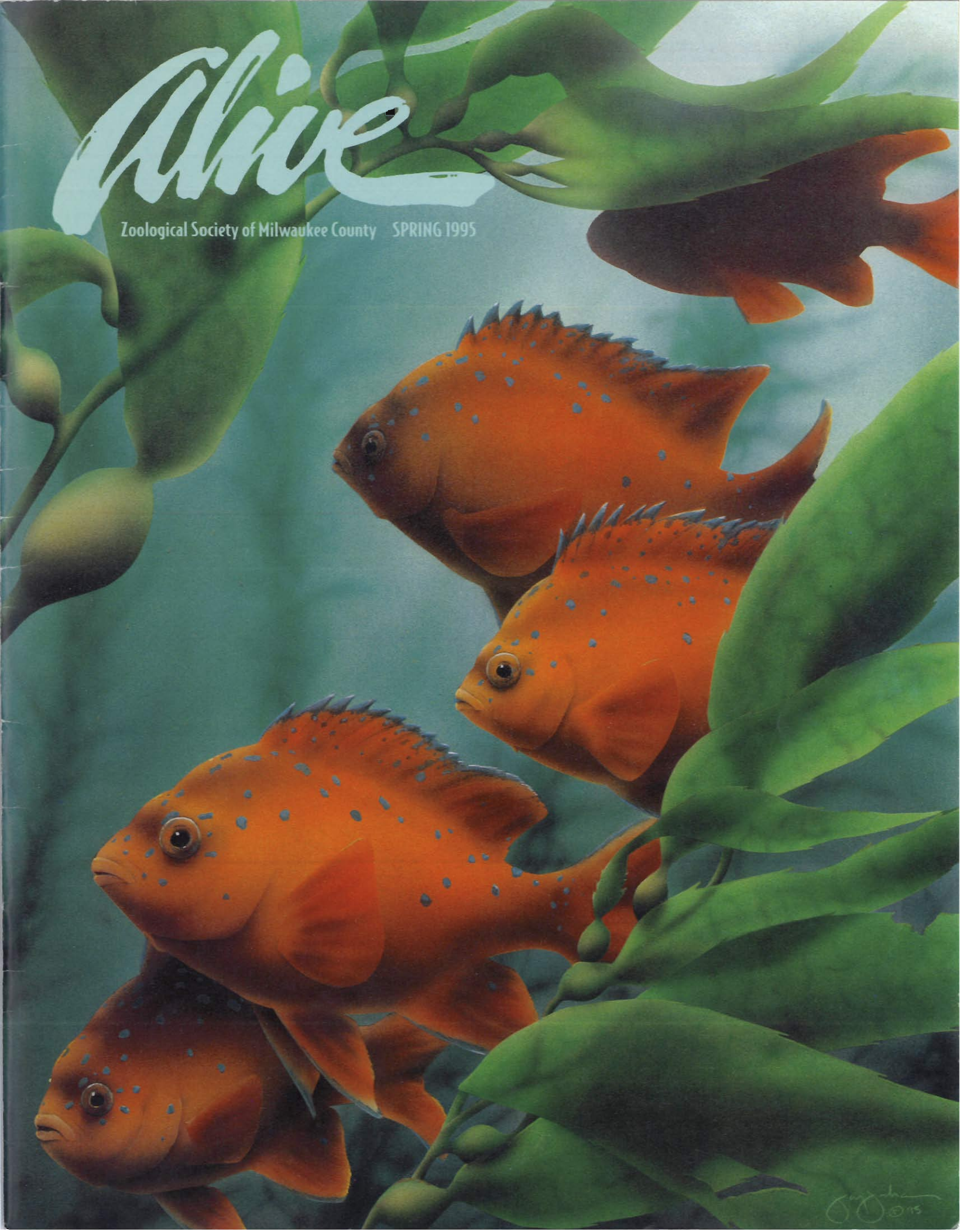


# Alive

Zoological Society of Milwaukee County SPRING 1995



© 1995





SPOTLIGHT ON SUPPORT.

Against the dramatic backdrop of the newly renovated Aquatic & Reptile Center, we celebrate in this issue the contributions of many friends, whose support is helping us put a new face on the Zoo. Among them:

**Roundy's Pick 'n Save**, whose sponsorship of Operation: Sea Creature will introduce summer zoogoers to four robotic denizens of the deep.

**Beatrice Cheese**, whose sponsorship of Sea School—an extension of Roundy's Pick 'n Save's Operation: Sea Creature—will take children through a sea turtle maze, a tidal pool and more.

**Tom & Sally Evinrude**, whose capital support of a decking complex skirting the shore of Lake Evinrude will provide more space for entertaining near the sea lions and polar bears.

**Audrey Wegner**, a Zoo Pride volunteer, whose underwriting support will build a barn for the Zoo's heifers.

**Miller Brewing Company**, whose sponsorship of our "Catch the Wave—Recycle" environmental education program will invite children from about 100 area schools to exhibit their sea creatures made from recycled materials in the Zoo's Stackner Heritage Farm.

**Patrons**, whose sponsorship of updated animal identification signs will help zoogoers more easily learn about animals at the Zoo.

Besides these special friends who are helping us debut new exhibits at the Zoo, we also thank **Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops**, the **Unicare Foundation** and **student artists** from Milwaukee-area colleges and universities for their contributions to this year's members-only premieres of the Aquatic & Reptile Center.

Watch your mail for an invitation. This is truly a grand opening you won't want to miss.

*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

ROUNDY'S PICK 'N SAVE'S OPERATION: SEA CREATURE

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What to do this summer? Climb aboard the U.S.S. Roundy's for a voyage to the dawn of time. Experience the sights and sounds of robotic sea creatures at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

OTHER LIVES, OTHER WORLDS

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Immerse yourself in the mystery and beauty of the newly renovated Aquatic & Reptile Center as our fish, reptiles and amphibians take up permanent residence in their new Zoo home.

MERLIN MYSTIQUE

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A UW-Eau Claire student's research into the urban breeding and nesting habits of merlins is helping conservationists position this unique falcon species for long-term survival.

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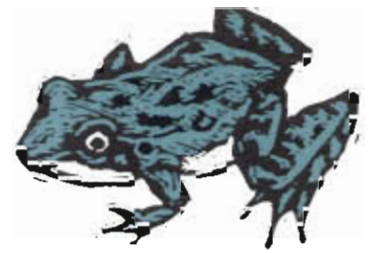
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 Curious Corner  
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Juvenile Garibaldi in Kelp  
 By Jay Jochem

Artwork endowed by Gretchen and Andrew Dawes Endowment, Inc.



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ROUNDY'S PICK 'N SAVE'S

**OPERATION:**  
SEA CREATURE

All aboard! Calling all explorers to voyage back to the dawn of time, when the waters of the earth were ruled by monsters that rivaled the size and ferocity of dinosaurs.

You can be an astronaut of time and the deep sea when you and your family visit the Zoo's newly renovated Aquatic & Reptile Center and experience this summer's robotic adventure, Operation: Sea Creature, presented by Roundy's Pick 'n Save and the Zoological Society.

Absorb the sights and sounds of four life-like, moving sea creatures with life spans dating back over 400 million years to the present. These robotic sea creatures were created by Dinamation, the same company that brought us dinosaurs for last summer's Destination Dinosaur.

Ready, pioneers? Then, climb aboard our "submarine," strap on your imagination and get ready for a trip back in time to an underwater world never before seen by modern man and woman.



**BASILOSaurus**

short time. Its narrow skull contained 44 teeth of various shapes. Although its cylindrical body could flex from side to side, Basilosaurus swam mainly by undulating up and down.

