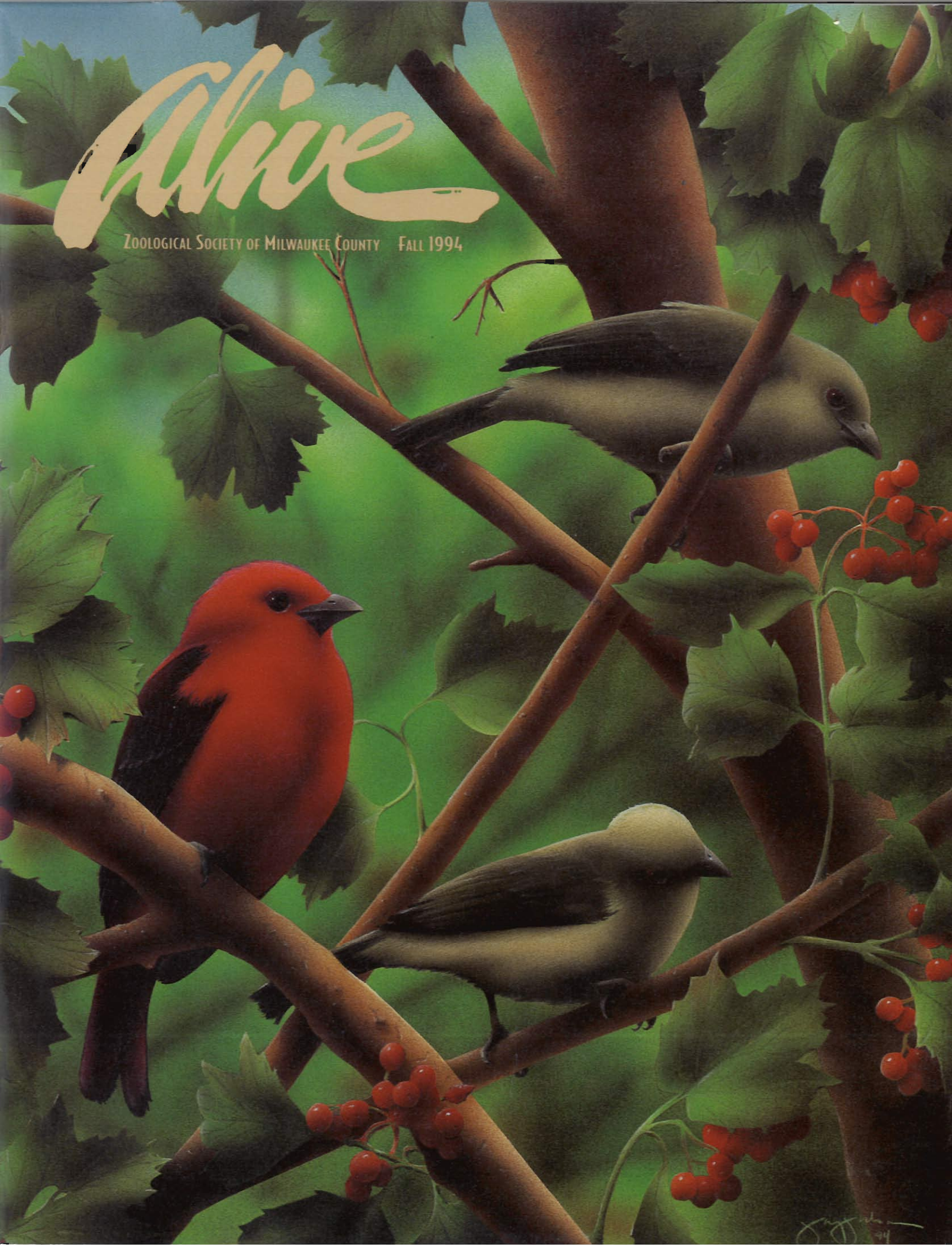


Alive

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY FALL 1994



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



OPENING THE DOORS.

Children attending today's Zoological Society education workshops seem to be fashioned in the image of the model student—if there is one. They are kids who come to "zoo school" with open eyes and minds and return home eager to share with family and friends the day's new knowledge...about their experience with a fish, visit with a bat, up-close encounter with a ferret or fossil discovery.

When I think of the doors we've opened to children over the years, I am truly proud of our accomplishments.

Since its humble 1976 beginning, when the Zoological Society's Education Department was headquartered in a 10-foot-square corner of the Zoo's cafeteria and reached 2,000 children each year, the department now conducts business from the Dairy Council's Education Center—complete with three classrooms, office space and a resource room—and reaches more than 200,000 children and teachers each year.

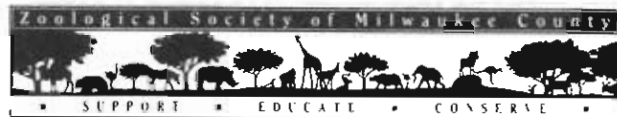
When the education center debuted as part of the New, New Zoo Capital Campaign in 1986, the space generously accommodated the needs of our educators and their students. But the demand for more quality education programs—from Zoological Society members, school groups and organized youth groups—is ever on the rise, almost exceeding our ability to comfortably accommodate requests to participate in our classes. Creatively extending our classroom space into a trailer, courtesy of C.G. Schmidt, was this summer's immediate solution to our space crunch.

The long-term solution, however, involves expanding the education center and creating learning stations throughout the Zoo. Under the leadership of Education Committee Chair John Taylor, the Zoological Society is beginning to address this urgent issue.

We hope that by 1996, our educators can be introducing to even more people the great kingdom of mammals, reptiles, fish and birds that make Earth a magic place.

We'll keep in touch.

Gil Boese
 Gil Boese, President
 Zoological Society of Milwaukee County



The mission of the Zoological Society is to support the Milwaukee County Zoo, educate people about the importance of wildlife and the environment, and to take part in conserving wildlife and endangered species.

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Alive

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FEATURES

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With each passing migration, neotropical migrant birds fall prey to habitat destruction. Some species adapt, like the Dickcissel. But since the late 1960s, hundreds of thousands of even this resilient bird have vanished.

BIRDS-HANDLE WITH CARE

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Small-town Kaytee Products, Inc. makes a big-time commitment to keeping pet birds healthy and preserving endangered species in the wild.

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More information on the animals is what zoo visitors can expect from a major effort to update signs and graphics in the park.

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From aardvarks to zebras, keeping track of the animals is a full-time job at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

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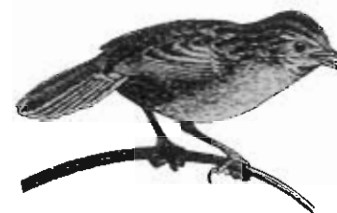
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FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

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Neotropical Migrants - Scarlet Tanagers
 By Jay Jocham, Zoological Society Artist
 Endowed by Gretchen and Andrew Dawes Endowment, Inc.



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Missing Migrants

From the back yard bird feeder. Mourning doves practice their notes. Orioles squabble over a morsel in the neighborhood park. The forest resonates with cardinals' songs. And Red-winged black-birds dot the meadows with color, while interrupting the landscape's tranquility with their familiar clamor.

Music and color everywhere. Or so it seems. The chance to experience the melody and majesty of the neotropical migrant birds that have become so familiar to us is slipping away in places all over North America, where the prospect of empty, quiet yards, parks, forests and fields is perilously real.

Each spring, millions of our welcome visitors fly across the Gulf of Mexico in great waves and, after a 600-mile journey, take up residence in tens of thousands of square miles of forests and grasslands in the United States and Canada. Then, after a few months, they about-face south, squeezing into an area about a tenth of that size in Central America, the West Indies or Mexico.

Year after year, the same birds return to the same place. That is, if the birds and their habitat still exist.

Over the past decade, results from the Breeding

Bird Survey, a roadside census of North American breeding birds, showed a sizable decrease in three-fourths of neotropical migrant species in the eastern United States.

Though habitat loss unequivocally explains the plight of so much of the continent's wildlife, a combination of the loss of birds' breeding habitat in North America, shrinking wintering grounds in Latin America, and other changes in the birds' surroundings seem to explain declining numbers of our avifauna.

