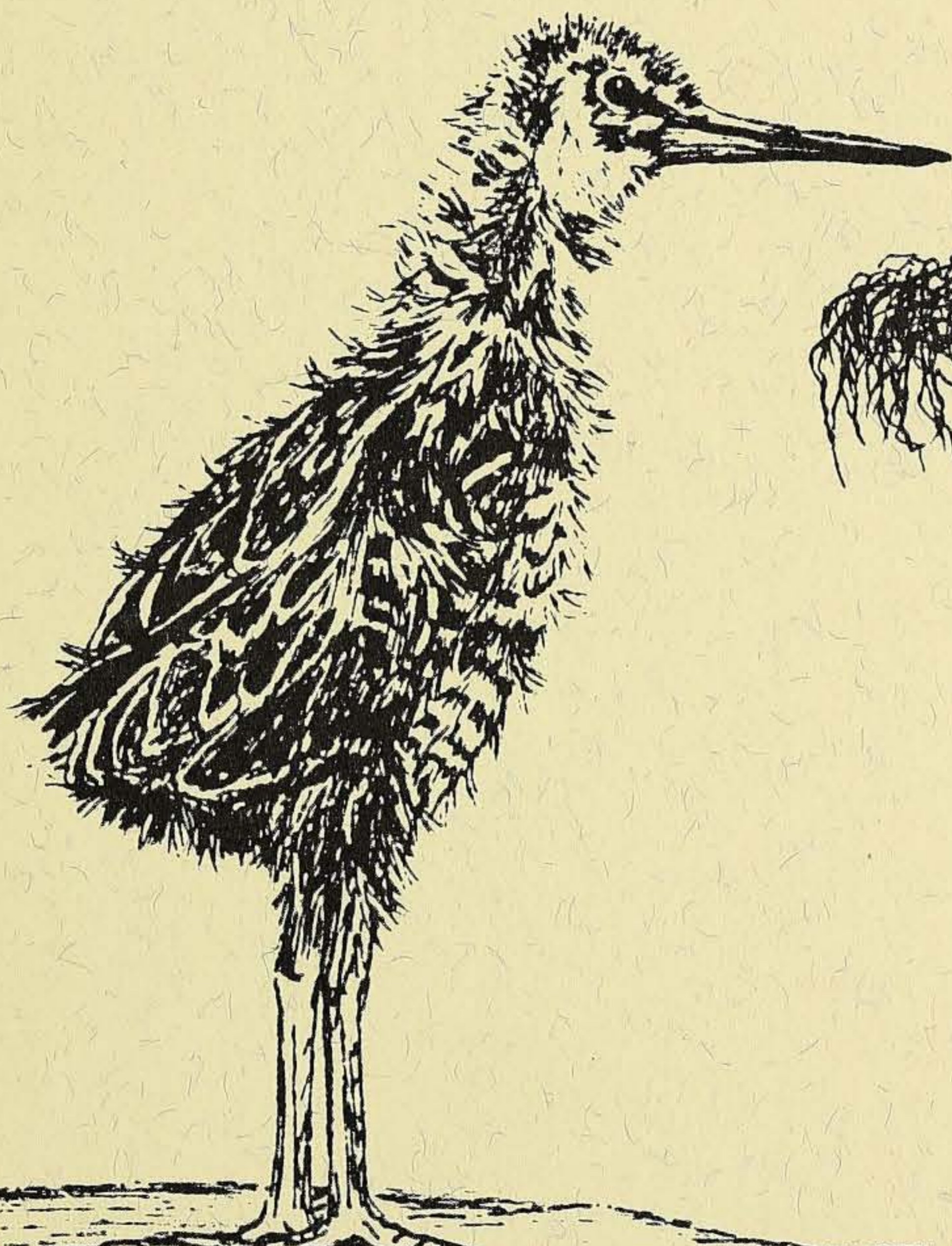
The October meeting took place at the Frederick Moir Hanes Veterinary Hospital at the North Carolina Zoological Park. Dr. Lucy Spelman, who is participating in the zoo's Residency Program, gave a very

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# Animal Keepers' Forum

February 1993

Special Hand-Rearing Issue



*Dedicated to Professional Animal Care*

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## *San Diego Zoo Celebrates First Rhino Birth*



© Zoological Society of San Diego Photo by Ron Garrison

The first rhinoceros ever born at the San Diego Zoo was delivered at 9:50 p.m. on 15 November. The male Black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) was born to 20-year-old Scooter, who was born at the Oklahoma City Zoo. The father is Dillon, a 25-year-old from the National Zoo. Dillon and Scooter have been together at the SDZ for four years. The 17-month, two-week gestation concluded with the arrival of the 60-pound infant which has been named "Werikhe" after Kenya's "Rhino Man" Michael Werikhe. Michael Werikhe has walked across Africa, Europe and the U.S. to raise funds for Black Rhino preservation in Africa.

Initial reports from Lead Zoo Rhino Keeper Martin Ramirez said that the baby was nursing and doing fine with its mother in an off-exhibit holding area. It was scheduled to make its public debut in late December.

