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## COVERS

**Front:** Female green-winged dove *Chalcophaps indica*

**Inside front:** Pygmy hippopotamus *Choeropsis liberiensis*

**Inside back:** *Alluaudia procera*

**Back:** White-quilled black bustard *Afrotis afroaoides*

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## The Covers



R. Van Nostrand

## A Splash of Coral

Most conspicuous in a flashing flypast is the bright coral bill of the green-winged dove *Chalcophaps indica*, seen on the cover. Although swift and silent in flight, this handsome little bird has a portly appearance on the ground, where it bustles about, singly or in pairs, to feed on grain, seeds, fallen berries, and insects.

The many subspecies of the green-winged dove are found in areas of dense bush and forest throughout India and Sri Lanka, to Southeast Asia and the Philippines, and south to Australia and New Guinea. Sometimes called emerald dove because of the brilliance of the bronze-green upperparts, it does well in captivity and is an aviary favorite.

The call of the green-winged dove is a single, soft, deep, very low note ending in a nasal moan.

E.H.

## LETTERS

As friends and lovers of the S.D. Zoo since 1949, we are *sorry* to find the November issue and 1981 calendar to be all CATS. As bird lovers we do not want to appear prejudiced but really! A whole twelve months of CATS is TOO much! They may have fascinated many but *please!* Never again. We do not even know anyone who would want it as a gift!

**Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Webber**  
Santa Rosa, California

As always, it was a delight to receive next year's ZOOONOOZ calendar. I especially like your innovation of focusing on one animal group for the whole year. As a cat lover, I know I will enjoy looking at the beautiful photographs all year long. Thank you for this early Christmas present.

**Lisa Highberg**  
Mission Viejo, California



## The Noisy Bustard

When the white-quilled black bustard *Afrotis afroaoides* opens his mouth wide, out comes a noise like a large, rusty nail being pried from a board. In the wild, the male is often noisy, calling in flight or while standing on a mound or anthill.

The bustard belongs to the diversified order Gruiformes, along with cranes, rails, and others. Fossil forms more than 50 million years old indicate that this is an ancient order, but it appears to be rapidly declining. It includes a higher percentage of recently extinct forms and of living forms on the verge of extinction than any other major order of birds.

Considered game birds, the larger bustards are conspicuous as they stalk about the open savanna and dry scrub of their Old World habitats. Because they usually depend on camouflage and running speed for protection, they are an easy prey for hunters. The great Indian bustard, perhaps heaviest of all living flighted birds, at an average 24 pounds, is nearly gone.

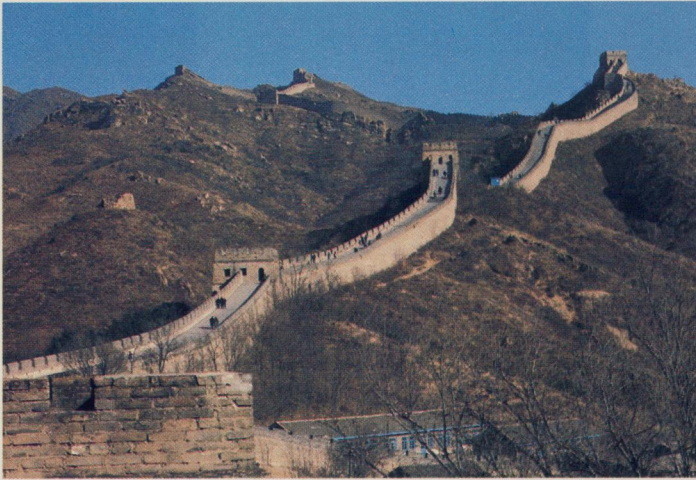
In South Africa the smaller black bustards, or black Korhaans, which include the white-quilled subspecies, are somewhat protected because they are considered beneficial to agriculture. Although bustards eat grains and other vegetable matter, they also eat vast quantities of insects, such as locusts.

The white-quilled black bustard is among the handsomest of the group. The rich, soft black of the neck and body contrasts with the back, which appears draped in a fine herringbone tweed of black and tan. A matching cap tops the flattened, large-eyed head. Only when the bird squats down in the grass and retracts the conspicuous, long, black neck do the matching tweeds of cap and coat converge to blend with the surroundings in perfect camouflage.