Among the many neotropical migrants in distress is the Dickcissel, a dark,

meadowlark-like, grassland songbird whose numbers have dropped by 30 percent since the late 1960s. (The Dickcissel got its name from its stutter-like song.) Though largely ignored by ornithologists who mostly turn their attention to North American forest-nesting songbirds, this and other grassland species have suffered widespread losses over the last 25 years.

The Dickcissel's population decline sent Zoological Society of Milwaukee Wildlife Conservation Grant recipient Gian Basili onto the bird's North American breeding grounds and into the llanos (great plains) of Venezuela, where the species winters, to probe the lives of the elusive Dickcissel.

Dickcissels swarm in spectacular formation as they leave their Venezuelan sugar cane roost.



photos courtesy of Gian Basili



Gian Basili, Zoological Society Wildlife Conservation Grant recipient, bands and records information on a Dickcissel caught in one of the researcher's mist nets.

After three years of study, using radio-telemetry to follow individual birds and mist-netting to catch, band, record and release birds, Basili discovered that for the habitat-resilient Dickcissel, neither habitat limitations nor poor reproduction put the species in immediate danger of extinction.

What does threaten this bird's future, however, is its potentially self-destructive winter practice of swarming over the Venezuelan llanos and settling into fields of rice and sorghum to feed and in sugar cane fields, to roost.

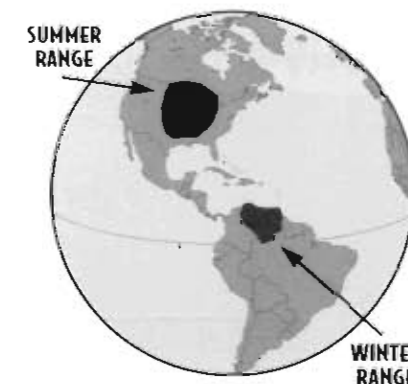
Flying in flocks of millions in spectacular, tornado-like formations, Dickcissels are nothing short of a crop pest to Venezuelan farmers, some of whom would prefer to see the Dickcissel go the way of too many grassland songbirds.

"Because birds congregate in such dense flocks, one farmer could, in a very short time, fly a plane over a field and, with aerial pesticides, wipe out a good percentage of the world's entire Dickcissel population—maybe as many as a million birds," said Basili.

Basili notes, however, that to the average farmer, indiscriminate use of pesticides to kill huge numbers of the birds is ethically wrong. Most farmers instead either hire children to scare the birds out of

continued on next page

GEOGRAPHY



Species At Risk

The habitat-resilient Dickcissel, a songbird resembling a meadowlark, can likely tolerate disturbance to its North American grassland breeding grounds; so, its decline may result from events in its South American wintering grounds—the rice, sorghum and sugar cane fields of Venezuela. Some local farmers, for instance, protect their crops by spraying deadly pesticides over Dickcissel roosts, sometimes killing hundreds of thousands of birds in minutes. Dickcissel populations have declined 30 percent since 1966, the first year bird populations were monitored on a continental scale.



The future of the Dickcissel species is in the hands of Venezuelan farmers and conservationists.



Mist nets set in sugar cane fields, where the Dickcissel roosts, temporarily capture the birds for research.

Dickcissels, grassland songbirds that breed in the United States and winter in South America, are threatened in large part because of large-scale, illegal pesticide use aimed at targeting these avian agricultural pests.



the fields or poison the birds' watering holes, Basili said.

Working to give the Dickcissel a political voice and farmers, an economic incentive to preserve the species, Basili is building community-based education programs around the Dickcissel problem, developing crop-insurance and damage-reimbursement programs for farmers, writing stories in Spanish for local publications, and distributing videos to universities.

With great regard for the opinions of the Venezuelan farmers, Basili said, "We need to constantly work with the people, talk with the people, to see real Dickcissel management results."

Can Basili's work, coupled with the work of so many ornithologists studying declines of neotropical migrants reverse the trend toward increasingly threatened and endangered populations?

It's a question scientists the world over are trying to answer. But the passion each of them brings to their work gives us great hope that turning the situation around is not an impossible dream.

Gian Basili, a graduate student in the Department of Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, joins 26 other Zoological Society Wildlife Conservation Student Grant recipients in making a difference in preserving endangered species around the world. Through the Wildlife Conservation Student Grant program, the Society awards about \$20,000 in research grants every year to Wisconsin-based students pursuing advanced degrees in wildlife conservation.



Nature's Refugees

Rwanda's endangered mountain gorillas, made internationally famous in the movie *Gorillas in the Mist*, so far have survived the horrific civil war that already has destroyed much of the country. Having fled to even higher elevations to escape



Mountain Gorilla

refugees and poachers in the forest, the gorillas are safe... temporarily.

Their Virunga Mountain habitat—and future—is being threatened by the massive movement of Rwandan civil war refugees passing through their wilderness park home. "The once remote rain forest, home of the shy gorillas, has become a highway for thousands of starving people," said Gregory Movesian, director of development with the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, in a recent letter and plea for help to friends of the fund. The fund, named after famed gorilla researcher Dian Fossey, is exclusively devoted to mountain gorilla conservation and supports Karisoke, a world-renowned research center founded by Fossey.

Answering the fund's call for emergency support, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County contributed \$1,750 toward the fund's effort to daily monitor the safety of gorilla families and carry out anti-

poaching patrols, which include removing snares set to trap animals like duikers (medium-size antelope), but unintentionally snare unsuspecting gorillas.

"We're deeply concerned about the situation in Rwanda and fear that the 330 remaining gorillas living there may not survive," said Zoological Society President

Gil Boese, recently elected to the board of the Dian Fossey Fund. The 300 Rwandan gorillas are among 600 remaining worldwide.

The Society also circulated among staff and friends a petition appealing to

people involved in the Rwandan conflict to work together for lasting peace and for the protection of the mountain gorillas. "Our collective voice is powerful, and peace would benefit the people and wildlife of Rwanda," Boese said.

If warring factions and streams of refugees continue to leave the mountain gorillas alone, the gorillas may emerge from the war unscathed. Their future, however, in large part depends on preservation of their habitat and the resumption of Rwanda's once-thriving ecotourism. Hoping to help restore the industry to its pre-war success, the Society plans to offer safaris to the gorillas' forest home in Rwanda's Parc National des Volcans when the country is safe again for travel.

"Our biggest concern, though, is that when people come back to Rwanda, they'll need to clear forests for material to rebuild homes and start farming," said Boese. "We just hope that when we're able to return, it won't be too late."

Friends of the Field

To people whose lives are steeped in nature, enjoying the outdoors is second nature. But to the uninitiated, fishing, hiking, observing or photographing wildlife, and exploring natural areas can be involved, if not dangerous, activities. There is much to learn about the sports veterans find so pleasurable—training, skill, a sharp sense of awareness and responsibility.

Enter Miller Brewing Company and its just-launched Friends of the Field program, designed to educate outdoor enthusiasts about how to have fun and safe outdoor adventures.

"Our program is intended to bring together all those who respect and have an interest in responsible use of the lands and waters of the natural field," said Debbie Moody, legislative affairs manager with Miller. "We want to help our friends make clear-headed decisions, properly operate their equipment and take responsibility for preserving the outdoors."

As part of Friends of the Field, Miller established a fund that takes each \$10 membership fee and directs it to wildlife



conservation efforts through the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc. (the Zoological Society's partner in conservation). To learn more about membership, write to Friends of the Field, P.O. Box 93848, Milwaukee, WI, 53203-0848.

BIRDS

HANDLE WITH CARE



Randal Brue, an upbeat man, isn't given to brooding. Except, of course, when it comes to his work.

Helping propagate some of the world's rarest birds would prompt anyone to fret over even a few broken eggs.

From his catbird's seat, Brue oversees a gleaming new research center at Chilton, Wisconsin's Kaytee Products, Inc. The company, famous globally for its wild and pet bird feeds, quietly but deliberately has built a reputation for research and conservation.



"Our goal is to educate people about how to feed and care for birds," says Brue, who holds a doctorate in nutritional biochemistry and avian nutrition. "We think of our research projects and our bird-owning customers as part of the same circle."

