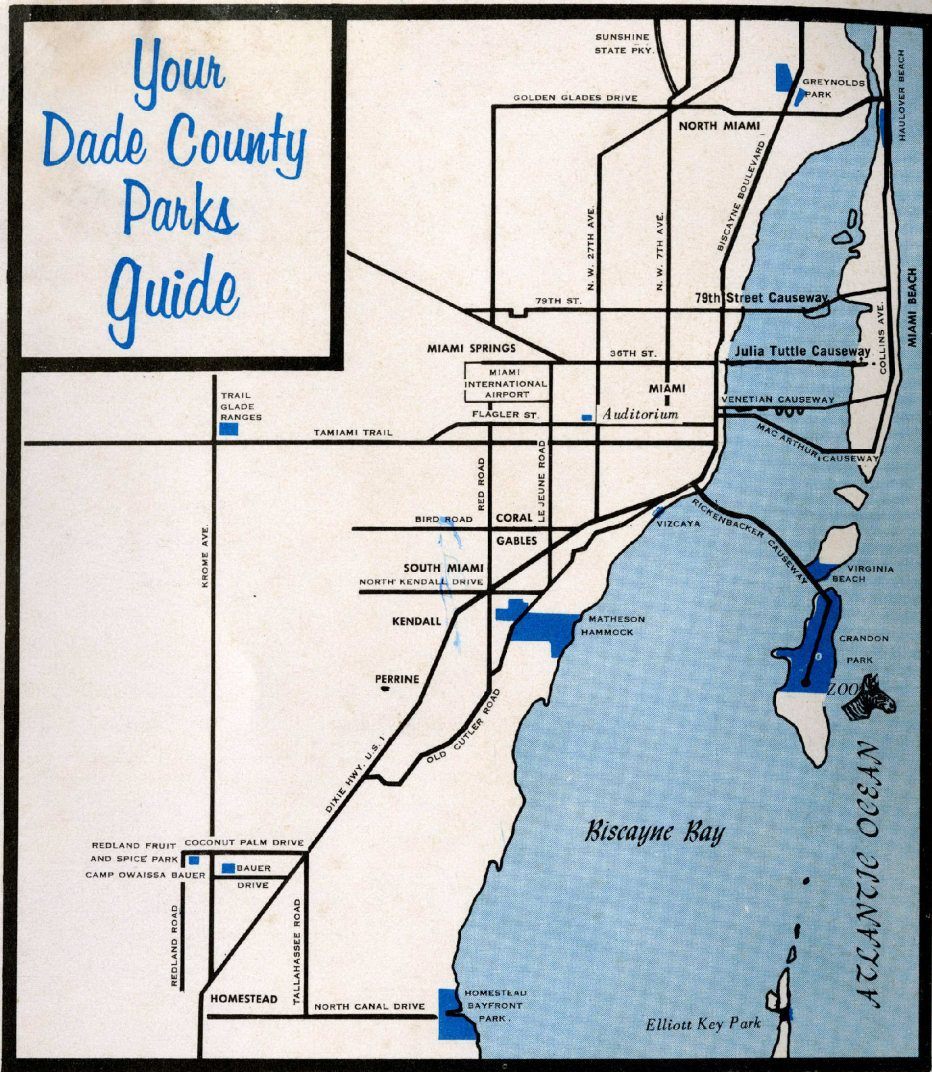


Crandon  
**ZOO GUIDE**



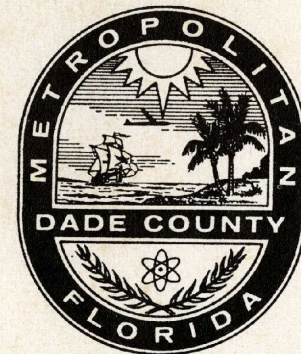


Your  
Dade County  
Parks  
Guide



The  
Official Guide Book  
of  
**CRANDON PARK  
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS**

**CRANDON PARK  
KEY BISCAIENE  
MIAMI, FLORIDA**



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PHOTOGRAPHS BY DADE W. THORNTON





**A Breathtaking Tropical Vista In Crandon Park Zoo**

## INTRODUCTION

*THIS ZOO GUIDE BOOK is by no means intended to be a text book of zoology, however, we have endeavored to place before you as much interesting factual knowledge as possible.*

