

BÉLA J. DEMETER

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS

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MARVIN L. JONES, Foreign News
THOMAS LIVERS, Louisville Zoological Garden, Kentucky
DEWEY GARVEY, Brookfield Zoo, Brookfield, Ill.
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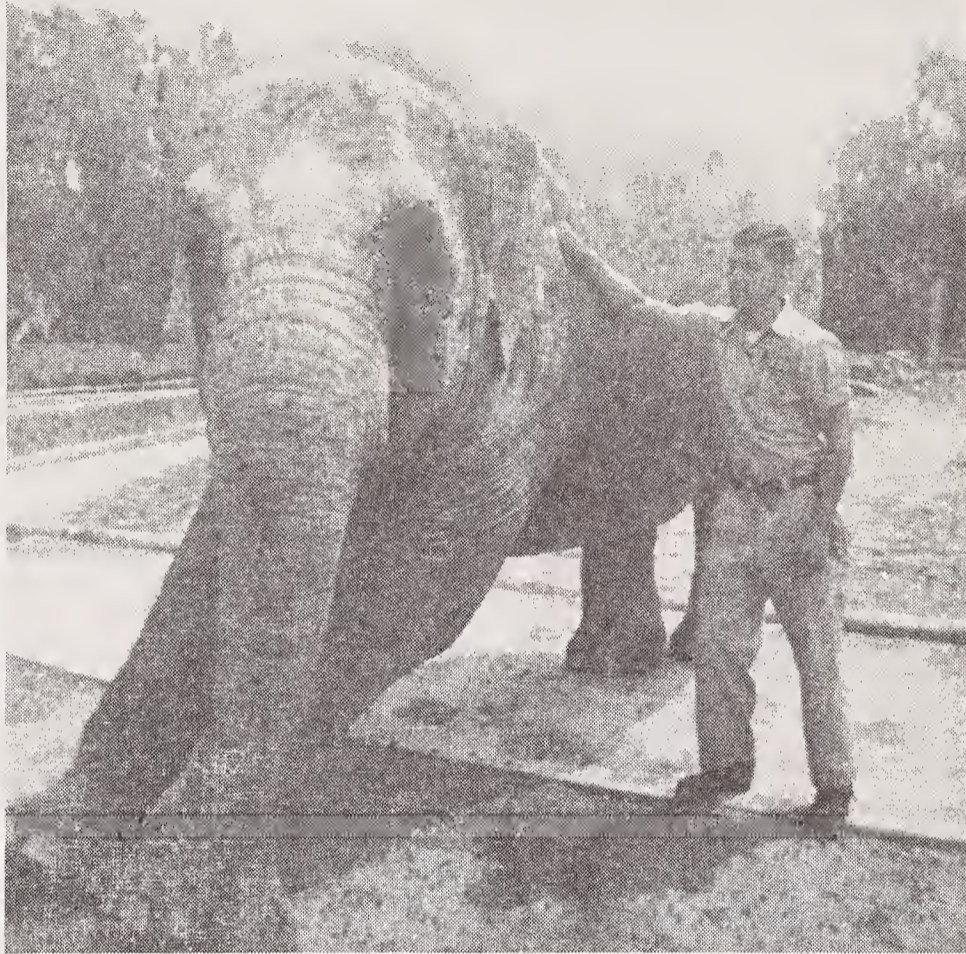
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KEEPER OF MONTH AWARD

The San Diego Zoo Chapter of AAZK has established a certificate award for a Keeper of the Month. This award goes to the keeper who contributes the most to his job, to others, and to the welfare of the Chapter.

Mr. Conrad A. Grayson was nominated and selected for the month of June.



CONRAD A. GRAYSON AND LUCKY

AAZK WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS (*) denotes associate members

Michael Gerbaukas-Bronx Zoo

Vincent J. Amoroso-Middlesex Fells Zoo

Frank L. Santangelo-Middlesex Fells Zoo

Wilfred Bonnett-Middlesex Fells Zoo

Benjamin Lopez-Seneca Park Zoo

Francis Judd-Ross Park Zoo

David L. Delair-Jungleland, Thurmont, Md.

Suzanne Middleton-Audubon Society of Mass.

Leroy Powell-Baltimore Zoo

Bob Bischoff-Columbus Zoo

Abram Woodbeck-Catskill Game Farm

John Lamont-Catskill Game Farm

Diana Penor-Lincoln Park Zoo
William J. Vergis-Crandon Park Zoo
Arthur H. Cooper-Baltimore Zoo
Beryl Fisher-Houston Zoo
Thomas P. Bennett-Middlesex Fells Zoo
Polly Lewis-San Diego Zoo
Ronald Kaufman-Topeka Zoological Park
Canadian Broadcasting Co.*
Richard A. Hahn-Jungleland, Thurmont, Md.*
Fraulein Uta Hick-West Germany*
Steven P. Pendleton-Alber's Milling Co.*
Marie E. Beirs-San Diego*
Elwyn Heller-Ramona, Calif.*

NEWS FROM LOUISVILLE ZOO reported by Thomas Livers

A tragic loss hit the Louisville Zoo this month when a young female giraffe accidentally ran into a nine foot fence at full speed when frightened by a low flying airplane and broke its neck. This animal's loss reduced our "herd" to two giraffes.