This is the first rhinoceros of any kind born at the San Diego Zoo in its 76-year history. The San Diego Wild Animal Park, opened 20 years ago, has had 100 rhinoceros births --five Black rhinos, 17 Indian rhinos, and 78 Southern white rhinos. Black rhinos are critically endangered with fewer than 3,000 estimated to remain in their native Africa. --*excerpted from Zoological Society of San Diego News Release*

# Ngare Sergoi Sanctuary Update

## ...1992 in Review

*from Anna Mertz, Founder*



Nineteen-ninety-two has been another very dry year for the Rhino Sanctuary but, thankfully, not as disaster-stricken as the last year. We have had four rhino births and one human. Just before last Christmas Stumpy gave birth to a female calf, and in February Shaba and Juno both produced male calves. Alas, Juno's died after five days from a severe infection of the umbilical cord. It was also underweight and believed to be premature. In May the white cow Marembo had her second calf, also a male. Thanks to handouts of lucerne (alfalfa) all rhinos have survived the present drought though a lot of other animals have been lost, mainly eland, waterbuck, buffalo and warthog. The great excitement in June was the birth of a son, Harry, to Francis & Bimbi. He is the most gorgeous and totally enchanting baby.

In March the British High Commissioner, Sir Roger Tomkys, and Dr. Richard Leakey of the Kenyan Wildlife Service opened the Ngare Ndare Forest Preserve fence which has been funded in large part by the Support Group, together with AAZK through its "Bowling for Rhinos". The establishment of this fence had created a big fund of goodwill towards us from the local farmers whose crops are thereby protected from the unwelcome attentions of buffalo and elephant. Previously "Bowling for Rhinos" has enabled us to replace the Supercub which we crashed during the capture of Kikwar and also to buy a big orange, 4-wheel drive lorry for the transportation of rhino and giraffe. This truck is now fully equipped for capture and is available for anyone in the public or private sector who has to move rhinos.

This year the money from "Bowling for Rhinos" is going a long way towards our current huge project of fencing in the whole of Lewa Downs, thereby increasing the size of the Sanctuary from the present 10,000 acres to 61,000 acres. This will make the Sanctuary one of the biggest and most successful for an endangered species. It will also make it more costly to run, mainly due to the necessity of employing large numbers of people because of the security factor. On the other hand, providing a lot of well-paid employment for the local people, especially in these years of drought and hardship, is good both locally and politically.

This year expenditure in running costs is expected to be about \$130,000 U.S. and will go up next year when the fence is completed and the extension becomes operative. Looking ahead we have already acquired, thanks to Halvar and Ian, five sub-adult white rhinos from the National Parks Board. We were supposed to receive three and two were to go to the Mara, but last minute complications with the Government resulted in all five coming here and our sending out two of our sub-adult white rhinos down to the Mara. All have settled well after a few initial dramas. We are hoping next year to bring in a few more black rhinos from Solio if they become available and if translocation funds can be raised. We then should be in a position to safeguard the future of a genetically viable herd of over 50 black and over 50 white rhinos. This will probably cost in the region of \$200,000 U.S. per annum. This figure must compare favorably with the same figure which was the cost of transporting one Sumatran rhino from Southeast Asia to an American zoo. In this light, I hope you will think your support of our endeavors not only worth while, but also cost effective.

On a more personal note, last year I had dramas with a leopard, but this year it has been with snakes. Both my horse and I nearly came to grief. She was bitten on New Year's Day by a puff adder and in August I had an eyeball to eyeball encounter with a very large spitting cobra. I rushed around the corner of my verandah and the snake, unable to retreat fast because of the smooth surface of the floor, instead reared up to meet me. With its head

## Ngare Sergoi Sanctuary Update, *Continued*

no more than four feet from mine, I thought I read in its black, expressionless eyes, my own certain death, so I screamed and it spat---not into my eyes but straight down by throat and I swallowed it! Convinced my last moment was close I grabbed the hay rake to kill it and was surprised to find myself in due course none the worse for wear at all. According to the pundits the story could have had another ending had I suffered from a wound in the mouth or an internal ulcer enabling the poison to enter my blood stream.

Those of you who knew him will be sad to learn that my husband Karl died in August after 4 ½ years of illness, the last four of which were spent in a hospital in his home town in the east of Switzerland.

From Switzerland in September I traveled directly to America and to the experience of a lifetime. Seeing so much of the country and meeting so many wonderful and kind people more than compensated both for the terror of having to speak in public for the first time, and for the endless hours spent in planes and airports. For this experience I am wholly indebted to Gerry Ellis and his wife, Karen Kane. Gerry has visited here many times and met Andy Lodge here and he also made most of the photos for my book "Rhino at the Brink of Extinction", which was published in London last year. Gerry also made all the slides for my slide show and told me what to do. Both the rhinos and I owe them both a big debt of gratitude and also to Andy Lodge who helped with some of the arrangements. I am also deeply grateful to Park East Tours and the K.L.M. Airlines for sponsoring my flight to Europe and the U.S. and back again.

I went to America with three objects in view: first, to thank Andy and the Support Group members and all those who through AAZK and its "Bowling for Rhinos" have given us such incredible support, worth nearly \$500,000 U.S. in the last few years. Secondly, to see if I could increase public awareness of the plight of the rhino, not only ours, but all five species. Thirdly, to see if we could not get a much bigger organization going which would appeal to a much wider section of the public outside of zoos. I went first to Karen and Gerry's house in Portland and started off with two unforgettable and much needed days holiday in Alaska. I know it sounds crazy to go to Alaska for two days but it was well worth it. My host, Joe Ordonez, runs a rafting enterprise in Haines which surely boasts some of the most spectacular scenery anywhere. In two days we managed two raft trips down the Chilkat River; I got colder than I have ever been before. I saw salmon in the thousands spawning and on the last evening, two huge brown bears fishing for salmon. It has been my dream for many years to see a wild bear and they were even more magnificent than I had expected. On my return to Juneau, as I was the only passenger in the plane and as the pilot was a friend of Joe's, I was taken on a special round-about flight over some glaciers which were quite terrifying, but unbelievably beautiful and another experience I shall not forget.