*The collection of animals in any zoological park is an ever changing thing and regular zoo visitors can almost always be assured of seeing something new added each time they visit their local zoo. Our Crandon Park Zoo is no exception. We have grown since 1949 from — as one well-known zoo director put it — “an insignificant sand dune menagerie to one of the fine zoos in the United States.” At this writing our animal inventory lists almost 900 mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians of over 280 species, or kinds. While this number is not great, when compared to the species existing in the world today, it does represent examples of most of the major groups.*

*You will notice the modern appearance of our zoo in keeping with its sub-tropical location facing on the Atlantic Ocean. Our animals live outdoors year round in contrast to northern zoos which must have winter and summer quarters. Many park's officials and zoo experts have praised our Crandon Park Zoo for its overall cleanliness and the healthy appearance of its specimens.*

*The Zoological Society of Florida has been very helpful in adding to our collection and through their efforts the zoo has grown into prominence. Our hope is that you will enjoy your visit — and come again.*





**Clean Well-Kept Grounds And Healthy Animals Are Zoo's Pride**



**Duck Lake Is Great Attraction For Both Young and Old**

## **THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA**

The Zoological Society of Florida is a non-profit educational and scientific society under Florida law. It was founded in 1956 for the purpose of promulgating knowledge and awareness of our wildlife through education . . . research . . . and conservation.

The Society is actively interested in the maintenance and operation of the Crandon Park Zoo and has donated a number of animals including a pair of superb Royal Bengal Tigers.



# HOW TO GET THERE . . .

## ROUTES . . . WAYS . . . MEANS . . . OF TRANSPORTATION

### ● LOCATION:

Crandon Park Zoo is located on beautiful, historic Key Biscayne — a pleasant fifteen minute drive from downtown Miami across Biscayne Bay via Rickenbacker Causeway. The Zoo is situated at the south end of Crandon Park and is reached through Parking Lot 1. It is adjacent to Crandon Park's famous 10,000 coconut-palm lined beach — permitting ocean bathing in the Atlantic and Zoo sightseeing on one trip.

### ● BY AUTO:

From downtown Miami follow U. S. 1 Highway (Biscayne Boulevard, at this point) south through DuPont Plaza and across Miami River at bridge and then south along Brickell Avenue to Rickenbacker Causeway entrance. Pass\* through toll gates (25¢ per car) and proceed across Rickenbacker Causeway to Key Biscayne. On Key Biscayne follow double-lane Crandon Boulevard to Parking Lot 1. From this point follow signs to Zoo. Motorists driving from Coral Gables and South Miami can follow U. S. 1 towards downtown and the Rickenbacker entrance. From Coconut Grove follow Ingraham Highway and South Bayshore Drive to Rickenbacker Causeway entrance.

### ● BY BUS:

Metro Transit Authority operates HOURLY schedules to Crandon Park, leaving its Miami Terminal (S. E. 3rd Ave. and Flagler St.) on the half-hour mark from 6:30 a. m. to 9:30 a. m. — then it operates on the HALF-HOUR schedule up until 6:30 p. m. Return trips from Key Biscayne Hotel leave there on the FULL HOUR mark until 10 a. m. — then every half-hour until 7:00 p. m. The departure and boarding point for bus-riding zoo patrons at Crandon Park is in the Esplanade, Parking Lot 1, where the bus pulls in for passengers near the beach.

### ● HOURS OPEN:

Crandon Park Zoo is open every day in the year. It has various visiting times, however, and these are as follows:

**MAIN ZOO** opens 9:30 a. m. every day in the year. **MAIN ZOO** closes 5:00 p. m. every day. (On Sundays and Holidays June through September the closing is 6:00 p. m.)

**CHILDREN'S ZOO** is open at 10:00 a. m. and closes one-half hour earlier than Main Zoo schedule as shown above.



## A TRIP TO THE ZOO

**Rustic scenes like this covered bridge invite the zoo-goer further into the mysteries of nature and wildlife exploration. This bridge marks the departure from the adult zoo to the children's zoo — both popular with kids from 6 to 60. Like magic-land, sea cows feed at its base resembling creatures from mythology. The zoo combines fact with fancy.**



