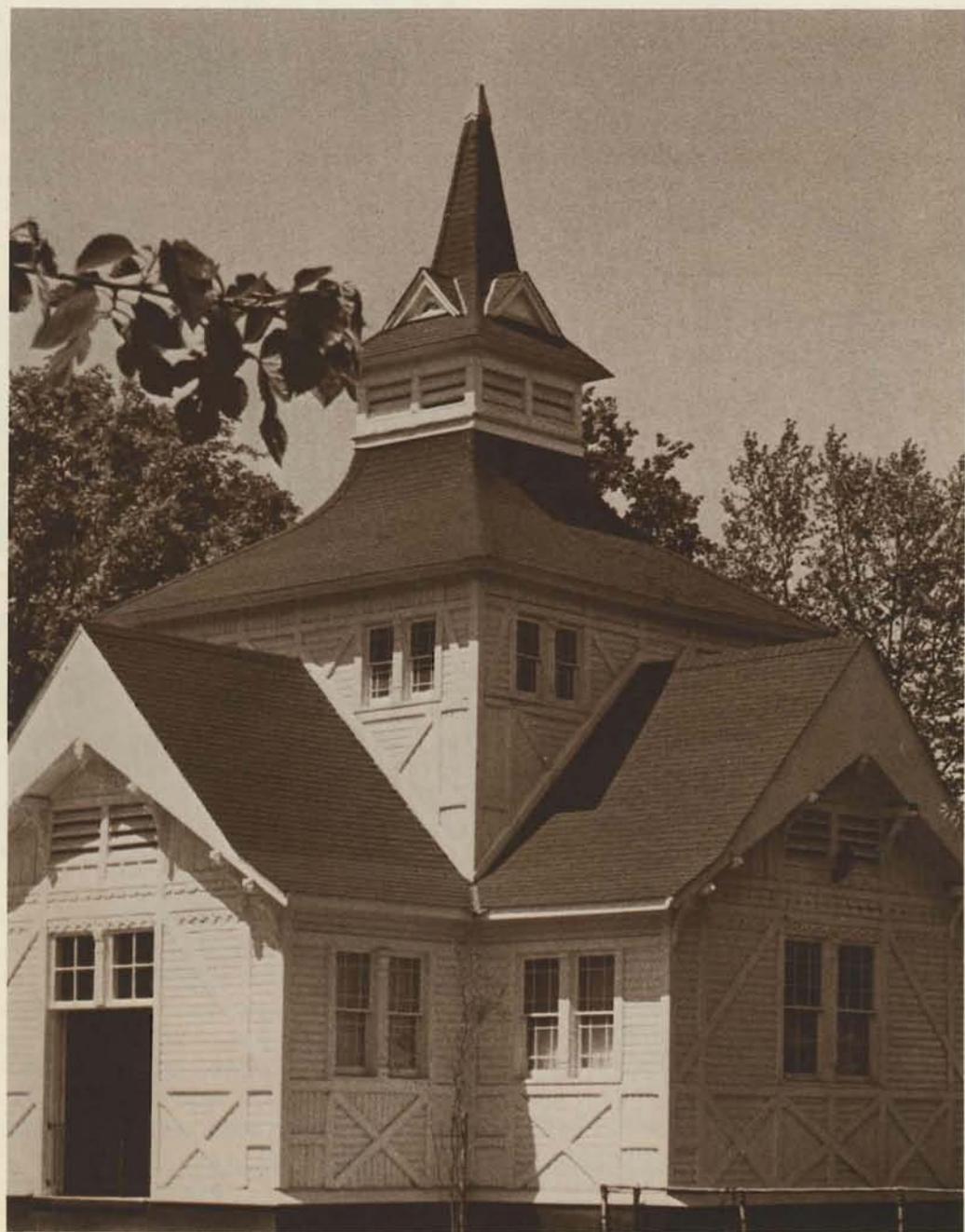


Zoo News

winter 1977



ZOO NEWS

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Front Cover — A New Look for an Old Friend, story on page 4. Photo by William Ashbolt, Plain Dealer

Back Cover — Before and After — The Zoo's male Siberian Reindeer grew another beautiful set of antlers this year. The "rack" weighed 23 pounds and was dropped on November 21. The female will soon lose her antlers.