It's a responsibility that Brue and Kaytee take seriously. Over the last few years, the company has built the Avian Research Center, which covers more than 30,000 square feet. The buildings house 4,000 birds representing 100 different species.

One of Kaytee's many conservation projects underway includes an attempt to reintroduce the continental United States' only native parrot. A native of southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico, the thick-billed parrot became locally extinct by the early 1900s.

A lime green bird with a cherry splash on its forehead and eyebrow, the thick-billed parrot, about 15

The future of this endangered thick-billed parrot looks brighter, thanks to Kaytee's effort to reintroduce the species to its native range. The continental United States' only native parrot, the thick-billed parrot became locally extinct by the early 1900s.



Nutritionist Dr. Randal Brue and Veterinarian Dr. Blake Hawley, both of Kaytee Products, Inc., weigh a chick as part of a growth study to help determine proper nutrient content of the bird's diet.

will be used as the founder stock for the birds Brue plans to release, ultimately resulting in a bigger pool of birds from which to breed.

"This is an excellent project for us at Kaytee," Brue says. "Our main business is feeding pet birds, like parrots. The other part of our business is feeding wild birds. We feel that this is a nice link between the two."

Another Kaytee conservation effort involves yet another smuggled bird. The victim this time: scarlet macaws. After circling the globe from their native Guyana, the brilliant birds were eventually rescued in Grenada, Brue says.

The birds were donated to the World Bird Sanctuary, and when that facility was full, Kaytee accepted eight pairs of endangered scarlet macaws.

"Our purpose is taking care of them and breeding them," Brue says. "We hope that, through the World Bird Sanctuary, their offspring will be able to go back to a Guyanese preserve."

Back in the United States, Kaytee has joined another conservation project with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The target: the Hawaiian crow, of which only 14 may be left in the wild and another 17 in captivity. Brue says.

Rearing Hawaiian crow chicks has proved vexing. Removing eggs shortly after laying would prompt the birds to breed again and potentially increase their numbers quickly.

However, Brue says raising the young removed from the nest has been difficult. But researchers at Kaytee are developing feeds to do that.

"Any birds raised would be re-released," Brue says. "We're here to offer our facilities and our expertise."

inches in length, fell victim to hunting, logging and the destruction of its home range.

"They haven't been seen there for 50 years," Brue says.

Fortunately, groups of the birds survived in isolated flocks across central Mexico. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service donated several thick-billed parrots to the research center after the government confiscated a large flock from a smuggler. Kaytee's three breeding pairs are co-managed with the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

The ultimate goal, Brue says, is to reintroduce the thick-billed parrots to Chiricahua National Park in Arizona. However, a sizeable flock must be raised before they can be established successfully in the wild.

Brue explains: "The number released in a project about five years ago was too low. Thick-billed parrots are flocking birds, and they aren't very good at protecting themselves from predators. Hawks can kill them easily. So the parrots need some of the group to act as sentinels.

"In the wild, you'll see them feeding within inches of each other. One eats while the other watches."

As yet, no target date has been set for their release. Because Kaytee's flock of thick-billed parrots were potentially exposed to contagious avian diseases, these particular birds and their offspring will be used only to breed and will not be released into the wild, Brue says. Their eggs will then be incubated and hand reared to break the disease cycle. Then, those hatchlings

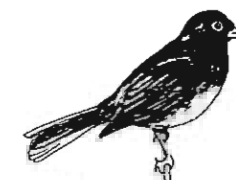
FOR THE BIRDS



Blue-gray Tanager

Bringing birds to your back yard can begin by simply selecting a spot of ground to spread seed or building a feeder with elaborate defenses from squirrels.

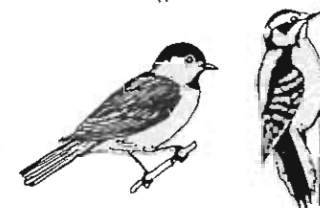
The next step—choosing bird feed—will dictate the types of visitors you're likely to attract. Kaytee Products, Inc. offers menus for the discriminating back-yard diners:



OIL SUNFLOWER SEEDS, the sleek, black variety, will attract 12 types of birds, including cardinals, nuthatches, woodpeckers and finches.



STRIPED SUNFLOWER SEEDS, larger and tougher than the oil type, are preferred by larger birds like blue jays.



FRUIT, such as raisins, apples, cherries and berries, brings in scarlet tanagers and northern orioles.



SUET, otherwise known as beef fat, finds favor among woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches and mockingbirds.

NIGER THISTLE, a tiny black seed, is a favorite among goldfinches, juncos and purple finches.

Back Yard Birds/Pet Birds...How To Feed & Care For Both

Learn how to attract birds to your back yard feeder and collect tips on how to feed and care for your pet bird from Drs. Randal Brue and Blake Hawley, both with Kaytee Products, Inc. You can meet these experts and live birds during presentations to be held at 11 a.m. and 12 noon in the Zoo's Peck Welcome Center, November 12, as part of Behind the Scenes Weekend. Don't forget to use your society membership card to get into the Zoo free. Call (414) 258-2333 for details.



Signs of the Times

Consider the Grizzly Bear. To be sure, most of us know the mammoth mammal is a North American native.

But did you know that its name refers to the shimmering, silvery hairs at the end of its coat that give it a "grizzled" appearance?

Thanks to a major Zoological Society effort to redesign everything from animal identification plates to directional signs to

informational kiosks, a visit to the zoo will be more educational and easier to navigate.

"The key for us is to make the zoo more user friendly for our visitors," says Julie Radcliffe, interpretive graphics coordinator with the society. "And, with a joint effort among county zoo staff and the Zoological Society, we think we've done that."

Plans for the redesign began with meetings among staff members and eventually meetings with you, the zoo consumer. The new signs incorporate visitors' suggestions.

Radcliffe explains that graphics project workers wandered through the zoo and asked people standing in lines what they wanted from a zoo visit and how that visit could be improved. With the help of a Chicago architectural firm, a master plan for new zoo graphics was developed.

One key need: Directional maps. Some of the "you-are-here" maps are 20 years old, Radcliffe says. And while they have served the zoo well, they are in need of update.

"We decided that we really needed to focus on maps. With the new maps, we can ease the traffic flow through the zoo and

REINDEER

Rangifer tarandus



Take a Close Look...

Where do they live? Tundra and surrounding woodlands and forest edges of northern Europe and Asia, northern North America, Greenland and adjacent islands.

What do they eat? Plants, including lichens, fungi, sedges, grasses, and twigs and leaves of woody plants.

How are they doing? Caribou are fairly abundant throughout their range, except for the woodland caribou, which is protected.

Did you know...?

Caribou are strong swimmers and readily cross swift rivers and twin lakes during their travels. With their broad hooves, which act as paddles, they swim with their heads held high out of the water at speeds ranging from 5-10 mph.

Caribou are the only members of the deer family in which both sexes are antlered.

This sign donated by the Milton Peck Foundation and the Zoological Society

show people where bathrooms are located," Radcliffe says. "We'll also have more informational signs about the animals' activities. For example, we'll let people know about the animals' feeding schedules so they can plan their visits accordingly."

Informational kiosks with information about such special events as concerts in the zoo will also be more prominently displayed.

Radcliffe says the society will be designing a number of signage options for the zoo over the next few years. One immediate change, however, will become evident much sooner. The society's annual appeal project raised enough money to fund the replacement of each of the animals' identification signs, says Mary Thiry, the society's director of education and interpretive graphics.

The new signs will begin appearing outside the animals' enclosures in September. By the end of October, 60 new, colorful signs will have replaced the standard old, green-and-white models.

Thiry says Zoo Pride volunteers surveyed society members to ask them what they wanted to learn from an animal

identification sign. "The five most common responses were: Where is the animal from and what is its range; its accepted common name; its habitat; what it eats; and its physical characteristics."

For the grizzly, in addition to facts about its name, zoo visitors will learn that it lives in open tundra and coastal northwestern North America, and dines primarily on plants, fruits, roots and small animals.

Visitors may also be saddened to learn that the grizzly, due mainly to hunting, is now considered a threatened species.