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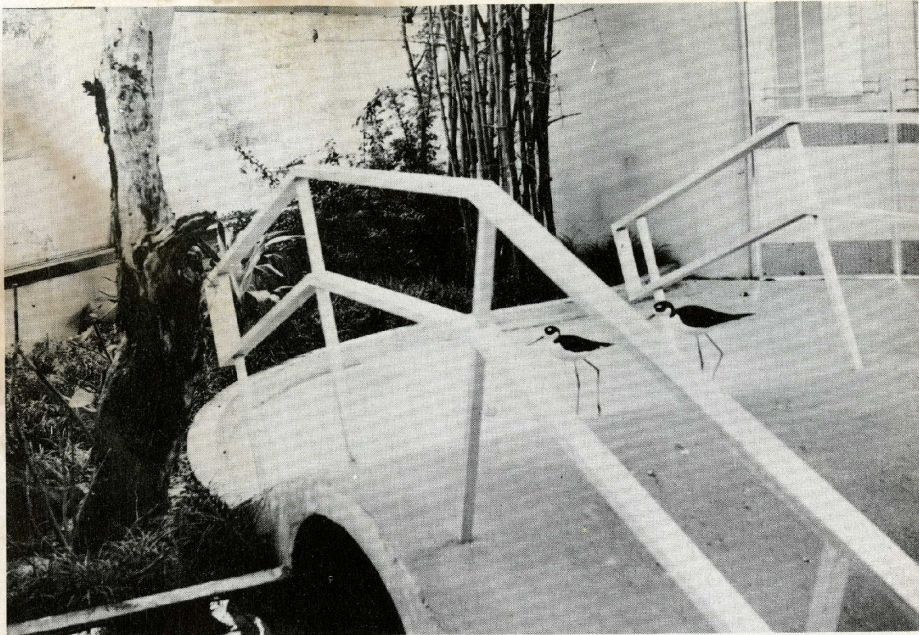
**CRANDON ZOOLOGICAL PARK  
IS OPEN  
EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR**



## TROPICAL ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN

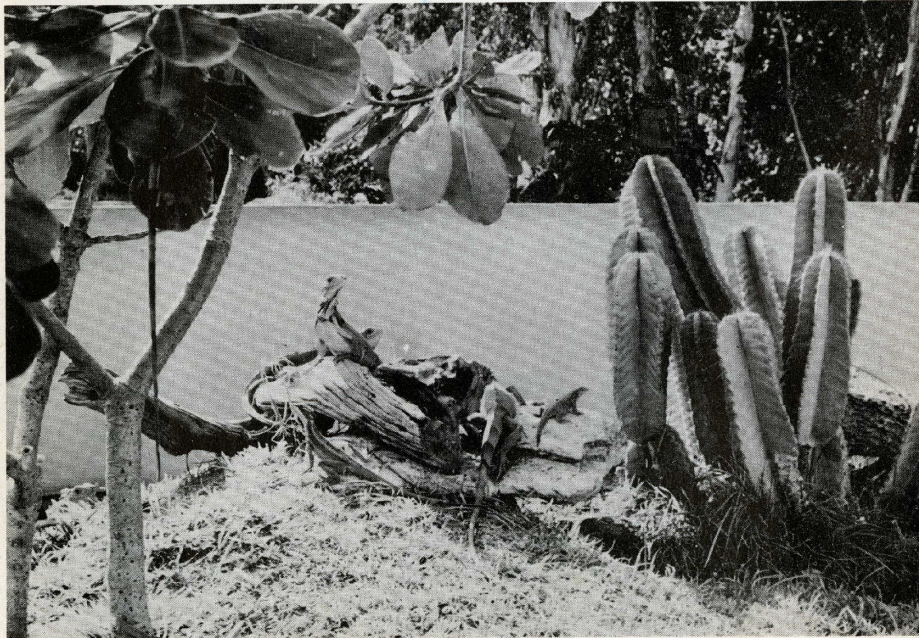
Crandon Park Zoo is a tropical oasis. Open year round it does not have winter quarters like northern zoos. Its animals and birds remain outdoors 365 days a year amid warm sun and palms. Many tropical trees, palms and brilliant flowers bloom and grow in this zoological garden facing on the Atlantic Ocean and the warm Gulf Stream.