Photos by Kathleen Hemker, Metropark Zoo

Zoo-Potpourri



These are photographs of "GiGi" the Zoo's female Orang-utan taken shortly after her birth on September 4, 1962. "GiGi's" mother, "Susie," shown holding "GiGi" in the first photograph, died shortly after giving birth. "GiGi" was raised by Mrs. Anna Wendt until she was eight months old. She was then returned to the Zoo. Currently "GiGi" is at the Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison, Wisconsin, in the company of a male Orang-utan who has already sired five offspring. "GiGi" will return to Cleveland soon and, hopefully, give birth to a healthy orang.



Photo by Kathleen Hemker, Metroparks Zoo

Cleveland Zoological Society Trustee Robert S. Reitman presented Julie Madson, 9, a plaque, \$50 Savings Bond and a membership in the Friends of the Zoo for submitting the winning name in "Name The Rhino Contest" on August 18, 1976.

Julie named the Zoo's new Black Rhino "O-KIE." He was born on May 10, 1975 at the Oklahoma City Zoo (Oklahoma) and was purchased through the generosity of Robert S. Reitman and The AAV Companies. The CLEVELAND PRESS through their "Mini Press" sponsored this contest.



Photo by
Kathleen Hemker,
Metroparks Zoo

The Zoo's Bateleur Eagle is now a resident at the Oklahoma City Zoo (Oklahoma). Our male eagle was sent to the Oklahoma City Zoo with the hope that it would mate with their female, which has been laying infertile eggs. The Cleveland Metroparks Zoo did have a pair of these beautiful birds, but the female died several years ago.

Bateleur eagles inhabit the open savannahs and plains of Africa, south of the Sahara. They are scavengers, feeding on carrion, although they are capable of killing small mammals, reptiles and fish.

Propagation of this species in captivity is rare; the St. Louis Zoo successfully hatched and raised the first Bateleur Eagle in captivity in 1976.

The Metroparks Zoo received two pairs of Red-necked Ostriches in exchange for the Bateleur Eagle. These ostriches are quartered near the Kangaroos and Wallabies.

Docent Doings

Zoo Docents begin work on Wade Hall; left to right: Maureen Downes, Marie Wentling, Cheri Glovan, Mary Ann Bilicki and Rosemary Losh. The following Docents also contributed time to this project: Elsie Hancock, Peggy Ossenbrugge, Karen Reid, Shirley Stavole and Mr. & Mrs. E. Wright.



If you had visited the Metroparks Zoo on a Saturday in late October or early November you would have found the Zoo's Gift Shop occupied by a group of very determined and dedicated people . . . Zoo Docents. The Docents realized that one of the Zoo's treasures, Wade Hall, was badly in need of refurbishing and decided to work on the interior. The exterior of the building will be taken care of by the Cleveland Metroparks System. Wade Hall was

built in 1884 at the Wade Park zoo as a shelter house for deer. It was moved to Brookside Park in 1970 and now houses a gift shop.

Docent Rosemary Losh convinced The Sherwin Williams Paint Company to donate white paint and Docent Elsie Hancock secured black paint from the Pratt & Lambert Paint Company. It took the group several Saturdays to completely paint the interior — but the results are fantastic! The Gift Shop was open for Christmas shopping on December 11, 12, and 18, 19 — a great chance for everyone to see the beautiful interior, do Christmas shopping and visit the animals. On these days the Zoo did not charge admission.

Painting isn't the sole interest of the Docents. The word "docent" means "unpaid teacher" and during 1976 this group took over 1200 people on guided tours of the Zoo and conducted educational programs for over 800 people outside the Zoo. Docents also staff Zoo booths at special shows and help with special events in the Zoo.

Anyone interested in joining the Docent Organization should contact one of the group's advisors, Charles R. Voracek or Kathleen A. Hemker, at the Zoo, 661-6500.