On the other hand, our opening day and the following weekend was attended by large crowds of fans. That Sunday, over 15,000 people visited the Zoo, to date over 46,000 people have seen our collection. So it seems that we are popular with the populace.

BROOKFIELD ZOO NEWS reported by Dewey Garvey

Births, in the hooved section, from 4/1 to 4/30, 1969.
1/0 Forest horse 1/0 Sitatunga 1/0 Banteng

In November issue 68, of the AAZK, I wrote an article about Sally, the second oldest chimp in captivity.

Since that time, Sally was sent to the Delta Regional Primate Laboratory, where shortly after arrival she died. The following is an article published in the "Brookfield Briefs".

BELOVED SALLY DIES

"Sally, Brookfield's famous chimpanzee, died January 6, 1969 at the Delta Regional Primate Laboratory in Covington, Louisiana. Sally, considered to be one of the oldest chimpanzees in captivity was sent to the

Delta Regional Primate Laboratory as part of a study on aged animals.

Sally, and her almost humane antics made her one of the most popular and beloved animals at Brookfield Zoo. Zoo personnel will never forget her ritual at feeding time when she would select different vegetables from her feeding tray and file them on a shelf in her cage, each to be eaten at a separate order of preference. The main course, ground beef was given priority over every thing else and when that delicacy had been eaten, Sally made her selection from the file. After dinner Sally drank from a cup and on special occasions was given a cigarette. Sally, a meticulous housekeeper, hosed down her own cage each day.

Sally, who had been in a Ziegfeld Follies show in 1932, came to Brookfield in 1933, a part of the original animal collection of the late George F. Getz."

CALGARY ZOO FORMS CHAPTER OF AAZK

At the organizational meeting of the Calgary Chapter AAZK, the following officers were elected.

President-Terry McDonald
Vice-President-Walter Hoffman
Secretary-Robert Henderson
Treasurer-Phil Kloster

An editorial staff was also selected and comprised of the following members-Peter Karsten, Robert Sharon, and George Croome.

Our congratulations!!

NEWS FROM TULSA ZOOLOGICAL PARK reported by Steven Clarke

Recent births: 15 Ringhals Cobras(8 live, 7 stillborn)
2/2 Bengal Tigers 1 Spider Monkey
1/0 Reticulated Giraffe

Recent arrivals:	1/1 Brazilian Tapirs
1/1 Bay Lynx(Felis rufa)	2/3 African Civits
0/1 Asiatic Elephant	1 African Black Tree Snake
1 Amythestine Python	1 Ringhals Cobra
1 Gaboon Viper	1 African Tiger Snake
1 Florida Indigo Snake	2 Eastern Rock Rattlesnake
5 Tokay Geckos	2 Mojave Rattlesnakes

1 11' African Rock Python	2 Senegal Chameleons
6 Blomberg's Toads	1 7' Asiatic Water Monitor
1 Haitian Boa	1 Rainbow Boa
1 6' Colombian "Common" Boa	
1 Mexican West Coast Rattlesnake	
1 Burmese Rock Python	2 Madagascan Night Snakes

A big attraction at the Tulsa Zoo these past few months has been our three Bengal tiger cubs. The birth of these cubs was a great event for the Zoo since they are the first offspring of our four year-old female and our five-year-old male.

Our tiger exhibit consists of four enclosed dens, in which two can be used for cubbing. Outside is a large area with natural dirt and grass enclosed by a dry moat.

After a close observation on breeding, we started recording the days. On the ninety-fifth day the female was separated from the male. In the daytime, the female was allowed the freedom of the outside area and her den while the male was confined to his inside den. At night this procedure was reversed.

On the morning of October 5th, the four cubs were discovered. In order to determine their condition it was necessary to separate the very aggressive and protective mother.

In the den we found two females and one male that appeared to be very healthy. The fourth cub (a male) was stillborn and was removed without disturbing the remaining three.

Later in the day, the three cubs were observed nursing.

In the first week of December, the two month-old cubs started chewing small peices of meat given to their mother. By the first week of January they were eating small chunks of meat and the mother was limiting their nursing. We then started giving them their own share of meat and soon after they were completely weaned.

The adult male had been kept separated from the mother and cubs until one afternoon in January, during a routine check only one cub was accounted for. After checking the dens, the other two were discovered in with the male who didn't seem at all concerned with

their presence.

Since the cubs were small, they had gained their entrance through a small drain opening which they used to run back and forth. Having already introduced themselves to their father, he was allowed outside with his family.

Although it is not a common practice in zoos to exhibit a family of tigers, especially with the male, it's a very rewarding and interesting sight.

NEWS FROM TOPEKA ZOOLOGICAL PARK as reported by
Robert Collinge

The keepers at the Topeka Zoo held a monthly keeper's meeting May 15th. Gary Clarke, Director, was the speaker. Mr. Clarke recently returned from a European tour, and he spoke on the zoos he visited. Slides will be shown at a later date.