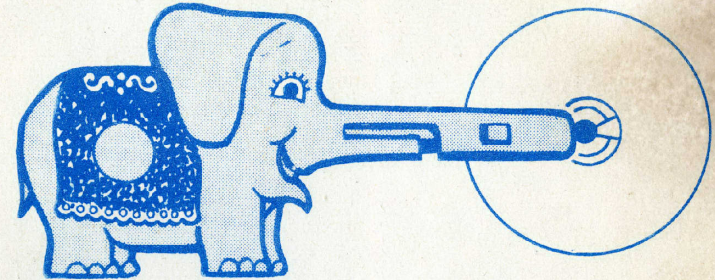


Scene In Bird Aviary

Lizards In Moat

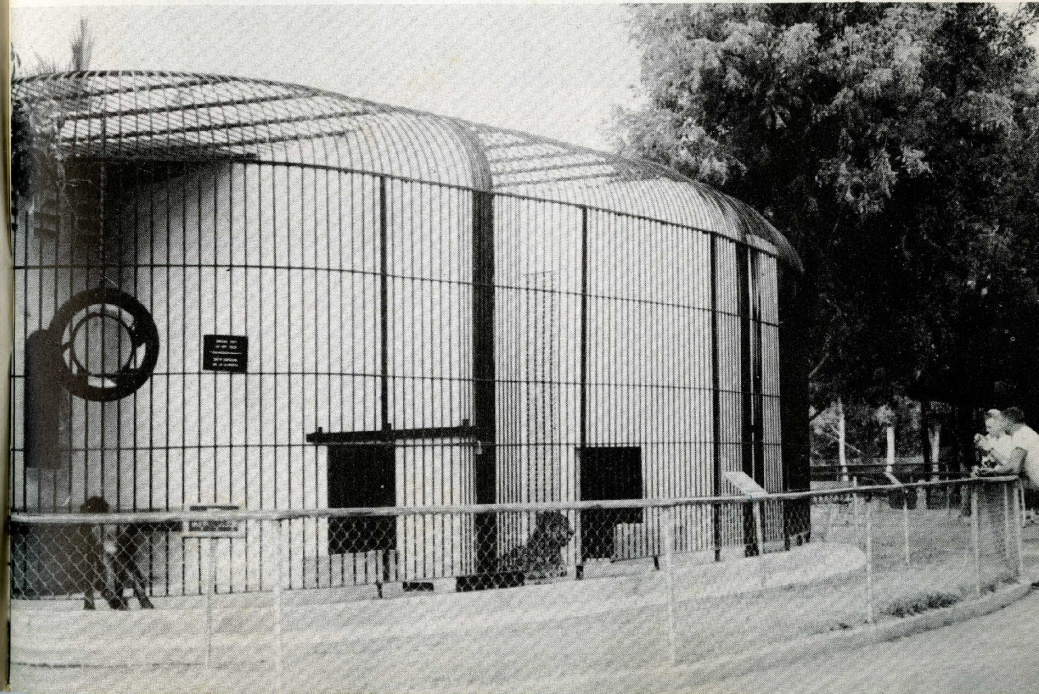


# ZOO - KEY

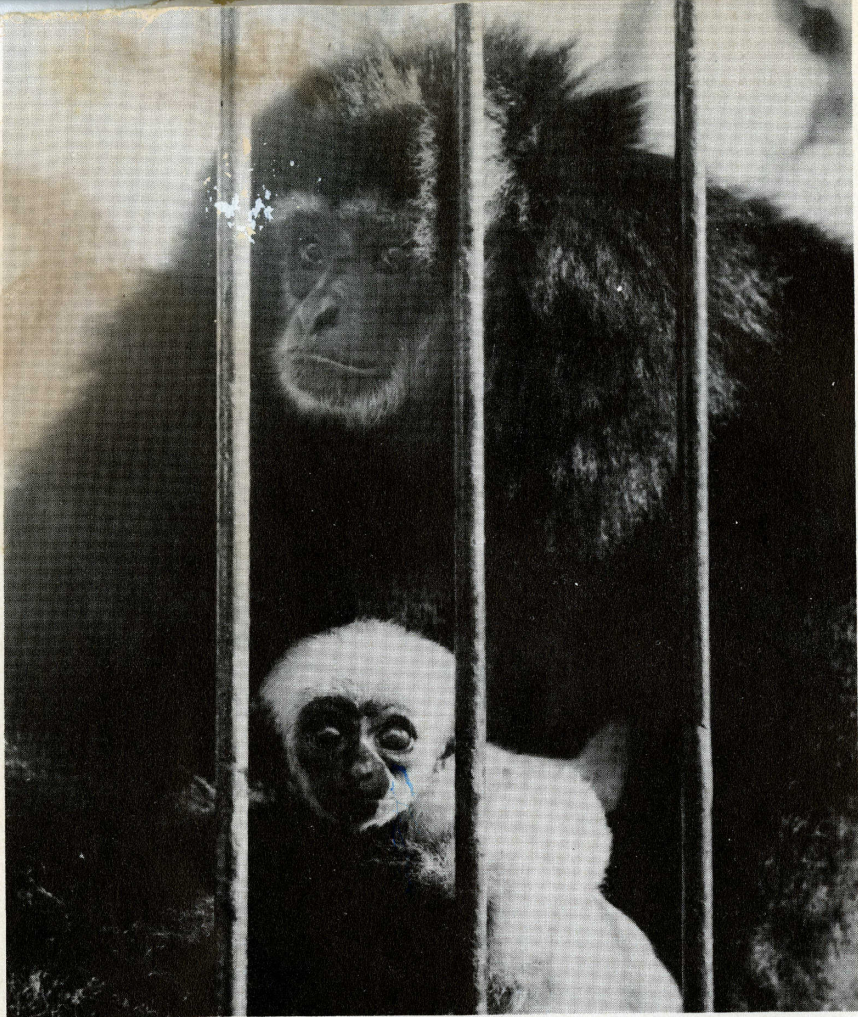


**PURCHASE YOUR ELEPHANT KEY—At The Crandon Park Zoo**  
— PRICE 50 CENTS —  
**Works All The Talking Story Books In The**  
**Children's Zoo and Main Zoo Areas**  
Lots of Fun . . . Good For A Lifetime Use . . . Kids Love It

**Modern Cages Offer Great Comfort To Animals At Crandon Zoo**







## MAMMALS

• MAMMAL is a term commonly confused with the term ANIMAL so a clarification seems in order at this point. An animal basically is any living thing that is not a plant, thus *Grasshoppers, Worms, Jellyfish, Bears, Ducks, Turtles, Snakes, Lizards* and even tiny one-celled *Amoebas* are animals. A MAMMAL is any warm-blooded animal that feeds its young from milk secreted from its own body. All animals from the Platypus (which lays eggs) *Mice, Bats, Seals, Whales, Tigers, Horses* and man are mammals.

The *Mammal* collection at the Crandon Park Zoo is at this writing far from complete. However, most of the major groups of mammals are represented and the collection will be expanded as the Zoo grows.

*Mammals* live and thrive in almost any type of habitat. Some fly, some live in the sea, some in fresh water, some in trees, some under the surface of the earth, some on the earth's surface, some in the tropics, some in the polar regions, and some in combinations of the above.