E.H.

**This gargoyle with the pineapple-shaped crown is actually an optical illusion formed by a pair of great palm cockatoos.**





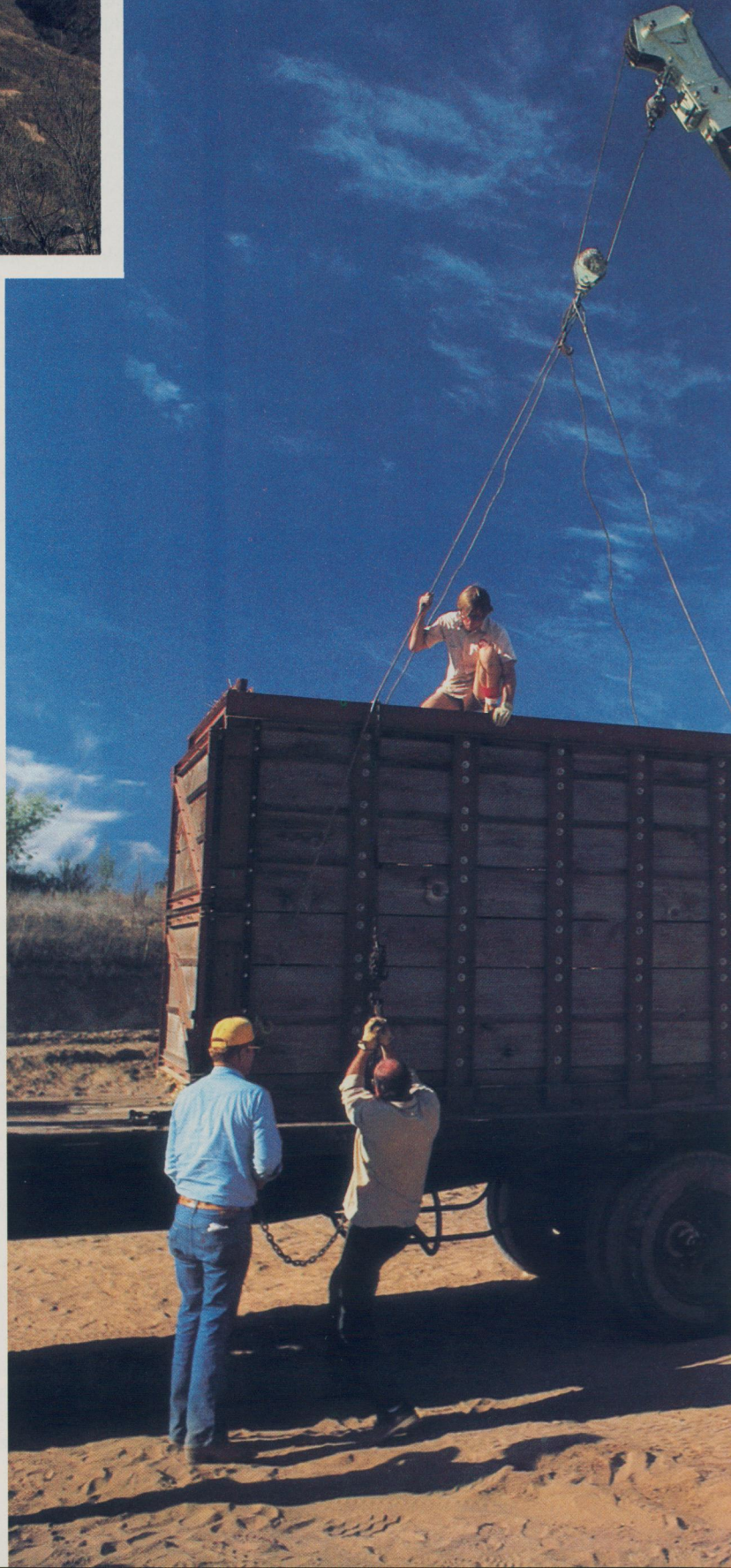
## RHINOS TO CHINA

Oliver A. Ryder MOLECULAR CYTOGENETICIST

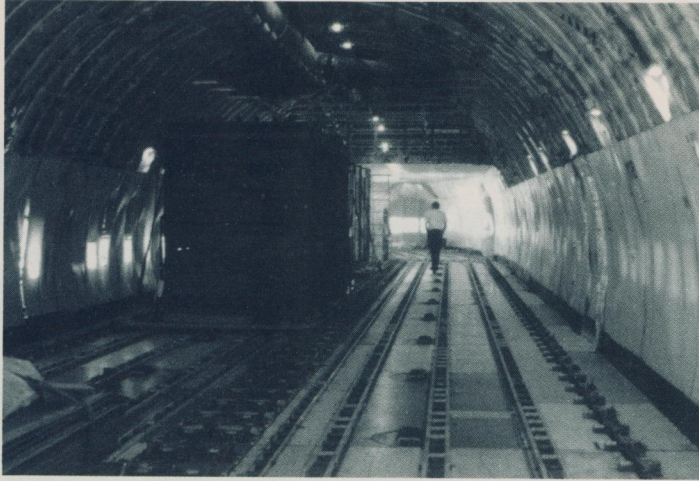
In December of 1979 an historic annual exchange was completed between the Zoological Society of San Diego and the Guangzhou Zoo in the People's Republic of China. Readers of ZOO NOOZ are aware that the collections of the San Diego Zoo have been enhanced by the addition of two rare species of Chinese mammals, Styan's red pandas *Ailurus fulgens styani* and Chinese dholes *Cuon alpinus* which were received from the Guangzhou Zoo. At the same time, we also received handsome groups of Derbyan parakeets *Psittacula derbiana* and Jankowski's swans *Cygnus columbianus jankowskii*.