Another animal, this one seriously endangered, will receive special attention in a series of educational graphics, Thiry says.

The black rhinoceros will be featured in two signs that describe its natural history, why it has become endangered and what society and zoo efforts are underway to conserve its population. The black rhino's signs should appear by Christmas.

"These types of signs will tell us much more about a species," Thiry says.

Continuing the educational theme, new signs will herald the opening of the aquarium/reptile building when it opens next May, Thiry says.

In addition to identification plates and fun fish and snake facts, information about habitat and pollution dangers will be included.

"We'll be adding signs about the environmental issues of water quality and how that relates to aquatic life," Thiry says. "We're trying to respond to what people want to know."

"A sign, in truth, is an educational tool."



Kids! When you're finished reading about birds and migration on this page, get out your crayons and color the animals, just like in your coloring books.

Alive

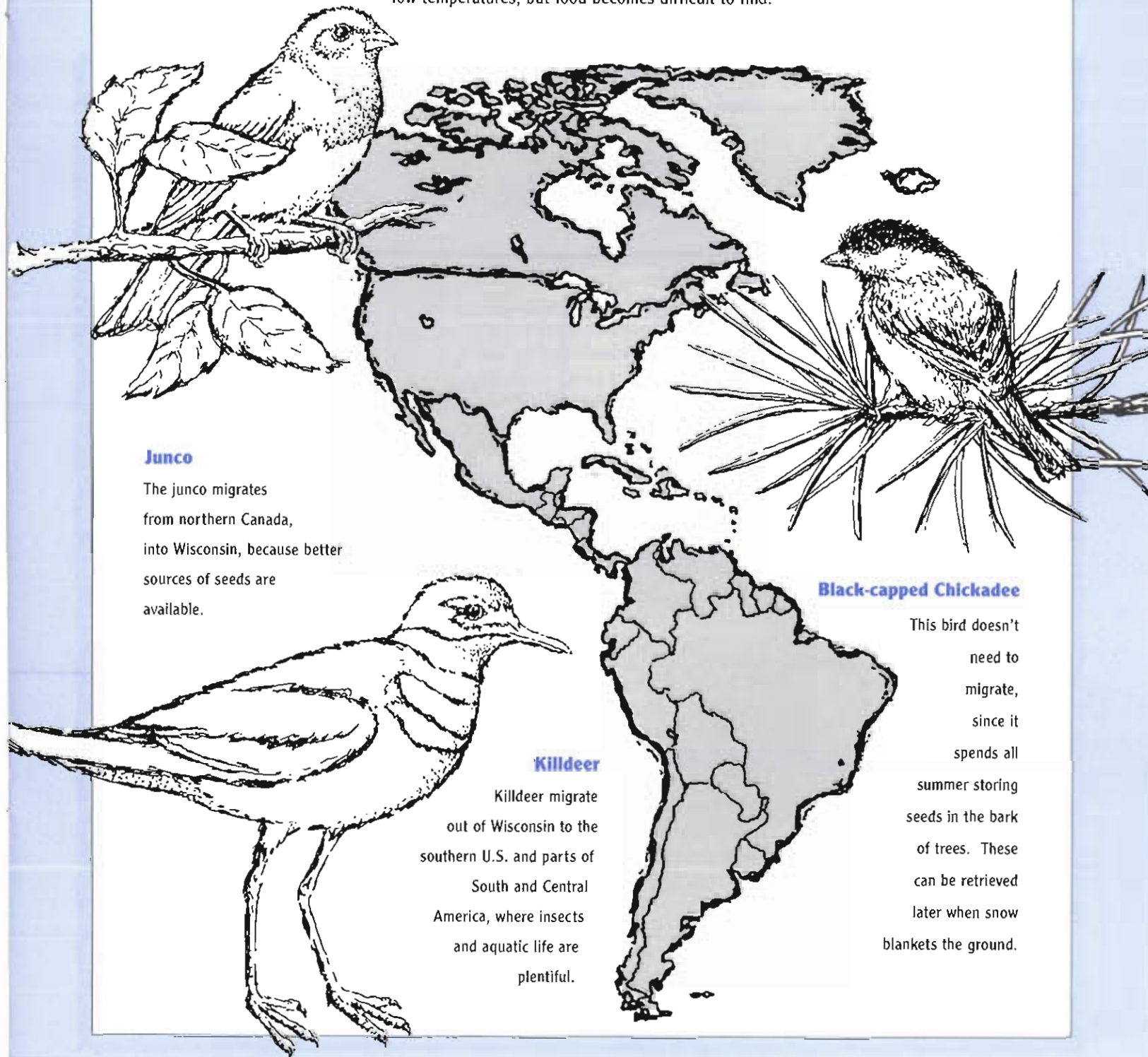
For KIDS and Families

WHERE DO BIRDS GO IN WINTER?

Many birds migrate, but some stay in Wisconsin.

Why do birds migrate?

Birds don't migrate just because it's getting cold. Many species can survive low temperatures, but food becomes difficult to find.



Junco

The junco migrates from northern Canada, into Wisconsin, because better sources of seeds are available.

Killdeer

Killdeer migrate out of Wisconsin to the southern U.S. and parts of South and Central America, where insects and aquatic life are plentiful.

Black-capped Chickadee

This bird doesn't need to migrate, since it spends all summer storing seeds in the bark of trees. These can be retrieved later when snow blankets the ground.

Recycle for the Birds

You can build a simple feeder and Mammals." For a copy of the bulletin, which also includes plans for more elaborate feeders, visit the Education Center at the zoo or any U.W. Extension office in the state. Bulletins are \$2 plus handling.



Milk Jug Feeders

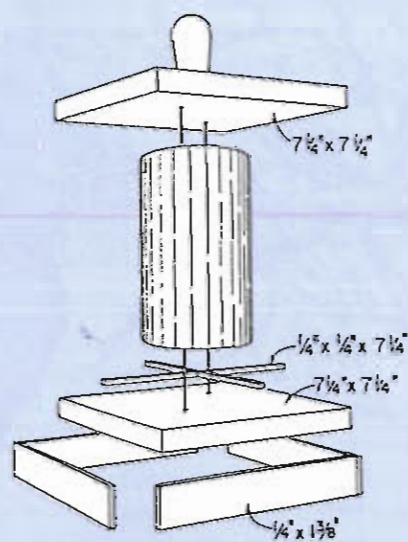
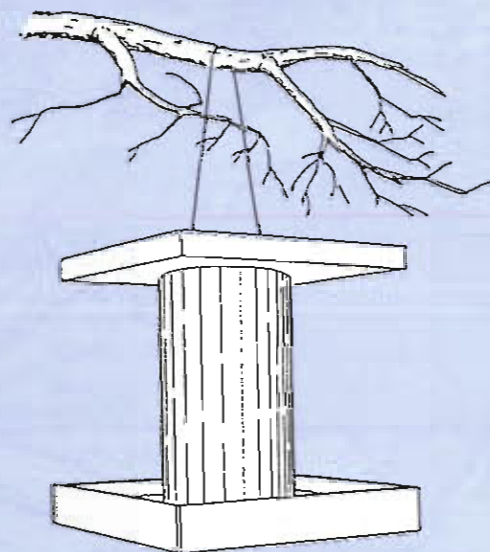
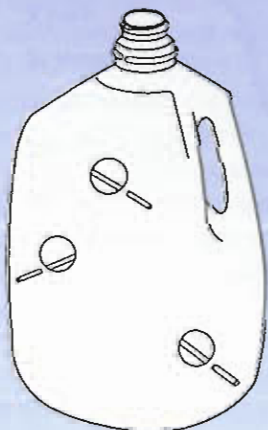
Materials

½ gallon or gallon jug
small dowels or sticks
hanging cord



Construction

First, be certain the jug is completely clean. Cut two or three holes several inches above the bottom of the jug. Size of the holes (from 2" to 4" diameter) depends on birds you want to attract. Insert a dowel or stick below each hole as a perch. Fill to hole level with seed and hang in a convenient tree or shrub.