Holiday over, I returned to Portland and then went with Gerry to Toronto for my first talk which was even more unnerving than flying over the glaciers. I then went with Gerry to New York, which felt a bit like being at the bottom of the Grand Canyon, and then on to Philadelphia. There I stayed with Mark Levin and was able to thank the local AAZK Chapter for their support. There too, Andy, Gerry and I were able to sit down and discuss at length what our future plans should entail and how we should set about fulfilling them in the best interests of both the rhinos and Andy. From there Gerry and I returned to Toronto where John Cook, whose previous generosity has meant so much to us, and his wife

Marilyn, hosted a most successful fundraising dinner for the Sanctuary. John also most kindly agreed to help us get a Trust going and both his name and expertise will, I know, be of the utmost benefit to us. While there I was also able to visit the Toronto Zoo to thank their AAZK Chapter for their support. Gerry and I then returned to Portland and up to Seattle to thank their AAZK Chapter. That evening we were the guests of Bruce and Carol Hosford who had visited the Sanctuary earlier this year. Their lovely house has a superb view over the Puget Sound and they also gave a most generous party for the benefit of the rhinos.

From there I went down to San Diego to attend the annual AAZK Conference and was so happy to be able to meet so many of our supporters, to be able to thank them in person, and to be able to explain to them both what we are doing and our plans for the future. I was deeply

## Ngare Sergoi Sanctuary Update, Continued

grateful to learn from them that they plan to continue to support us in the future with "Bowling for Rhinos". While there I was the guest of Scott and Cindy Woodward and for the first time had the pleasure of meeting Andy's wife, Melissa. At the conclusion of the Conference I returned once more to Gerry and Karen's and then set off from Portland to Kansas City with an especially big thank you for that Zoo's Chapter of AAZK as it was there that "Bowling for Rhinos" originated. While there I stayed with Jacque Blessington.

The next day I flew to Chicago where I stayed with Debie Palay, the top fundraiser of this year's bowling event, and was given a wonderful welcome by all the zoo staff. There also I met up with Andy again and for the first time had the pleasure of meeting Brad Booth, who has given so much of his time and skill over the last years to the financial side of running the Support Group. Brad had driven Andy up in his van and from then on I was introduced to the joys of life on the open road in America, a rather different experience to driving in Africa. Next stop from Chicago was Toledo and another incredibly warm and happy welcome at the zoo there. Then via Columbus to Indianapolis to stay with Patty and Herbie Pearthree. Patty was not only last year's top fundraiser but is also the Coordinator for "Bowling for Rhinos". I had a very happy stay with them and was able to thank the other zoo supporters, and also meet Cara who came in second in fundraising for BFR this year. Cara took me for a ride on one of the elephants in her care, Sophie. The last time I rode an elephant bareback was in Ceylon nearly 40 years ago. From Indianapolis we returned to Columbus and then went up to Cleveland for another thank you, then back to Columbus where the Support Group started. I had such a wonderful reception there and was so very happy to meet all the people who have helped Andy over the years, and to meet up again with old friends Bill Pittenger, Dan Hunt and Susie Hanna. Before I left, Karen and Gerry joined us for final talks in Columbus.

Before returning to Kenya I spent a few days in Jersey with my trustee, Bill Hall, who has given so much of his time and expertise to help ensure the success of this project and to keep it on track. Then a last couple of days with my beloved Ricky who is now 91 but as sprightly and on the ball as ever. And then the long flight home to find that, thanks to Francis and our trackers, despite drought, all is well with the rhinos and those in need are all being fed. Now I sit typing this and looking at a sky of brilliant blue and hope that those clouds for which we long will soon appear.

Now my hopes for the future include the ability for Gerry and Karen and John Cook to get Rhino Trusts started in both the United States and Canada and to launch an educational program to raise general awareness of the plight of all five species of the world's rhinos. These animals now number no more than 10,000 altogether. It was thought until the middle of this year that there were still 3,000 black rhino of which half were in Zimbabwe. However, recent figures from Zimbabwe reveal that they have only 350-500 left, not 1,500. The Sumatran rhino numbers between 500-700. They have no sanctuary, all are widely scattered and probably not viable unless a sanctuary or sanctuaries can be created for them. The Javan rhino number between 50-70 animals. Fifty are in one sanctuary which has reached saturation point; another is badly needed. Time is running out for these animals; if they are to be saved we have to act now.

In February of this year Andy was with us along with a National Geographic film crew to make a film about his work for the Support Group. This film is expected to be released in February 1993; hopefully a massive membership drive for the Support Group can be launched then. Everyone who becomes a member will receive copies of our quarterly newsletter H.O.R.N. (Help Our Rhinos Now) published by Andy in Columbus. Each edition will contain an update from me as to what is happening here, other articles of interest, and updates of the work of the Support Group and AAZK's "Bowling for Rhinos". At a later date Gerry and I hope to get out another edition of "Rhino" with the text updated and a lot more of Gerry's wonderful photos. Some of the first edition are still for sale with Andy and Rafiki Books. We also hope to make a children's book out of the chapter called "Samia's Diary" and, in conjunction with that, to form a "Samia Club" for schools complete with an educational package. I would like to also get this package translated into Swahili for use here in Kenya.