**BASILOSaurus**

(bah-SILL-uh-sawr-us)

**Meaning of name:** Regal lizard

**Time period:** Eocene epoch, 37-58 million years ago

**Range:** Oceans worldwide

**Diet:** Fish, mollusks, and crustaceans

**Size:** The Basilosaurus was 40-80 feet long and weighed up to 7 tons.

**Description:**

The Basilosaurus, unearthed in the 1830s, was first thought to be some sort of large prehistoric reptile. Although it was eventually classified as a whale, it is not the ancestor of modern whales but an evolutionary offshoot that lived for a



**GREAT WHITE SHARK**

**CARCHARODON**

(car-CARE-o-don)  
(Great White Shark)

**Meaning of name:** Flesh-rendering tooth

**Time period:** Present

**Range:** Tropical oceans worldwide

**Diet:** Fish, seals, sea lions and other large sea animals

**Size:** Great White Sharks reach up to 20 feet or more in length and weigh 2.5 tons or more.

**Description:** The best-known and most fearsome of all sharks are the Great Whites, most likely because of their direct, straight-forward, "no-nonsense" attack style. It is an extremely efficient swimmer, with a body so streamlined that it has been adapted for

naval submarine design. Besides sighting prey with its eyes, the Great White Shark can smell it with small, nostril-like pits on its snout. With sensitive nerves in its muscles, it can also detect the tiny electric currents emitted by swimming animals.

**DUNKLEOSTEUS**

(dunk-el-OS-tee-us)

**Meaning of name:** Dunkle's bones

**Time period:** Devonian period, 360-408 million years ago

**Range:** Oceans near North America and Europe

**Diet:** Fish and arthropods

**Size:** The Dunkleosteus was at least 16 feet long and weighed about 5 tons.

**Description:** The Dunkleosteus was a placoderm - prehistoric fish with bony armor



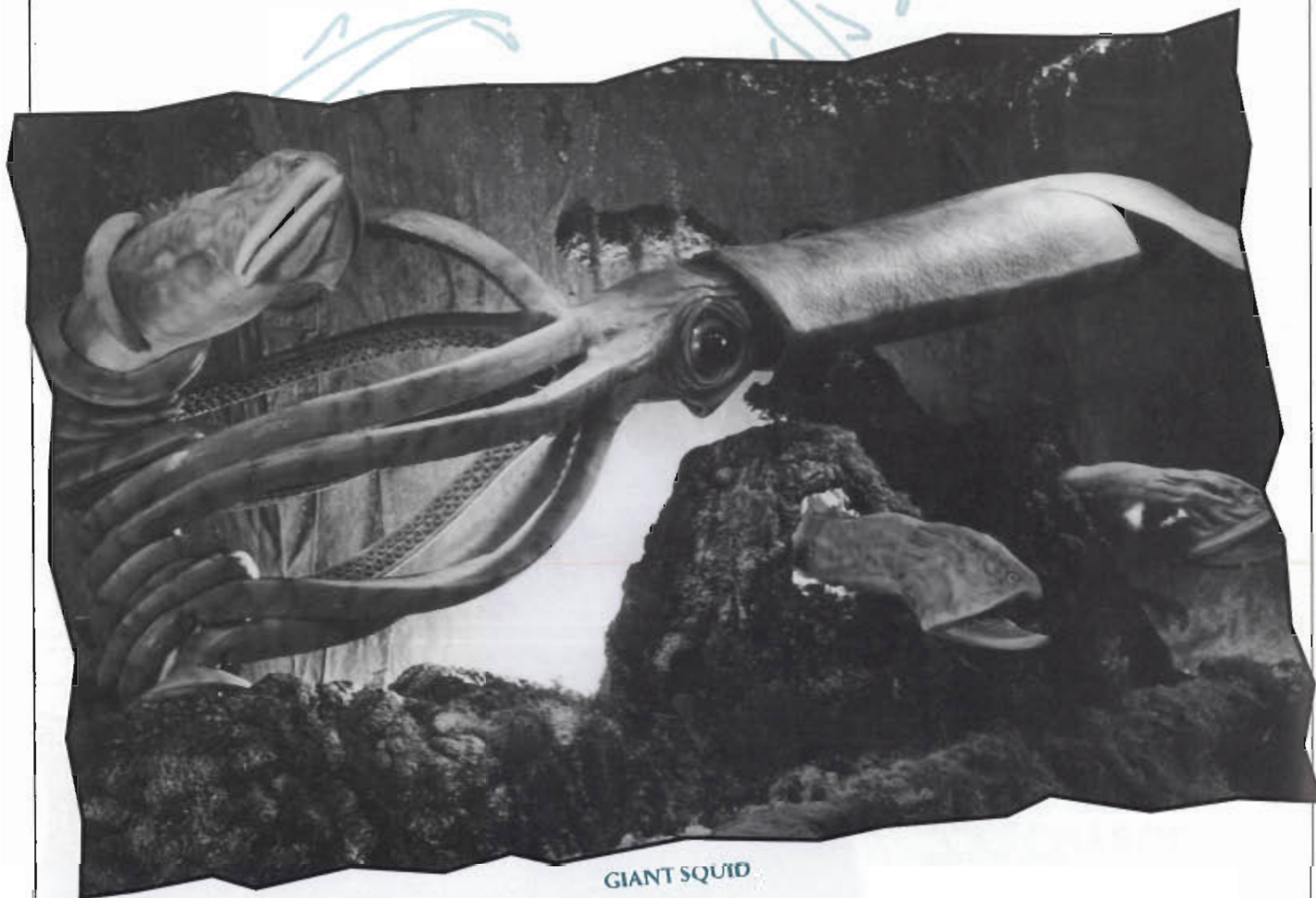
**DUNKLEOSTEUS**

around the head and forward part of the body. They were the first fish known to have mobile, muscular fins supported by an internal skeleton. The Dunkleosteus was an imposing, ferocious predator and the first

known vertebrate to attain a truly monstrous size. It had no actual teeth. Instead, cleaver-like projections that jutted from its

continued on next page





GIANT SQUID

jaws enabled it to easily crush and slice the armor of smaller prey.

## ARCHITEUTHIS

(ARK-e-tooth-us)  
(Giant Squid)

**Meaning of name:** Dominant squid

**Time period:** Present

**Range:** Oceans worldwide

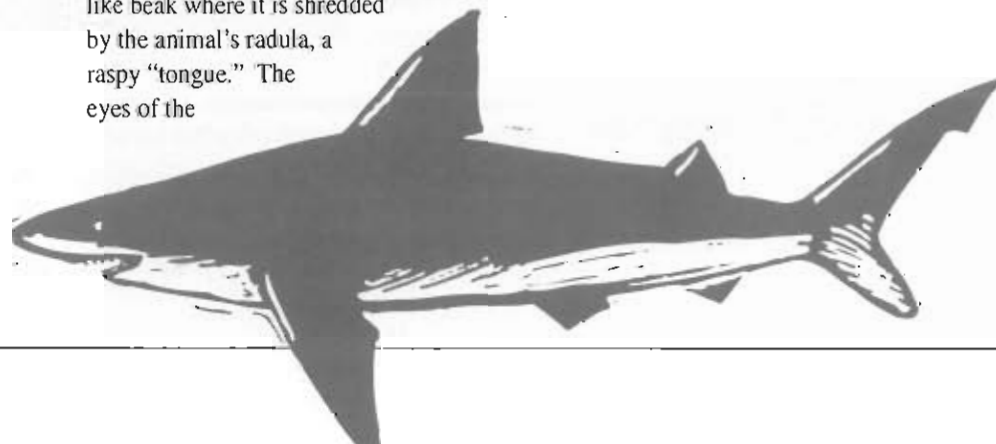
**Diet:** Fish, mollusks and crustaceans

**Size:** Giant Squid are 6-100 feet or more in length and weigh up to 2.2 tons.

**Description:** Sightings of this giant go back hundreds of years, but it remained more legend than fact until it was scientifically described by Danish zoologist John Steenstrup in 1857. The Giant Squid's eight thick "arms" and two longer tentacles extend forward from the head. They are used to capture and hold prey and carry it toward the squid's parrot-like beak where it is shredded by the animal's radula, a raspy "tongue." The eyes of the

Giant Squid are as much as 9 inches in diameter and are among the most advanced eyes of any invertebrate. Squid shells are small and fragile and rarely found as fossils; therefore, the evolutionary history of the Giant Squid remains completely unknown.