Tin Can Feeder

Materials

1 piece 1 x 8 (about 3/4" x 7 1/4") x 16" board
OR
3/4" x 8" x 16" exterior plywood
1 piece 1/4" x 1/4" x 16"
1 piece 1/4" x 1 3/8" x 33" lattice
1 fruit juice can about 4 1/4" x 7"
42" #16, 17 or 18 wire
3/4" wire nails

Finish for fruit juice can

Wash can with vinegar, allow to dry, then wash with clean water and allow to dry. Paint with a good grade of exterior house paint, metal paint

or enamel. Use metal primer, if available.

Mounting

Hang from a low branch of a tree so it can be reached for easy refilling.



DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

If you'd like us to answer your animal question and you're 12 years old or younger, then write to us:

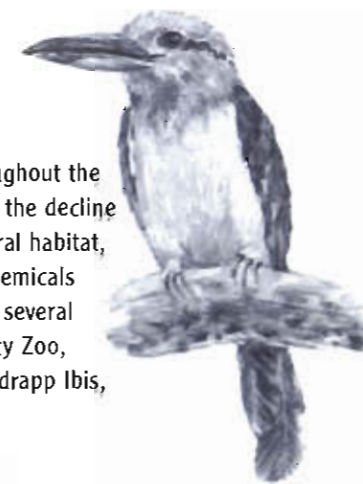
Curious Corner—
Alive
Zoological Society
of Milwaukee
County
10005 W.
Bluemound Rd.
Milwaukee, WI
53226

If we answer your question here, you'll receive a special prize from the Zoological Society.

WHAT KINDS OF BIRDS ARE ENDANGERED?

Unfortunately, there are many species of birds throughout the world that are endangered. A few of the causes for the decline of bird species include the destruction of their natural habitat, the capture of these birds for the pet trade, toxic chemicals and the introduction of predator species. We have several species of endangered birds at the Milwaukee County Zoo, including the Guam Micronesian Kingfisher, the Waldrapp Ibis, the Rothschild's Mynah and the Humboldt Penguin.

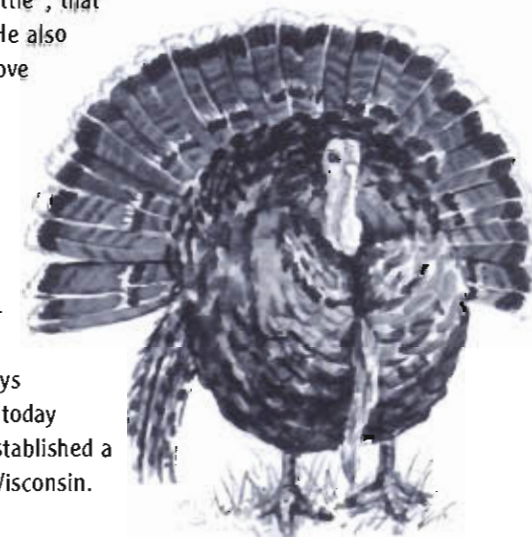
Remington Tonar, Franksville, WI



WHY DO TURKEYS HAVE BIG FEATHERS ON THEIR BACK?

Male turkeys (gobblers or toms) and females (hens) look quite different. This difference in appearance between the male and female turkey, as in other animals, is called *sexual dimorphism*. The gobbler is about twice as large as the hen. He has a fleshy growth, called the "wattle", that hangs from underneath the chin. He also has a fleshy projection growing above and resting across the bill that is called the "snood" or "dew bill." During the breeding season, when the gobbler is courting, he will fan out his distinctive tail feathers to attract a female. Did you know that the wild turkey was once extirpated in Wisconsin? In the late 1960s and early 1970s, wild turkeys were reintroduced in the state and today they are reproducing and have reestablished a healthy wild turkey population in Wisconsin.

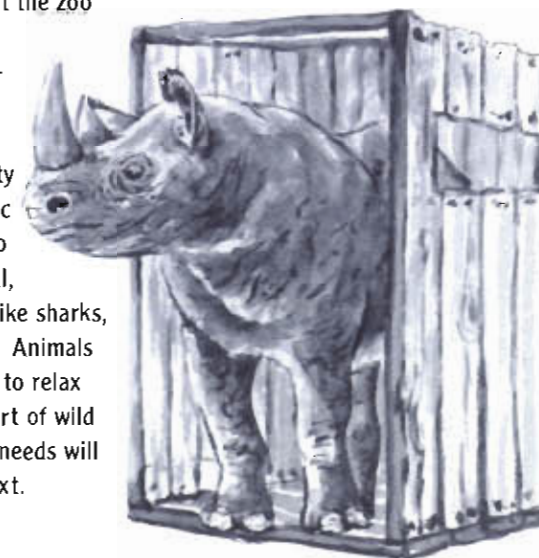
Michael Kosakowski, Mequon, WI



HOW DO OUR ZOO ANIMALS GET HERE FROM PLACES SO FAR AWAY?

The majority of animals that we have at the zoo are animals that come from other zoos around the world. Very few of our animals are caught in the wild. Transportation of these animals has to be carefully planned to insure the safety and special requirements of the specific animal. Specialized crates may need to be built in order to transport an animal, such as a rhinoceros. Other animals, like sharks, might require a constant water supply. Animals may, on occasion, be given a sedative to relax them during their travels. The transport of wild animals can be difficult and the travel needs will vary greatly from one animal to the next.

Elizabeth Winters, Brookfield, WI



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The following education programs are coordinated by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County and the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension.

Programs are held from now through May. To register for October programs only, call the education department at (414) 256-5424. To receive registration materials for November through January, please send a self-addressed, stamped business-sized envelope (one per family) to: Fall Education Programs, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee WI 53226.

If you would like to receive the program brochure for February through May, send a self-addressed, stamped business-sized envelope (one per family) to: Winter/Spring Education Programs, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milw. WI 53226. Winter/Spring program brochures will be mailed on December 5.

If you would like to automatically receive the three seasonal brochures for one year (winter/ spring, summer, fall), send \$3 per family to: Education Mailing List, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226.

OCTOBER - JANUARY PROGRAMS

KIDS DAY OUT

AGES 6-11
October 27 and/or 28
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

A fun-filled educational experience for your child during the statewide teachers' conference. Children can be dropped off at the zoo between 7:30 and 9 a.m. and picked up between 3:30 and 5 p.m. Enroll your child in one or both days - a different program will be offered each day. To register, call the education department at (414) 256-5424.

Cost per day, including lunch: \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Sponsored by the NFL Alumni

TINY TOTS

INCREDIBLE REPTILES

PARENT WITH 3-YEAR-OLD
October 11-19

Morning and afternoon sessions still available.

Cost: \$12 for members and \$14 for non-members (includes parking).

PRESCHOOL WORKSHOPS

FELINE FASCINATION

4 & 5-YEAR-OLD AND 6-YEAR-OLD IN KINDERGARTEN

October 12-21

Morning and afternoon sessions still available.

Cost: \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members.

PRESCHOOLER WITH PARENT

October 13, 14, 19 and 20

Cost: \$15 for members, \$17 for non-member (includes parking).

TINY TOTS

BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER

PARENT WITH 3-YEAR-OLD

November 9-18

HOLIDAY HAPPINESS

PARENT WITH 3-YEAR-OLD

December 6-17

FARMYARD FUN

PARENT WITH 3-YEAR-OLD

January 24-31

PRESCHOOL WORKSHOPS

THE PLAYFUL PRIMATES

4 & 5-YEAR-OLD AND 6-YEAR-OLD IN KINDERGARTEN

November 8-18

RUDOLPH'S ADVENTURES

4 & 5-YEAR-OLD AND 6-YEAR-OLD IN KINDERGARTEN

December 6-17

RAINFOREST ENCHANTMENT

4 & 5-YEAR-OLD AND 6-YEAR-OLD IN KINDERGARTEN

January 24-28

OLDER YOUTH WORKSHOPS

FIFTY WAYS TO THANK THE EARTH

AGES 6-8

November 19, 9:30-11:30

WINTER WONDERLAND

AGES 6-8

December 17, 9:30-11:30

MARINE MAMMAL MYSTIQUE

AGES 6-8

January 14, 9:30-11:30

January 21, 9:30-11:30

Cost: \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members.