## VARIOUS DIVISIONS OF MAMMALS

Man is especially interested in mammals because he is one. Mammals nurse their young and these young, with but two exceptions, are born alive rather than hatched from eggs. The two exceptions are the platypus and the spiny anteater which hatch their young from eggs after a three week incubation period. Other characteristics are: the presence of hair on the body, oil and sweat glands, a constant body temperature, fully four-chambered heart, increased size of brain case and the presence of a muscular diaphragm that functions in breathing.

Similar to birds, which are classed as "animals", mammals originated from reptiles some 160 to 200 million years ago in the Triassic Period. There are eighteen major groups known as ORDERS by which they are classified and recognized today. These include PRIMATES (monkeys), MARSUPIALS (pouched like the kangaroo), CARNIVORA (tigers, lions, etc.), INSECTIVORES (insect eaters such as shrews and moles), RODENTIA (rats, squirrels), CANINES (dogs, wolves, foxes) as well as odd-toed hoofed mammals and even-toed hoofed mammals. The horse and rhino are both odd-toed hoofed mammals with one or three "toes" which have formed into hooves in their gradual evolution. Animal hoofs are not "split" or "cloven", but are separate toes which have formed into hoofs through ages of development. Even-toed hoofed mammals have an even number of toes supporting the weight of the animal. The hippo and pigs are in this order.

Then there are mammals that swallow their food without complete chewing to later regurgitate and thoroughly chew it. These are called RUMINANTS. The camel, llama, deer, cow, giraffe are all examples. However, all ruminants are even-toed hoofed mammals.

The whale is a large mammal. It bears its young and suckles it. The largest whale ever measured was more than 100 feet in length and was estimated to weigh about 120 tons. (Fish, however, are animals not mammals.)