Zoo Calendar

THE 1977 CLEVELAND METROPARKS ZOO FILM PROGRAM

EXCLUSIVELY FOR FRIENDS OF THE ZOO MEMBERS AND THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES
PROGRAMS HELD AT THE ADMINISTRATION-EDUCATION CENTER OF THE METROPARKS ZOO
TWO SHOW TIMES FOR EACH PROGRAM DATE — 1:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 23, 1977 — 91 minutes rated PG

"CRY OF THE WILD" — The phenomenal success of this motion picture all across the country is a testament to both the beauty of this haunting nature drama and to the need for such high quality educational entertainment. Years in the making, "Cry of the Wild" treats us to an intimate and often startling study of the wolf, in the wilds and in captivity. It is a close-up look at one of nature's most feared and little known creatures, photographed by Bill Mason in the most inaccessible parts of the Arctic.

Sunday, February 20, 1977 — 92 minutes rated G

"ANIMALS ARE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE" — The

protagonists of this beautiful outdoors drama are captivating elephants, baboons, warthogs and other fauna of Southeast Africa's desert, mountains and swamp land.

Sunday, March 20, 1977 — 93 minutes rated G

"TERRITORY OF OTHERS" — "Territory of Others" paints an unforgettable portrait of desert wildlife in the arid wastelands of Arizona. The film presents rare glimpses of little-known creatures as well as fascinating studies of such familiar, but deadly animals as the desert jaguar, rattlesnake, cougar, and colorful Gila Monster, facing the hour to hour challenge of survival in one of the harshest environments on earth.

ANIMAL REPORT

NOTABLE BIRTHS

- 1/0 Jaguar
- 6 Coypu (drowned in flood of 9/27/76)
- 1 Kangaroo (still in mother's pouch)
- 0/1 Pygmy Hippo (succumbed to circulatory problems on 9/27/76)
- 1/0 Eland
- 0/1 Guinea Baboon
- 0/1 Grant's Zebra
 - 1 Hamadryas Baboon
- 1/0 Patagonian Cavy
 - 1 Sitatunga

NOTABLE HATCHINGS

- 5 Rosybills
- 1 Blue-Crowned Pigeon
- 4 Turtle Doves
- 1 Grey Rhea
- 2 White Rheas
- 5 Black Swans

NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS

- 1/1 Patagonian Crested Ducks
- 1/1 Wild Muscovy Ducks
- 1/1 Peach Face Love Birds
- 2/0 Green-cheeked Parrots
- 1/0 Monk Parakeet
- 1/1 Coscoroba Swans
- 1/2 Chilean Flamingos
- 2/2 Ostriches
- 1/2 Argentine Red Shovelers
- 2/2 Néné (Hawaiian Geese)
- 2/2 Ross' Geese
- 1/1 California Sea Lions
- 1/0 Chimp

NOTABLE DEATHS

- Sarus Crane egg found broken and infertile
- 1/0 Humboldt's Penguin – Pulmonary Edema
- 1/0 Humboldt's Penguin – Aspergillosis
- 1/0 East African Eland – Euthanized because of debilitating tumor in lung cavity

Code: 1/0 – male, 0/1 – female, 1 – undetermined

California's Finest

In August, 1975 the Metroparks Zoo sustained the worst flood in its 93-year history, and as a result, lost three California Sea Lions. These animals are protected by the U.S. Government and the Zoo had to apply for permits to obtain new animals. These permits were granted to the Zoo in August, 1976.

Consequently, a pair of one-year-old Sea

Lions arrived at the Zoo on October 14, 1976. They were donated to the zoo by Beechnut Gum and Radio Station WGCL, and are presently quartered in the Animal Care Center. They will be transferred to the Sea Lion Pool when warm spring weather arrives. The Zoo expects to receive two additional females in the near future.



*This young female Grant's Zebra was born at the Zoo on October 20.
Photo by Kathleen Hemker, Metroparks Zoo*

ISIS

by Donald J. Kuenzer
Curator

In today's ever-changing world progress through innovation and application seems to be the trend. The zoo world is no exception. One of these "innovations" is called ISIS, short for International Species Inventory System. ISIS, pronounced "eye-sis," is a computerized coding system that gives each animal (mammal, bird, reptile and fish) its own "Social Security" number.