## **Ngare Sergoi Sanctuary Update, Continued**

Spurred by my unending need for money for our rhinos here, I have written a second book about my life in Ghana and my travels in the Sahara and the Hindu Kush with Karl. It is called "Golden Dunes and Desert Mountains" and is to be published here by a company recently started by Francis' father, Tony Dyer. It is due out at Christmas and can be ordered directly from me or via Andy or Gerry and hopefully at a later date via Rafiki Books.

I hope that all of you had a Happy Christmas and New Year and that we can make '93 the year when the trend towards extinction is not only halted but reversed for all five species of rhino. Please help us to help them. Please become members of the Support Group and get your friends to join. Please talk to all with whom you come into contact about what is happening. Please make people realize that extinction is forever. Please write to us with your ideas as to what we can do. And remember, the choice is not between caring for people and caring for animals, all life is one and we are bound together on this beautiful planet. The real choice is between caring and not caring.

My deep gratitude to all who have helped, are helping and will help us.

---Anna Mertz



## **Offspring of Slain Mountain Gorilla Mrithi Discovered in Rwanda**

Mrithi, the popular 24-year-old silverback Mountain gorilla featured in the movie "Gorillas in the Mist" has a offspring named Cyabirego (Cha-be-reego) born to the female Inyuma. Mrithi, shot and killed in May 1992, is the only known Mountain gorilla casualty of the civil unrest in Rwanda and the first gorilla death of this nature since 1984. He was the dominant silverback of Group 13 at the time of conception of Cyabirego, leading researchers to believe Mrithi is the father.

The infant was first seen by trackers on 22 November 1992. Dr. Melvyn Richardson, DVM, Director of the Volcano Veterinary Center (VVC) is continuing to monitor the health of both mother and infant but has been unable as yet to get close enough to determine the baby's sex. The Morris Animal Foundation founded the VVC in 1986 to provide health care to Mountain gorillas.

Latest information from the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund (formerly the Digit Fund) note that a 12-year-old blackback male named Ukwacumi has apparently assumed successful leadership of Group 13 although the group is still somewhat unstable and the Rwandan government has suspended tourist visits in view of the uncertain political situation.



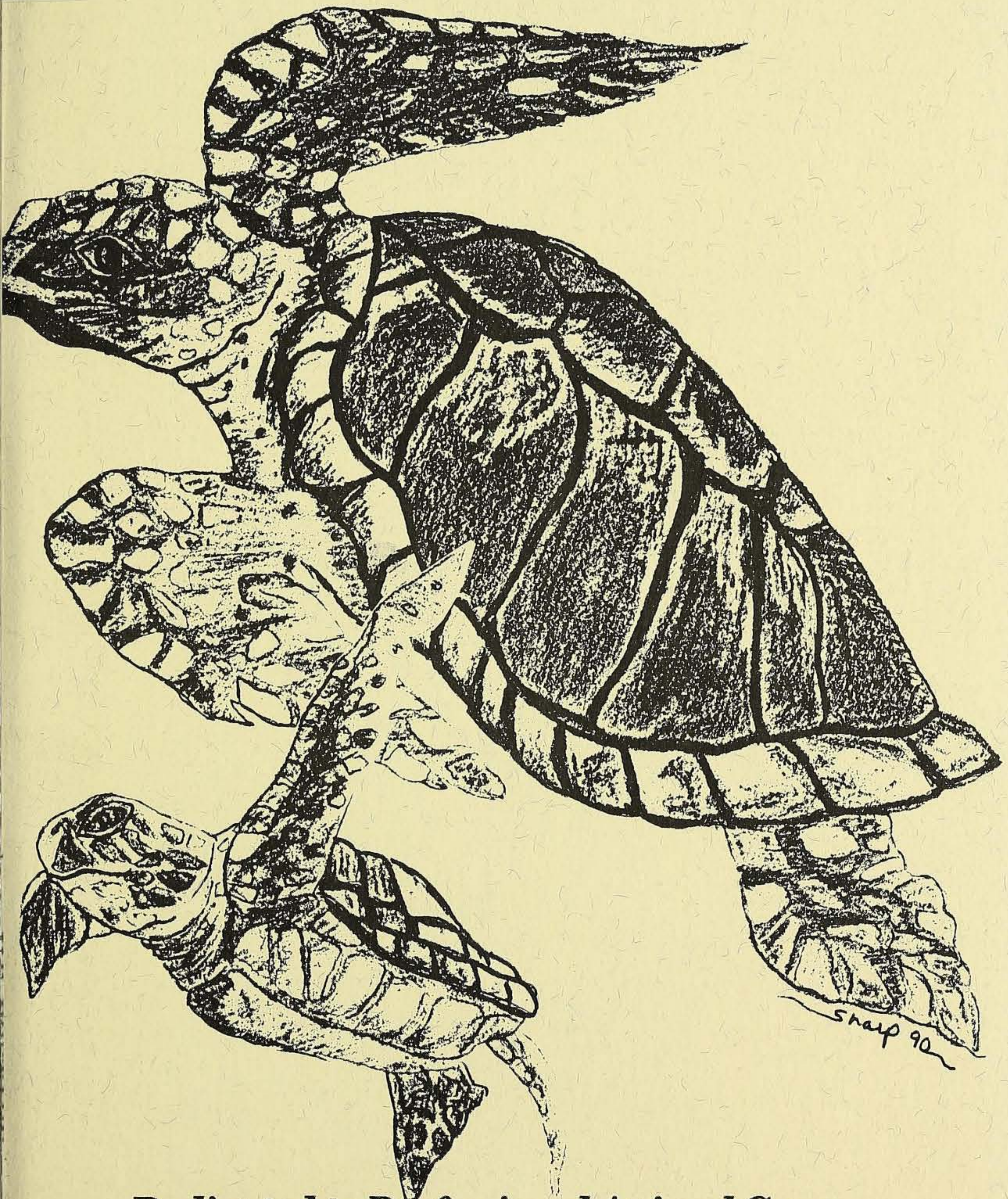
**Inyuma is shown with her new baby Cyabirego in the Volcano National Park in Rwanda. The infant is the offspring of Mrithi who was killed in May 1992.** (Photo by Dawn Garcia)



