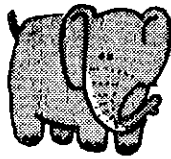




animal talk



ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY

NEWS BULLETIN NO. 44

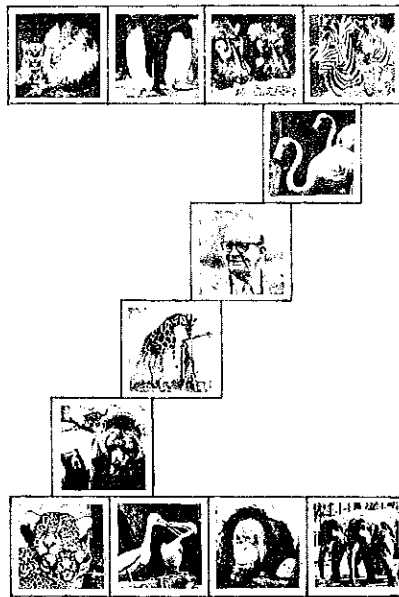
Volume III

December, 1975

Walter E. Kroening, Editor...7857 North Lake Drive...Phone 352-9272

MERRY CHRISTMAS

TOO YOO FROM THE





HERODIUS EGRETTA

THE EGRET, pronounced é-grèt, has a number of nom-de-plumes including White Heron, American Egret, White Egret, Greater Egret and others. Its highly ornamental plumage is pure white; its length (for the larger variety) is about 41 inches (the Snowy Egret is smaller, only about 24"); a yellow bill, black legs and feet, yellow greenish lores (the spaces between the eye and the base of the bill in birds) and chrome yellow irises. Its eggs are plain bluish green, 3 to 5 in a clutch, nested in a loose platform of twigs and sticks in cypress trees or tops of bushes high above sequestered swamps. Its year-around habitat, be it in Florida or Wisconsin, is in swampy willow pond areas, mangroves and marshes. They regularly range from Virginia to Central California, south into the Tropics and north to our states along the Canadian border. They winter in Florida and southward. Occasionally some are observed as far north as British Columbia, Ontario, Massachusetts and Nova Scotia. They feed on small forms of water life; fish, frogs, snakes, grasshoppers, beetles, large moths, spiders, etc. Young are fed extensively on small fish regurgitated by the parent birds. —————> more

Editor's Note: Animal Talk is a sporadical and not a periodical. In other words, it is a once-in-awhiler.

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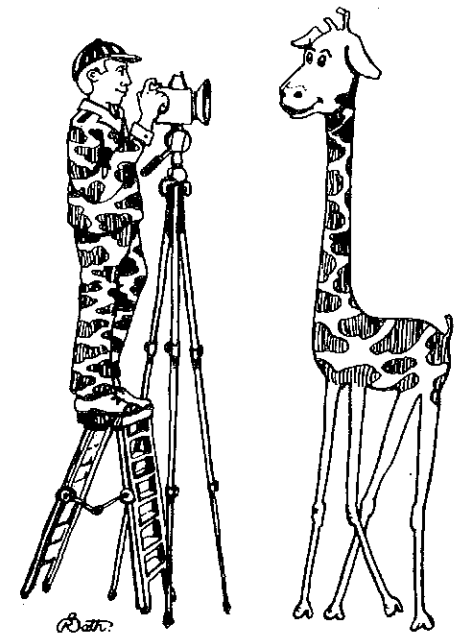
uge, elegant ladies' hats of the Edwardian era (circa 1901-1910) it caused the extermination of this bird. The long, finely dissected plumes arising between its shoulders and extending a foot or so beyond its tail were considered the height of fashion. These graceful plumes are about 20 inches long and some fifty in number on each bird. In those days, tens of thousands of these beautiful virgin-white birds frequented the water shore areas and swamplands of Florida and the Gulf States, patrolling the beaches when the tide brought in small fishes. It is in this southern area the bird inhabits during the mating season. Since the birds only wear this fancy plumage during the breeding and nesting periods, the wholesale slaughter of the mature birds took place at that time, leaving the young to starve. The Audubon Society was instrumental in the adoption of national protective legislation which stopped this wholesale slaying in the interests of milady's headgear. Today their numbers are increasing.

*Cottengepickenisch
Hands Get Gestlappd*

Atomic Energy Commission's accounting office at Los Alamos came up with an effective and interesting way to discourage visitors and employees from playing with its complex electronic equipment. It posted this warning:

"Achtung! Alles looken-speepers. Das computer-machine is nicht for gefinger-poken or mittengrabben. Ist east schappen der spring-enwer, blowenfusen, and poppencorken mit spitzzen-sparken.