(Source: Dinamation's Field Trip Guide)



## Foundation Makes Long-term Commitment to Wildlife



The Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc. (FWC) — a partner with the Zoological Society in conservation and education efforts — has funded new projects that bear promise for wildlife here at home and abroad.

The foundation fund, established two years ago, is a non-profit organization separate from the Zoological Society. Gil Boese, Zoological Society president, is the president of the foundation. Its goal: to attract long-term funding for conservation projects through endowments, deferred gifts and major gifts.

For instance, a portion of that funding comes from an ambitious conservation program launched recently by the FWC and Miller Brewing Company. Known as Miller's Friends of the Field, the program is designed to teach and encourage outdoor-sports men and women how to have safe and satisfying nature experiences. Friends of the Field, in turn, directs its \$10 membership fee to the foundation for its wildlife conservation efforts.

Already, endangered species have benefited from the foundation's proceeds. The Bonobo, Black Rhino and Lowland Gorilla are among Africa's endangered species to benefit from the program. In Belize the Howler Monkey is a beneficiary.

Here are some examples of FWC/Friends of the Field-funded conservation projects:

### WOOD DUCK NESTING PROJECT

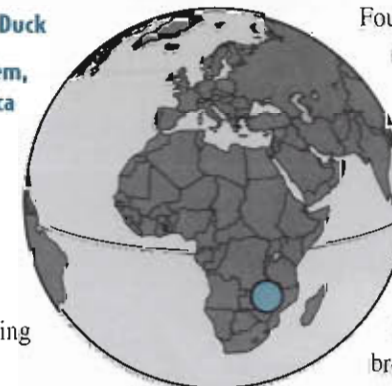
A two-part program undertaken by the Wisconsin Wetland Association seeks to create more favorable habitat in the state for waterfowl.

One segment of the project created additional nesting spaces for Wood Ducks.



Top: Wood Duck

Right: Zambesi River system, Africa



A \$30,000 Friends of the Field and FWC grant allowed the Wisconsin Waterfowl Association to purchase 2,000 cedar nesting boxes from the Veterans Administration Hospital in Milwaukee. The beautiful, multi-colored ducks place their eggs in tree cavities or nest boxes as high as 50 feet off the ground. After hatching, the chicks plummet to the ground and adapt, well, just like ducks to water.

The other portion of the Waterfowl Association's effort involves restoring wetlands on private property in southeastern and northwestern Wisconsin. The project targets small, wetland parcels known for their ability to sustain waterfowl. Working with landowners, the association helps to restore them to their original condition. As many as 200 areas could be restored under the project. The parcels range in size from as little as one-half acre to 80 or 100 acres.

In many cases, simply plugging ditches and removing drainage tiles allows the land to revert to a wetland. Aside from providing nesting sites for waterfowl and other

wildlife, the restored areas will provide rest areas for migrating birds.

### ZAMBESI RIVER SYSTEM SURVEYS

Farther afield, the FWC has funded two surveys of the Zambesi River system in southern Africa.

One project, in partnership with the International Crane

Foundation, involves studying the restoration of Marromeu, a wetland of international importance for its abundant and diverse wildlife populations. Buffalo, waterbuck, zebra and elephant all call the Marromeu home. The wetland also serves as a major breeding ground for endangered birds such as Wattle Cranes and White Pelicans.

Civil war and upstream dams have damaged the area severely, threatening both human and animal populations. The FWC is funding research that will gather data on restoring this vital area.

The FWC also has funded biological and ornithological surveys conducted by Tukuluho Wildlife Limited, an ecotourism business that operates in the Republic of Zambia, southern Africa. This area serves as a key migration route among a network of parks and wilderness areas in Zambia.

*For more information on the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc. and how to support its mission to work with the Zoological Society to continue and expand its widely respected conservation and education programming, call (414) 258-2333.*



# Other Lives, Other Worlds

## Aquatic & Reptile Center at the Milwaukee County Zoo

**R**ich Sajdak walks the floor like an expectant father in his baby's soon-to-be-completed nursery.

Sure, he allows, he wishes it were all over and the room of his dreams were finished. But as he bounds around the room — stepping over twisted metal here, kicking aside a plastic tarp there — his sense of excitement is palpable.

Over here, he gestures with a sweeping motion,

will be a new family room, one the likes of which never has been seen at the Zoo. There, behind a tarp, is where some old favorites will return.

"The whole theme here," says Sajdak, curator of the Aquatic & Reptile Center (ARC), "is to give the people the things they like the most in a better setting. And then, we want to show them some things they've never seen before."

An affable sort, Sajdak seems to love his role. He's been at the zoo since 1977, when he joined as a keeper.

"It's a lot of work," he says with a smile. "But it's interesting and I love it."

Late in winter, workers were putting the finishing touches on a \$3 million renovation of the ARC. Funding for the project, the first major facelift of the center since it opened in 1968, is being provided equally by the Zoological Society and Milwaukee County. The new ARC is scheduled to open its doors to visitors on Memorial Day.



### FISH

Visitors instantly will notice the changes. A curved walkway with a terrace and decorative pool will grace the entrance. New doors feature a nautical theme. Inside, renovations abound in exhibits and behind the scenes as well. One notable change will be updated informational graphics. The new



**Zoo maintenance worker Kevin Klatt polishes the granite sphere to float atop a water jet at the Aquatic & Reptile Center entrance. This 4,000-pound sphere, featuring a map of the world, is designed to continually rotate in different directions.**

signs and charts will aid education and satisfy the curious, Sajdak says.

Other improvements will be less noticeable, but nonetheless vital. The filtration system has been gutted and replaced. And there will be facilities to accommodate meetings and wedding receptions as well as more restrooms.

Perhaps the most stunning, and certain to be immensely popular, will be a new marine exhibit.

The exhibit, anchored by a 28,000-gallon aquarium, will be flanked by tall, cylindrical tanks. The idea, Sajdak says, is to show visitors aquatic life typical of the cold, Pacific Ocean areas of northern California and Oregon.

The main exhibit is impressive. It resembles a very steep, rocky coastline. The shallows, clad with anemones, quickly give way as the tank bottoms out at 14 feet. A bird's-eye view shows large, rounded areas at each end. This layout will allow new zoo inhabitants like small, three-foot sharks to cruise its length and make figure-eight turns, Sajdak says. He notes that sharks that swim continually in circular pools can develop physical problems.

Along with the sharks, there will be about 100 Pacific Coast fish and rays. The huge tank will require continual maintenance. Sajdak says that scuba divers will enter the tank two or three times a week to feed some residents and clean the huge salt water showplace.

Sure to be wildly popular at the exhibit is a remote-control



**Above: Puget Sound King Crab. Below, right: Timor Monitor.**

underwater camera. Visitors will be able to manipulate the camera, which has zoom and focus controls. The camera's images will be displayed on a 25-inch screen above the aquarium.

"It's pretty slick," Sajdak says. "I think that you'll see kids and adults lined up to use it."