GOLDEN EAGLES NESTING AT TOPEKA ZOO

Early this spring, Topeka's pair of Golden Eagles began to show nesting behavior. In hopes of coaxing them to nest, a nestbox was constructed six feet square and two and one-half feet deep. This nest is basically a 2 x 4 frame, with a heavy gauge wire lining, and filled with sticks. Nesting material was introduced and the eagles proceeded to construct a nest to their satisfaction. The first egg was laid on the 27th of March. A second egg was found the 28th on the ground, broken. It is thought that she may have laid this egg while standing on the edge of the nest, as it was very close to it. The third egg was laid on the 30th.

At sometime during the following weeks, one of the two remaining eggs disappeared and it is presumed to have been broken and removed from the nest. Soon after she began incubating, the female became very aggressive and she wouldn't allow keepers to enter the cage. During the 53 days that the female was on the nest, she left only to be fed or when the male relieved her. Topeka received several heavy rainstorms and at least one hailstorm, during which she would not leave the nest even to feed. After maximum incubation period had passed the egg

was removed from the nest on May 19th and examined. There was no evidence of embryonic development and the egg was suspected to be infertile.

BIRTH OF A BRUSH-TAILED PHALANGER

Topeka received a pair of young Brush-tailed Phalangers, an Australian marsupial, during the winter of 1967. The keepers have worked very closely with these animals since their arrival and they have no fear of being handled. They were placed in the Australian exhibit building upon its completion. Since that time they have produced four young. The first was successfully raised by the mother; the second was ejected from the pouch at a premature stage of development, approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches long, and died. The third was also raised by the mother with no complications.

When a Phalanger is born it is in a premature stage of development. It looks very much like a baby mouse. It crawls to the mother's pouch under its own power. Once there, it attaches itself to a nipple where it remains until it develops enough to leave. On April 28th, as the exhibit was being cleaned, a baby was discovered on the floor. It was approximately one inch long, and had evidently just been born. It was suspected that the male had disturbed the female before the baby had reached the pouch and the baby was dislodged, falling to the floor. It appeared unharmed and was still alive, so the keeper removed the young from the exhibit and it was decided to try to introduce the young into the pouch. The female was restrained and the pouch held open. The young was placed directly on the nipple and held there for several seconds. It immediately began nursing, and the female was placed back in the exhibit. The male was removed.

The female was restrained again the next day and the young was checked. It was still attached to the nipple, and seemed to be doing well. It was not examined again.

On May 12th as the exhibit was being cleaned, the young Phalanger was again found on the floor of the exhibit, having been ejected from the pouch for an unknown reason. It was found dead, and appeared to have been out of the pouch for some time. It seemed to have slightly

more than doubled in size since the first observation.

We are at a loss as to why the young was ejected from the pouch, and would appreciate hearing from any persons who have had similar experiences with marsupials. Please contact Robert Collinge, Topeka Zoological Park, 635 Gage Blvd., Topeka, Kansas 66606.

PITTSBURGH ZOO NEWS reported by George Badanich

It is my pleasure to inform all card carrying members of AAZK, that an open invitation is extended to all who visit our zoo by Mr. Joseph Bissonnette, the Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Zoological Society. You will find him in his office at the Children's Zoo.

Our Children's Zoo opened May 10th after an extensive renovation of all exhibits. All major exhibits have been gaily painted and various animal tenants have just about made themselves at home.

At the present time, our hoofed animal section is in the throes of reconstruction. New water lines and an addition to the present building are being put in. This has required some shifting of animals which has kept Keeper Tom Bornscheur and his help pretty busy, especially since some of his animals had to be transferred to the Children's Zoo. A fair sized dam was put in the water buffalo paddock to handle the ever increasing mallard and duck population. It's a sight to see when Ed Connors comes with the feed, ducks seem to appear from everywhere, even the guinea hens join in. The flamingos and many of the birds who have been penned in for the winter are in their summer quarters. Before long, Don Allen will be bolstering the turtle pool with alligators. This usually is a bit of excitement.

We are looking forward to the addition of a few new animals to replace some of our old age losses. I myself am looking forward to a new female giraffe.

Our new polar bear couple have made a great hit with the public. So have our five young bear cubs that have joined the Children's Zoo.

Zoo births have out numbered the old age death rate to the pleasure of all concerned. We have three new Emu babies, and hope for a few Rhea births.

The aquarium continues to be a great attraction.

Sometime soon we hope to have an article by Mr. Bissonnette regarding the Pittsburgh Zoo and its plan of renovation. Plus an aquarium article of interest to all fish lovers.

In closing, I look forward to seeing AAZK members who will be in the Pittsburgh area. Drop in to see our Aviary on the north side. It's now near completion with a terrific addition. You won't want to miss it inspite of the nominal fee.

IN DEFENSE OF CHILDREN'S ZOOS

by Patricia E. Dorr, Zooleader, Lincoln Park Zoo

I have heard many arguments against the existence of Children's Zoos on the grounds of danger to the animals, yet I have rarely seen an animal abused in the presence of proper professional supervision. I feel that every child is entitled to the experience of having animal friends. Today, in our crowded cities, how many children grow up never having seen an animal other than a dog or cat.

In a Children's Zoo, a child can, with proper professional supervision, see, pet, and sometimes hold animals he has only heard about, and some he would never have dreamed existed. A little girl can wrap Jeffrey, the Boa, around her shoulders, confident that he won't hurt her, feeling his dry skin and room-temperature body. A little boy can pet Martha, the Potto, feel her protruding backbone and built-in comb and toothpicks on her toes. Children may carefully pet the "croquet balls" Alice used in her game with the Queen of Hearts.