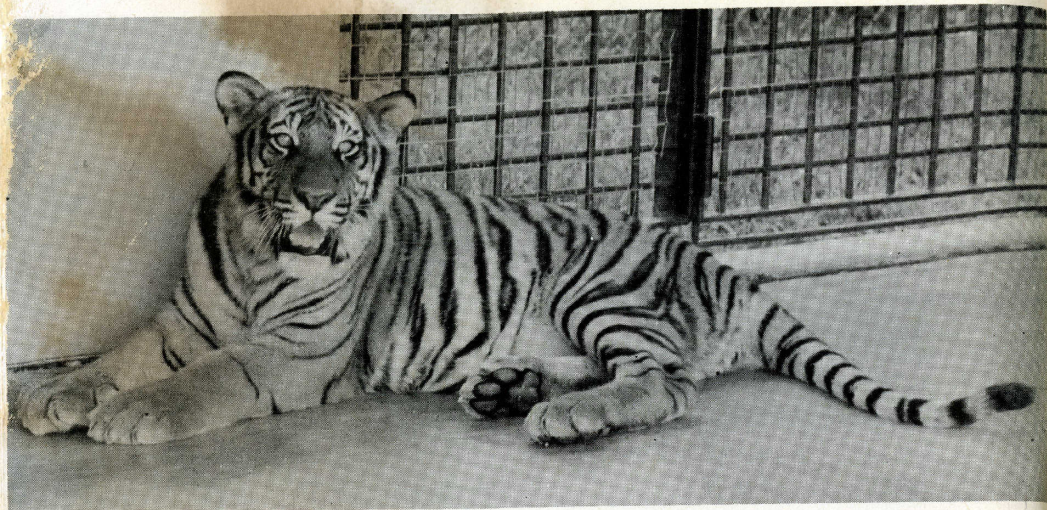
Although all mammals have hair, some of this hair takes other forms. The spines on the porcupine are specialized hairs as is the horn of the rhinoceros which is "glued together" hair.

Birds — are animals, not mammals and are offshoots of ancient reptiles. Birds are found in all parts of the world and are a great delight to man with their songs and beauty. The non-flying penguin is also a bird with his funny walk, white tie-and-tails appearance and long beak and wings that look like flippers.

You will enjoy seeing the mammal displays at the zoo. They constitute some of the largest exhibits in the zoo, and we think you will find them very interesting.







Indian Bengal Tiger

## CARNIVORA

THIS group, the flesh-eaters, has in it some of the most popular of zoo animals. Members of this group range in size from species hardly six inches in length to the *Kodiak Bear* which is the largest land dwelling carnivore living today. It also includes the *wolves*, *foxes*, big and small *cats*, *weasels* and other mammals that are adapted to killing prey and eating meat. Some flesh eaters have deviated in their eating habits due to evolution of the species. The *bear*, for example, does not live strictly on a meat diet such as fish and game, but likes berries, grubs and termites. The *hyena* is content to feed on carrion and "kills" left by more predacious animals.

• TIGER — The fine pair of *Bengal Tigers* on exhibit at the Crandon Park Zoo was purchased with money tossed into the Alligator pit by Zoo visitors and collected by the Zoological Society of Florida. This species of tiger attains a weight in excess of 500 lbs. and a length of about 11 feet including tail. *Bengal Tigers* occur only in Asia, most commonly in India. *Siberian Tigers* are the largest of the cats estimated to attain a weight of about 600 lbs. The now extinct granddaddy, the *Saber-tooth Cat*, used to roam most of the globe including Florida.

TIGERS are solitary in their habits preferring to roam the jungle at night to seek their prey. Man eaters occur, but mostly among the old and maimed which seek an easy prey. Unlike other cats the *tiger* likes water and will take a bath in a stream or lagoon. The average *tiger* will eat from ten to twelve pounds of food daily but in captivity is fed less due to limited opportunity for exercise and the natural sedentary habit of most mammals when ready food is available. This keeps them sleek and in good condition.