In exchange for these unusual animals our Zoological Society initially provided the Guangzhou Zoo with a group of American flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber*. To consummate this important exchange, two adult southern white rhinoceroses *Ceratotherium simum simum* were to be shipped to Guangzhou. We received word through our colleagues at Ocean Park oceanarium in Hong Kong, who had been instrumental in helping arrange the animal exchanges, that our Zoological Society would be formally invited to send a delegation to accompany the rhinos to China and to subsequently tour the People's Republic for nearly two weeks, visiting the zoos and other cultural attractions. Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, and

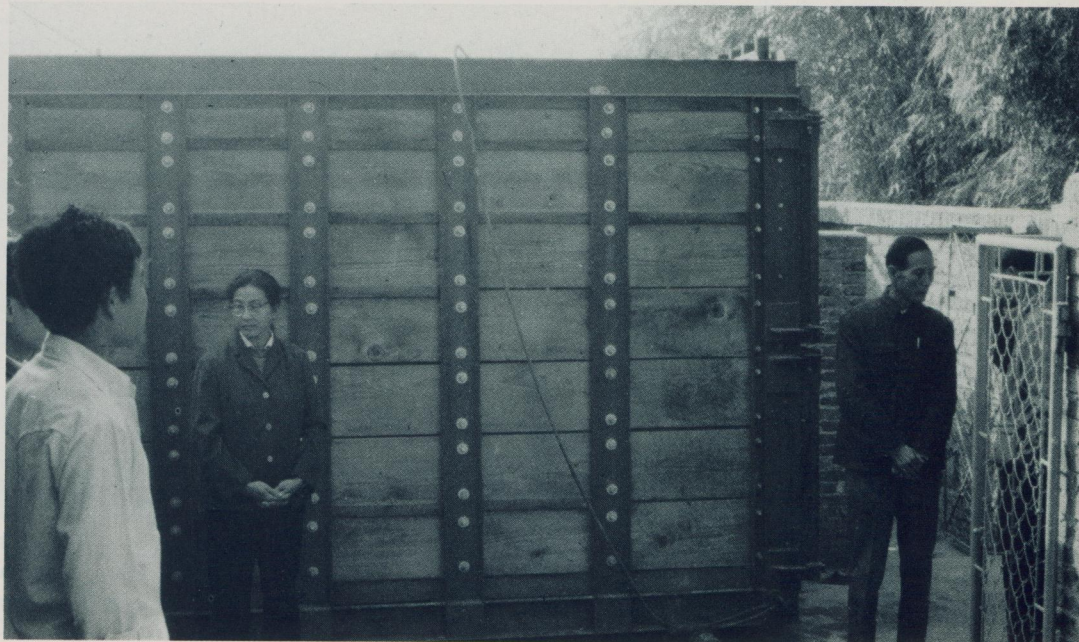
**The crate containing Paghati, a male white rhinoceros, is loaded aboard a truck at the Wild Animal Park for the first leg of the long journey to China.**