Perhaps if today's children learn to know and make friends with animals they will grow up with a sense of responsibility to protect whatever is left of their world's animal population by their ignorant parents.

KEEPING ABREAST

by George E. Warnick, Reporter, Central Park Chapter

The New York Chapter of AAZK is most envious at reading in AAZK Newsletter of the many exotic animals exhibited by larger zoos around the country. There is no

room for expansion of facilities of the zoos operated by the Parks Department of New York City, because of boundaries previously set in our heavily populated area.

Reproduction by animals here has been discouraged because of limited space, and the difficulty in creating environmental surroundings conducive to displaying animals in their natural habitats.

To be better informed, the chapter has had prominent authorities on animal husbandry and wild life address us. Some of our previous speakers have been: Mr. George Chrein, Chairman, The Agriculture Department, John Bowne High School, Flushing, N.Y. This lecture was on livestock and poultry with special emphasis on recognition of symptoms of diseases common to hoofstock and birds. Dr. Burton, a primatologist from Hunter College, gave a lecture on some aspects of anatomy and behavior in monkeys. She has done research in East Africa, with various species of the genus *Circopithecus*. Her interest was in functional anatomy, especially how the hand is used and what the structures of the hand are like.

Dr. Burton will begin her appointment at the University of Toronto in September 1969. Her project at the University will be the development of a primate research center which will have an anthropological orientation focusing on problems of behavior, anatomy, ecology, genetics and nutrition in primates.

The lecture was held at Hunter College, and not to be overlooked is the fact that besides being an engaging speaker, Dr. Burton is a very lovely lady, and we heartily recommend her as a speaker to all other chapters.

Because we are members of AAZK, we have had many doors opened to us. This has allowed us to accumulate a list of guest speakers for our future meetings.

OPERATION "LION" by Jesse W. Strange, Philadelphia Zoo

On Thursday, May 8th, 1969, Elsa, a lioness, at the Philadelphia Zoo gave birth to one stillborn cub. The following morning, another dead cub was found in her den. She showed signs of distress and had refused food and water for three days. Late Friday afternoon, May 9th, 1969, consulting Veterinarians from the University of Pennsylvania met with Drs. Snyder and Fox of the Penrose Research

Laboratory and Fred A. Ulmer, Jr., Curator of Mammals of the Philadelphia Zoo.

It was decided at this meeting that Elsa be examined the following morning, setting the time at 9:30 AM. Oddly enough, this happened to be Elsa's 8th Birthday. Elsa was shot with a dart gun which contained a tranquillizer which in a short period of time immobilized her. The examination began at about 9:45 AM at which time it was determined that Elsa was still with cubs. Pains-taking efforts by the Veterinarians to remove the cubs by hand failed and at 1:00 PM, it was decided that a Caesarean section was necessary.

A surgical team had been standing by anticipating such a need. The initial drug given Elsa, a tranquillizer, did not however block pain and Elsa was given a spinal anesthetic. An elaborate operation room set up was placed in Elsa's cage, the building being closed to the public. The operation started at about 1:30 PM and the surgeons removed three more dead cubs, completing the operation at about 3:30 PM.

Elsa missed Mother's day but received a very nice Birthday present-her life. Elsa was up and around on Monday looking her old self and ate a big steak. According to her Doctors, she is doing beautifully and should recover completely.

ZOOS OF THE WORLD-DENVER ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS by Eugene Roth, Keeper

The Zoo was founded in 1896 with Alfred Hill as its first superintendent. From 1924 to 1959, it was under the guidance of Clyde E. Hill, son of Alfred Hill, with the present director being Julian Frazier.

The Zoo encompasses 70 acres and displays 250 mammals of 54 species, 473 birds of 104 species, and 25 reptiles of 10 species. There are 41 permanent employees.

The Denver Zoological Foundation was incorporated in 1950 under the direction of Clyde E. Hill and serves as a benevolent advisory group that builds the buildings and purchases the animals.

The Greater Denver area, with the help of the Junior League, who, after an orientation period by the zoo

staff, provide guided tours for the school children. The staff, also works closely with the University of Denver and has been assisting them in some research on animal behavior as well as having a cooperative arrangement with the Medical Research and Nutritional Laboratory, Fitzsimons General Hospital (U.S. Army) who does complete Histo-Pathological analysis for us.

As one of the first natural habitat zoos in the world, the Denver Zoo reached such wide spread fame that it was visited by such notables as President Theodore Roosevelt and Jack London, the naturalist.

Some of our future projects are: Primate Building, Bird House, Aquarium, Reptile Building, and Small Mammal House.