Along with this six digit number goes the scientific and common names, the taxonomic code (denotes the specie name in numbers), and the institution's code number. After the preliminaries, we move into the vital statistics: date of birth or estimated age, sex, sire (father), dam (mother), place of birth. Space is provided for special tag numbers or house names, e.g. Dimples our Pygmy Hippo.

If an animal is later sold, traded or dies, another form is completed. This pink form denotes an addition or correction to data which has already been submitted. Death data includes: cause of death, disposition of body (buried, incinerated, preserved) and whether or not an autopsy was performed. Sales or trades require the buyer's name or code number, any special numbers, price and delivery costs. Now we have a condensed version of an animal's life which will follow him from one institution to another.



All the Zoo's birds, such as this Black Swan and cygnets, are given ISIS numbers.

Photo by Kathleen Hemker, Metroparks Zoo

Every innovation should have a purpose, this one is almost unlimited. Generally speaking, the greatest uses for curators or animal managers would be improved care and management techniques. Being more explicit, it would provide more accurate life spans and breeding seasons, captive behaviour problems, genealogy (pedigrees), locations of single animals and major death problems. It will also enable scientists and government officials to accurately evaluate captive breeding populations and the potential value of placing endangered animals in institutions for propagation.

ISIS was conceived in the mid '60's when the AAZPA (American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums) formed a committee to study the possibilities of centralizing available animal data. It wasn't until the fall of 1974 that a workable data

system was implemented. There are now about 111 participants with well over 18,000 animals recorded.

The home of this vast store of knowledge is the new Minnesota State Zoo. Here handwritten forms from all over the country are transferred to cards and fed into the computer. Each participant receives a print-out of their own collection yearly and may request additional printouts as needed.

Someday ISIS may reach the point of a total zoo link up to a central computer. This would mean at a push of a few buttons, a problem which may take days to research, could be solved in seconds.

A program like this could mean a better, more productive and progressive animal program for your zoo. To some, the chance to see a healthy, well-maintained, live animal is justification enough.



The Zoo's African Elephants are known as "Simba" and "Tara" to their Keepers and Zoo visitors, but in the ISIS system they are "000002" and "000001".

Photo by Tony Tomsic, Cleveland Press

MIGRATION – *One of Nature's Enigmatic Mysteries*

*by Charles R. Voracek
Public Service Director*

When the chill of autumn pervades the air, one of nature's most mysterious forces begins its inevitable course in the animal kingdom. Sky watchers and bird watchers both view this phenomenon, as flocks of waterfowl wend their way through the skies from north to south seeking warmer climates and a more available food supply which dwindles in their northerly spring breeding grounds and summer living habitats as fall and winter wear on. Typical of the North American migratory birds are the Canada Geese, usually flying in a "V" formation, heading to southerly wintering grounds through airways known as flyways.

Ornithologists and scientists have studied migration for many years; They have found that certain basic conditions must be fulfilled before migration occurs.

A migratory readiness must take place; this is effected by glands (thyroid and pituitary) which change metabolism and



This is a photograph of the Zoo's Waterfowl Lake. Most of the birds have arrived from the north and found the Zoo a nice place to spend the winter. When spring arrives they will head back to their breeding grounds.

stimulate deposits of body fat. Length of day directly affects glandular activity. When these conditions have been fulfilled the birds are in a "migratory mood." The final trigger to get the birds migrating may be weather stimuli. A few cold days may be the "releaser." Scientific research has shown that migration is a hereditary factor. Birds have an innate sense directing them to certain predetermined wintering areas. Young birds which have not previously migrated, instinctively head for their wintering range when the proper time is at hand.

Some bird species have a rather short migration distance — a few hundred miles; others migrate from one end of the globe to the other — the Arctic Tern, for example, covers a total annual migratory route of from 22,000 to 25,000 miles.

Some birds are day migrants, some are nocturnal migrants, and others migrate both day and night.