SENIOR CITIZEN WORKSHOPS

THE TROPICAL RAINFOREST

AGE 55 AND OLDER

October 20, 9:30-3:30

We'll explore the complex beauty of the tropical rainforests and the issues which threaten their existence. Also, enjoy a zoomobile tour and lunch catered by Heinemann's.

Cost: \$20 for Society members and \$25 for non-members.

CULTURAL HOLIDAY CRAFTS

AGE 55 AND OLDER

December 5, 9:30-12:00

Cost: \$16 for Society members and \$20 for non-members. (All craft supplies will be provided.) An opportunity to create a plethora of craft masterpieces!



NOTE: Low-income scholarships are available for all programs, including senior workshops. For more information on how to apply call (414) 256-5424, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PARENTS: If you want to give the special gift of learning to a special child ages 3-11, we suggest a gift certificate for a Zoological Society workshop! The certificate can be for any amount and applied toward an educational workshop offered through August of 1995.

To order, send a check payable to the Zoological Society for the desired amount plus \$2 for postage and handling. Also include the child's name, address where it should be sent, and the holiday or reason (birthday, holiday, graduation, etc.). Send to Education Gift Certificate, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Bluemound Road, Milwaukee, WI 53226. Allow at least two weeks for delivery. The child will receive the certificate, an appropriate greeting card and a listing of the workshops that are available.

Summer Science

While her friends were at the wading pool or learning to ride bicycles this summer, Laura Schenke, 6, was digging up dinosaur fossils, fantasizing about forests and doing the work of a zookeeper at the Milwaukee County Zoo.



Summer Camp high school intern Yinka Ajirotutu, 14, works with camp-goers David Groose, Laura Schenke (middle) and Natalie Namerow during the Zoological Society's "Dig Those Dinosaurs" camp.

Laura, who lives in Hales Corners, was one of 4,900 children who signed up for the Zoological Society's Summer Adventure Camps.

"The camps are really fun; they let you do a lot of stuff," said an enthusiastic Laura on her way home from "Dig Those Dinosaurs" camp. "I learned about dinosaurs, played games and made this mask of a Triceratops," she said, holding to her face the paper dinosaur that now hangs among the menagerie of other zoo animal masks decorating the Schenke's basement walls.

Through its Summer Adventure Camps, sponsored by *The Milwaukee Journal*, the Zoological Society offered nearly 200 sessions this summer to children ages three (with a parent) to 13 and reached 800 more children than last year. At least 75 percent of the children who attend camps

EDZOOICATION

are Zoological Society members, who receive discounts on workshop fees.

"The long lines at in-person camp registration in April told us we'd have to expand this year," said Mary Thiry, the Society's director of education/interpretive graphics.

Every year, the Society is able to offer camps because of support from a core of dedicated Zoo Pride volunteers, volunteer help from high school interns and assistance from college students, whose internships with the Zoological Society are endowed by Alice B. Kadish.

Any insights that emerged from parents of summer campers?

"The hands-on projects and activities that take the kids indoors and outdoors are important," said Laura's mom, Connie Schenke. "All the workshops are just really good for the kids' socialization. Quality programs all around."

More Cheese, Please

Take a clean plexiglass cow on green grass, a giant pink-and-purple milk carton, a chunk of wall-mounted cheese, a calcium bone that's bigger than your kid, and a video on cow milking. Put them together and what have you got?

This fall's new-and-improved Dairy Complex at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Starting this October, zoogoers are going to see major changes in the complex and the way its exhibits educate visitors about Wisconsin's dairy heritage. "Since the building opened in 1986, dairy nutritional information and the whole dairy industry has changed so much," said Charlene Leach, nutrition specialist with the Dairy Council of Wisconsin and chair of the Zoological Society committee formed to study improvements to the Dairy Complex.

Among the more prominent exhibits slated for a facelift as part of the building's \$50,000 Zoological Society-funded renovation is the Sargento cow. It's getting a bath, new grass and new phones that will let visitors learn how milk is produced

inside the cow. The exhibit's new, bi-level touch-feel boxes also will let cow curiosity-seekers discover different parts of the cow's body.

No matter what the season, visitors also will have a chance to see a cow being milked—live or via a new self-activated video program that shows how milk moves from the cow to the bulk tank, with spotlights simultaneously highlighting each step of the milking process.

Which state produces the largest percentage of all cheese produced in the United States? You can find out the answer to this and other cheese-trivia questions through a new wall-mounted interactive exhibit.

And all the building's computerized exhibits—inside and out—are getting an update, including the "Dairy Olympics" milk carton, the "Calcium Bone" game, and the University of Wisconsin-Extension's "Exploring Wisconsin Agriculture" games.

"The improvements we're making to the building offer visitors a nice balance of technology, experience and live animals," said Mary Thiry, the society's director of education/interpretive graphics. "We were one of the first zoos in the country to introduce education via computers. Now it's time for us to take our exhibits one more step forward."



Jerry O'Callaghan (fore) and Ross Butterfield, of Advanced Open Systems, Inc., help the Zoological Society give the Dairy Complex a \$50,000 facelift.



KEEPERS OF THE ARK



Karin Newman may know more about animals than Noah. In Newman's ARKS catalog, she can locate and describe virtually every zoo animal in the world — from aardvarks to zebras.

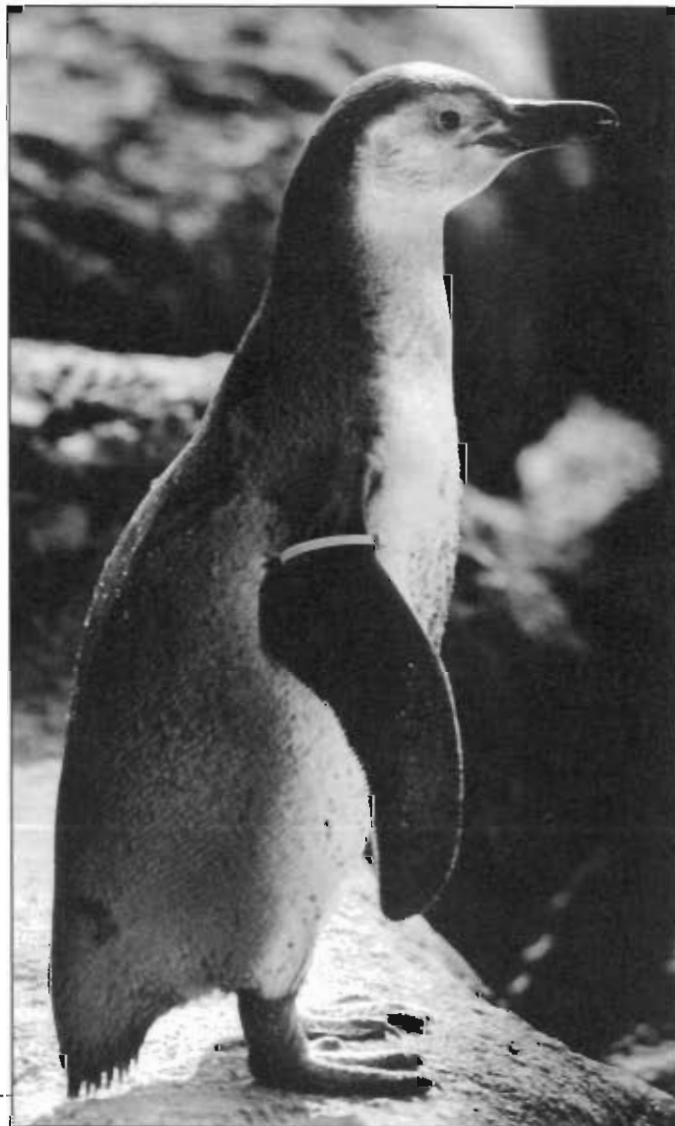
As registrar at the Milwaukee County Zoo, Newman knows just how much the hippo weighs and the latest on llamas.



But keeping afloat the ARKS, which stands for Animal Record Keeping System, is just part of Newman's job.