# Animal Keepers' Forum

March 1993

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*Dedicated to Professional Animal Care*

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This month's cover art features the Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), one of seven species of marine turtles. All are either endangered or threatened primarily due to man's activities including net fishing and habitat encroachment. The cover was drawn by Carol Sharp, a keeper at the Hogle Zoo in Salt Lake City, UT. Included in this issue of *AKF* is an article about the Green Sea Turtle written by Carol (p. 98) as well as some sidebars on marine turtle nesting status. Thanks, Carol!

# Scoops and Scuttlebutt

## Environmental Enrichment Conference: Call for Papers

The Metro Washington Park Zoo in Portland, OR will host the first conference on environmental enrichment for zoo and aquarium animals. The conference will be held 16-20 July 1993. Individuals interested in presenting a paper at this conference are encouraged to submit an abstract to the Environmental Enrichment Program Officers, Drs. David Shepherdson and Jill Mellen. Two types of papers may be presented: 20-minute oral presentations and poster papers. The Program Committee will attempt to accommodate requests for the type of paper you wish to present, however, due to time constraints, they reserve the right to make the final determination on which format you will present. Inquiries concerning the conference, requests for registration forms and or abstract submittal forms should be directed to Drs. David Shepherdson and Jill Mellen. Registration fee is \$200 and space is limited but still available. Phone (503) 220-2446, FAX 503-226-0074 or write to First Conference on Environmental Enrichment, Metro Washington Park Zoo, 4001 S.W. Canyon Road, Portland, OR 97221. Final deadline for receipt of abstracts is 1 April 1993.

## Grass Seed/Plants Available Through USDA Plant Center

The USDA Tucson Plant Materials Center is offering limited quantities of grass seeds and some plants for use in zoos and botanical gardens. Grass examples are: *Bothriochloa barbinoides*, *B. ischaemum*, *Digitaria californica*, *Panicum coloratum*, and *Tetrachne dregei*. Shrub examples: *Atriplex lentiformis*, *Cowania mexicana*, *Eriogonum wrightii* and *Plea verrucosa*.

For more information about these and other plant materials, please contact:

Mr. Bruce Munda, Manager OR Mr. Mark Pater, Assistant Manager  
U.S.D.A. Tucson Plant Materials Center  
3241 N. Romero Road, Tucson, AZ 85705  
Phone - (602) 670-6491 FAX - (602) 670-5127

## Bowling for Rhinos Update

Many Chapters are gearing up for what promises to be the best year yet for "Bowling for Rhinos" (BFR). Please be sure everyone is aware of the new rules for winning the trip--see page 16 of the January issue. Last year's winners, Cara Lance from Indianapolis with \$4,976.00 and Debbie Palay from Lincoln Park with \$1,743.00 will visit the Sanctuary this month. Set your mind to it now and you too will be a winner! Remember, two **different** people will be going next year.

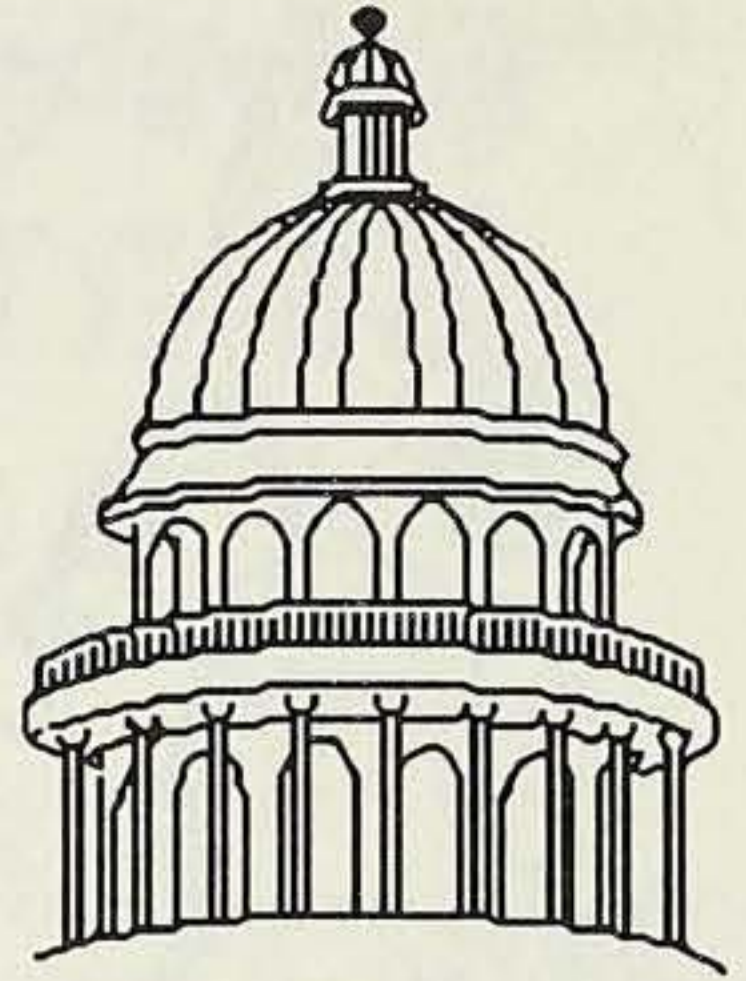


Please contact Patty Pearthree at (317) 322-8723 or P.O. Box 199026, Indianapolis, IN 46219 for bowl-a-thon information or sponsor sheets. Sample fliers, letters, etc. can also be sent at your request.