It has been a privilege to have worked and studied under the personal tutorage of Clyde E. Hill for over 11 years and to have been associated with the 3 generations of the notable zoo-minded family-the Hills- Alfred, the 1st Superintendent, Clyde E., Director for 35 years and Clyde A., Curator at the renowned San Diego Zoo.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND CORRECTIONS ON JAPANESE TRIP

by Marvin L. Jones

When taking a trip like this and visiting a land where almost no one speaks english, some error seems hard to avoid, and this shows that even Marvin Jones is not without flaws. The corrected items appear below:

The female Komodo Monitor at Ueno laid eggs only between the 6th and 13th of August 1966, and none since that time. The wild crane population should have read as follows: 203 Grus vipio (White-necked Crane), 1.413 Grus monacha (Hooded Crane) and 4 Grus grus (European Crane) sighted at Kagoshima as of 1 Feb 69/ about 60 Grus monacha in Ymaguchi Prefecture sometime in winter 68-69/ and finally 171 Grus japonensis (Manchurian Crane) in Hokkaido as of 5 Dec. 68. The previous information given was incorrect, based on incorrect data passed on to Ken Kawata. The first King Penguin hatching in Japan was at the Nagasaki Aquarium on 2 September 1965, with further breeding in 1966 and 1967 at the same place. There have been other records of egg laying, but no hatching.

The Sloth x Sun Bear hybrid born at Tama 14 September 1966 is alive and well, but not on public exhibit. The correct name for the Giant Flying Squirrels seen at Tama is Petaurista leucogenys, the name I gave was that as listed on the cage which was incorrect. The monorail in Ueno Zoo is not operated by the Society but rather by the city government.

There are some 13 women keepers in some 40 Japanese zoos. With regard to the salaries of keepers and curators/directors, Ken offers some clarifications as follows: (based on the Tokyo situation) (Yen have been converted to US dollars). An 18 year old boy being hired as a zoo keeper would start at about \$70 per month, and since promotion is by seniority, he would make about \$280 per month at retirement at age 60. The bonus situation is as follows--the summer bonus usually paid in June is 1.5 times the monthly rate, while the year-end bonus usually paid in December is 2.5 the monthly rate, and this applies both to the young boy and the older keeper. At retirement he receives a lump sum of about \$18,600 in cash, and a lifetime pension amounting to 73% of his highest wage or about \$203. In the case of a man coming out of college he would come to the zoo at about age 22, and would start for about \$92 per month. As he remains on the job he becomes senior staff, and perhaps rises to the post of director, when his wages would be \$6,336 per year (not counting any fringe benefits such as expense account, etc.). Retirement for senior staff is about age 57 or 58, and he would receive a lump sum of about \$28,022, plus a lifetime pension of 62.5% of his pay for about \$3,950 per year. This lump sum payment can prove handy to one at retirement and is generally also given in regular employment by Japanese firms.

Dr. Tadamichi Koga was born 4 December 1903 and came to Ueno in March 1928. Upon the retirement of Y. Kurokawa took over as Director in 1932 at the age of 29, however, this was not officially ruled on until 1937. He retired from the zoo in July 1962.

Since the ban on importation of Orangs only four animals have been caught by customs officials, and all have been placed in Japanese zoos. The ban thus has proved very effective.



Above is a copy of a picture taken in the Nagoya Zoo and which shows the zoo director on my right, and Ken Kawata on my left. The other gentlemen are senior staff at Nagoya, and this picture was taken in front of their new Grevy Zebra-Giraffe paddock, a very large new exhibit, that is barless, as you can see. (Marvin Jones is second from the right in the picture.)

One final item, Ken mentions that on the 13th of April, Ueno Zoo had the largest attendance of 1969, namely 94,000 paid visitors, imagine 94,000 people in a Zoo that is not as large as Philadelphia in total land area.

FOREIGN NEWS submitted by Marvin L. Jones

A TOUR OF THE FAR EAST

BANKOK: The zoo is in a beautiful park dominated by a tall pagoda and ornamental lake. The bird collection was admirable, all housed in grouped aviaries on an island reached by small decorative bridges. They had a nice

collections of lorries, some beautiful pheasants, including Argus (these were free flying in a large aviary and were superb), quite a few Australian psittacines, some lovely pittas and the splendid Rhinoceros Hornbill, they had four of these-three in an aviary together and one alone. The mammals were impressive too; one serow, a magnificent herd of Brow-antlered deer, some good sambar, large exhibit of breeding otters (that appeared to be perspicillata) fantastic Douc Langurs, the dominant male was enormous and beautifully colored, also Dusky and Spectacled Langur. The highlight of the visit was the Otter Civet (Cynogale). Apparently they had it over one year and got it from a local dealer, a truly incredible animal.

HONG KONG: The Botanical Gardens of Hong Kong have a small zoo and the bird area is very well cared for, the Hon. Curator of Birds is Dr. Kenneth Searle. Among the many fine things to be seen here are Malayan and Palawan Peacock Pheasants, a single male Bornean which is quite spectacular, a sort of brown-gray with the most beautiful lilac eyes in the tail. Also Argus Pheasants and Ocellated Turkeys, various Peafowl, Orange, Scarlet and Apricot Cocks of the Rock, Quetzals, Pittas, Fairy Bluebirds, Flamingos and a number of passerines. In the mammal section are sun bears, lar gibbons, a ring-tailed lemur colony, porcupines and a small dik-dik. Hong Kong is well known as a import center for rare birds, but this smallish bird collection and zoo is virtually unknown except to the veteran Hong Kong visitor.

