

Alive



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



If you haven't had a chance to visit the Zoo for **Wisconsin Electric's Bears: Imagination and Reality** exhibit, don't delay... the exhibit leaves Milwaukee May 4. Bears, the first winter exhibit in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building, does an excellent job helping us separate bear myths from the science of these beautiful animals. Bear dens, grizzly and black bear mounts and a giant teddy-bear couch make this free exhibit a must-see. We thank Wisconsin Electric/A Wisconsin Energy Company for its sponsorship of an exhibit that already has proved its popularity among children and adults.

More family fun and activities are in store this summer, starting in June, when a clever traveling exhibit on bats will fill the special exhibits building. **Ameritech's Bats: Masters of the Night** will invite you to enter the mysterious world of the bat, an important albeit under-appreciated animal. If you miss the exhibit premiere during our annual members' picnic, you can catch it through September 27.

Also this summer, we'll unveil a new bird-watching deck, funded by the Derse Family Foundation, on Lake Evinrude and plan to premiere the new outdoor **Wong Family Pheasantry** late summer. We'll have more to share about both projects in the next issue of *Alive*.

The Zoological Society now has a **Web site** where you can renew with us on-line. Later this year it will feature animal information, children's activities and more (visit us at www.zoosociety.org, but remember our site is still under construction). Read more about our Web site in the April issue of *Wild Things* newsletter.

Finally, you know that a new **North American river otter exhibit will open in October**, thanks to our members' terrific support of the Society's Annual Appeal. If you still haven't contributed and would like to help, please see page F in the pullout section of this magazine. Thank you, as always, for your support.

Gil Boese, Ph.D., 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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In a daring venture into the heart of Africa's Congo Basin, researchers on a Zoological Society of Milwaukee expedition map a route to start a survey of the rare bonobo, one of the least-known and most endangered great apes. A bonobo survey will help determine their chances for survival in the wild.
- 8 **UDDERLY NEW FOR THE MUNCHKINS**
Children can learn more about farming, nutrition and the dairy industry, thanks to some updated and creative new exhibits in the Zoo's Stackner Heritage Farm.
- 12 **BAT-TLING A BAD RAP**
Enter the mysterious world of the bat, a most beneficial and endangered creature that has been maligned by myth. Come to the Milwaukee County Zoo in June to discover the value and skills of this little-appreciated mammal in the clever and fun traveling exhibit **Ameritech's Bats: Masters of the Night**. The exhibit runs June 13 through Sept. 27.

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FRONT COVER

"Apollo," Milwaukee County Zoo straw-colored fruit bat

In Quest of a Rare Ape

They were on an expedition to find the rarest and least known of the great apes, the bonobo. They were headed up a river filled with hippos and crocodiles into a remote African rain forest harboring disease-carrying mosquitoes. It might be a month or more before they could contact the outside world.

Back in Milwaukee, Dr. Gay Reinartz waited anxiously to get news. She had set up this reconnaissance expedition to see if it were even possible to mount a population survey of bonobos in the wilds of Salonga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire).

Reinartz, conservation coordinator for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (which funded this expedition), had traveled to the young nation of Congo in December to lay diplomatic and logistical groundwork for

the survey project. With the help of US Rep. Tom Barrett (D-Milwaukee, shown below with Reinartz and bonobos at the zoo), she received US embassy assistance, formed a collaboration with Congolese government officials, and met with the survey team.

Now the team — including primate researcher Ellen Van Krunkelsven of the University of Antwerp in Belgium and Congolese researcher Inogwabini Bila-Isia — were in a wooden dugout canoe on the Congo River heading 250 miles into the heart of Africa.

If anything went wrong, it would take them much traveling even to reach the nearest shortwave radio.

Two weeks went by. Three. No word. Safety was uppermost in Reinartz's mind — not only of the researchers but also of the park's bonobos. The 9-million-acre Salonga is the only protected park in the world for bonobos, and yet, ironically, no one knows whether bonobos actually reside there in significant numbers. Furthermore, no one knows how many bonobos exist in the wild. There could be as few as 5,000 or as many as 50,000.

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December was a noteworthy month for conservation coordinator Gay Reinartz. First of all, she returned safely from a taxing trip to an African country in the throes of political change; she was there

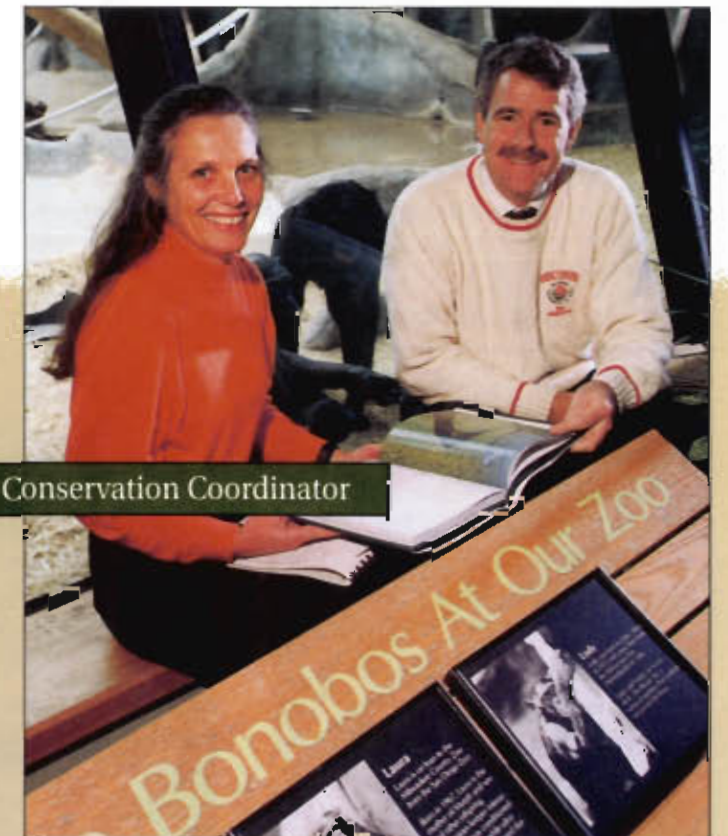
ON THE JOB Gay Reinartz, Zoological Society Conservation Coordinator

to plan a research mission into the rain forest of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Secondly, she completed a study on the genetic diversity of wild-born captive bonobos.

Genetics was one of the last fields this wildlife enthusiast thought she would pursue. "I got a D in my first genetics class," she says. "I was never interested in genetics until I learned that it applied to wildlife conservation.

"Genetics is a critical part of conservation," she explains. "When animal populations become very small and fragmented, they lose genetic diversity. This means that animals in the population become more and more alike genetically. The species is less able to adapt to changing environments. Think of a new disease spreading through a population. In a large population, there may be a few animals in 10,000 that have a gene resistant to the disease. But if you suddenly have fewer animals, there's a risk that the few guys with the resistant gene won't be around."

Her background in genetics was the impetus for Reinartz becoming species coordinator for the Bonobo Species Survival Plan 10 years ago and then going on to complete a Ph.D. in population genetics from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



Reinartz traveled to the Congo to plan a reconnaissance expedition and test the possibility of doing a bonobo census in a mostly unexplored rain forest (see accompanying story). It was extremely challenging to send a small group of researchers into a very remote area where few scientists have ever ventured. But the team returned safely after finding significant evidence of bonobos.

Now the real work of the survey begins. Reinartz, who has worked for the Zoological Society for 14½ years and is married to Dr. Jim Reinartz, a wetland ecologist who heads the UWM Field Station in Saukville, knows that determining how many bonobos remain in the wild and where they roam is key to their survival.



The expedition team that went in search of bonobos: (left to right) Congolese researcher and survey leader Inogwabini Bila-Isia; primate researcher and reconnaissance coordinator Ellen Van Krunkelsven of the University of Antwerp in Belgium; Dirk Draulans, Ellen's companion; and Innocent, the car driver.

A survey was long overdue. Bonobos are found only in Congo. Several times in the past political unrest had interrupted attempts to survey the Salonga. Scientific data about the status of bonobos in the park would affect preservation efforts directly. The Salonga was set up to protect bonobos. But was it doing so? Were there enough bonobos there to enable the species to survive?

Time may be running out for the bonobo, which is a "cousin" to the chimpanzee but has a more peaceful and egalitarian social structure. Like the chimpanzee, the bonobo is very closely related to humans, and yet humans have been the main threat to its survival. Its habitat has been lost to logging, mining and agriculture. It has been hunted for food and for the pet trade, despite its protected status under Congolese law. Few people know how endangered the bonobo is.

Among conservationists, concern for bonobos became so great that in the early '90s a conservation action plan was called for. In 1995 the Zoological Society of Milwaukee published this critical

document, which recommended surveys of bonobos in the wild as the highest conservation priority. Surveys enable us to estimate accurately how many bonobos there are, where they exist and the kind of habitat they need. And once you have a census, you can monitor how fast the bonobo population is decreasing.

So for Reinartz, who is species coordinator of the North American Species Survival Plan for bonobos, the Salonga expedition was the logical first step.

After four weeks, she finally got word from the research team. They had gone part way up the river, to the village of Watshi-Nkengo.

There they had met with the park's conservateur (warden), who with his staff joined them on the reconnaissance into the Salonga.

They looked for signs of bonobos, such as resting nests, food remains and footprints. They used a global positioning system (donated by Magellan Products), a satellite-linked mapping device, to map the exact geographic location of bonobo nests, etc.

"Our mission was successful," said Reinartz. "Evidence of bonobos consistently was found along various routes." And the expedition's goal of evaluating travel logistics also was met. Even though travel was difficult, the team determined that it would be possible to do a larger, more intensive, 12- to 18-month survey.

Now Reinartz and Dr. Gil Boese, president of the Zoological Society, are planning the main bonobo survey, which may start as soon as this summer. Congolese conservation biologists will be trained to do the survey and thereby be prepared to do future censuses of bonobos throughout the forests of the Congo basin. Thus the Zoological Society will work with the Congolese government to help it protect part of the country's rich natural heritage.