# Legislative Outlook

Compiled by  
Phyllis Nilson-Wojcik  
Legislative Advisor



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## Endangered Species Act

The first week of February "Dear Colleague" letters went out from Rep. Gerry Studds (D-MA) asking congressional support for the Endangered Species Act Reauthorization bill due to be presented by late this month at the earliest. In 1992 there were 109 cosponsors recruited, however 32 of those are not returning to the 103rd Congress. Now is the time to write or call your representative to encourage their support.

Write - U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Call - (202) 224-3121

Get involved with a two-day conference in Washington, DC commemorating the 20th anniversary of the ESA. The conference, from March 26-28, features issue and skills workshops, a debate, and regional activist caucuses. Call the ESA Coalition conference registrar at (202) 547-9009.

>personal phone call to the House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment 2/5/93 and National Wildlife EnviroAction Jan/Feb 1993.

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## Sanctions Sought Against Rhino Horn Traders Make Impact

Although international trade in rhino horn has been prohibited by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) since 1977, four consumer countries - South Korea, China, Yemen and Taiwan had done little to control the illegal trade. In response, World Wildlife Fund and National Wildlife Federation in late November petitioned the U.S. government under the Pelly Amendment to impose sanctions on the four countries. Just after the petition was filed, Taiwan announced an immediate ban on the import, export, sale and display of rhino horn.

Under the Pelly Amendment, the U.S. can ban direct imports of wildlife products from countries that undermine the effectiveness of CITES programs for species such as rhinos. Although no sanctions have ever been imposed through the Pelly Amendment procedure, conservationists credit the threat of sanctions in 1991 with influencing Japan's decision to ban all international trade of sea turtle products by 1994.

>World Wildlife Fund FOCUS Jan/Feb. 1993, Vol. 15, No. 1

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## Agreement Sets Timeframe for Protecting Rare Plants and Animals

The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) reached an out of court settlement of a case involving the agency's procedures to reduce the backlog of plants and animals awaiting listing decisions under the Endangered Species Act. The settlement agreement was reached with The Fund for Animals, Defenders of Wildlife, In Defense of Endangered Species, and other individuals.

## Chapter News, Continued

With each raffle ticket purchase, we gave the buyer a green ribbon to put on their car antenna representing earth awareness. We raised \$150.00 from this activity and elected to donate it to National AAZK to use as they see fit.

Our Chapter also participated in "Bowling for Rhinos", raising \$699.66 towards this very worthy cause.

As a Chapter we felt it was necessary to support the Zoo Crisis Fund and we were able to contribute \$50.00 to this hurricane relief fund.

In September, three of our Chapter members went to the 1992 National AAZK Conference in San Diego. Gretchen Ziegler and Kayla Grams gave an Environmental Enrichment Workshop.

In the Topeka Zoo's Animals and Man Building, our Chapter has a showcase that we use to display a variety of organizations whose goal is to help the earth and its wildlife. In front of the display we also have a Twirl-a-Coin™ used to raise funds towards the organization featured in the showcase. The most recent organization we supported was Cheyenne Bottoms, a wetlands wildlife preserve in Central Kansas. Cheyenne Bottoms is located in the middle of a major migratory flyway for several species of birds. While the display was up, we were able to collect \$586.56 to donate to this very important and precious preserve.

Our new showcase features our zoo's Tropical Rain Forest. Last November the exhibit was devastated by a fire that destroyed about a quarter of the geodesic dome, a significant portion of the vegetation, killed 24 animals and injured several more. Our Zoological Foundation has established a Rain Forest Repair Fund. A portion of the money our Chapter raises from the showcase and Twirl-a-Coin™ will be donated to this fund.

*--Mel Starr, Chapter Liaison*

## Greater Houston AAZK Chapter

Our new officers for 1993 are:

President.....Ric Urban  
Co-Vice Pres.....Colette DeGrange and  
Michelle Becker  
Secretary.....Sheila Phillips  
Treasurer.....Michele Ozuna  
Liaison.....Christina Smith

Our Chapter has many projects planned for the year. In May we will have our third "Bowling for Rhinos". Last year we made \$2661.00 for the rhino cause.

The Texas Nature Conservancy and the North Woods Presbyterian Church donated a Conservation Parking meter to our AAZK Chapter. Plans are underway to set it up.

The Houston Zoological Society has given us four aluminum can recycling bins that give a penny to the zoo visitor for each can donated. We are looking forward to a generous response.

We are collecting items and money to send to East Zaire to help the park guards protecting the Eastern lowland gorillas.

Our main goal for this year is to increase our local AAZK membership. We would like to see a variety of professionals join our organization. It would be very beneficial to have docents, zoo maintenance, local teachers and professors, wildlife rehabilitators and all others interested in conservation joining our organization. Such diversified input would be useful.