*birds in the photo do not belong to the Zoo; they were migrating south
as they will leave the Zoo.*

Photo by Tony Tomsic, CLEVELAND PRESS

Some birds migrate according to calendar dates; for example, Capistrano swallows and Hinckley, Ohio, buzzards. Others migrate according to weather conditions and these weather-oriented birds sometimes run into severe problems by waiting too long for unfavorable weather to occur and then find food availability non-existent because of snow cover or frozen water

Migration altitudes vary greatly — smaller birds tend to fly at low altitudes; larger birds at higher altitudes. Penguins, unable to fly, migrate by swimming. They migrate for reasons of following their food supply — fish and other aquatic dietary items.

Migration occurred in the bird world at least 25 million years ago. The glacial and post-glacial periods probably played a major role in the present state of bird migration. Many species had to leave certain areas covered by glaciers, and those species eventually returned after the glaciers retreated.

Migration changes are slowly but constantly taking place: Some birds are finding that migrations are not necessary as conditions for food and shelter have changed because of urbanization. More and more birds that once were considered a rarity in winter have found it easier to stay in an area rather than hazard a southbound journey in fall and the return northbound flight in spring. Robins, once an unusual sight in Ohio in winter, are now a rather common occurrence.

There are so many complex factors which enter into the migration instinct that man has only scratched the surface in understanding this cyclic phenomenon. Birds do it instinctively and innately, without wondering about the why, where and how of it. Migration comes as naturally as the birds' capability of flight. In any event, the sight of a migratory flock of Canada Geese stirs the souls of men each fall and spring and causes pause for thought on the wonders and beauty of nature and her infinite wisdom.

The Hawaiian Goose

by Kathleen A. Hemker
Information & Education Coordinator

The Metroparks Zoo recently obtained two pairs of Nene, also called Hawaiian Geese (*Branta sandvicensis*).

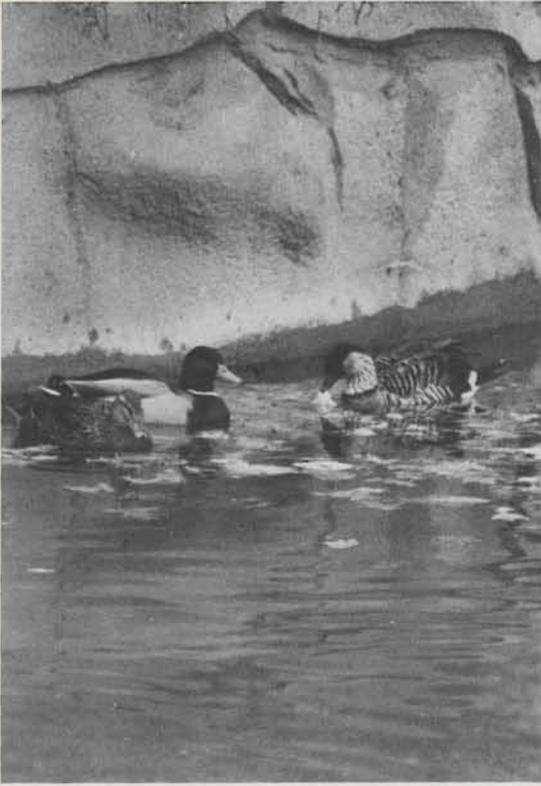
Hawaiian Geese are handsome black, grey and buff-colored geese that weigh from four to five pounds. They are land geese, inhabiting the mountain slopes on the islands of Hawaii and Maui. They have been reported to visit other Hawaiian Islands, but have never established homes there. On Hawaii they frequent the mountains Mauna Loa, Mauna Kea and Hualalai, living at elevations of 5,000 to 8,000 feet on the lava flows. In these eroded lava flows are "kipukas," small grassy flats with bushes and temporary pools of water, the refuges of the Nene.

Nene have become adapted to these semi-arid conditions; the webs of their feet have shrunk to about half the size of other geese, although they can still swim, they have strong toes and unusually long legs.

Nenes nest in the wild from October through February. The nest is a hollow in the ground or the eggs are laid on the ground and surrounded by pieces of brush. Although three to six eggs may be laid, they generally raise only two young.