Arthur C. Risser



Arthur C. Risser

**Top left:** The author and Dr. James Dolan, Wild Animal Park general curator, shared the spacious interior of the 747 Cargo Clipper with the two rhinos.

**Right:** After the rhinos had been uncrated in Guangzhou, Zoological Society trustees Dallas Clark and Sheldon Campbell mar-

veled at the strength of the rhino which bent one of the crate's bars while in transit.

**Above:** When the rhinos arrived in Guangzhou (Canton) in December 1979, zoo director Wong Fu Chi (right) and members of his staff were on hand to greet them.

Guangzhou would be included on our itinerary.

Such a trip held exciting prospects — to meet our colleagues working in the zoos of China, to see rare and endangered forms of indigenous Chinese wildlife rarely seen outside of China, and to visit the most populous country on our planet. Many arrangements had to be made in a short amount of time. Not the least of these details included shipment of the two rhinos which together weighed nearly six tons.

Transportation was arranged from Los Angeles to Hong Kong with Pan American Airlines. The female rhino, Uhtandi, was trucked from the San Diego Zoo, the male,

Paghati, from the San Diego Wild Animal Park and loaded aboard a 747 Cargo Clipper just before midnight on December 4, 1979. Rhinos are very powerful animals and must be securely crated for such a journey. Even though their entire travel time to Guangzhou was just three days, no safe means to tranquilize such large animals for such a period of time is available. In their crates the two rhinos tipped the balances at Pan Am's air freight depot at 22,800 pounds.

The flight plan included brief stopovers in San Francisco and Tokyo, where flight crews were changed. None of our several captains and flight crews had ever transported rhinos before, and a few nervous



**Uhtandi and Paghati have adjusted to their new home in the People's Republic of China.**

Arthur C. Risser



questions were asked. None of them ever asked us whether we had previous experience ourselves. Consequently our answers were taken as sufficient assurance despite the fact that neither I nor Dr. James Dolan, general curator at the Wild Animal Park, had ever previously flown with rhinos.

Despite unspoken misgivings our flight was uneventful. We did encounter what we at first considered mild air turbulence, but this notion was quickly dispelled when our flight captain asked us to check whether the rhinos were moving around in their crates. It turned out that our in-flight turbulence was caused by our rhinos shifting their weight in the crates!

After successfully off-loading the rhinos in Hong Kong, Dr. Dolan's and my responsibilities for rhinoceros transportation were gratefully turned over to Ocean Park oceanarium authorities who had arranged truck transportation to Guangzhou. We were next to see our rhinos after spending nearly two weeks in China.

A visit to China would have been exciting in itself. Having the opportunity to spend full days in several of the major zoos of China was a zoologist's dream. We had eagerly anticipated seeing those rare and endangered species we knew were exhibited in Chinese zoos and conjectured among ourselves concerning those species whose status we did not know.

Guangzhou was last on our itinerary and as we greeted our ponderous traveling companions in their quarantine facilities adjacent to the zoo that would be their new home, we could not help but think about the marvels we had seen since we parted from the rhinos earlier in the month. Seeing living examples of the kiang, or Tibetan wild ass, *Equus kiang*, the Mongolian dziggetai *Equus hemionus hemionus* (a subspecies of Asiatic wild ass), blue sheep, or bharal, *Pseudois nayaur*, golden takin *Budorcas taxicolor bedfordi*, Francois's langurs *Presbytis francoisi*, golden monkeys *Rhinopithecus roxellanae*, tufted deer *Elaphodus cephalophus*, Manchurian cranes *Grus japonensis*, and of course the giant panda *Ailuropoda melanoleuca* were among many memorable experiences. Future issues of ZOOOOZ will contain articles focusing on these rare species and our experiences in China. **Z**