In the cylinders that bracket the main exhibit, other marine animals will be featured. There, visitors will find a Puget Sound King Crab, a six-foot giant octopus and jellyfish.

Nearby, and also new to the Zoo, is another resident likely to draw long lines of viewers. The anaconda display will be partly submerged, allowing the huge snake to slither by land or sea.

The anaconda, also known as a water

boa, is a South American native that grows to more than 20 feet. These olive-drab snakes have skin ringed or flecked with black. They often swim in rivers and live near water.

In the wild, they eat mostly birds and small mammals. The anaconda kills by coiling tightly around its prey and suffocating and crushing it. Only the biggest ana-

condas attack large mammals. In self defense, the anaconda will bite but it is not considered venomous. They bear their young live rather than in shells.

The anaconda's enclosure, painted to resemble its tropical habitat, has a heated log for the snake to relax and uncoil on. It has a compartment beneath the rocks where the reptile can be taken off exhibit for



### REPTILES



continued on page 12



## Milk doesn't start in a carton?

Hailed by Milwaukee-area teachers as the best dairy programs for kids in the city, the Zoological Society's Discovering Dairy and Dairy Farm Delight are capping their ninth year, thanks to major support from The Dairy Council of Wisconsin.

But for educators Georgia Wright and Anne Flemming, celebrating another year's success must—at least for now—take a back burner to fueling the curiosity of youngsters with an early and obvious interest in cows and the milk kids pour over their cereal.

### DAIRY FARM DELIGHT

With able help from Zoo Pride volunteers, children in Wright's classes shop in a simulated grocery store for dairy products; touch a calf; "work" in the Munchkin Milk Factory, making and bottling milk and transporting it from the farm to the grocery store; and sample cheese, milk and ice cream.

"The idea is to give children an important dairy lesson by helping them experience dairy life for themselves," Wright said.

### DISCOVERING DAIRY

The Zoological Society takes its dairy curriculum on the road in the form of Anne Flemming, a.k.a. "cow lady." With a felt board farm game and cow rap song in tow, Flemming visits 6,000 children a year, sharing information on what makes a cow a mammal, how milk travels from cow to store, and what products are made from milk. "My visits to the school are designed to introduce the kids to what they're going



Students from Milwaukee's H.L. Palmer School sample dairy treats at the Zoo as part of the Zoological Society's school outreach dairy program, sponsored by The Dairy Council of Wisconsin.

to experience at the Zoo," Flemming says.

Once at the Zoo, the children meet the cows, watch a milking demonstration and sample ice cream at the Dairy Complex's store. "This isn't just your ordinary field trip," says Flemming. "Our program really helps the children understand the dairy process and see farm animals firsthand."

Wright, an early childhood school specialist with the Zoological Society, calls the children's experience "an example of a program that completes the circle of learning." "We prepare the children in their own class-

rooms for a trip to the Zoo, deliver a program with an education focus once they're here, and teachers follow-up the visit with additional dairy information when they return to school."

Discovering Dairy is offered each October, November, February and March and is free to all first-grade Milwaukee-area public and private school students. Call (414) 256-5421 for information on how to schedule a Discovering Dairy school program.

## Sea School

When you emerge from your underwater adventure as part of this summer's premiere of the newly renovated Aquatic & Reptile Center and Roundy's Pick 'n Save's Operation: Sea Creature, then send the kids to Sea School, an outdoor activity tent burgeoning with all things nautical.

Sea School, sponsored by Beatrice Cheese, lets kids get an up-close look at three-foot shark jaws, uncover the wonders of the ocean at a nautical rubbing station, help a baby sea turtle move from its nest to the ocean, and touch plastic starfish and sea creatures at a tidal pool.



### Care For Critters

Michelle Land introduces Daniel, a Peregrine Falcon, to children at Milwaukee's Manitoba School as part of Roundy's Pick 'n Save's Care For Critters outreach program, presented by the Zoological Society. The program, in its second year, introduces school children to seven raptors and reinforces the importance of respecting and caring for wildlife. Care For Critters travelled from Kenosha to Plymouth this semester, reaching more than 26,000 children.

### KIDS!

When you are finished reading about sea creatures on this page, get out your crayons and color the animals, just like in your coloring books.

# Alive

PULL-OUT SECTION

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY SPRING 1995

## Get ready for Roundy's Pick 'n Save's Operation: Sea Creature

In honor of the Zoo's newly renovated Aquatic & Reptile Center, the Zoological Society will present a display of robotic sea creatures from the past and present. These creatures were built by Dinamation, the people who created last summer's Destination Dinosaur exhibit. Here are some of the creatures you will be seeing this summer.

### Giant Squid

The Giant Squid lives in oceans all over the world and can be up to 100 feet long and weigh up to 4,400 pounds. Instead of teeth the Giant Squid has a raspy tongue that can shred fish and shelled animals. When the Giant Squid are in danger, they emit an inky substance to distract the predator while they escape.

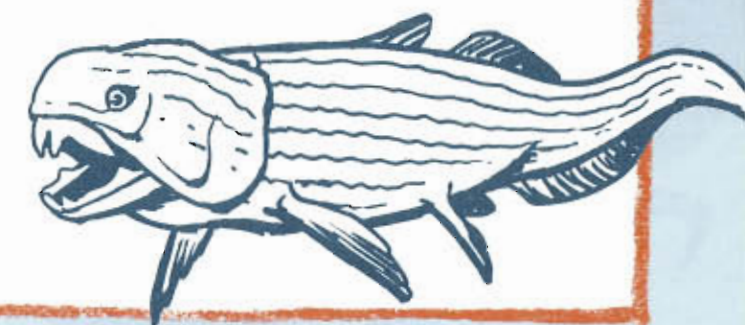
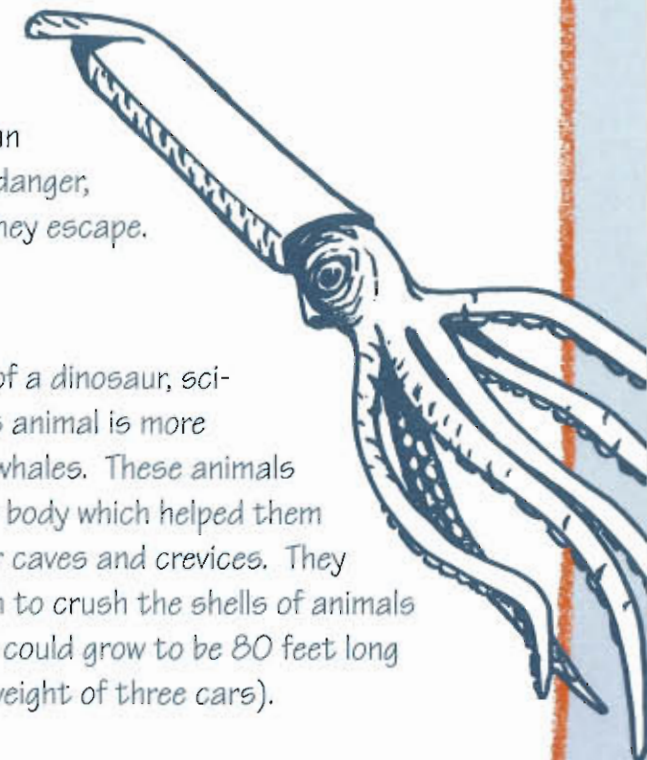
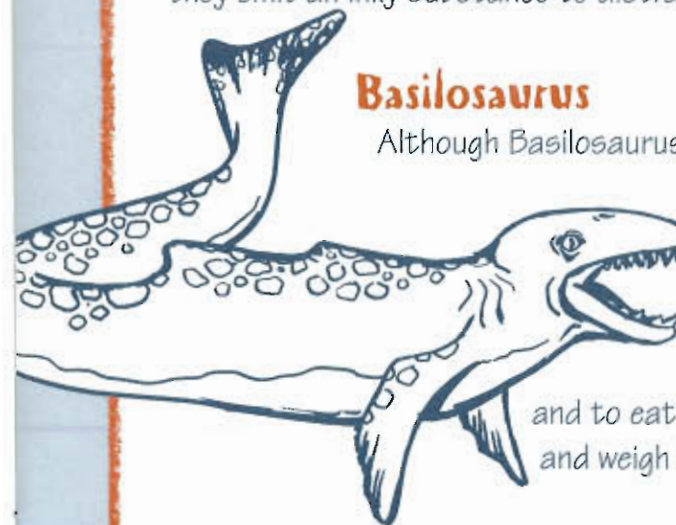
### Basilosaurus