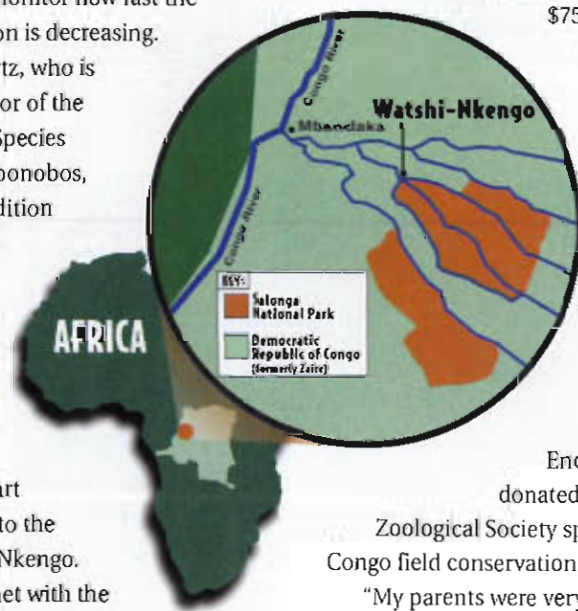
Boese and Reinartz are seeking funds for the survey. The Columbus Zoo in Ohio has donated \$1,000 for supplies. And major support comes from a

\$75,000 endowment from the estate of a Milwaukee couple who were concerned about animals and the environment.

The Roland and Florence Schroeder Cron Endowment Fund

donated the money to the Zoological Society specifically for Congo field conservation projects.

"My parents were very environmentally interested. They felt that the best way to help animals was to preserve their habitat," said Judi Friedman, daughter of the late



A pirogue, or dugout canoe made from a single tree, twice as large as this one carried the research team 250 miles into the interior of Congo.



Footprints like this one indicated the presence of bonobos in the Salonga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire).



A fishing village along the Congo River.

Roland and Florence Cron and administrator of their fund. Friedman, of Canton, Conn., was born in Milwaukee, where her father was a physician who helped raise money to bring new animals to the Zoo. Her mother (the daughter of Fred Schroeder, who had a large lumber business in Milwaukee) was very interested in species survival.

So does the bonobo have a possibility of surviving in the wild? With supporters such as Friedman, Reinartz, and the Zoological Society, along with the determination of the Congolese, chances are improving. 🐾

CARING FOR BONOBOS

In 1997, the bonobo world got a book on how to make the most of life in captivity. Thanks to an effort spearheaded by Gay Reinartz and James Mills, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee financed and published a detailed manual for the care and management of captive bonobos.

Reinartz is species coordinator of the Bonobo Species Survival Plan, a program in which zoos and animal centers work together to manage various groups of bonobos as one population. Mills is conservation program assistant for the Zoological Society.

The husbandry manual contains bonobo birth and development data, behavioral norms (so keepers can tell if bonobos are doing well), and health-care and exhibit design recommendations. The manual also includes a section on the successful bonobo training and enrichment program at the Milwaukee County Zoo, which has provided important data on bonobo reproduction and health (to be described in a future issue of *Alive*). The Zoo has 9 bonobos (a 10th may arrive this spring), including the oldest captive bonobo in the world, Kitty, 47.

There are 138 bonobos living in zoos or animal centers in various parts of the world, and the manual has been distributed to all bonobo holders worldwide. In North America these include zoos in Cincinnati, Columbus, Fort Worth, Jacksonville, San Diego and Mexico (the Morelia Zoo and Zoofari) as well as Yerkes Regional Primate Center and the Language Research Center, both in Atlanta. In addition, the manual went to members of the European Endangered Species Programme and to two sanctuaries for orphaned infant bonobos in the Congo.

UDDERLY NEW FOR THE MUNCHKINS

Where do three out of every four Zoo visitors always stop? Where is one of the last licensed milking herds in Milwaukee County? Where will

you find cows and computers in close partnership? Where can city kids go to learn about milking?

The Zoo's Stackner Heritage Farm, of course. You knew that.

But did you know that the Milwaukee County Zoo's popular milk and dairy farm exhibits at the farm are undergoing major renovations? Thanks to grants from The Piper Jaffray Companies Foundation of Minneapolis, Sargento Foods Inc. of Plymouth (Wis.) and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, the dairy farm is getting some creative and high-tech ways to teach about farming, nutrition and dairy products.

"Many urban children have lost contact with farming," says Mary Thiry, the Society's director of education. "We can help provide that experience through the farm and these exhibits."

Opening this month is a new and improved Munchkin Dairy farm and milk factory, thanks to the grant from Piper Jaffray, a regional investment firm with offices in Milwaukee. Preschoolers will walk through a new entryway, with parts of it colorfully painted by other children, into a child-size farm and factory, where they'll learn about milk production and distribution.

Among the new parts of this miniature dairy is a talking cow that dispenses fun facts

about the dairy industry and how milk is processed. A new silo exhibit explains what cows eat: a mixture of grains called silage, which ferments and becomes moist while being stored inside a silo.

"The Munchkin Dairy still includes the always-popular milk delivery truck and hulk tank truck for kids to ride on," Thiry adds.

Just steps away, visitors will notice a new Meet-the-Cow exhibit - now under construction - that will be unveiled in June to celebrate Dairy Month. The renovation, funded by Sargento Foods Inc., is the exhibit's first since it opened 12 years ago and will feature enhanced interactive graphics to teach visitors about a cow from skull to udder.

A touch-screen computer, geared toward 5- to 7-year-old children, will invite youngsters to learn more about three aspects of the dairy industry. The first portion will quiz kids on what makes a cow a cow. Another will show how milk travels from the cow to your table. The final part will explain milk products such as cheese and how much milk goes into them. "The program is geared toward small children," Thiry says. "But the whole family will enjoy it."

Sargento Foods also provides funds for Dairy Farm Delight, a winter program aimed at schoolchildren ages 4 through 7. In February more than 1,000 kindergartners and first-graders learned the story of milk from the cow to the grocery store. "This program allows kids to get a taste of the country while

learning about animals and farming," Thiry says. The children have a chance to taste dairy products, play in a child-size dairy and grocery store, and pet a calf.

"The calf is often the star of the show," she says.

The Zoo's dairy barn is valuable because kids can see all of the major milking cows: Holstein, Golden Guernsey, Brown Swiss, Jersey, Ayrshire

and Milking Shorthorns, she adds. They can watch a cow being milked. And in summer they can taste one of their favorite milk products: ice cream at the barn's dairy counter.

On the more high-tech side, computer games enhance dairy education in the Healthy Bone exhibit, the Moo to You exhibit, and the newly renovated Dairy Olympics game.

Golden Guernsey's Dairy Olympics challenges visitors to race against a computer in a contest of nutrition knowledge. Golden Guernsey also funded the Healthy Bone, which focuses a child's attention on the importance of calcium as he or she plays a magical game of building a healthy skeleton. And the Moo to You computer game zeroes in on milk production, thanks to

grants from Land O' Lakes and the Dairy Council of Wisconsin.

Remember also to stop at the big, green Wisconsin-shaped exhibit called Discovering Wisconsin, provided by Firststar Milwaukee Foundation. There you can test yourself on just how much you know about the state tree, state animals, agriculture and other outdoors facts.

The Zoological Society paid half of the cost of building the Dairy Complex, which opened in 1986 as part of the New New Zoo capital campaign. Since then, the Society and its grantors have continued to pay for the maintenance and upgrading of exhibits and the addition of computers.

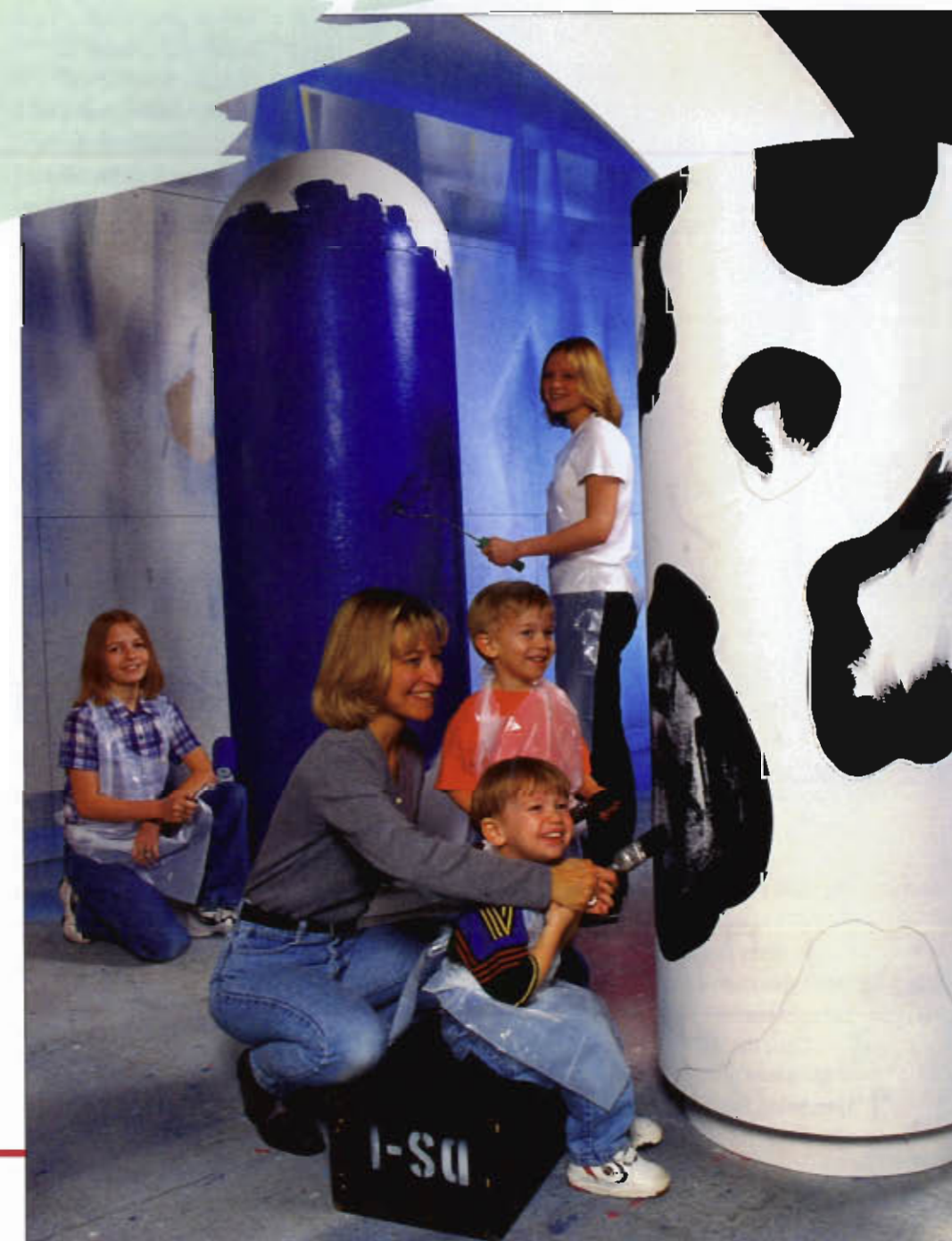
In addition, the Society creates and teaches all of the educational programs at the Zoo. The hands-on exhibits in the Dairy Complex combined with live cows and calves make the job of teaching about animals much easier. Corporate sponsors in this great dairy state are important partners, says Thiry. "It's a natural fit for us to promote programs and industries that provide jobs in the state."