(The above items are digested from comments by one of my correspondents who recently completed a most interesting tour of the Far East during which time several zoological gardens were visited and other similar collections.)

It should be noted that the Wassenaar Zoo in Holland also has a Otter Civet which was noted during the recent tour of that zoo by a member of the AAZPA tour group that visited Europe in late April and early May of this year. I believe (this is from memory) that the London Zoo exhibited one briefly some years ago, but these two (Wassenaar and Bangkok) are the first to be exhibited in many years, and it would appear that they are not too difficult to

maintain.

BIRTHS AND HATCHINGS IN TOKYO ZOOS

The pair of Southern Sea Elephants (*Mirounga leonina*) from South Georgia were observed mating in March and April 1968. The female gave birth to a male calf (stillborn) on the 3d March 1969, the first birth in Japan. The female is believed to be about $7\frac{1}{2}$ years of age and arrived 8 May 1965, while adult bull arrived in April 1968. The Brazilian Tapirs who came to the zoo in July 1966 (and still had faint juvenile striping) have presented to Ueno Zoo its first tapir birth on April 16, 1969. Two previous young have been born in the Nagoya Zoo in 1960 and 1962, and a third was born on a Japanese circus. At the Tama Zoological Park the chimpanzee colony was increased to fourteen specimens—largest in Japan—by the birth of a female on 13 March, the second to this particular mother. The pair of Cape or Selbourne Hartebeest that arrived in July 1967 had their first calf, a male, on March 13 also. As this is the first zoo to exhibit Hartebeest in Japan, this is also the first recorded birth. Both Osaka and Kyoto Zoos have raised European White Storks (*Ciconia c. ciconia*) but the first success in Tokyo was registered at Tama when four hatched between the 7th and 8th May. This pair laid 5 eggs from April 3d to 29th. Unfortunately, one young bird died, but the other three are doing well. A second pair of white storks laid eggs on April 15th and 17th which are still being incubated. In both cases the nest was made on the ground.

HUGE CROWDS AT UENO ZOO, TOKYO

During the three day holiday period from May 3d to 5th, there were some 215,373 paid visitors to Ueno, the largest Tokyo zoo. On the 5th which is "Children's Day", a national holiday, all children under 12 were admitted free, yet the zoo registered 43,612 paid visitors. It is estimated that counting free admissions over 300,000 came to the zoo during this big three day period.

NOTEWORTHY PUBLICATIONS

Snakes and Their Ways, Curran & Kauffeld, Harper Bros., New York, 1937

Snakes of Southern Africa, V.F.M.Fitzsimmons, Macdonald & Co.,Ltd.,London, England, 1962

SOME EXPERIENCES WITH DIVING BIRDS by Ken Kennedy as presented at Far Western Regional Conference, Fresno, Calif., April 11-12, 1969.

Before beginning my talk, I would like to say that I am not an expert on the subject of keeping diving birds in captivity, nor am I claiming to be extremely experienced. I have had limited success with some members of this difficult group of avifauna in captivity. Diving birds are extremely sensitive to environmental changes, especially those caused by man. It is because of this factor that these birds are so difficult to keep in captivity. The problem, as I see it, can be broken into three parts.

The first part of the problem is to capture the birds. Secondly, to get the birds feeding on a captive diet and yet retain the water repellent quality of their plumage. The third part of the problem is rehabilitating birds which have temporarily lost this quality.

Capturing the birds. For this I used a modified funnel trap set in about two and a half feet of water in a small lagoon in Stanley Park, Vancouver, which I baited with wheat. In all, I trapped two hundred diving ducks, mostly bufflehead and lesser scaup with a few ruddy ducks and canvasbacks. In spite of shock from pinioning, I lost only six birds, four of which were trapped under the ice.

There are other methods of capturing diving birds. One method is mentioned by R. W. Campbell in the June 1968 edition of the "Blue Jay", where he describes the method we used to capture ancient murrelets at a nesting colony in the Queen Charlotte Islands. The use of the powerful hand flashlight made it possible to catch them in a simple hand net as they arrived on the nesting slopes after dark to relieve their mates in the nesting burrows.

Night lighting has been used with reasonable success on diving ducks which stay on the water at night. Another method of attracting one particular sex to a trap was

used in Manitoba on scaup. A couple of live male scaups were put in the trap and helped decoy the females.

The time of day at which I caught the birds I think is of some importance. The trap was set up day and night. The bufflehead and scaups fed sporadically throughout the day with most concentrated feeding being done early in the morning and around sunset. Whereas the ruddy ducks, including one goldeneye and canvasbacks which I caught were feeding well after dark.

This introduces the second part of the problem—how to get the birds feeding as quickly as possible so that they do not lose the water repellent quality of their feathers? This can best be solved by placing the bird in a small enclosure so it cannot see the natural surroundings. For example, in a cardboard box. A dish of bread, grain and dogmeal saturated with water is put in the box where, if the bird wishes to drink, it will have to taste the food. In most cases, the bird will be eating on its own in less than three days, although it will probably have lost the water repellent quality in its plumage. Another method is to force feed a bird chopped slivers of fish, liver, horse-heart or eels, etc. until it takes them willingly from the hand. This method is fine for a few birds but can be very time consuming for a large flock and the plumage, in some cases, becomes soiled.