Although Basilosaurus sounds like the name of a dinosaur, sci-

entists believe this animal is more closely related to whales. These animals had a long slender body which helped them hunt in underwater caves and crevices. They had 44 sharp teeth to crush the shells of animals and to eat fish. The Basilosaurus could grow to be 80 feet long and weigh eight tons (about the weight of three cars).

### Dunkleosteus

Long before dinosaurs walked the earth, huge Dunkleosteus fish lived in the shallow oceans that covered North America and Europe. These fish had bony armor surrounding their head and chest. By eating smaller fish, crab-like animals and even sharks, some Dunkleosteus grew to be 16 feet long, with a weight of more than 5 tons (the weight of a male African elephant).



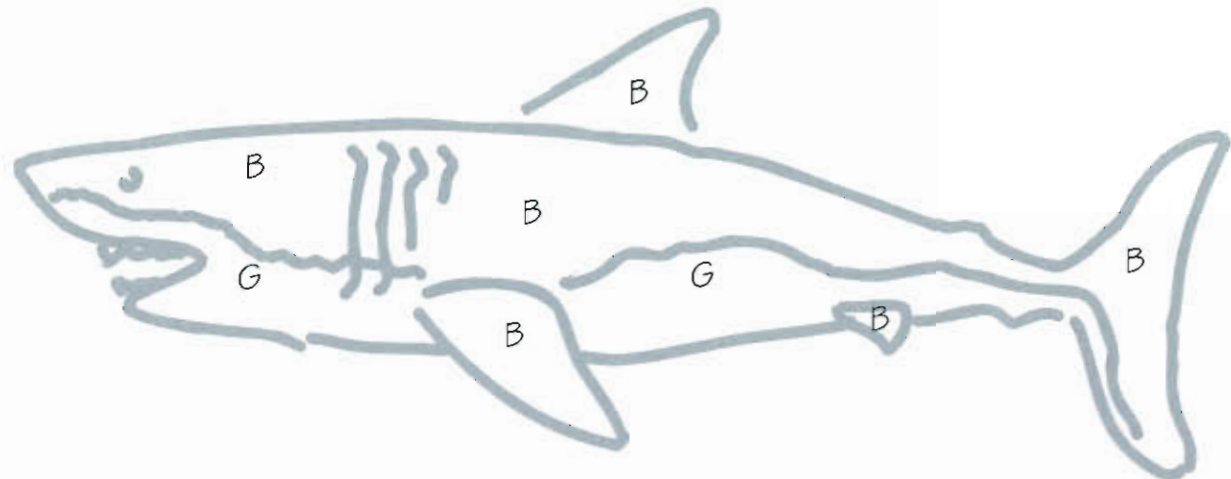


## Operation: Sea Creature

The first sharks appeared on earth during the Devonian period, 360-408 million years ago. Since then, the dinosaurs and many other animals have come and gone, but we still have sharks. Today there are about 375 species of sharks on earth. The most famous shark is the Great White. The Great White Shark is a ferocious hunter.

It eats fish, seals, sea lions and other large sea animals in tropical oceans all around the world.

In the picture below, color all the areas with a "B" dark blue and all of the areas with a "G" light gray. When you are done, name the animal you will see at Roundy's Pick 'n Save's Operation: Sea Creature at the Zoo.



## Life in the Ancient Sea

Most of what scientists know about the ancient oceans they have learned from studying fossils. Fossils can't tell us exactly what an animal or plant looked like. An animal's color and its soft parts (like eyes and fins) do not usually turn into fossils. Scientists use fossils, animals that live today and imagination to decide how ancient life looked.



## Spring Contest

Draw or paint a picture of how you think the ancient ocean creatures and plants looked. You may want to use a book about fossils or sea animals to help you.

Send your entry, on paper, no larger than 8-1/2" x 11", to

"Spring Kids Contest" Zoological Society, Education Department, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee WI 53226, by May 15.

Write your name, age and complete address on the back of your picture. Prizes will be awarded and the first-place picture will be published in the summer issue of ALIVE. We look forward to your entry.

## CURIOUS CORNER



### 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:

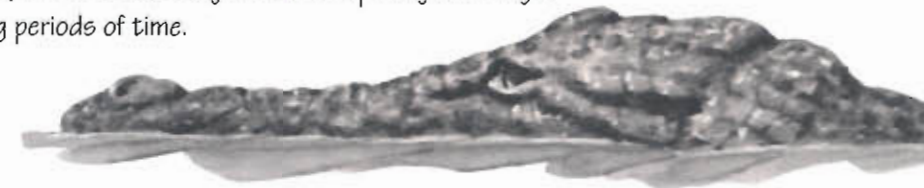
**CURIOUS CORNER-ALIVE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY 10005 W. BLUEMOUND RD. MILWAUKEE, WI 53226**

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

### HOW LONG CAN A CROCODILE STAY UNDER WATER?

Crocodiles and alligators belong to a group of animals known as crocodylians. They are both aquatic animals. However, alligators are usually found in fresh water wetlands and crocodiles are generally found in saltwater. Crocodylians spend much of their time with their bodies and tails submerged under water, but, they can still see and breathe by keeping their eyes and nostrils above the surface.

They may completely submerge themselves as they swim from one location to another, but do not usually remain completely submerged for long periods of time.



### WHY DO SNAKES SHED THEIR SKIN?

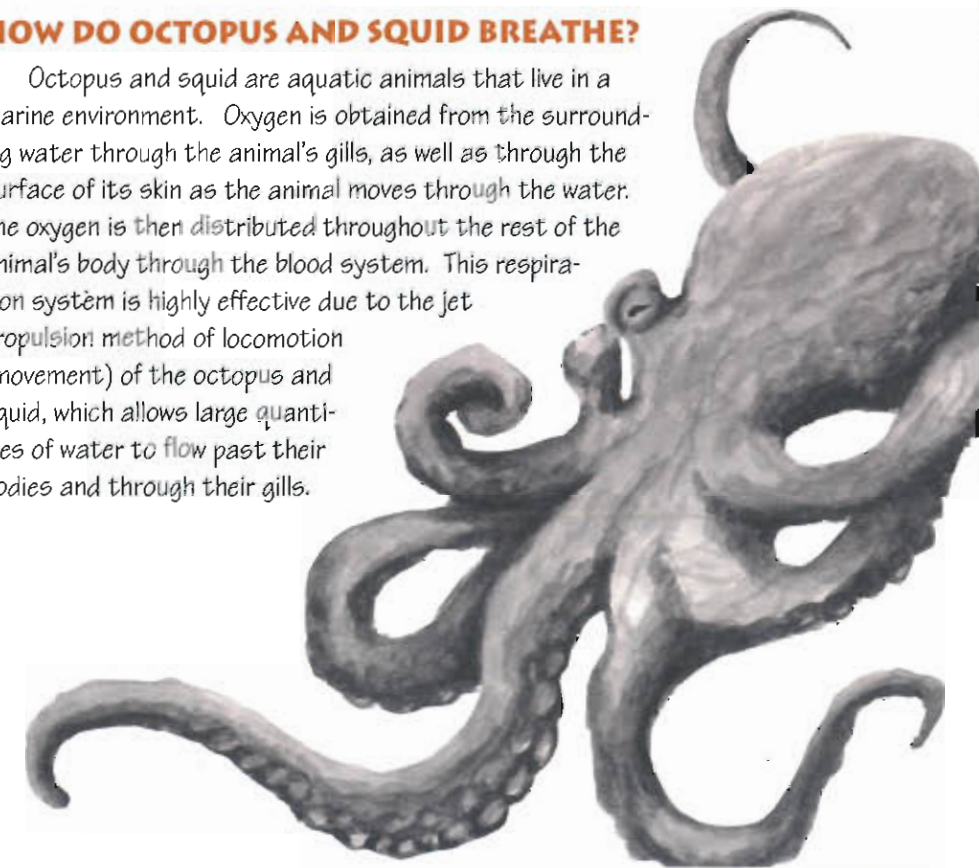
Snakes grow throughout most of their lives. As they grow, they must regularly replace their outer layer of skin in a process called shedding. Since shedding is related to growth, young snakes typically grow faster than adults and will therefore shed their skins more often.