The Mark Mekler family help put the finishing touches on the new entrance to the renovated Munchkin Dairy in the Stackner Heritage Farm. The exhibit, funded by Piper Jaffray Companies Foundation, opens April 15.



Kindergartners from Milwaukee's Hi-Mount School shop for dairy products and staff the checkout counters as part of a Zoological Society hands-on dairy education program called Dairy Farm Delight, sponsored by Sargento Foods Inc.



TECHNO-HUT TEACHINGS

Four-year-olds on computers? Yes, it's a fun way to learn about animals and the environment. And thanks to a grant from Firststar Milwaukee Foundation, the Zoological Society now has a preschool classroom equipped with computers in a cozy nook designed to look like an African hut.

Firststar Techno-Hut, as it is called, is a rounded, cloth-covered dwelling with animals on the roof and two "water jugs" filled with tall grasses out front. Inside are child-size chairs with animal backs, an animal wall mural painted by kids and three computers with CD-ROMs that show how various animals move and even let kids hear what sounds animals make.

Just as research has shown that learning music or a second language comes easier if you start early, learning to use computers before starting school can give kids an edge.

"Two years ago we added computers as part of a Living and Learning Science Lab for older children, last year we added a computer unit for family workshops in our Family Animal & Environmental Exploration Center, but this is the first time that we've been able to provide such technology to this younger age group," says Mary Thiry, the Zoological Society's education director. "We're very excited about this venture. "Firststar's Techno-Hut will be open year-round, and an average of 400 children per month will use its computers."



Ayzia Wilson, Kyle Singer and Dominique Jones enjoy animal computer programs in the new Firststar Techno-Hut within the Zoological Society's Education Center at the Zoo.

EDZOOICATION

The new computers will be incorporated into Zoological Society animal-science workshops and summer camps for preschoolers.

For example, 4- and 5-year-olds in a Playful Penguins class could go to the computers and view all the types of penguins in the world, what they eat and where they

live in the wild. They could learn that the flightless birds are torpedo-shaped so that they can swim faster in search of food or to escape other animals. "A penguin CD-ROM could give them an idea of what sounds a penguin makes," Thiry says.

Then the children would visit the Milwaukee County Zoo's penguins (King, Humboldt, Rockhopper and Adelie) and

compare them to what they saw on the computer. "The computer information will help focus the children's attention so that when they go to look at the real thing they'll be able to gain more knowledge," adds Thiry.

OTHER NEW ADDITIONS for the Zoological Society's preschooler education program include "Tadpole" classes for 2-year-olds.

"We've always tried to provide an educational experience for younger children (ages 3 to 6) at the Zoo," Thiry says, "and we had some interest from members in classes for children under age 3." So, for the first time this March, we offered a Tadpoles class, this one on turtles. For this class, a parent brought a 2-year-old for a one-hour workshop in which the child got to don a turtle costume, discover what it's like to hide in a shell and do a turtle dance.

For our Summer Adventure Camps, sponsored by CompCare, we'll offer Tadpoles classes on cats. On three Saturdays (June 13, July 25 and Aug. 15), there will be two morning Tadpoles sessions.

And speaking of cats, "Zooie," the cat who served as the mascot for Zoological Society

EdZooication programs, has retired, Thiry reports. A contest was held in January to name the kitten who is succeeding him, and the winner was Brandon Motzel, age 4, of Waukesha, who chose the fitting name of Ed (for EdZooication). Ed now is in training for his new duties, starting with our fall workshops.

KIDS!

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

Alive

pullout pages

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY SPRING 1998

for kids and families

African Animals

Take a safari with us to the fascinating continent of Africa. Visit animals from Africa's three main habitats: desert, grassland (also called savanna), and tropical rain forest. You can see all three of these animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

OSTRICH

Talk about a big bird! Males grow 6 to 9 feet tall and can weigh up to 350 pounds (females are 5 to 6 feet tall and weigh up to 200 pounds). And boy is it fast! In the grasslands and semideserts where it lives, the ostrich can run 20 mph and, if frightened, sprint to 45 mph. Not only is it the world's biggest bird, but it also is long-lived, sometimes living more than 40 years. The ostrich, sometimes found in sparsely wooded areas, grazes on plants, but captive ostriches have swallowed everything from gloves to a clock.



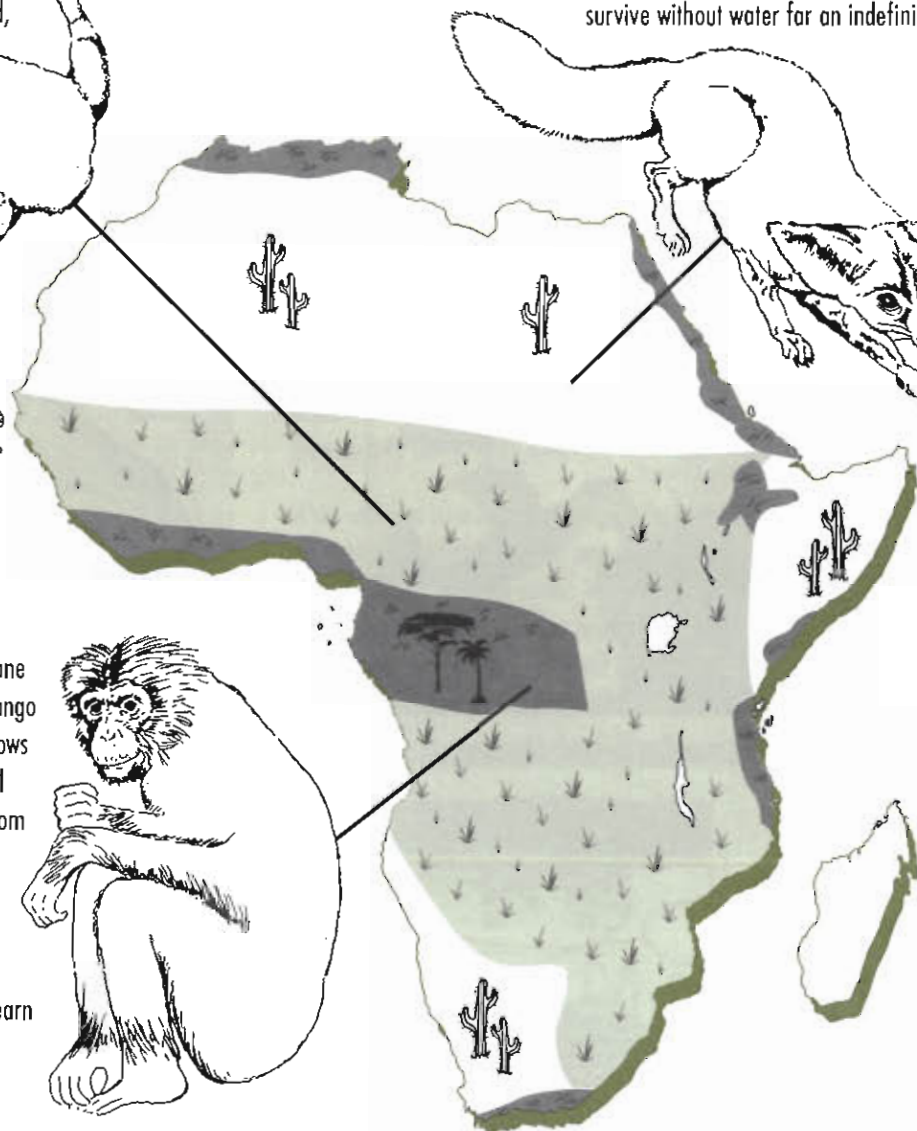
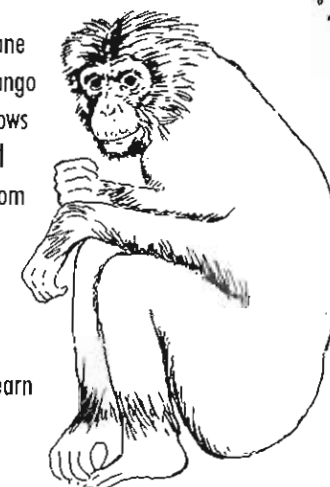
FENNEC FOX

Found in the desert zone of northern Africa, they usually live in long burrows in the sand. These foxes are the smallest member of the canis family (the same family dogs are in). They eat plants, small rodents, birds and their eggs, lizards and insects (including locusts). They can survive without water for an indefinite time.