"Is nicht for gewerken by das dummkopfen. Das rubberneck sightseeren keepen hands in das pockets—relaxen und watch das blinkenlights!"



above "space-fillers" were contributed anonymously and received by mail addressed to "Der Deutsch Verderber Editor Animal Talk". Dankeschoen Lieber Mitglieder. WTKG

ZOO PRIDE'S XMAS SPECIAL

Across the page are reproductions of a pair of beautiful pictures. These repros do not do full justice to the delightful originals, the work of Joanna Poehlmann, one of Wisconsin's leading artists. They are delicately done silver point prints of 550 pound Gorilla Samson and our resident Llama group. Each print is 7" x 9" and the pair come in a great variety of colors. They can be had matted at two for \$3.00 or two, unmatted, at \$2.00 — plus postage. Some matted singles are available for \$2.00 each.

These are unexcelled as gifts for Christmas, Birthdays and other special purposes.

Please phone 351-0048; Mrs. Thomas (Rose Mary) O'Byrne, President of Zoo Pride, who will be happy to give you further information.

HELP FUND THE ZOO PRIDE PROGRAM

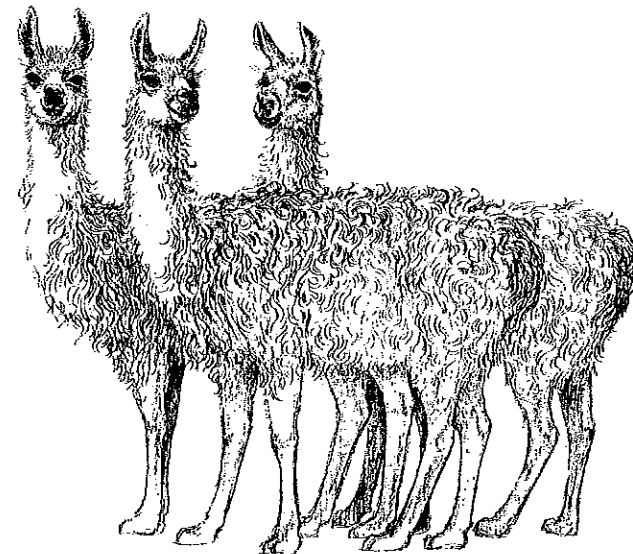


IRREVELANT (Pronounced Ear-Elephant) ART

Bring Bananas - joanna poehlmann 1972



Three-A-Llama - joanna poehlmann 1972



ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

About 350 members turned out for the Annual Meeting on Thursday evening, October 23. Among the many newsworthy subjects mentioned in Zoo Director Speidel's report was the result of a survey conducted at the Zoo by the Recreation Resource Center of the University of Wisconsin Extension at Madison. Almost 6,500 interviews were conducted on 8 week days and 3 weekend days during last July and August. The following is a summary of the U. W. report:

- The Milwaukee County Zoo is the most popular attraction in the State of Wisconsin. In 1974 it had a total of 1,539,461 visitors.
- An average of \$8.98 was spent in the Milwaukee area by each non-resident visitor.
- A total of \$4,873,084.00 was spent in the Milwaukee area by non-resident visitors.
- Non-resident visitors requiring local overnight public accommodations, spent \$121.08 per visitor party in the Milwaukee area.
- About 3.6% of the available rooms in Milwaukee County motels and hotels are needed by out-of-town visitors.
- About 5.0% of Milwaukee County families had visitors who stayed overnight with them, and visited the Zoo.
- 62.4% of all Zoo visitors were from the State of Wisconsin.
- 74% of the total attendance were repeat visitors.
- 84.4% of all out-of-town visitors indicated that Milwaukee and the Zoo were their ultimate destination.

This is great publicity for our world-famous Zoo. It is a condensation of a recent Milwaukee Sentinel article. WEK



THIS COUPLE IS IN LOVE ?