The entire process takes several days to a week or more to complete. You can usually tell when a snake is ready to shed, because the clear scales over its eyes become a cloudy bluish-gray color.

### HOW DO OCTOPUS AND SQUID BREATHE?

Octopus and squid are aquatic animals that live in a marine environment. Oxygen is obtained from the surrounding water through the animal's gills, as well as through the surface of its skin as the animal moves through the water. The oxygen is then distributed throughout the rest of the animal's body through the blood system. This respiration system is highly effective due to the jet propulsion method of locomotion (movement) of the octopus and squid, which allows large quantities of water to flow past their bodies and through their gills.





# Education Programs

## Little Caesars presents 1995 SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMPS!

### WHAT ARE SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMPS?

Summer Adventure Camps are exciting opportunities at the Zoo for children ages 3 to 14. These half-day, full-day or multiple-day camp sessions are age appropriate and include Zoo tours, experiments, arts and crafts, and learning activities. Many camp favorites such as Junior Zookeeper, Cultural Craft Camp, Veterinary Science, and Career Camp will be offered again this summer. Plus there will be a lot of new offerings! All children will be invited to a special Summer Camp Graduation on Saturday, August 26. The average cost of a camp session is \$15. To keep the camp fees reasonable, Little Caesars is underwriting some of the costs and is also providing low-income scholarships so that everyone has the opportunity to attend camp.

### NEW THIS YEAR!

In our continuing effort to meet your needs, early drop-off and late pick-up times will be available to you for a nominal charge.

### HOW DO I GET A SUMMER CAMP BROCHURE?

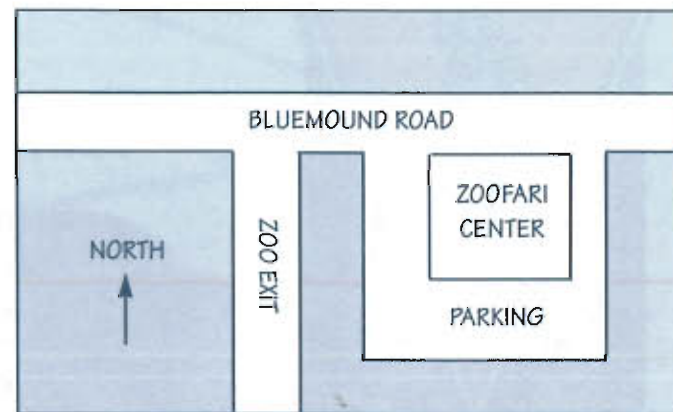
There are several options! If you have paid the \$3 annual fee to be on the education mailing list, you will receive the Summer Camp brochure in April. If you wish to be added to our education mailing list and automatically receive the upcoming summer, fall and winter brochures, send a \$3 check payable to the Zoological Society to: Education Mailing, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee WI 53226. If you only want a copy of the Summer Camp brochure, send a business-sized, self-addressed, 55¢ stamped envelope to: Summer Camps, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee WI 53226. Or, starting April 17, you can stop at the Zoological Society office and pick up a brochure.

### HOW DOES IN-PERSON REGISTRATION WORK?

In-person registration is Saturday, May 6, from 8:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. This year, it will be held at the Zoofari Conference Center, 9715 W. Bluemound Road (the building directly east of the Zoo entrance). Doors will open at 7:45 a.m. In past years approximately 80% of the camps filled at in-person registration.

Please park in the rear of the building. When that lot is filled, follow the directions of the staff to auxiliary parking. If you have a camp brochure, bring it with you; however, brochures will be available. Plan on bringing your calendar. If you need to cross check dates at

home, a pay phone is available. You must also bring your Zoological Society membership card with you for verification. You can register other families, but please have their Society membership card with you also. The Zoo Pride Hospitality Committee will sell coffee and donuts from 7:45 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Camp T-shirts, featuring a shark, will also be for sale. The cost of a T-shirt, including tax, is \$10 for youth and \$12 for adult sizes.



### HOW DOES MAIL-IN REGISTRATION WORK?

After the in-person registrations have been entered into our computer, the mail-in registrations will be processed mid-May. If you choose to register by mail, it is important that you list an alternate choice on the registration form, which is included in the camp brochure.

### WHEN CAN I FIND OUT WHAT CAMPS ARE STILL OPEN?

After in-person and mail-in registrations have been processed and before the remaining camps are announced to the public, Zoological Society members will have a final opportunity to register. During the Aquatic & Reptile Center premieres, May 23, 24 & 25, the Education Center will be open from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The education staff will be happy to assist you with registration. After May 17, you can find out the camp sessions still available by calling a 24-hour recorded message at (414)475-4636 - Topic 748.

### SPECIAL REQUEST:

Do you have a full-size electronic keyboard, in working condition, that you would like to part with? The Education Department will make good use of it at early-childhood programs and summer camps. If you have a keyboard you could donate, please call Mary at (414)256-5420, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Thank!

## SUPPORT SNAPSHOTS

### Party Animals

#### American Airlines Presents: Zoo Ball XII

This year's Zoo Ball, Saturday, June 24, invites guests to the wildest party in town, complete with cocktails and appetizers, a silent auction, an elegant sit-down dinner and dancing. Tickets to Zoo Ball are \$175 per person (\$2,500 for a corporate table). Chaired by Tom and Mary Jo Dempsey and Tim and Robin Flatley, Zoo Ball is the Zoological Society's biggest fundraising event. To make a reservation, call (414) 258-2333.



Above: Zoo Ball XII co-chairs Robin and Tim Flatley (left) and Tom and Mary Jo Dempsey intend to round up as many party animals they can fit in the Zoo for this year's ball.



Lee Kordus (right), vice president of special events for the Zoological Society's Associate Board, works with artist Marlene Doerr to sell limited-edition pins designed by Doerr to benefit the Zoological Society.

### Become a Pin Patron

This Mother's Day, show your mom you think she's special by giving her a limited-edition, numbered tiger pin created by local artist Marlene Doerr exclusively for the Zoological Society. This piece of wearable art features a tiger offset by Austrian crystals. The pins, \$100 each (a portion is tax deductible), are numbered and signed by the artist. Funds benefit the Zoological Society.