BONOBO

Bonobos, the rarest of the great apes, live only in one place in the world: the central African country of Congo (formerly Zaire). They are endangered. No one knows how many are left in the wild. They live in tropical rain forests and eat mainly ripe fruit gathered from the canopy (top) of the forest in morning and late afternoon. At midday bonobos often come down to the shaded forest floor to look for fallen fruit or young shoots and grasses. (Look for a story on an African search for bonobos in this magazine. And learn about the Zoo's school for bonobos in the summer issue of Alive.)



Here are the winners of our Making Winter "Bearable" poster contest for children ages 3 to 13. In the winter issue of *Alive*, we asked you to draw a poster of whatever Making Winter "Bearable" meant to you. The contest celebrates an indoor traveling exhibit at the Milwaukee County Zoo called "Bears: Imagination & Reality." Sponsored by Wisconsin Electric/A Wisconsin Energy Co., the exhibit runs Feb. 2 through May 3 in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building. So you still have a few weeks to see this free exhibit. Meanwhile, enjoy these drawings by kids (in some cases we used only part of a poster, so we would have room to run more of the best drawings).

MAKING WINTER BEARABLE



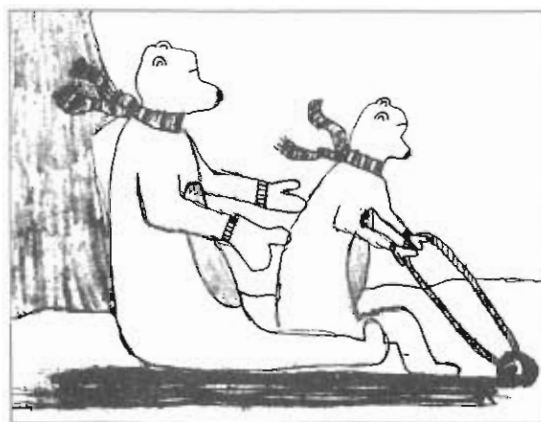
Steven Homer, 8,
Menomonee Falls



Elisabeth Lex, 11,
River Hills



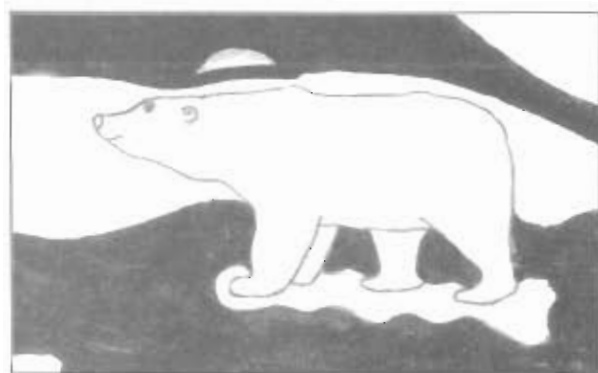
Rachel
Mulder, 12,
Fredonia



Erin McCabe,
11,
New Berlin



Katrina Schnell, 7, Donges Bay School, Mequon



Sanchez Conly, 10,
Green Bay Ave. School,
Milwaukee

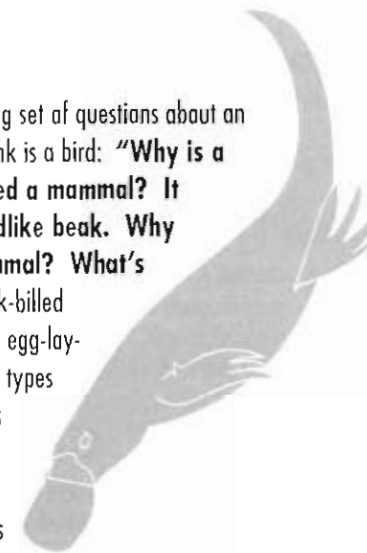


Vanessa Dulka, 11,
Muskego

CURIOUS CORNER

Kayla Knilans, Age 11
Whitewater

Dear Kayla,
You have asked an interesting set of questions about an animal that some people think is a bird: "Why is a duck-billed platypus called a mammal? It lays eggs, and has a birdlike beak. Why isn't a bird called a mammal? What's the difference?" The duck-billed platypus is a monotreme, an egg-laying mammal. There are two types of monotremes, the platypus and the echidna (spiny anteater). Although monotremes are classified as mammals, they are different from all other mammals in that they lay leathery shelled eggs that are incubated and hatched outside the body of the mother. However, the duck-billed platypus has all the other major mammalian features, including mammary glands (to feed milk to their young). The front of the skull and the lower jaw form a soft, rubbery bill-like structure, which is different than a bird's beak. The major difference between birds and mammals is that birds have feather-covered bodies and mammals have fur or hair.



Emery Gould, Age 8

Great question: "How do you feed the vampire bats?" According to Betsy from the Small Mammals building, we have about 40 vampire bats. They are fed cows' blood (we get from a stockyard). First, a zookeeper puts the blood into glass tubes like those used in cages for pet birds. Then she warms the blood by

placing the tubes in a container of warm water. Because vampire bats are rather shy creatures, a zookeeper knocks on the small door of the bats' enclosure, then lifts the door and carefully places the tubes of blood into tube holders. The tiny bats then lap up the blood using their tongues. You can learn more about bats in June when a new traveling exhibit called "Ameritech's Bats: Masters of the Night" comes to the Zoo.

Andrew Fotsch, age 7
Brookfield, WI



"Do animals that hibernate in the wild hibernate at the Zoo?" you asked. John from the bears area at the Zoo said that a few of the bears hibernate, or sleep, for most of the winter: the Alaskan brown bears, the grizzlies and the North American black bears. The Zoo's two Himalayan black bears and two polar bears do not hibernate. From August through November, zookeepers fatten up the bears that hibernate by giving them more fish and occasionally nuts and bread. Around Thanksgiving, when the bears' appetites generally decrease, zookeepers place bales of straw into a den (a holding area off exhibit). The bears then make their winter beds and go into a deep sleep. Trying not to disturb the bears, zookeepers check on them only once every 7 to 10 days. If there is a warm spell during winter, the bears may awake and walk around, but they don't eat (except maybe snow). They usually became fully active again about the first week in March.

While wild woodchucks (groundhogs) hibernate, Wanda, the Zoo's woodchuck, is active all winter, says Pat, a zookeeper in Stackner Heritage Farm. Like the bears', her appetite increases in the fall and she gains weight, then her appetite decreases and she sleeps more in winter. However, she is still fed every day in her indoor enclosure.

Dear Curious Corner Questioners:

Thanks for all your questions. I look forward to hearing from more of you this year. Send your questions to:

Curious Corner
Zoological Society
10005 W. Blue Mound Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53226.

Your crazy-about-animals friend,
Dr. Kerisa Zoology



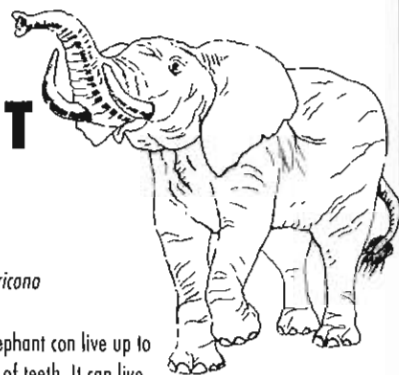
JUNIOR SCIENTIST

COLLECTIBLE ANIMAL CARDS

Color in these African animals, cut apart the cards and add them to your animal-card collection. (Note: Don't cut out the cards until you've read the backside of this page.) All animals in this series are animals you can see at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

M A M M A L

AFRICAN ELEPHANT



Scientific Name: *Loxodonta africana*

The largest land mammal, the elephant can live up to 70 years and go through six sets of teeth. It can live in habitats ranging from deserts and savanna to mountains and humid forests. An elephant can eat up to 500 pounds of vegetation and drink up to 40 gallons of water at a time. Males weigh up to six tons (females, four tons).



STATUS: Endangered.



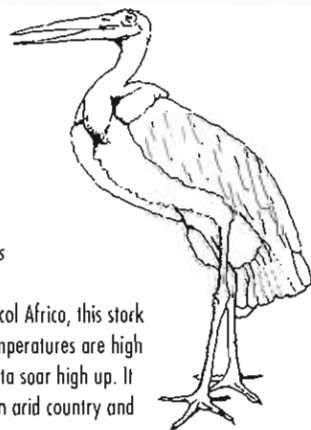
DIET IN THE WILD: Trees, shrubs, fruits, shoots and grass.
ZOO DIET: Apples, timothy hay, carrots, HMS Elephant supplement



FUN FACTS: At the end of an elephant's trunk is a small "finger" that it can use to pick up objects and put in its mouth. The trunk also is used for smell. Its large ears help cool its blood in hot weather.

B I R D

MARABOU STORK



Scientific Name: *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*

Found across much of tropical and subtropical Africa, this stork with a 10-foot wingspan lives wherever temperatures are high enough to provide warm air currents for it to soar high up. It may live in wetlands, lakes and rivers, or in arid country and wooded savanna.



STATUS: Common across its range.



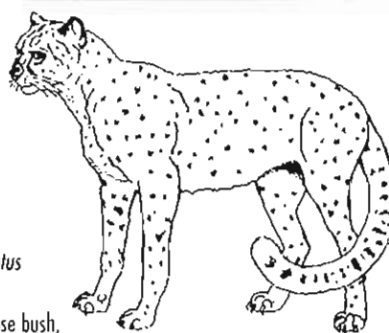
DIET IN THE WILD: Dead animals, frogs, snakes, small mammals, grasshoppers.
ZOO DIET: Soft-billed Diet, Nebraska Birds of Prey Diet, smelt.



FUN FACTS: It frequently soars to more than 15,000 feet and can be a danger to light airplanes. Its fine lower tail feathers once were used to trim women's clothes.