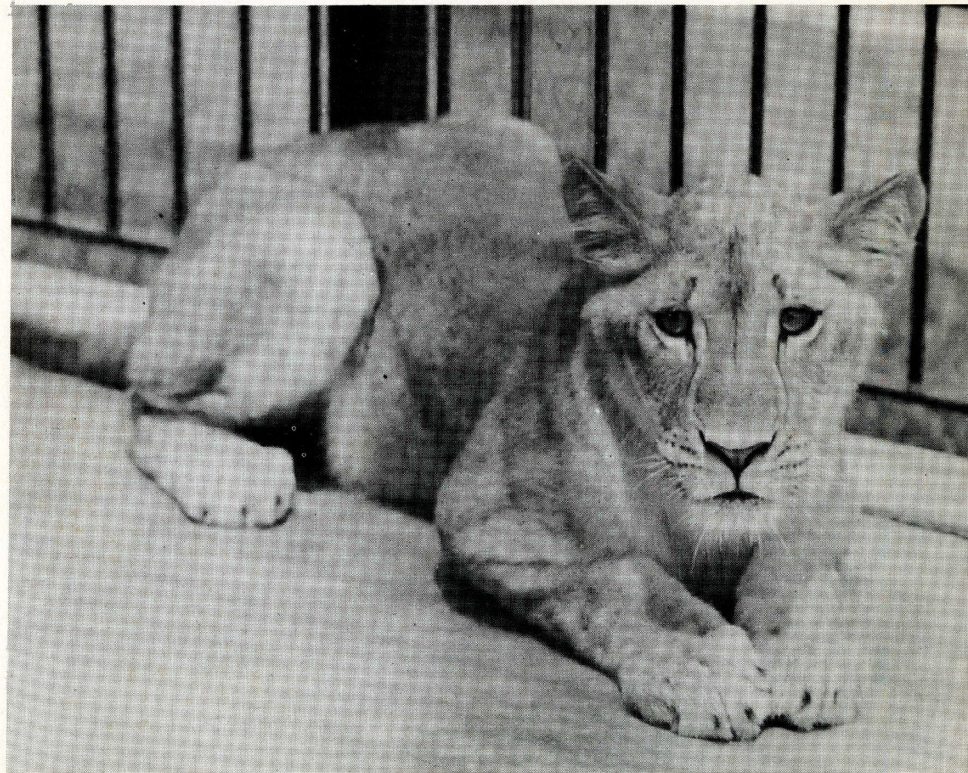
• LION — *Lions* are one of the most familiar of exotic wild animals and their regal appearance has earned them the name King of Beasts. A large male African *Lion* might weigh in excess of 500 lbs. and reach a total length of 11 feet. Africa is headquarters for the *Lion*, although a very few still occur in Asia from Mesopotamia to northwest India.

A litter consists of from two to four young and it is a curious fact that *lions* are born with their eyes open. In the wild state *lions* live in family groups called "prides" and male *lions* aid in the care and rearing of the cubs. The cubs have spots which disappear when about nine months old. At about one year they grow tufts of long hair on their legs and on the neck which become manes.

The *lion* is a plains animal following game herds across the veldt and mixing with them. They live well in captivity and adapt to their surroundings. It is a very agile cat, running at speeds of up to fifty miles an hour over the plains for short distances and can clear a tall fence in seeking native livestock. It covered most of northern Europe in prehistoric times, but today has been reduced mainly to its African range.

The *lion* can be trained and appears in circuses as does the *tiger* in separate or mixed groups. In Roman days it was used in the arenas as was the *tiger* in fights against gladiators and orgies involving persecution.