### Sponsor Spotlight

*With thanks from the Zoological Society and Milwaukee County Zoo.*

*Cave For Critters Educational Outreach Program*

**ROUNDY'S PICK 'N SAVE**

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*Zoo Ball XII*  
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Red-eyed Tree Frog



breeding purposes.

Other reptiles with remodeled homes will be the chameleons. And an amphibian display will star frogs. Not to be forgotten are the alligators, which will have the comfort of heated rocks for lounging in their enclosure.

Though much is new, Sajdak points out that long-popular exhibits from the past — Lake Wisconsin, for instance — will return with updates and improvements.

the jail's fish hatchery tanks until May.

Back inside the ARC, the Lake Wisconsin exhibit is ready for fish but for the moment, empty. Sajdak tells fans of the display to expect their favorites to return. New will be improved graphic displays and a fresh facade.

Other ARC fish and reptiles have scattered to the four winds, some as far south as a zoo in Port of Spain, Trinidad. For instance, Onassis, one of the largest freshwater turtles in the world, vacated the spot she had occupied in the Amazon River exhibit since the ARC opened. She's now in the Omaha Zoo awaiting her return here.

Big changes are in store for Onassis' homecoming. The Amazon River display will mimic that famed region with a freshly painted background, and, more important, artificial trees.

Sajdak explains that many of the old exhibit's fish, which will return for the grand reopening, rely on the Amazon's flooding

for feeding and breeding. The new display will simulate that environment.

"Flooding is so important in the Amazon," Sajdak says. "We'll try to give that feel."

Another tropical environment has had

a makeover as well. The African Lake exhibit has had its water level raised, doubling the volume. Reflecting the famed southeast African lakes of Malawi, Tanganyika and Victoria, the display will be improved by expanded graphics. A room



divider also will allow instructors to wall off the exhibit and conduct lectures on the unique freshwater lakes.

The expectant Sajdak can't wait for opening day. "It will be exciting."



Muralist Gary Dixon of the Larson Company puts the finishing touches on a mural in the newly renovated Aquatic & Reptile Center. The \$3.3 million renovation is equally funded by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Star Tortoise

For now, Lake Wisconsin residents like the musky, walleye and perch are cooling their fins at Milwaukee County House of Correction. The fish are living in



John Kowalsky helps Jack Uphill get suited up for a dive in the Zoo's new marine exhibit.

ON THE JOB John Kowalsky & Jack Uphill, Keepers, Aquatic & Reptile Center

To hear others talk about zookeepers Jack Uphill and John Kowalsky, you might think they not only care for the animals in their charge but also walk on the water that is their habitat.

"They know what they're doing; they know this place inside and out," says Aquatic & Reptile Center (ARC) Curator Rich Sajdak of the Zoo's smiling, joking, we-always-have-time-for-the-public duo. "You never have to remind them about what needs to get done. They just do it...or find a better way to do it."

To hear Jack and John tell it, though, they're just regular guys who started as keepers roughly 25 years ago and are lucky enough to still have jobs at "the most beautiful place in Milwaukee." "If you gotta work, this is the place to be," John says.

Over the years, Jack and John—keepers since 1969 and 1973—have dispatched the best possible care to the 2,500 fish, reptiles and amphibious creatures in their charge. "From crickets to iguanas, the animals always come first," says Jack.

Among the biggest challenges all the ARC keepers face this spring is learning how to do some of their jobs all over again. The newly renovated building, for instance, will feature a marine tank for the first time—complete with unfamiliar life-support mechanisms. "We've never taken care of marine fish before," John says. But in his usual glass-is-always-half-full way, adds, "We're ready for the challenge."

Come May, will the spotlight on the Zoo's new sharks and rays give way to an even wilder attraction: our very own wet-suited Fred and Barney tag team—with self-styled cleaning contraptions in tow—washing the marine tank wall?



**M**erlins, fierce little falcons with a taste for sparrows and starlings apparently feel right at home amid crowds of people and other flying objects.

"We found a nest right in the middle of downtown Duluth," researcher Susan Caley says. "It was at a busy intersection, right across from the medical center. Med

About the size of a blue jay, merlins feature steely gray, sharply pointed wings and a long, banded tail. Merlins, formerly known as the "pigeon hawks," breed on the fringes of the Northern United States and into Canada and Alaska. Their southern breeding outposts extend to Northern Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Little, however, has been recorded

# Merlin Mystique

flight helicopters landed there.

"It was the most incredibly loud and obnoxious area you could imagine. But they raised five young in the nest. The noise didn't seem to bother them at all."

Nor did it bother Caley, whose research focused on the urban breeding and nesting habits of merlins. A wildlife conservation grant from the Zoological Society, Caley points out, played an important role in gaining important information on this diminutive aerial acrobat.

The grant enabled Caley to buy a spotting scope that allowed her to peer into the nest from a distance comfortable enough for both Caley and the merlins.

"The scope made my observations so much easier," Caley says. "I could observe much, much more about the bird's behavior."

about the bird's tendency to set up house-keeping in cities. Several questions remained. Which bird, male or female, was responsible for defending the nest? Which one hunted and brought back food for the young?

Caley, whose research served as the basis of her graduate work at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, recorded her observations of the breeding habits of urban merlins in the spring and summer of 1994.

What Caley found suggests that merlins have found city life to their liking. She estimates that within the last 10 years, the urban merlin population in cities

like Duluth, Superior and Ashland have been increasing. She found that the number of urban merlin nests in the three cities had increased from five in 1993 to



photos courtesy of Susan Caley

seven in 1994.

"It seems like a fairly recent event," she says. "But they are finding plenty of food and nesting sites. And they seem to acclimate themselves readily to cities and people."

Caley began her observations in early April as the merlins laid eggs and began rearing their young. She kept the nests under surveillance until May.

Preferring to leave the building to others, merlins show a predilection for abandoned crow's nests. The abundance of crows in cities, Caley notes, leaves merlins with a wide array of housing choices.

Some merlins flew away as Caley approached their nests. Others allowed Caley to creep within 50 feet of them for her observations.

Cities, it turns out, present a super-

market of sorts for merlins. Caley found that the ubiquitous house sparrow is a staple of the merlin's diet. Also, young starlings, another urban dweller, also appear on the merlin's menu. Merlins also were observed dining on small mammals and dragonflies.

Merlins, like their relative the Peregrine falcon, generally attack their prey in flight. Caley noticed that after a merlin snatched a sparrow from the air, the falcon perched near its nest on a so-called "plucking post." There, the merlin snapped the bird's neck and shredded its prey into bite-size chunks for its young.

Female merlins, Caley found, spent a majority of their time in the nest, incubating

This female merlin stretches her wings as she prepares for a twilight flight.

eggs and caring for their young. The males did most of the hunting.

Caley also noted that both males and females shared responsibility for defending their nest. Crows, blue jays and Ring-billed seagulls all prey on merlin eggs and their young.

"That was an interesting finding," she says. "The females are really active in the defense of the nest area, probably more so than I had expected. They're very tenacious, extremely defensive of their nests."

Caley, 27, is using her research for a master's thesis. An instructor at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, she plans to pursue a doctoral degree on the effect of environmental toxins on birds.

She hopes that researchers continue to study urban merlins. For, despite the increase in the number of urban nests in the last two years, Caley notes that the number of birds that fledged had dropped.

"It seems like there might be an increase in their population, but there needs to be more long-term study to demonstrate population growth."



Above: This 12-day-old nestling gets an identification band. Right: Researcher Sue Caley records merlin habitat data.

## GEOGRAPHY



**T**he twin ports of Duluth-Superior occupy the western end of Lake Superior, the largest of the Great Lakes. Known for its harsh, seemingly endless winters, the region's sometimes unforgiving climate is more than offset by its natural beauty and an abundance of wildlife. Hardwood and vast pine forests studied with pristine lakes surround the cities.