The method I used on the ducks which I captured was this. After retrieving them from the trap and no longer than a five minute trip in a box, the birds were pinioned and released in a pond with a few diving ducks which had been there a year. At the beginning, I threw out fifty pounds of wheat daily and the birds were only eating sporadically. After about three or four days, I began to worry that they were not eating as much as they should. I then threw out some bread and they immediately came over and began eating. Because of a seagull problem, I threw wheat out during the day and bread out after dark. This kept the flock healthy and in excellent shape throughout the coldest winter we have had for some time. With the above method, the ruddy ducks and canvasbacks were at first very shy. However, when they realized that I was bringing the food, they were usually the first ones to come over to the shore to be fed.

At present, I am using a mixture of deer pellets, wheat and whole peanuts instead of just wheat. A number of people use dog meal. Mr. Pillings of Seattle says that he has better success and stronger chicks in the breeding season if he cuts the adults off a straight dog meal diet and supplements it with a special breeding mix.

The third problem is, I am sure, encountered by everyone who has worked with diving birds in captivity. That is the rehabilitation of a bird which has lost the water repellent quality of its plumage. This condition is caused by a number of things. For example, birds kept too long in a basket, or box or when the feathers have become smeared with oil, food or feces. Overcrowding in a small pond or stagnant water with film on it will also cause the birds to become water-logged. All these situations should be avoided as far as possible so that birds do not get into this condition.

An ever increasing problem is de-oiling and rehabilitating oil-soaked birds. This would take a whole day to discuss. However, the method of rehabilitation I am going to mention would quite possibly work well after the oil has been removed from the birds' feathers.

In order for a bird to get its plumage back to a natural state, it has to be in and out of the water and able to preen a great many times. We felt that if a bird had a heated box with access to water, it would be able to wet itself and preen dry often enough to bring its feathers back to a normal condition. We combined heat with a blower to dry the birds quickly because if it is wet and cold, a bird will lose the strength to preen and will die. I found that this method was good although I have only worked with it for two months but there are some things that one should consider in setting up an effective dryer-tank complex of this kind.

The size of the tank and the size of the dryer box should be large enough as to prevent crowding. Experimentation has shown that a pool, five feet by four feet and eighteen inches deep, and a dryer box, five feet long by two feet high by sixteen inches deep, was sufficient for three scaups and one red-breasted merganser. The dryer box should have a wire floor.

The second major thing one should consider is a constant fresh water supply. Any oil film on the surface will retard the rehabilitating process. I left the water turned on a small amount and let the tank overflow. To feed the birds, at first, I just placed the grain on a piece of plywood which was floating freely. The birds would climb on the board and the grain would slide off. The only problem was having all this grain sitting in the bottom of the pond. Now I have the board tacked on to the side of the tank and a dish for wheat and another for chopped herring and horsemeat. The last major point to consider is to set this up so that when you approach it, the birds are scared up into the dryer box. If they are scared into the water and you are very long in the area, they will become very wet and even a dryer will not dry them off fast enough. Also, the birds should be disturbed as little as possible. They will disturb themselves evenly without crowding.

This method is by no means perfected. I would suggest inside set-ups for birds that are affected quite badly and only in warmer climates would I say an outside one would be alright. Places that are affected by cold winds blowing off the ocean would find it useful because a bird that is prone to water-logging can die very quickly if it becomes chilled, especially when a cold wind hits it.

Perhaps with more work on this system, it might benefit a zoo to set up a rehabilitating display for diving birds that have lost the water repellent quality of their plumage. Also to be considered is the large number of this hard-to-obtain group of birds which are stricken by oiling at sea. These could be a tremendous source of supply for display purposes. It would certainly improve the public image of a zoo which concentrated on rehabilitating these unfortunate birds which suffer because of human thoughtlessness.

If there are any questions, I will do my best to answer them. Also if anyone has run into other troubles or solved these problems by other methods, I would appreciate hearing about them.

NEW NATIONAL TREASURER-Mr. Huey Hannon, San Diego Zoological Gardens, replaces Conrad Grayson as national Treasurer of

AAZK. Mr Grayson has accepted a position with the California Highway Patrol. We extend our best wishes to Conrad in his new position and extend a welcome to Mr. Hannon as a member of the National Board of Trustees.

The following article authored by Dr. Philip Ogilvie, Director of Oklahoma City Zoo reflects a policy most important to AAZK. His views are pertinent to the foundation on which we hope to grow. We can boast about our desire to elevate our position but it cannot be accomplished without the following philosophy.

"WHAT IS A PROFESSIONAL?"

I hear a great deal from my own keepers about professionalism and read a great deal in today's keepers' journals on the subject. I applaud the same thing when we use the term professional. What is a professional? What distinguishes him from a scientific technician or a motor mechanic? In my own mind it is an attitude and the action that goes along with it.

A professional must be more committed and more interested in his own intellectual development in his chosen field than he is in his economic development in that field. I would be the last one to minimize the importance of economics or to suggest that keepers today are uniformly receiving adequate compensation. Since we have all chosen a field in which we know we will not receive as great a monetary reward as we could in many other, we have already made the decision "to do our thing" because of its importance to us. This attitude is reflected in the many keeper training programs that are going on in this country and by the cooperation of keeper staffs with the educational efforts of zoo administrators.