*--Christina Smith, Liaison*

## Indianapolis Chapter AAZK

Our officers for 1993 are:

President.....Patty Pearthree  
Vice Pres.....David Hagan  
Secretary.....Kathy Fischer  
Treasurer.....Bill Potter  
Liaison.....Maria McManus

Our Chapter raised \$4,800.00 during the "Christmas at the Zoo" Hot Chocolate Sale. Part of this money may go to purchase a Conservation Parking Meter. We are now gearing up for our "Bowling for Rhinos" event on 17 April.

*--Maria McManus, Chapter Liaison*



# Animal Keepers' Forum

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## **Births & Hatchings, Continued**

(*Balearica pavonia pavonia*) [CITES II]; 0.0.1 Nicobar pigeon (*Caloenas nicobarica*) [CITES I]; and 0.0.1 Eclectus parrot (*Electus roratus*) [II].

**Reptiles** - 0.0.2 Florida softshell turtle (*Trionyx*) and 0.0.1 Spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*). submitted by Sandra Robbins, Chapter Liaison, Philadelphia Zoo AAZK Chapter.

**Milwaukee County Zoo (Milwaukee, WI)**...reports the following significant B&H from 1 October 1992 through 16 February 1993:

**Mammals** - 0.0.3 Asiatic black bears (*Selenarctos thibetanus*) [CITES I]; 1.0 Black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis minor*) [E/SSP].

**Birds** - 0.0.2 Bali-Rothchild's mynah (*Leucopsar rothchildi*) [E/SSP]; 0.0.1 Rupell's griffon vulture (*Gyps rueppellii*) [CITES II]. submitted by Wayne J. Hazlett, Chapter Liaison, Milwaukee County Zoo AAZK Chapter, Milwaukee, WI.

**Zoo Atlanta (Atlanta, GA)**...announces the successful metamorphosis of 0.0.23 rare AAZK's toads (*Bufo aazkii*) on 22 February. These endangered toads are found in one isolated canyon in the Mongollon Mountains of southern New Mexico. The male (Elvis) was placed on loan from the San Diego Zoo in October, 1992 to pair with the zoo's female (Hoser). A special environmental rain chamber was constructed to house the toads. This chamber was programmed to simulate the rain cycle that occurs in the natural habitat. Courtship and amplexus were observed on 28 November after two days of continuous rain. The male's call was a high pitched trill similar to that of other *Bufo* sp. Eggs were deposited in 50cm long gelatinous strings and each egg measured approximately 6mm in diameter. The eggs were maintained in an aquarium in shallow water at an ambient temperature of 26-30° C. Tadpoles were observed emerging from the gelatin strings on 18 December; a total of 67 tadpoles emerged. The 20mm long tadpoles were omnivorous and ate a variety of vegetable matter and algae, Frog Brittle® (NASCI, Fort Atkinson, WI), and each other. The tadpoles grew rapidly on this diet and 23 toadlets metamorphosed. The toadlets measure nearly 16mm snout-vent length and are fed a diet of baby crickets dusted with a calcium/phosphorus supplement. We believe that this is the first successful reproduction of *Bufo aazkii* in the world and that Zoo Atlanta has the only individuals of this species currently in captivity. (Thanks to Lisa Littlefield, Zoo Atlanta, for this bit of April Fool's whimsey!)

**Metro Toronto Zoo**...reports the following significant B&H since the fall of 1992:

**Mammals** - 1.0 Malayan tapir (*Tapirus indicus*) [E]; 1.0 Pygmy hippopotamus (*Choeropsis liberiensis*) [E]; 0.0.1 Polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) [E] [1st time cub survived at MTZ].

**Birds** - 0.0.2 Victoria crowned pigeon (*Goura victoria*) [E] [exhibit change for one pair; 1st time birth for the other pair]; 1.1 Temmink's tragopan (*Tragopan temminckii*) [E] [1st for facility]; 0.0.1 Double-striped thicknee (*Buchinus bristratus*) [1st from pair].

**Reptiles** - 0.0.17 Emerald tree boa (*Corallus caninus*) [T] [1st for institution].

-submitted by Eric Cole, Chapter Liaison

## ***Publications Available***



**Green Products by Design - Choices for a Cleaner Environment** - as the U.S. and other nations begin to get serious about a new array of potentially significant environmental threats, from global climate change to local groundwater contamination, traditional formulas of environmental management are being reassessed. The remediation or "end-of-the-pipe" strategies of the past 20 years are unlikely to provide satisfactory, cost-effective protection of ecosystems and human health in the future. Systematic change is needed. 128 pgs. illustrated/Paper \$6.50. Stock # 052-003-01303-7/ISBN 0-16-038066-9. Send prepayments to: Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC 20402-9325; or order with Visa or MasterCard by phoning (202) 783-3238.



# Animal Keepers' Forum

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# Chapter News

## Smoky Mountain AAZK Chapter

New officers for 1993 are:

President.....Stacy Lester  
Vice Pres.....Gene Peacock  
Secretary.....Patricia F. Stroud  
Treasurer.....Rocky Sylar  
Chapter Liaison.....Teresa Collins

The Smoky Mountain AAZK Chapter had its first official meeting in April to reorganize and elect new officers and welcome new members.