The metropolitan area is a regional hub and home to about 200,000 people. Much of the city of Duluth perches on a bluff that rises 600 to 800 feet above Lake Superior.





# Platypus Society

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THOMAS E. DYER  
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quality-of-life asset for all of Wisconsin."

"As a member of the Platypus Society for the past three years, I've enjoyed the opportunity to support the Zoological Society's work firsthand. The educational and outreach programs are especially worthwhile, introducing thousands of young people to the importance of wildlife and our environment. And the Society's partnership with the Milwaukee County Zoo helps to maintain the Zoo as a first-class tourist attraction and a real

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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 February 17, 1995:

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The Zoological Society welcomes the following new Platypus Society members as of February 17, 1995:

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The Zoological Society thanks the following members for their increased levels of giving:

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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 Patty Cadorin (414) 276-0843.





## ◀ Marabou Stork

(African Watering Hole)

Hatched: December 31, 1994

If you've seen the movie *Forrest Gump*, you'll understand where this little guy got its name. Gump is an awkward, but lovable chick with a definite affinity for shrimp (though its meals for the moment are fish, mice and a specially formulated bird of prey diet). After six days of rearing by its parents in the Zoo's winter quarters, Gump had become lethargic and cold to the touch. Keepers immediately transferred Gump to the aviary for emergency treatment and is being hand reared there by keepers who wear face masks and gloves to prevent imprinting on humans. Hardly a culinary critic, Gump doesn't much care how he gets his food, as long as he gets it. In the month since he was taken from his parents his weight multiplied more than 33 times. Gump is the first Marabou Stork to hatch at our Zoo.

Source: Karen Grzybowski, Zookeeper, Aviary

## Black and Yellow Poison Dart Frog ▶

(Aquatic & Reptile Center)

Arrived: February, 1995

If you kiss this frog, you won't get a prince but you might get sick. Secretions from glands in the skin of most Poison Dart frogs are highly toxic. In fact, at least one of the 50+ species of this frog is so toxic that if you touched it and then put your finger in your mouth, you would probably die. Amazon natives have used the secretions of some species of this frog to poison darts, hence their name. Also, what makes these South American rainforest-dwelling frogs different from the familiar, common green frogs is that Poison Dart frogs lay their eggs on land. When tadpoles emerge from the eggs, they shimmy onto their parents' backs and are then carried to water. "Water" is often no more than the reservoir base of a bromeliad plant. Full-grown frogs are less than 2" long, and in the wild, they live on a diet of mostly ants. In the Zoo, they eat newborn crickets and fruit flies.

Source: Rich Sajdak, Curator, Aquatic & Reptile Center



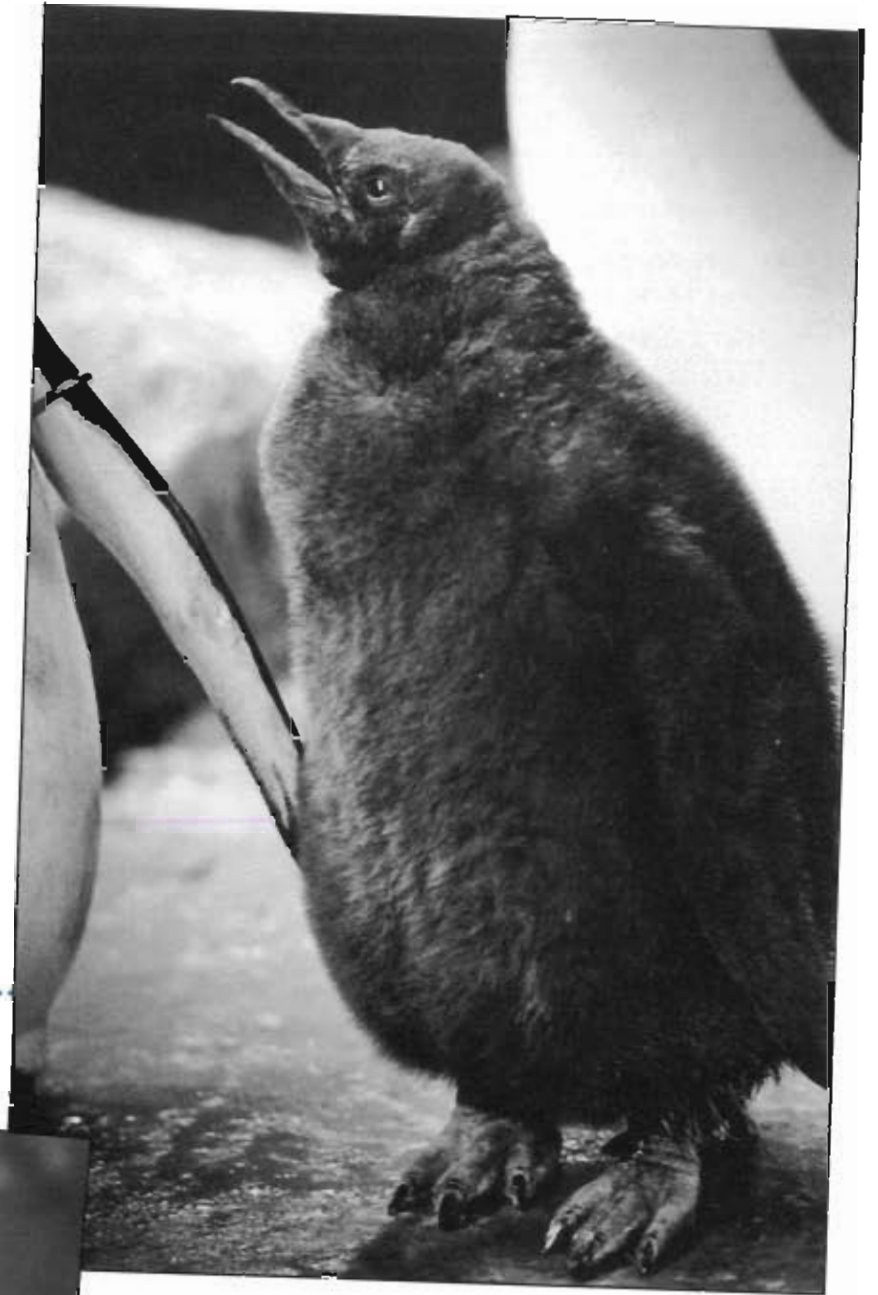
## King Penguin ▶

(Aviary)

Hatched: December 6, 1994

Things in the aviary's penguin exhibit haven't been the same since the December 6th hatching of Nick, the first King Penguin to hatch at our Zoo. Nick is being raised by his parents (and all of the other male and female "mama-wanna-be" penguins), which makes him extra-special. Many captive King Penguin chicks are hand reared. Oddly, penguin chicks don't swim. It's not that they can't. But their first couple sets of feathers are not waterproof; and if they did dip into the icy water of the sub-Antarctic latitudes from which they hail, we'd probably lose them to hypothermia.

Source: Karen Grzybowski and Mary Jo Willis, Zookeepers, Aviary



## ◀ African Bush Squirrels

(Small Mammal Building)

Arrived: November 7, 1994

All it took was a bright light and a little commotion to coax these curious rodents - thought to be shy - out of their nesting log. These tree dwellers, miniatures of our common American tree squirrels, are found in the forests of eastern and southern Africa. They subsist on fruit, seeds and nuts; and our Zoo adds to the menu chicken scratch, rabbit pellets, rodent chow

and monkey chow. Of course, keepers have their fingers crossed for offspring sometime soon. Think they'll be nuts for each other?

Source: John Wightman, Area Supervisor, Small Mammals







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