- A) The largest buck ever harvested weighed 488 pounds.
- B) The record spread (width of antlers); 30-1/2" with only 12 points.
- C) The plural of deer is deer; of doe is doe.
- D) In Texas, a buck had 78 antler points.
- E) Doe don't have antlers.
- F) Maximum age: 12-14 years in the wild, 20 years in captivity.
- G) Deer do not need hearing aids - in a downwind the clicking of a man's fingernail can be heard at 75 yards!
- H) White-tails can run at 30 mph; a strong buck, 40 mph.
- I) There is a record jump over an 8 ft. fence from a standing position...broad jumps of 30 ft. are common.
- J) Their sounds range from a twitter of a fawn, to a bleat of a doe in pain, to a loud snort of a startled buck.
- K) Deer swim very well especially with their hollow-haired (for insulation) winter coat...clocked at 13 mph, miles from land.
- L) Bucks shed antlers in midwinter, grow a new set in spring which reach full size by September. Once dropped they don't last long. Bleached and softened by the elements, they are gnawed by rodents for the salts they contain: calcium, phosphorous, etc.
- M) Like cattle and sheep, deer have four stomachs, the first stores rough-chewed forage, later regurgitated and chewed as a cud.
- N) The breeding season runs from October thru December.
- O) An adult buck can service six or seven doe in the wild and as many as 20 in captivity.
- P) White-tails gestation period is about 200 days.
- Q) From one to three (rarely four) fawn, most arrive in May or June weighing from 5 to 7 pounds.
- R) Males at birth outnumber their sisters at a ratio of about 11 to 10.
- S) A wild doe never is too old to bear young; observers report females over 11 with young.
- T) About 30-50% of six month young doe get pregnant and have their own babies by the age of 12-13 months.
- U) About 500,000 white-tail deer live in Wisconsin.
- V) A deer may live its entire life on a 2-3 sq. mi. area in Wisconsin.
- W) In one year, a tagged Missouri deer traveled 140 miles from the place it was originally tagged.
- X, Y, Z) Santa's deer are named Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen.

THE GENTLE GIANTS, THE GORILLA STORY...Dr. Geoffrey H. Bourne and Mary Cohen...G. P. Putnam's Sons, N. Y...\$12.50...a non-technical account of our closest relative in the Animal Kingdom; the life story of the gorilla, its nature, its social and sexual life, its place in evolution and its behavior in captivity. A chapter, "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Sex Life of the Gorilla, But Were Afraid to Look" spells out the difficulties experienced in breeding the largest of the big apes, which is not true of the oranges and the chimps. "Highly recommended reading for Samson and Tara, our Zoo's thus-far unmated gorilla couple." sez I.

WILDLIFE PARADISES...John Gooders; foreword by Roger Tory Peterson...Praeger Publishers, N. Y...192 p; 180 illustrations, 80 in color...\$17.50...A mouth-watering book for the armchair naturalist as well as the traveler; describes 58 wildlife paradises located throughout the world, six of which are in the United states (Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico; Everglades and the Keys, Florida; Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge, Texas; Klamath, California; Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, South Carolina; Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, Wyoming); mentions some 2,000 species of which 200 are pictured in color, others in black and white; lists the most interesting animals to be seen in each paradise. A visitor's guide indicates travel facilities and accommodations. I got "Wanderlust" during my reading of this interesting book.

THE BOOK OF ELEPHANTS...Text, Sandy Lesbery; photography, Nicolai Canetti...Haddington House...12 pages of text, 52 pages color photos, 62 pages of black and white photos, outstanding photography...\$12.95.

THE BOOK OF LIONS,..(same author, publisher and price)...another excellent pictorial presentation.

COYOTES...Harold E. Thomas...illustrated by Lorence F. Bjorklund...Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Company...An eloquent plea for justice for the most controversial wild animal in the United States with anecdotes from Indian lore and legend.

FALCON'S RETURN, Restoring an Endangered Species...John Haufmann & Heinz Meng...William Morrow and Company...128 pages, profusely illustrated in black and white...\$5.95...an engrossing exposition of a successful attempt to breed peregrine falcons in captivity. This bird of prey heads the list of endangered species at the present time. The book is authoritative and informative.

Zoological Society of Milwaukee County

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Bier Stein-isms

DUETSCHER DOPPELTALK

A common expression of an oft-frustrated German-American Milwaukeean during the Thirties was "ES HILFT ALLES NICHTS!" or, in plain adulterated English, "It helps everything nothing!"

Another beer mug quotation "ES IST SEHR BESSER EIN UNSCHÄDLICH LÜGE ZUM ERZÄHLEN, ALS EINEM SCHÄDLICHE WAHRHEIT" turns into "It is far better a harmless lie to tell, than one harmful truth."

I am indebted to Zoosociety member Eduard Anton Reiter who offered the following correction of the above. "Boswell's Life of Johnson," dated 1791, contains a quotation which reads, "A man had rather have a hundred lies told of him, than one truth which he does not wish to be told."

Question: Was something lost in translation or who paraphrased whom?
...and when?