M A M M A L

CHEETAH



Scientific Name: *Acinonyx jubatus*

Cheetahs live in savanna and dense bush, and occasionally on the edges of forests. Their faces are marked by "tear stripes," which run from the corner of the eyes down the sides of the nose. Their coats are tawny with small round black spots. They weigh 80 to 120 pounds.



STATUS: Highly endangered; only about 25,000 left in the wild.



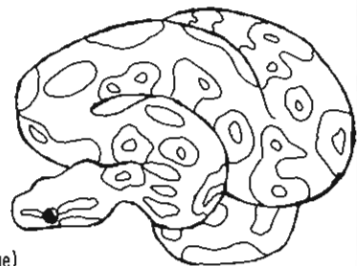
DIET IN THE WILD: Gazelles, impala and wildebeest calves
ZOO DIET: Nebraska Feline diet



FUN FACTS: The cheetah is the only cat that cannot retract its claws, which give it traction and help it to maneuver. And its tail works as a rudder, moving from side to side as the cheetah twists and turns. The fastest animal on land, the cheetah can reach speeds of 60 to 70 mph during short sprints but then is exhausted.

R E P T I L E

ROYAL PYTHON/BALL PYTHON



Scientific Name: *Python regius*

Found in open forests and savannas, this snake can live up to 15 years. Its length ranges from 3 feet (average) to 5 feet. It is a constrictor, which means it seizes food with its backward-pointing teeth, then coils its body around the prey and squeezes until the prey eventually suffocates.



STATUS: Common



DIET IN THE WILD: Small mammals and birds.
ZOO DIET: Mice.



FUN FACTS: In contrast to most other snakes, the ball python does not defend itself by striking quickly and biting. Instead, it coils into a ball and hides its head among the loops. Thus, very little body surface is exposed to an enemy.

Offers Ought'a Have a Home

BRING OTTERS BACK TO THE ZOO AND GIVE THEM ROOM...WITH A VIEW!

Get into the swim of things and help us bring North American river otters back to the Milwaukee County Zoo. Help create a playful environment for these fun-loving creatures, a home that allows you to view them both in and out of water.

We're already more than halfway to our goal of \$150,000 for the Zoological Society's 1997-'98 annual appeal, thanks to donations from individuals and corporations. Donate \$100 or more, and your name (or the person you are making the donation in honor of) will be listed here in *Alive*. Donations made by Feb. 27 are recognized below. We wish to thank everyone who has contributed so far. Please take the time to give a tax-deductible donation by sending in the form below. If every household among our members gave just \$5, we would reach our goal!

Abraham, Tom & Sandy
*Amidzich, Helen
Arzbaeher Family
Baker, Jessica L.
Bardeen, Ann
Bares, Mr & Mrs Thomas
*Blom, Esther I
Bloodgood, John & Sharon
Borkowski, James & Laurie
Brossmann, Fred & Marge
Buebendorf Family
Bydinkowski, Leona
Carson Pirie Scott Foundation
Colloton, Maribeth
Cook, Courtney & Connor
Cretser, Mark & Linda
Crispell, Elvin & Nancy
Danly, Dorothy & George
*Davidson, Helen M
Demmer, Lawrence E.
Dignan, Christine M.
Doern, David & Jeannie
Dreyer, Jackie & Chris

Dunn, John & Margot
Dziengel, Dakota
Elswick, Don & Nelda
Fifield, Tom & Marilyn
Findley, Ralph
Fleck, Janet & David
Fotsch Foundation, The
Geraets, Thomas J
Gettel, Katie & Sarah
Giesige Family, The
Goell, Dr. William S
Gonter, Gary & Terry
Haebig, Kimberly
Harper, Caroline Shepley
Heumann, Spot & Sheba
Husted, Jan & Lauren
Jenk Architecture-Design
Johnson Family, Grant A
Johnson, Richard & Mary
Johnson, Scott & Kelly
*Juhasz, Paul
Kamasky, Tom & Ann
Kane, Jason P
Karol, Barbara

Kautzer, Jeff & Dawn
Kemp, Janet A
Kleewein, Tom
Lancaster, Emily M
LeMahieu, Richard G
Lewis, Lyndsay P
Ley, Maral M
Lieberman, Jay & Joan
Lockwood, Cherie A
Lupton, Joe
*Lychwick, Jeanette
Mackie, B. Marlene
Makovec, Tony & Barb
Makowski, John & Audrey
*Mazzeo, My Uncle Bill
Meyers, Jean & Ralph
NML - Annuity Department

Neff, Miss M Lucille
Nelton, Emma, Elise & Alex
Nichols Family, Asher & Sue
Petersen, Paul & Patricia
Peterson, Jane E.
Pfannerstill, Larry & Christine
*Piering, Grace
Pollack, Robert & Jeanne
Poremski, Tod & Nancy
Powell, Lucille
Pryor, Ken/Kim/Kate/Kelly
QLC Inc
Raffel, Chris & Bob
Rankin, Geoffrey
Rarick, Tom & Wendy
Richardson, Frank & Chris
Roth, Judith & James
Rymut Family
Schloegel, Jean & John
Schneck Family, The
Schultz, Angela
Schuster Family, Michael S
*Schwabe, James J
*Seidel, Bob

Simeth, Steve & Denise
Skoff, Jerry & Laura
Smith, Allison M & Dale R
Smith, Jane & Curt
Speaker, Jamie & Chris
Steinman, Dick
Stringer Family, The Chip
*Toth, A J
Van Deuren, Roselie
Vohl, Robert R & Rosie
Wacker, Edward J
Wagner, Robert A
Wendorf, Ken/Carol/Kris/Kurt
Whately, Amy Lynn
Williams, Pam & Dave
Wisconsin Festivals Inc
Wright, Steven A
Yanke, Sandy
Young, Jeffrey A
Youngquist, Claudia & Jim
Zellmer, David & Dorothy

*Memorials
Donations are 100% tax-deductible



YES! I want to bring river otters back to the Zoo!

Please accept my gift of:

- Other: _____ \$50 \$100 \$500
 \$30 \$75 \$250 \$1,000

Donors of \$30 or more will have their names permanently displayed near the otter habitat in the Small Mammals building. Donors who give \$100 or more will receive additional recognition in upcoming issues of *ALIVE* magazine. Donors of \$250 or more will receive an invitation to a special VIP preview, and those donors at the \$1,000 or higher levels also will receive the opportunity for special recognition in the Small Mammals building.

Please list the name to be printed on the recognition sign and/or in *ALIVE* magazine. If this is a gift or memorial, please list the name of the person you're honoring below and complete the information to the right: (Feel free to make copies of this form for multiple gifts.)

Maximum number of characters, including spaces, is 25.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Make checks payable to **ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY** or charge my:

- Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Name _____

Acct.# _____

Exp. Date _____

Daytime Phone _____

Signature _____

Honor a friend or relative with a Gift or Memorial Acknowledgment:

- Gift Memorial

Send a gift card/memorial acknowledgment to:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____





FREE ADMISSION ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Members of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee get free admission to the Milwaukee County Zoo and to more than 130 other Zoos and Aquariums!

Here is a list of reciprocating zoos and aquariums as of winter 1998. Participation in this exchange is voluntary; so if a zoo or aquarium is not on our list, it has chosen not to be included. You must have your membership card with you to receive free admission. Some institutions define family as two (2) adults and two (2) children, and some may have a different membership category than ours and thus may not be exactly reciprocal. Also, some institutions do not honor free admission for their special events. Reciprocity is subject to change. You can verify updates through our membership office at (414) 258-2333.



- ALABAMA**
Birmingham Zoo
Montgomery Zoo
- ARIZONA**
Reid Park Zoo (Tucson)
- ARKANSAS**
Little Rock Zoological Garden
- CALIFORNIA**
Applegate Park Zoo (Merced)
Moonridge Animal Park (Big Bear Lake)
Charles Paddock Zoo (Atascadero)
Chaffee Zoological Gardens of Fresno
Los Angeles Zoo
Mickey Grove Zoo (Lodi)
Orange County Zoo (Orange)
The Living Desert (Palm Desert)*
Sacramento Zoo
Santa Ana Zoo
Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens
San Francisco Zoological Gardens
Happy Hollow Zoo (San Jose)
Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education (San Mateo)
- COLORADO**
Pueblo Zoo
- CONNECTICUT**
Beardsley Zoological Gardens (Bridgeport)
- DELAWARE**
Brandywine Zoo (Wilmington)
- FLORIDA**
Jacksonville Zoological Gardens
Central Florida Zoological Park (Sanford)
Brevard Zoo (Melbourne)
Lowry Park Zoological Garden (Tampa)
Miami MetroZoo
Palm Beach Zoo at Dreher Park
Caribbean Gardens (Naples) †
- GEORGIA**
Chehaw Wild Animal Park (Albany)
ZooAtlanta

- HAWAII**
Waikiki Aquarium (Honolulu)
- IDAHO**
Zoo Boise
Tautphaus Park Zoo (Idaho Falls)
- ILLINOIS**
Miller Park Zoo (Bloomington)
John G Shedd Aquarium (Chicago) †
Niabi Zoo (Coal Valley)
Scovill Zoo (Decatur)
Glen Oak Zoo (Peoria)
Henson Robinson Zoo (Springfield)
- INDIANA**
Mesker Park Zoo (Evansville)
Ft Wayne Children's Zoo
Washington Park Zoo (Michigan City)
Potawatomi Zoo (South Bend)
- IOWA**
Blank Park Zoo (Des Moines)
- KANSAS**
Sunset Zoological Park (Manhattan)
Topeka Zoological Park
Sedgwick County Zoo (Wichita)
- KENTUCKY**
Louisville Zoological Garden
- LOUISIANA**
Alexandria Zoological Park
Zoo of Acadiana (Broussard)
Greater Baton Rouge Zoo
Louisiana Purchase Gardens & Zoo (Monroe)
- MARYLAND**
Baltimore Zoo
Catoctin Wildlife Preserve & Zoo (Thurmont)
- MASSACHUSETTS**
Capron Park Zoo (Ahleboro)
Franklin Park Zoo (Boston)
Stone Zoo (Boston)
New England Alive Nature Center (Ipswich)
- MICHIGAN**
Binder Park Zoo (Battle Creek)