"Our zoo's data base has more than 10,000 animals in it," says Newman, a serene woman amid an ever-changing sea of information in the zoo's ARKS database. World-wide, Newman has access to information on more than 200,000 animals through the International Species Information System (ISIS). "We contribute our animal records information to ISIS and work with some 482 ISIS members in 53 countries in compiling all of our information on animals in captivity."

Modern record-keeping is vital to the Zoo's conservation efforts, officials say. But staying abreast of the latest federal, local and state laws also falls into Newman's bailiwick. Just as important, Newman tracks major medical problems and quirky behaviors of the zoo's animals.



The information at Newman's fingertips is vital. The zoo's curators call on Newman's expertise constantly.

"I do all the time," says Ed Diebold, curator of birds for the Milwaukee County Zoo. "ISIS is an important tool in tracking the status of the bird collection."

Adds Elizabeth Frank, curator of large mammals: "I needed some information this morning. I had a question about a snow leopard that was just born in Toledo. I needed to know who owned which



offspring. It turns out that we own the female."

All in a morning's work for Newman.

But you start, Newman explains, with the basics.

"The most important thing about accurate record-keeping is to be able to identify each animal," she says.

That sounds simple, but of course it isn't. Ever try to tell one twisted cobra from another or pick a penguin from a flock? Each animal is assigned a number.

For most birds, the answer is right at their feet (or legs, rather). A numbered band is attached to the bird's leg. Then, an identification number is assigned to the corresponding band to provide individual animal identification. Diebold says. Males typically have the band on their right leg; females, on the left.

Penguins are one of the winged-world's exception, says Newman. They're banded on their flippers.

Large mammals, like lions and tigers, are relatively few and easy to tell apart, Newman says.

Unlike other birds, which wear numbered metal bands around their legs, Humboldt Penguins get colored flipper bands that help zookeepers tell them apart.



giving talks to school groups about the plight of the Black Rhino and other endangered species...or coordinating the Ecosystem Survival Plan (a.k.a. Conservation Parking Meter program) to raise money to protect rainforests in Guatemala...or playing the piano for Zoo events...or...

For the myriad hoofed animals, like goats and antelope, Newman says she is behooved to attach dog tags to their ears.

It's all fairly straightforward. Until you think about banding a bat's wing or tagging a rattlesnake's ear.

Microchips have provided a simple and safe alternative. Newman says that the tiny chips are injected into animals with an

ordinary hypodermic needle. Once beneath the skin, the chips, called transponders, readily identify an animal when keepers wave a special wand past their bodies.

"That's a good thing," Newman says. "It's been real useful for some of the reptiles."

For each animal, Newman keeps an updated record with a long catalog of



ON THE JOB

KARIN NEWMAN, ZOO REGISTRAR

Karin Newman's job is supposed to be part time. But her love of animals and commitment to wildlife conservation have made it lifelong pursuit.

Newman has been registrar at the Milwaukee County Zoo since November 1990. But her interest in zoos and conservation began long before that.

"I've always been interested in animal behavior," she says. "I'm interested in how they interact." As a college biology student, Newman used her summer breaks from the University of Missouri at Columbia to work as a zookeeper at the St. Louis Zoo. "It was seasonal work, but I enjoyed it quite a bit," she recalls.

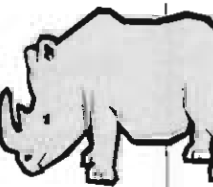
She continued her studies at the University of Missouri at St. Louis, earning her master's degree in animal behavior.

Soon after, she and her family made Milwaukee home.

In 1983, Newman became a volunteer with the Zoological Society's volunteer auxiliary, Zoo Pride, while working part-time at the Milwaukee Public Museum cataloging the bird collection.

Today, she tracks the welfare of all the animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

That is, when she isn't collecting cans for funds to support Kenya's Ngare Sergoi Forest Preserve...or



entries. Where the animal came from, its height, weight and length are all recorded. For infants born at the Milwaukee County Zoo, Newman also notes the first time the animal opens its eyes and when it graduates to solid food.

Through a separate data base called

continued on next page



MedARKS (Medical Animal Record Keeping System), managed by the zoo's veterinarians, zoo officials can access detailed medical records on animals.

"We use MedARKS in conjunction with ARKS to complete the animals' records," Newman says, careful to take note of major medical problems, like an elephant's lost tusk or an orangutan's broken arm.

Each animal's file also contains information on birth control. Newman notes that many of the zoo's animals, like many of the lions, have been neutered.

Others, however, take birth-control drugs.

For example, Newman says that her records recently showed a booming population of Greater Kudus, antelopes that range on the grasslands of eastern Africa south of the Sahara Desert.

Finding space elsewhere for the Milwaukee County Zoo's surplus kudus eventually proved difficult.

Injections of a birth control drug kept the female kudus from ovulating, Newman says. And the population was brought under control. Now, Newman's kudu inventory, along with the medical information kept in MedARKS, reminds keepers of when the kudus need another shot.

For less prolific and endangered animals, Newman's records are even more



Lydia the Eland's round tag in her left ear tells zoo officials that she is female and wasn't born in Milwaukee. All of the hoofed animals born at Milwaukee County Zoo have small rectangular ID tags. Females are tagged in the left ear.

Elizabeth Frank says conscientious record keeping was responsible for helping avoid

problems for golden lion tamarins, small South American

marmosets. A number of tamarins had developed hernias. Through records, zoo officials were able to trace back the hereditary defect and avoid breeding



the wrong tamarins.

Aside from genetic and behavior records, Newman is also responsible for keeping up to date on the latest federal, state and local laws that affect zoo animals. And, for the import of exotic animals from other countries, she has to know about international law as well.

"There's so much that goes on at the zoo that the public doesn't know about," Newman says. "They may see the keepers feeding the animals or cleaning out the cages. But there's so much more involved."

The Zoological Society of Milwaukee County has funded five historical records interns at the Zoo for the last three years.

vital. The existence of rare animals often depends on cooperative conservation efforts among zoos called Species Survival Plans.

Diebold, curator of birds, says he recently called on Newman's expertise when making a decision about breeding Waldrapp Ibises. Diebold says there are only about 140 of the birds in captivity in North America, and breeding a pair too closely related could result in genetic problems, like low egg fertility and hatchability or low survivorship of offspring.

Says Newman: "Even as late as the 1970s, there was a high incidence of inbreeding. Unfortunately, that weakened a lot of the animals in captivity. That makes it even more critical to keep track of which animal is which and who begat whom."



Let's Get Physical

Bring your sneakers for an evening of fun, food, and fitness as part of Let's Get Physical, a Zoological Society fund-raiser to be held at 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 22, at Glendale's North Shore-Elite Fitness and Racquet Club. Guests will have a chance to learn step aerobics, shoot hoops, play wallyball (like volleyball, but on a handball court) and mini-golf, get a massage, and more—all at a beginner's level. Cost is \$25 per person, which includes participation in all events, a light buffet and beverages. Proceeds from the event, hosted by Dick and Penny Podell, Jay and Caroline Robertson, Barry and Judy Sattell, and Linda Grunau, will



Aerobics instructors Michele Stamos (left) and Suzy Poole join Zoological Society board member Dick Podell in training for the society's Oct. 22 fund-raiser, "Let's Get Physical."

help the society feed the Zoo's 5,600 animals. For more information or to register, call the Zoological Society's Special Events office at (414) 258-2333.

Miller Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament

More than 100 golfers celebrated a day of camaraderie on the links during the Fifth Annual Miller Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament, July 18, at Ozaukee Country Club.

Proceeds from this perennially popular event went toward the Zoological Society's conservation and education programs.



Tom Dempsey, chair of the Fifth Annual Miller Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament, challenges Judy McGourthy to a putting contest.

Sponsor Spotlight

With thanks from the Zoological Society:

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Platypus Society



BERNARD PECK

"I have been involved with the Milwaukee County Zoological Society for a good number of years. I have seen many attractions come and go in this time. With my position on the Board of Directors I, in part, have been instrumental in implementing many of the programs. This Platypus Society being one of them. The good friends that I have made and the wonderful involvement with the Milwaukee County Zoo has kept my interest and my pleasure very high and I suspect always will."