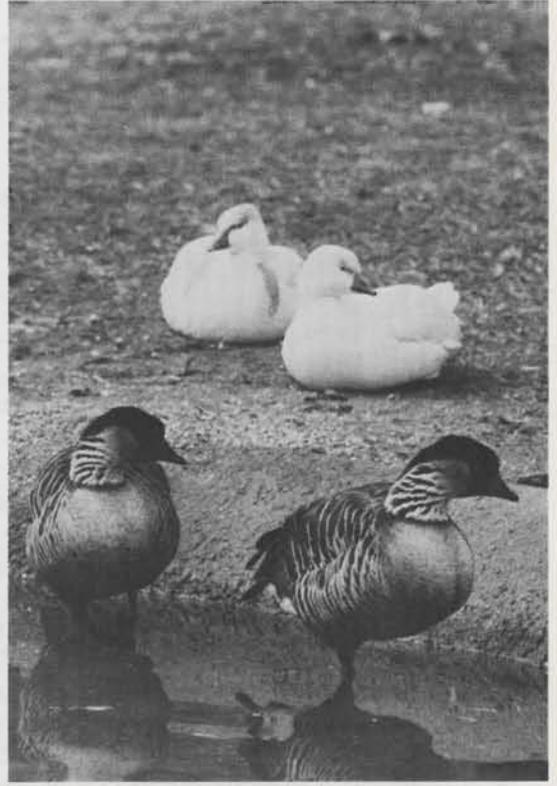
The sexes in the Hawaiian Goose are marked and colored similarly, but do show some differences; the gander (male) has a more aggressive nature, a longer neck and is slightly larger than the female. The plumage of the male is brighter and the colors are darker.

In 1700 the population of Nene was estimated to number approximately 25,000 birds. In 1940 about 43 Nene were left in the world. Their population had declined dramatically since the colonization of the Hawaiian Islands by Europeans in the 18th Century. Settlers brought with them dogs, pigs and the banded mongoose that preyed on the native Hawaiian Goose. Exotic birds also arrived with the new settlers carrying new bird diseases. Hunting also helped deplete the Nene population. Erosion and habitat destruction which accompanied the farming methods of the Europeans de-



These "land geese" are capable of swimming, although the webs of their feet have been reduced as an adaptation to life spent mainly on land.

Photo by Kathleen Hemker, Metroparks Zoo



The birds in the foreground of this photograph are Nene, behind them are Ross' Geese.

Photo by Kathleen Hemker, Metroparks Zoo

prived the Nene of nesting and feeding grounds. They were probably extinct on the island of Maui by 1900.

The Hawaiian Goose had been used for food by the Polynesians that originally colonized the Hawaiian Islands, particularly when the geese were molting and unable to fly. But, there is no evidence they overkilled these remarkable birds.

Fortunately, protective measures have been taken and captive breeding programs instituted to ensure the survival of the Nene. Conservation efforts began after World War II and were led by Herbert Shipman, a Hawaiian farmer, and Peter Scott, an English bird artist and waterfowl breeder. Scott established a breeding program at Slimbridge, England with geese sent to him by Shipman. Other breeding programs of the Wildfowl Trust in England, the Pohakuloa Game Farm in Hawaii and

breeding farms in New York, Tennessee and Connecticut have substantially increased the number of Nene. Today, there are over 300 Hawaiian Geese in the wild and over 200 in captivity.

The Hawaiian Goose is the official bird of the State of Hawaii and is fully protected by law. The United States Government annually appropriated \$15,000 for the propagation and ecological studies of the Nene.

Although still relatively rare in the wild, these birds are becoming more plentiful due to the efforts of the Hawaiian Division of Fish and Game. Nene were reintroduced on the island of Maui in 1962.

The Zoo's two pairs of Nenes are quartered in the same paddock as the Siberian Reindeer. It is hoped that our geese will breed and raise young to add to the world population of this rare and beautiful bird.



Remember, it doesn't have to be Christmas to give a Friends of the Zoo gift membership!

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