- John Ball Zoo (Grand Rapids)
Bell Isle Zoo & Aquarium (Detroit)
Detroit Zoological Park (Royal Oak)
Potter Park Zoological Gardens (Lansing)
Saginaw Children's Zoo
Clinch Park Zoo (Traverse City)
- MINNESOTA**
Minnesota Zoological Garden (Apple Valley)
Lake Superior Zoological Gardens (Duluth)
- MISSISSIPPI**
Jackson Zoological Park, Inc.
- MISSOURI**
Kansas City Zoological Gardens
Dickerson Park Zoo (Springfield)
- NEBRASKA**
Heritage Zoo (Grand Island)
Folsom Children's Zoo & Botanical Gardens (Lincoln)
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo
Northeast Nebraska Zoo (Royal)
Riverside Zoo (Scottsbluff)
- NEW JERSEY**
New Jersey State Aquarium (Camden)
Turtleback Zoo (W. Orange)
- NEW MEXICO**
Rio Grande Zoo
Alameda Park Zoo (Alamogordo)
- NEW YORK**
Burnet Park Zoo (Syracuse)
Ross Park Zoo (Binghamton)
Buffalo Zoological Gardens
Seneca Park Zoo (Rochester)
Staten Island Zoo
The Zoo at Thompson Park (Watertown)
Utica Zoo
- NORTH CAROLINA**
North Carolina Zoological Park (Asheboro)
North Carolina Aquarium (Roanoke Island)

- North Carolina Aquarium (Pine Knoll Shores)
North Carolina Aquarium (Fort Fisher)
- NORTH DAKOTA**
Dakota Zoo (Bismarck)
Chahinkapa Zoo (Wahpeton)
- OHIO**
Akron Zoological Park
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
Toledo Zoological Gardens
Columbus Zoological Gardens (Powell)
- OKLAHOMA**
Oklahoma City Zoological Park
Tulsa Zoo & Living Museum
- OREGON**
Metro Washington Park Zoo (Portland)
- PENNSYLVANIA**
Erie Zoo
ZOOAMERICA North American Wildlife Park (Hershey)
Elmwood Park Zoo (Norristown)
Philadelphia Zoological Garden
National Aviary in Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh Zoo
- RHODE ISLAND**
Roger Williams Park Zoo (Providence)
- SOUTH CAROLINA**
Riverbanks Zoological Park & Botanical Garden (Columbia)
Greenville Zoo
- SOUTH DAKOTA**
Great Plains Zoo & Delbridge Museum of Natural History (Sioux Falls)
Bramble Park Zoo (Watertown)
- TENNESSEE**
Knoxville Zoological Gardens, Inc.
Memphis Zoological Garden & Aquarium

- TEXAS**
Abilene Zoological Gardens
Austin Zoo
Gladys Porter Zoo (Brownsville)
Dallas Aquarium at Fair Park
Dallas Zoo
El Paso Zoo
Ellen Trout Zoo (Lufkin)
San Antonio Zoological Gardens & Aquarium
The Texas Zoo (Victoria)
- UTAH**
Utah's Hogle Zoo (Salt Lake City)
- VIRGINIA**
Virginia Zoological Park (Norfolk)
Mill Mountain Zoo (Roanoke)
- WASHINGTON**
Woodland Park Zoological Gardens (Seattle)
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium (Tacoma)
- WEST VIRGINIA**
Oglebay's Good Zoo (Wheeling)
- CANADA**
Valley Zoo (Edmonton, Alberta)
Calgary Zoo, Botanical Garden & Prehistoric Park (Alberta)*
Toronto Zoo (Ontario)
Ecomuseum (St Anne de Bellevue, Quebec)
Granby Zoo (Quebec)

* 50% Admission discount
† Adult at children's rate; 50% off child's admission
‡ Aquarium free; 50% Oceanarium discount (Receive Express Entry by using their member's line).

(The Brookfield Zoo in Illinois, San Diego Zoo, San Diego Wild Animal Park, and Sea Worlds (all locations) choose not to reciprocate with other zoos. Therefore, your free admission benefits do not apply at these institutions.)

For your reference

APRIL

April through May 3



Wisconsin Electric presents Bears: Imagination & Reality

This free traveling exhibit features 26 taxidermic mounts of grizzlies and black bears in several dioramas, plus videos, computer games, bear-claw jewelry and more. "Bears" is in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building (near Monkey Island).

II Mutual Savings Bank presents Egg Day

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Saturday before Easter, the Zoo will be "eggxtro-special." While they're visiting their favorite animals in various animal buildings, children can make Easter bonnets, ties, and bunny ears, then wear their holiday costumes in the Easter parade at 2 p.m. Children age 10 and under can join in the Easter-egg hunt starting at 10 a.m. in the Zoo's Stackner Heritage Farm. Plus, there will be family entertainment in the Peck Welcome Center all day. There is no charge beyond Zoo admission of \$8 for adults, \$6 for ages 3-12; children under 2 are free. Zoological Society members get free Zoo admission with membership card. Call (414) 256-5412 for more details.

April 14, 18, 21, 25, 28 & May 2

Zoo Pride orientation
There's still time to sign up for the six-session

Calendar

Spring 1998

See the April/May WILD THINGS newsletter for more details on some of these events.

Zoo Pride new-volunteer orientation class. Zoo Pride is the Zoological Society's voluntary auxiliary, a cadre of people age 15 to in their 90s who serve as Zoo guides, help with special events, aid our Education workshops, etc. Last year they volunteered 52,765 hours. Classes for new volunteers are held twice a year, and volunteers must attend all six sessions (18 hours) to graduate. For more information, call the Zoo Pride office at (414) 258-5667.



Zoo Pride volunteers enhance the Zoo experience by providing information about animals.

busy signals). The Zoo's main gates will open at 6:15 a.m., and numbers will be handed out at the gates. Bring your membership card or have it handy when you call. Please renew memberships or apply for new ones at the Society's main office at the Zoo BEFORE registering for summer camps. A camp listings brochure and the April issue of WILD THINGS newsletter, which includes more details on registration, are in the bag that contained this issue of *Alive*.

15 & 17

NFL Alumni Association presents Kids Day Off spring break workshops

Children ages 5 to 12 will enjoy their time off school by coming to these Zoological Society workshops: On April 15, Nature's Jonitars takes children on a scavenger hunt and gives another view of hyenas, vultures and "decomposers." On April 17, Paws, Jaws, & Claws features the real story of bears in Wisconsin Electric's Bears: Imagination & Reality exhibit. Before and After Core options also are available.

MAY

May 1-June 28 Miller's Recycled Zoo

This creative art project involving hundreds of children from elementary schools, 4-H clubs and scout troops features animals created from recycled or recyclable materials. This year's theme is "Bears, Bats and Biodiversity," and the artworks will be on display throughout the Stackner Heritage Farm grounds.

25 In-person registration for CompCare's Summer Adventure Camps

Come to the Education Center in the Zoo's Stackner Heritage Farm to sign up for the popular summer camps run by the Zoological Society. Camps fill up fast. In-person registrations start at 8 a.m. and are given first priority; when they end at 1 p.m., mail-in registrations (if received by April 23) will be processed. Phone registrations will be taken only from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on April 25, but you must call (414) 256-2514 (expect

For your
reference

MAY

7
V. Richards presents California wine tasting
Sample and hear about California wines from Jay Corley, founder and owner of Monticello Winery in Napa Valley, Calif. Starting at 7 p.m. in the Zoo's Peck Welcome Center, this fund-raising event for the Zoological Society will include a raffle and silent auction. For ticket prices, call the Society at (414) 258-2333 or V. Richards at (414) 784-8303.

10
Heinemann's presents Mother's Day
Tell your friends to bring their moms to the Zoo on their special day. They'll have a wild time and get free admission with a coupon from Heinemann's Restaurants. Call (414) 256-5412 for details.

16
Roundy's Pick'n Save presents Care for Critters program at Mayfair Mall
At 1 p.m. and again at 3:00 p.m. in the mall's Center Court, you can see a free Zoological Society outreach program featuring live animals. Two naturalists talk about the animals and explain issues facing the animals in the wild. The program teaches audiences, especially children, what they can do to help save animals and their environments.

Calendar

Spring 1998

19 - 31
The Robert K. & Joyce R. Cope Foundation presents the Fourth Annual Animal People's Choice Art Competition
College students' artwork depicting Endangered Animals will be exhibited at Mayfair Mall's Center Court during normal mall hours. Zoological Society members and the public will vote for four top winners from May 19-26. Winning artwork in this Zoological Society competition will be noted as such during the rest of the exhibit and will appear in *Alive*. Entries accepted April 27 - May 1. For details, call Renee at (414) 258-2333.



Animal fans admire one of 1997's winners of the Annual Animal People's Choice Art Competition.

30 & 31
Reynolds Wrap® and Roundy's Pick'n Save present Conservation Weekend
From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, you can view conservation exhibits, get recycling information, hear zookeeper talks on animal conservation and see outdoor activities by Milwaukee-area scouts.

JUNE

9 - 12
Strong Funds presents Nights in June
These evenings for Zoological Society members

See the April/May WILD THINGS newsletter for more details on some of these events.

feature the free premiere of Ameritech's **Bats: Masters of the Night** exhibit (which opens to the public June 13). This nationally popular exhibit will be in The Otto Barchert Family Special Exhibits Building. (See page 12 for details.)



21
Chinet® and Roundy's Pick 'n Save present Father's Day
Tell your friends that Dads get free Zoo admission today with the purchase of two Chinet® products. Call (414) 256-5412 for details.

June 24 through August 5
Tri City National Bank presents Sunset Zoofaris

On seven Wednesdays in summer, from 6 to 9 p.m., you can enjoy free music and stroll through the Zoo at twilight. Zoo gates close at 4:15 and then reopen just before 6 p.m.