--Patricia F. Stroud, Secretary

## San Diego AAZK Chapter

The flowers are blooming and the scent of orange blossoms is in the air. Spring is here and once again the cycle of renewal has taken place. The new Board has taken their seats and duly volunteered their new officers to their posts. Steve Castillo is our new President. Backing him up are myself (wearing two hats as VP and Liaison), Nicki McGahey as Secretary, and Vicki Steele as Treasurer. We will try and do as good a job as the previous Board.

Scott Woodward is getting our annual "Bowling for Rhinos" going and Nicki has volunteered to get teams together at the zoo. Nicki is very enthusiastic and no one can refuse her--she signed up five bowlers in her first day!

The Board voted to buy a little something with the money from our Conference (equipment for the Bighorn Sheep Project and a slide projector for the Chapter).

Unfortunately the cycle of renewal has been interrupted in some areas of the world by human interference. At our March meeting Karen Barnes (CRES Keeper at the Wild Animal Park) spoke movingly about the effects of poaching on the elephant population at Ruaha National Park. Karen and her husband Richard recently went there to survey the population. A whole generation of

elephants is missing. Richard is continuing to study the effects of this gap on the population.

--Christina Simmons, Chapter Liaison

The April meeting of the San Diego Chapter featured Georgeanne Irvine, our Public Relations Manager, speaking about her trip to Sumatra to rescue Barakas, a male Sumatran rhino. He was being captured due to habitat loss on the impoverished island. George, as we call her, had a very interesting and professional video of the trip as well as CNN new clips and personal slide show.

We are getting ready for "Bowling for Rhinos" and hope to have a huge success in the fundraising. We have been donating to local projects like the Bighorn Sheep Project to which we gave \$400 for a telescope and tripod for observation. Our monthly newsletter, *The Keeper*, is getting bigger and better all the time, thanks to Andrew Simmons and all of the creative authors. We are hoping the more impressive, professional newsletter will help bring in more memberships.

--Nicki McGahey, Secretary  
Acting Liaison

## Columbus Chapter AAZK

New officers for 1993 are:

President..... Dianna Frisch  
1st Vice Pres.....Joe Rindler  
2nd Vice Pres.....Beth Pohl  
Secretary.....Sally Sickles  
Treasurer.....Pat Currie  
Chapter Liaison.....Lori Monska-Wright

With the proceeds of our recycling program we distributed \$6,000.00 to various conservation organizations. Included in this was \$1500.00 to the Hurricane Andrew Zoo Crisis Fund.

We held an Appreciation Dinner for our maintenance, horticulture and visitor services departments in October. Zoolympics was the evening's entertainment. This was a great event to end a busy season on and will be repeated this year.

The officers designed the 1993 calendar of events in January and it looks to be another good year.

--Lori Monska-Wright, Chapter Liaison



## Parrot Well-being: Does it Deserve More Attention?, *Continued*

birds' acceptance of them. For example, when initially introducing birds to enrichment materials is senseless to place these on the ground if the birds spend all their time 2m high in the cage. Seville (1990) recommends hanging toys just within reach of birds, but so that they have to stretch to get it, as a way to catch the bird's interest. Even if the birds do not show interest in an item initially, it may well be that it will later be one of their favorite toys.

The safety of items used should always be considered, and parrots have never failed to amaze with their adroitness at opening, pulling, unscrewing or otherwise undoing things. Items that the bird can get entangled in (such as string), or can catch its band or bill on (such as metal rings that the bird can open) should not be used. Sharp objects, or materials such as glass, most plastics and thin wire than can be broken and swallowed are, of course, not suitable.

### **Costs and benefits of parrot environmental enrichment...**

An added bonus to providing an "enriched environment" may be an improvement in breeding success, as graphically demonstrated in an experiment in the Avian Sciences Department at the University of California at Davis (Brice, 1992). Of course, providing enrichment materials to parrots takes just as much time as it does for primates. But, if it is judged to be important enough to make that time for primates, it should also be likewise considered that important for parrots. If suitable items are used, a good program need not take more than an average of a few minutes a day per enclosure. Taking good care of any animal costs time, but in parrots this is richly rewarded by the pleasure that they, their keepers, and in the case of publically held birds, the visitor will receive from the enrichment materials.

### **Citations**

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- Pepperberg, I.A. and M.S. Funk. 1990. Object permanence in four species of psittacine birds: an African Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*), an Illiger Mini Macaw (*Ara maracana*), a parakeet (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), and a cockatiel (*Nymphicus hollandicus*). *Animal Learning and Behavior* 18(1): 97-108.
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- Seville, B. 1990. Safe Christmas toys or gifts for birds and bird owners. *Bird World* (Nov/Dec): 7-8.
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## Chapter News, *Continued from Page 204*

### Memphis Zoo AAZK Chapter

Officers for 1993 are:

President.....Dena Mandino  
Vice Pres.....Danny Tennyson  
Treasurer.....Betty Lee Elliot  
Secretary.....Gail Karr  
Chapter Liaison.....Cindy Pinger

On 17 April the first exhibit, The Commercial Appeal Cat Country, in our renovation schedule opened to the public. Some of the species in Cat Country include

cheetahs, jaguarundis, clouded leopards, fishing cats, and Sumatran tigers. This was a long-awaited project in Memphis and we are all excited and very happy that Cat Country is now a reality. To open at the Memphis Zoo in 1994: Primate Canyon and Animals of the Night.

The Memphis AAZK participated in "Bowling for Rhinos" for the third year on 1 May. We raised over \$1200.00 for the cause.

--Cindy Pinger, Chapter Liaison