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Mike & Billie Kubly
Doug & Linda Kuehn
Eugene F. & Gwendolyn Lavin
Herb & Nida Mahler
Mr. & Mrs. Charles McNeer
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IN-KIND GIFTS

In-Kind gifts of products or services are now being listed separately for the donor stated value of the gift. This list will be updated as in-kind memberships are renewed. The following gifts are listed below as of August 24, 1994:

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American Airlines
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bold (updated each fall)

* Contributing Members

Friends contributing to the
Platypus Society after August 24,
1994 will be recognized in the next
issue of ALIVE.

A very special thank you to current
members who have increased their
level of giving by
10% or more. These
members are being
recognized with a
plus(+) sign after
their name.



NEW MEMBERS

The Zoological Society welcomes the following new Platypus Society members as of August 24:

CORPORATE II (\$1,500-\$1,999)
Curis Universal Ambulance

CORPORATE I (\$1,000-\$1,499)
*Arthur Andersen & Co.
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James & Debra Baker
Dr. Ronald A. Javitch
Andrew T. & Karen K. Sawyer, Jr.
*Natalie B. Soref

IN-KIND (\$5,000-\$9,999)
Ace World Wide Moving & Storage

IN-KIND (\$2,000-\$2,499)
Old Elm Wild Bird Feed

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The Platypus Society is a group of about 350 Milwaukee-area foundations, corporations and individuals that contribute more than \$300,000 annually to the Zoological Society. If you would like to join this group in helping the Society uphold its mission of supporting the Zoo, educating the community about wildlife and the environment and conserving endangered species, call Patsy Cadorin (414) 276-0843.



◀ Fennec Fox

(Small Mammal Building - Night Side)

Born: June 18, 1994

This newborn fox, one of three recently born at the Milwaukee County Zoo, won't keep mommy and daddy up all night looking for a drink of water. Fennec foxes are able to survive indefinitely without drinking water...convenient, considering that their native habitat is desert and semi-desert, arid regions of Northern Africa, Sinai and Arabia. Other adaptations that make them well-suited to their climate include large ears for thermoregulation and auditory prey location; pale fur; plus fur on the soles of their feet, helping them to run on loose sand. Representing the smallest species of the dog family (*canidae*), these cubs, when fully grown, will weigh scarcely 1.5 kilograms (3.3 pounds).

Source: John Wightman, Area Supervisor, Small Mammals

▶ Mule Deer

(Moose Yard)

Estimated Birth Date: July 1, 1994

This orphaned Mule deer fawn came to us from Wyoming after her mother was killed by a car. When this happens, the fawn typically will hover nearby until she too, is struck, falls prey to a predator or starves to death. This may have been Amy's fate had she not been rescued by the Wyoming Fish and Game Department. Too young to be weaned when she was found, Amy has been bottle-fed since then, making her less wary of people. Mule deer are herbivores, found in the woodlands and grasslands of the western United States. They can be distinguished from White-tailed deer by their larger size and by the adult male's antlers, which branch in an arrangement of even forks—different from those of the adult male White-tailed deer, whose antler tines branch from a main beam.

Source: Daron Graves, Area Supervisor, North America/Australia



▶ Lowland Gorilla

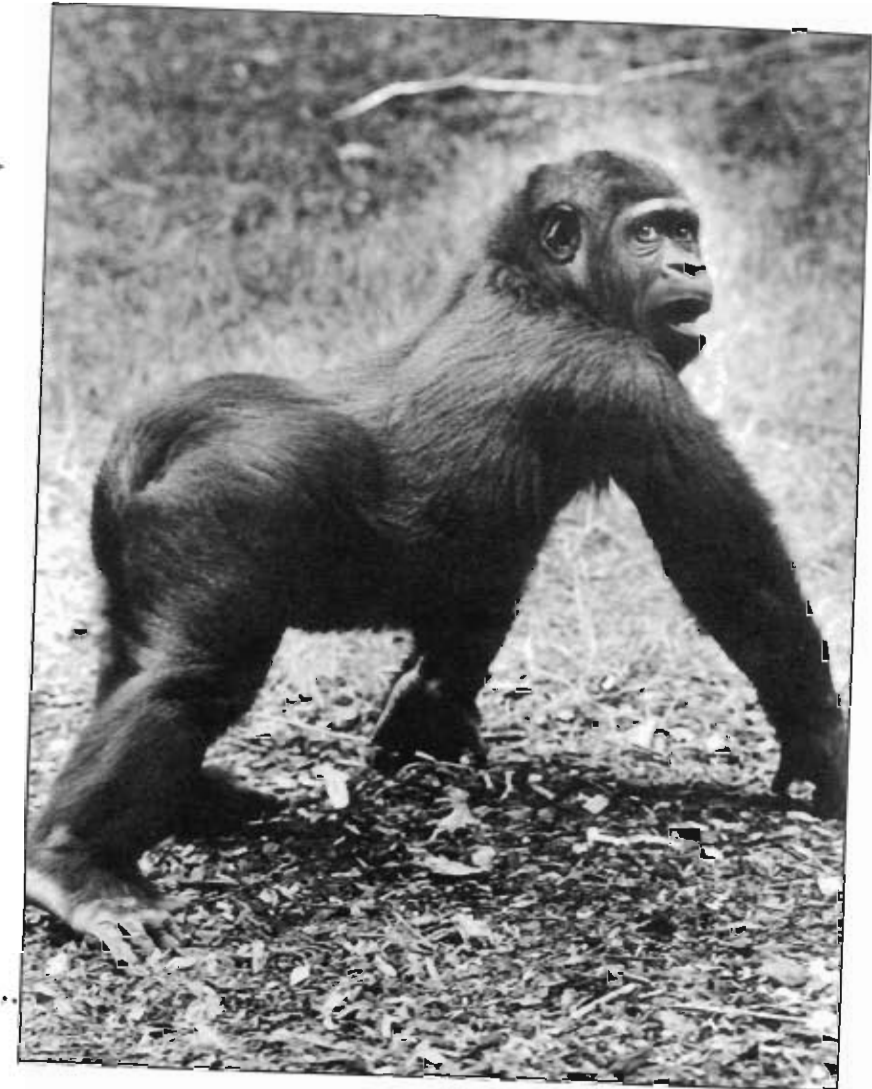
(Apes of Africa)

Born: August 6, 1991

Arrived: June 1, 1994

Although introducing this lowland gorilla youth to his new Milwaukee Zoo family has been an involved process. Maji Maji (Swahili for water) has settled in to his new outdoor yard and is socializing with all in his adopted family. But it didn't start out that way. When the Zoo brought Maji Maji here as a companion for two-year-old Mgbali, let's just say that Femelle, Mgbali's mother, didn't exactly embrace her daughter's new playmate—a surprise to zookeepers, who expected Obsus, the silverback male, to be less receptive to the young male. Instead, Obsus has joined Nagajji, another adult female in the group, and zookeepers in a diversion that's won favor with the newest member of our gorilla family, not to mention the zoo visitor: tickling Maji Maji. It's sport worth watching.

Source: Sam LaMalfa, Supervisor of Primates, Apes of Africa



▶ Zebra

(African Water Hole)

Born: June 22, 1994

What's in a name? More than you'll know just by looking at Zink, a 72-pound baby zebra. There's a story behind how she got her name...a story written by Kelly Weil, an 11-year-old girl who died of cancer last September. Her story, *Zink the Zebra*, is about a zebra who has spots. It parallels Kelly's experiences about feeling different and wanting to be accepted while undergoing treatments for bone cancer. The book will be published later this year through the Zink the Zebra Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to education and research in childhood cancer. Our Zink, full of spirit and life, is the first female of five offspring born to 10-year-old female, Nonamee, and 12-year-old male, Bwana. The Zoological Society features Zink as part of this year's Sponsor An Animal holiday package. To sponsor Zink, call (414) 258-2333.

Source: Bob Hoffmann, Area Supervisor, Winter Quarters



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This photo of the
Zoo's mandrill,
Earl, taken by
Whitefish Bay's
Jeff Tamms, took
first place in the
Zoo's 1994 Fuji
Photo Contest.
The top three
contest winners
received cash prizes
and film.