A professional must also be interested in the establishment of firm standards for his profession even though they may challenge him as an individual and force him to strive harder to meet the goal of professionalism. This may involve more formal education than he presently has completed. It may require bothersome and tedious observation and recording of those observations.

And finally, a professional and an organization of

professionals must be more interested in self-discipline and internal policing than they are in self-defense and arbitration. It is only with a willingness to police ourselves that we may enforce the professional standards that we all desire. It is only with self-discipline that we will be willing to accept criticism of ourselves as professionals and correct the problems that exist.

Let me say again that I feel professionalism is a tremendous goal, that professionalism of zoo keepers is a goal that should be furthered by every director in every way possible. Never lose sight of the warning that professionalism involves many negative as well as the advantages which we all seek.

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

One of the many interesting pamphlets published for specialized fields of endeavor and not generally read by zoo men and women is The Laboratory Primate Newsletter published by the Psychology Department of Brown University. The April issue has an item, however, that is of great value to all in the zoo field, the correct pronunciation of Primate names, both common and scientific. I found it to be of great interest and value, for I have been making mistakes for years, and this brought the facts to mind. Done by Dr. Arthur J. Riopelle and Antonio Martinez Fraga of the Delta Regional Primate Center at Covington, I recommend it to all members of the AAZK and AAZPA.

The April 1969 issue (Vol. 8, No. 2) costs only 50¢ each, and checks should be made payable to Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. Editor of the Newsletter is Dr. Allan M. Schrier, and the yearly cost is \$2.50. (The Pronunciation of Primate Names PP 1-16-Marvin Jones Note)

CAESAREAN SECTION ON A MUNTJAC AT THE HIGHLAND PARK ZOO May 16, 1969, Pittsburgh, Pa. by George S. Badanich

On the morning of May 16, 1969, a female Muntjac was straining and intermittently getting up and down. Since she had seemed restless the day before, the veterinarian was notified. She was caught by hand in a small pen and the veterinarian's examination revealed a leg of the fetus

in the vagina. 1/2 cc of Tranvet[®] (propipromazine) was given intramuscular and 1/2 hour later she was taken to surgery.

When it was found that the fetus was dead and attempts to deliver it through the vagina were unsuccessful, anesthesia was induced with Halothane by face mask. A caesarean section was done by midline incision and the placenta was carefully removed at this time. Half of a uterine bolus was placed in the uterus before closure and 500 cc of electrolyte solution with 5% dextrose and 0.5 gm. dihydrostreptomycin was poured into the abdominal cavity before it was closed.

The animal remained fairly calm for about 48 hours., probably due to the tranquilizer. She drank water the morning after surgery and was eating some by evening. Two weeks after surgery she appears normal but she will probably be kept away from the males in the herd for at least 6 weeks.

This report was prepared with the assistance of Mr. Howard Hays, Zoo Director and Dr. J.H.Swart, Veterinarian.

(Working close with our veterinarian has been most rewarding. A real down to earth communication between Veterinarian and keeper makes the keeper's position most pleasant. I personally wish to extend my gratitude to Dr. Swart for making our position more pleasant and informative. He is never too busy to discuss a problem with us.

CAESAREAN SECTION ON A WESTERN BABOON

at the Highland Park Zoo, Pittsburgh, Pa., Sept. 12, 1968,
by Thomas Trzeciak

A female Western Baboon was found in distress at the time of morning rounds. Closer examination by the keeper and the veterinarian revealed a hand or foot protruding from the vagina.

The animal was brought under control with a combination of phencycline HCL (Sernylan[®] and promazine HCL). Administered by pole syringe, which incidentally is a very handy gadget in areas too close for the projectile syringe. The protruding hand allowed for enough traction to realize that the fetus was dead and could not be delivered through the vaginal canal.

After the midline of the abdomen was clipped and scrubbed, a local anesthetic was infiltrated since no additional drugs were given except 25 mg of Mepiridine (1/2 cc Demerol) near the end of surgery.

When the abdomen was opened, the first thing encountered was the dead fetus in the abdominal cavity. The fetus and membranes were removed, the large tear in the uterus was sutured and the abdominal cavity was flushed with generous amounts of sterile saline solution. Streptomycin was instilled before the abdomen was closed. The skin closure was done with 1-0 chronic gut as a subcuticular stitch to prevent necessity of later removal and to avoid having knots on the surface for her to pick at. Pen-Strep and Liver, Iron, B-vitamin solution were injected. She was returned to her cage wrapped in blankets.

The next day she drank water with a vitamin syrup and tetracycline syrup. The second day solid food and continued to complete recovery.

Adendum: This animal gave birth unassisted on May 18, 1969 and the baby appears normal.

This report was prepared with the assistance of Mr. Howard R. Hays, Zoo Director and Dr. J.H.Swart, Veterinarian.

PLEASE NOTE:

Mr. Dick Sweeney, Executive Secretary, is now attending three key meetings of AAZK across the country.

Catskill Game Farm-----June 20,1969

Topeka Zoological Park---June 26,1969

Oklahoma City Zoo----- July 1, 1969

National Hq. Office will reopen July 10,1969.

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