JULY

14, 16 & 17
Jays & Roundy's Pick'n Save present Kids Night
Kids, bring your parents to a great family fun night at the Zoo. Enjoy dancers, gymnasts, singers, storytellers, Ameritech's Bats: Masters of the Night exhibit for free, and feast on kids' favorite foods. Look for your invitations in the mail.

CONSERVATION CHRONICLES

KOALA HUNT

Sometimes you don't truly understand the idea of extinction until you face it close up. That's what zookeeper Karen Navarre did last October when she traveled to Australia.

She was among six zookeepers from the United States who spent two weeks surveying koala habitat, capturing koalas for health checks and then returning them to the very trees they were sitting in when discovered. The research was conducted by the Australian Koala Foundation (AKF) in the Pilliga State Forest of New South Wales, about a seven-hour drive northwest of Sydney.

Currently there are between 40,000 and 80,000 koalas in existence, says AKF. If that seems too many to sound the alarm about extinction, consider that they used to number in the millions. And about 80% of their forest habitat has been destroyed, with more trees chopped down daily. Consider also that koalas eat only thing: eucalyptus leaves. As eucalyptus trees disappear, so do koalas.

"It would be very easy for the population to be wiped out just by habitat destruction," says Navarre.

The AKF invites US zookeepers to help in an atlas of koala habitat every six months, as part of its eight-year ongoing effort to map all remaining koala habitat in Australia. More than 404,850 acres have been mapped. The Zoological Society of Milwaukee has donated \$70,000 to that effort so far. It also raised \$126,812 last year for an outdoor Koala Walkabout and enhanced Australia Building at our Zoo.



Doing a health check of a koala in the wild are veterinarians Jeff McKee (left) and Rosy Booth.

Last October was the first time the AKF also searched for and captured koalas. "That's why it was a unique trip," says Navarre. "The local media did several stories, and the Discovery Channel did some filming, which will be on sometime this year."

As part of a collaborative research program, AKF field workers were invited into the Pilliga by state foresters, who, when culling trees, wanted to minimize the impact of logging operations on wildlife habitat. Initial research results found that koalas mainly preferred two types of red-gum trees (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and *Eucalyptus chloroclada*), with three other red gums as their second choices. Once data analysis has been completed, foresters will be advised on how best to manage the koala's habitat.

Other results showed that while a handful of koalas had chlamydia infections (which often afflict koalas), "the population seemed very healthy and was reproducing," says Navarre. "We ear-tagged and did tests on about 40 koalas. We radio-collared 30 of them." About 25% of the koalas had what they called 'gorilla hands' (larger than usual), as a result of contact with the spines of the tiger pear, a type of cactus that had been introduced to the region. The koalas had bigger pads on their hands, perhaps for protection.



Milwaukee County Zookeeper Karen Navarre searches for koala pellets under a tree in Australia.

Bat-ting a Bad Rap



Giant bat ears — nearly 20 times actual size — will give visitors to Ameritech's Bats: Masters of the Night exhibit the sensation of hearing the way a bat hears.

Photo in circle: The Zoo's vampire bats drink cattle blood and have razor-sharp teeth.

A silhouette in the night. A silent, swooping shadow. Black against black. The bat.

We are so caught up in the eerie mystery of the bat and its sinister image that we lose sight of both its beauty and value. Examine the delicate branching of veins on its paper-thin wings. Feel the fine, close-cropped fur warming its rippling back muscles. Marvel at those sonar-sensitive ears.

In June you will be able to immerse yourself in the wonders of the bat universe. Ameritech's Bats: Masters of the Night opens on June 13 in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building at the Zoo. This traveling exhibit runs through Sept. 27. Zoological Society members get a sneak preview June 9-12.

View the world as the bat sees it: *upside down*. Walk through a portal into a Gothic entryway, complete with stained-glass windows and chairs on the ceiling. You're suddenly in the upside-down home of an 18th-century bat enthusiast who takes you through centuries of myths and misunderstandings about bats in different cultures.

Move on to a rain forest for a realistic look at one type of habitat that's home to many bats. Enter a cave at daylight and learn about roosting bats, bat fossils, guano and hibernation. One section of the cave is just for kids, where they can crawl like a bat through a narrow tunnel. By the time you exit the cave, it's dusk, the time when many bats become most active.

Test for yourself their sonar abilities and "hear" how they navigate at night through echolocation. Discover how the shape of their face determines what they eat. Learn how their pollination of certain flowers and dispersal of seeds keeps whole ecologies alive.

Visit a curator's office and become a scientist for a day. View specimens, models, bones. Compare a bat skeleton to a human skeleton. Delve into research on bat guano and saliva.

Venture into the spectacular bat portrait gallery, with close-up photography by Merlin Tuttle, who used to be Milwaukee's own bat man. The founder of Bat Conservation International (BCI), Tuttle used to be curator of mammals and the bat expert at the Milwaukee Public Museum. Now he lives in Austin, Texas, where BCI has its headquarters. An ecologist and wildlife photographer, Tuttle has been published in media ranging from *National Geographic* to *The Wall Street Journal*. He is the scientific consultant for this bats exhibit.

BCI, with 14,000 members in 71 countries, has gained protection for many of the world's largest remaining bat populations. It also conducts bat research and holds education programs. Among the facts you'll learn about bats from BCI and the Masters of the Night exhibit are:

Bats are some of the cleanest animals. Bats are resistant to disease.

Even if they do contract rabies, they are unlikely to bite a human.

Bats eat beetles, moths and other insects that cost farmers and foresters billions of dollars each year. And they devour the mosquitoes in our back yards.

Bats are the most endangered land mammals.

So come master the myths. Give bats a chance.



ON THE JOB Nina Schaefer, Supervisor of Small Mammals



Small Mammals supervisor Nina Schaefer exercises Starbuck the fruit bat daily to help him strengthen an injured wing.

A toy rubber vampire bat peeks from a box. Common bats made out of black socks dangle over the doorway. Snapshots of newborn bats and sloths lie under glass on an old wooden desk. A pungent smell in the air, a winter temperature suitable for the tropics and kazoo-like clatter from a flock of fruit bats remind you that animals come first here.

This is behind the scenes in the Zoo's Small Mammals building, the domain of Nina Schaefer. Her cramped, creatively cluttered office is next to a small room that is home to baby animals that Schaefer and keepers Liz Christian and Betsy Gilgenbach are raising by hand. Come at feeding time and you'll find a cuddly, common two-toed sloth clinging with all four limbs to Schaefer's shirt.

Schaefer has worked at the Zoo for 22 years, most of that time in Small Mammals. Her first three years were summers only, in the old Children's Zoo. She was among the first few women hired as full-time zookeepers, she says. It is not a glamorous job. Every day she's up to her elbows mixing the banana, cottage cheese and juice mixture that's dinner for the fruit bats. Or else she's cleaning out bat guano.

"My parents always had pets," she says. "If there were unwanted pets in the neighborhood, they ended up at our house." She loves animals but does not have pets of her own, unless you count her goldfish. "I work with animals all day long. I don't want to go home and take care of them, too." Instead, she spends her spare time gardening or creating bead work or crafts such as Indian dancing and clothing.

A science-fiction fan, Schaefer often names baby animals after her favorite movie or TV stars: Yoda the vampire bat and Chewbacca the sloth after characters from "Star Wars," Starbuck the fruit bat after a star from the old TV show "Battlestar Galactica." And what could be more spacey than a building where half the animals live in darkness during the day?

Bat Tour

With this special guide to the bats at the Milwaukee County Zoo, you can give tours of the Small Mammals building to your friends and regale them with behind-the-scenes information:

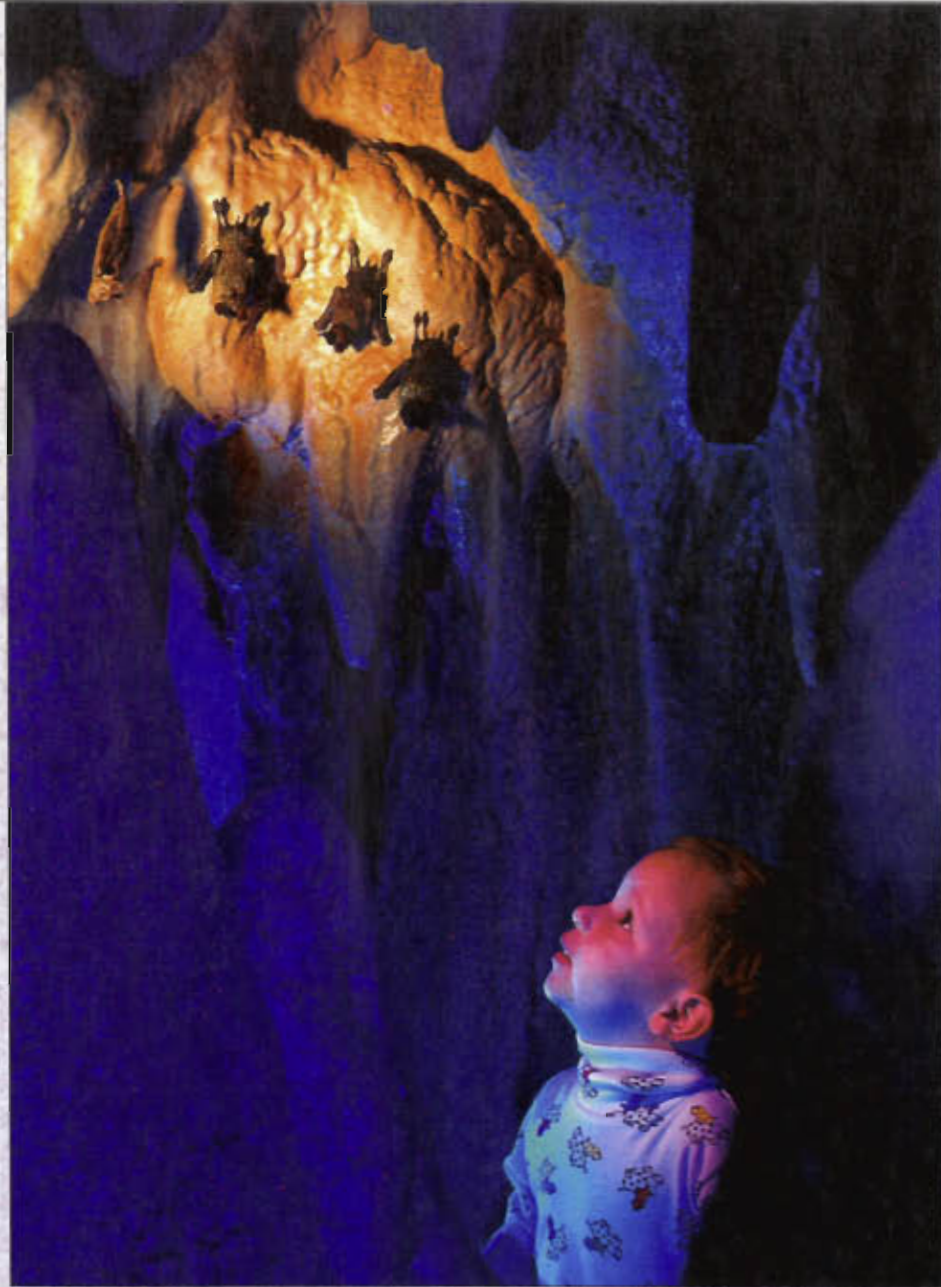
DING

He's the largest bat in the Zoo, and he's the only Indian fruit bat here. You can't miss Ding. When he spreads out his wings, they reach four feet from tip to tip. And now that he's growing older (he's almost 15), he's getting white. "He's starting to lose the pigmentation out of his wings, just like humans do when we go gray," says Small Mammals supervisor Nina Schaefer.

She is like a mother to Ding. "He was born here in 1983. I raised him. His mother was very old. I found her dead on the floor of a heart attack when he was 6 weeks old." She hand-fed Ding and sometimes still does. He eats the Zoo's fruit-bat mixture of bananas, cottage cheese, oranges, vitamins, a primate diet and fruit juice. For treats, he gets everything from raisins to kiwis. Ding is bicuspidal, which means he is most active at dawn and dusk.

STRAW-COLORED FRUIT BATS & MOUNTAIN FRUIT BATS

These bats share an exhibit, but it's easy to tell them apart. The "straws," as Schaefer calls them, are larger and more outgoing. Two of the straws, Apollo (on the cover of this *Alive*) and Starbuck (shown with Schaefer on previous page) were raised by zookeepers and are used for children's education workshops because they are so friendly. This winter there were 38 straws in the Zoo, but quite a few were pregnant. The male straws have an orange collar on the underside of their neck. Mountain bats are all brown, smaller and



A kid-sized bat cave in the traveling bat exhibit coming in June reveals clusters of California long-eared bats, who "hang together" for warmth.

more timid. There were 73 of them at the Zoo this winter. These bats live in the wild in Africa.

VAMPIRE BATS

Yes, they do drink blood. Yes, they do have razor-sharp teeth. Yes, a bite from a vampire can bleed for hours. But these tiny creatures have a certain appeal. At 2^{3/4} inches long and weighing only one ounce, a vampire bat is about the size of a sparrow. They cuddle up together at the top of their exhibit and then fly down to the floor and sit next to glass tubes of cattle blood that they lap up with their miniature tongues. The blood comes from Milwaukee's stockyards.

In the wild in Central and South America, they feed at night on the necks of cows, pigs and horses, looking for veins close to the surface. They have an anti-coagulant in their mouth that will keep a victim's wound bleeding for hours because the blood can't clot. Schaefer has experienced this firsthand. When a vampire bat got loose during a routine transfer of bats and ended up under a cabinet, Schaefer went to scoop him up and rubbed her finger against the bat's teeth (he didn't bite her). She bled all day and still has the scar. There were 44 vampires at the Zoo this winter, many of them pregnant. 🐾

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Sponsors and grantors committing dollars and in-kind gifts for events and programs after February 25, 1998, will be recognized in the next issue of *Alive*.



Keepers of the Wild, a science enrichment program in its third year, takes Zoological Society educators, animal artifacts and special programs into third-, fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms in the Fox River Valley. Kimberly-Clark Foundation has funded the program since its inception.

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Joel and Donna Nettesheim

for us. As residents of Wisconsin, we should all be proud to have such a 'world-class' Zoo in our community. Personally, we feel privileged to be in a position where we can help promote the many benefits the Zoo has to offer. We hope we can help everyone make the Zoo a bigger part of their lives. It is certainly a big part of our lives."

"We are fortunate to be able to be affiliated with the Zoo through our Platypus Society membership and involvement with the Steering Committee and Associate Board. The Milwaukee County Zoo provides both children and adults an opportunity to develop a better understanding of wildlife in a natural habitat. The Zoo will always be an enjoyable learning experience

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5-year Platypus Society Member in Bold (updated each fall)

* Members who have increased their level of giving by 10% or more

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Friends contributing to the Platypus Society after February 28, 1998, will be recognized in the next issue of *Alive*.



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The Platypus Society is a group of about 400 Milwaukee-area foundations, corporations and individuals that contribute more than \$425,000 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 Joan Rudnitzki at (414) 276-0843.



WHAT'S GNU

Matchie's Tree Kangaroo

Australia Building
Arrived: November 25, 1997

For an animal whose life is spent out on a limb, 3½-year-old Ren, the new Matchie's Tree Kangaroo "doesn't seem to be too graceful in the trees that we provide," says zookeeper Daron Graves. What Ren lacks for now in tree skills, he makes up for in manners and appetite. "He's really a nice guy, and we hand-feed him," says Graves. "He's a big boy right now, a good eater. He looks like a little Buddha." He'll grow to about 20 pounds as an adult. Native to New Guinea, this rare and little-known species can live up to 18 years in captivity. When he arrived from Detroit, Ren was the Milwaukee County Zoo's only Matchie's Tree Kangaroo. But a female companion soon joined him in an attempt to have them breed as part of a Species Survival Plan. The hope is that Ren will go out on a limb for his new partner. Says Graves: "We'll keep our fingers crossed."

Cotton-Top Tamarin

Small Mammals Building
Arrived: November 1, 1997

The wedding was a bit hokey and not in keeping with the Zoo's emphasis on not giving human attributes to animals, "but the public loved it," says Nina Schaefer, supervisor of Small Mammals at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The "wedding" celebrated the arrival of Anthony Tamarino, a cotton-top tamarin from the Bronx Zoo & Wildlife Conservation Park, as a breeding partner for Virgil Lee, our Zoo's only cotton-top tamarin. Paper wedding bells and a sign with a Barbie-sized wedding dress appeared outside the exhibit in December, when the two were paired. Virgil Lee's fluff of white fur on her head looked like a wedding veil. Anthony is six years younger and somewhat smaller than Virgil Lee, but the two quickly became friends. These tiny monkeys (Anthony weighs only 531 grams)

have long tails and are found in the wild in South America, where they eat insects and fruit. "All tamarins are endangered because of habitat loss," says Schaefer.



King Penguin

Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary
Hatched: November 25, 1997

Winnie, the Zoo's bouncing baby King Penguin, is starting to test its wings. Not for flight, of course, as Winnie's wings are to be used in swimming. The brown, fluffy-feathered youngster (shown in photo with its mom, Leona) likes to bat its wings at those who come too close, reports Jenny Kempken, a zookeeper in the aviary. Winnie was hatched in an incubator while its parents tended a dummy egg; that way the real egg was protected from any damage during daily exhibit cleaning. Penguins form creches, or groups of baby penguins watched by adult "baby-sitters" from different families, Kempken explains. This allows parents to swim out and hunt for food, as they do in their native Falkland Islands off the coast of Argentina. Then adults return to the creche, find their chick and feed it by regurgitating fish directly into the chick's mouth, providing antibodies that keep it healthy.

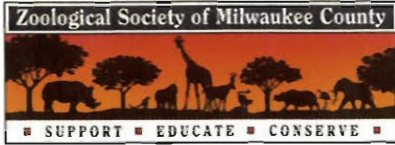
The Zoo has 10 adult King Penguins and one chick. "Winnie's getting bigger," Kempken says. "The baby-sitting will end soon."



Bactrian Camel

Asian Yard
Arrived: November 24, 1997

Don't be alarmed this summer by the sight of Sanchi and the Zoo's three other Bactrian camels. The Asian natives lose their coats annually in large, matted chunks. "They don't shed like dogs," zookeeper Lisa Guglielmi says. "Big clumps of fur come off. By July, they look naked and really silly." The camels' long coats serve them well during Milwaukee's winter, when they enjoy being outdoors as much as in summer. After all, in the wild they live in the often frigid Central Asian steppes of Siberia and northern China. Their shaggy coats keep them warm and large feet serve as snowshoes. Sanchi, who was born in March 1997 in Denver, will take part in the Zoo's camel demonstration program this summer, Guglielmi says. During these free programs, Zoo visitors learn how the Zoo trains the camels to cooperate with veterinarians and with keepers for better health care. Camel demonstrations are scheduled for 2:15 p.m. daily in the Camel Theater across from the South American Yard.



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Third Annual Animal People's Choice Art Competition

This colored-pencil drawing of an orangutan by Andy Risser, a senior last year at UW-Milwaukee, was one of four winners in the Zoological Society's Third Annual Animal People's Choice Art Competition in 1997. May 1 is the deadline for submissions for the 1998 Fourth Annual Animal People's Choice Art Competition, sponsored by the Robert K. & Joyce R. Cope Foundation. The competition is open to all college and university students in the six-county metropolitan Milwaukee area. All entries will be on display at Mayfair Mall's Center Court in Wauwatosa, May 19-31. For a brochure and contest rules, call Renee at 414-258-2333.