Young African Lion



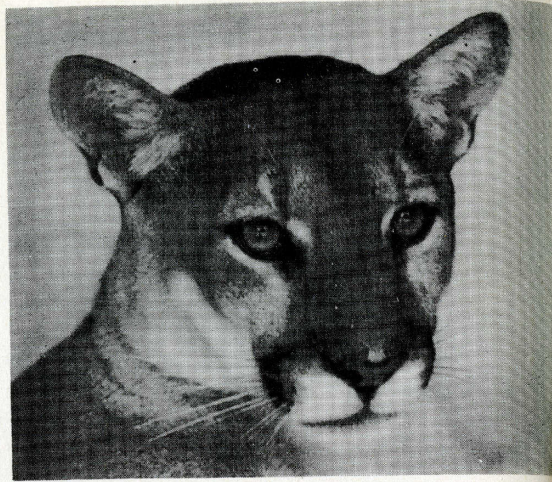


## Puma

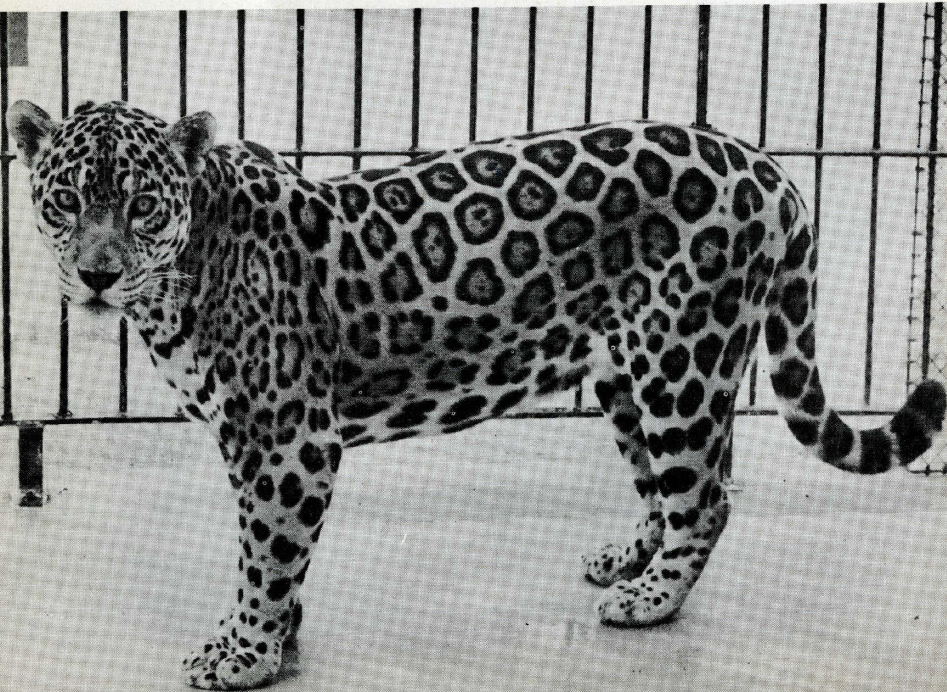
• PUMA — The *Puma* is one of the seven wild felines that are native to the continental United States — the other six being *Jaguar*, *Ocelot*, *Bobcat*, *Lynx*, *Jaguarundi* and *Margay*. The *Puma* figures heavily in the early-day folklore of the American pioneers. The range of this handsome lithe cat is from Quebec to Vancouver Island, in the north, southward through the United States to Patagonia. It has, however, disappeared throughout much of its present day range by extensive hunting.

Like all spectacular animals with a wide distribution the *Puma* is known by many names: *Mountain Lion*, *American Lion*, *Cougar*, *Painter*, *Panther*, *Catamount*, *Tawny Cat* and many others.

A large male might weigh as much as 200 lbs. and reach a length of 9 feet including tail. One to five young are born at any time of the year. *Pumas* are more beneficial than harmful since they feed, for the most part, upon harmful rodents and other small animals. Also it acts as a check when deer populations tend to explode. This wonderful animal should be protected from extermination. Man is its worst enemy.



## Jaguar



• JAGUAR — The *Jaguar* is the third largest of the great cats, the *Tiger* and the *Lion* being first and second in that order. There are several sub-species, or varieties, of the *Jaguar* ranging from lower Arizona, Texas and New Mexico, southwards through Central and South America extending to Brazil and Paraguay.

From two to four young are born in a litter. Both male and female cooperate in rearing the young which stay with the parents for about one year.

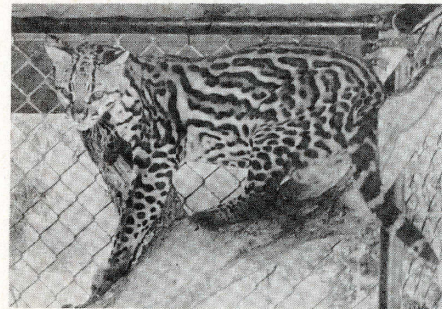
*Jaguars* have been known to attack man, although this is rare, and occasional specimens become livestock killers and must be destroyed.

• OCELOT — This beautiful cat is becoming quite popular as a house pet despite the fact that they become unreliable and very unpredictable as they grow older. *Ocelots* range from southern Arizona, Texas and western Arkansas, south through Mexico, Central America and into South America as far as Peru. *Ocelots* vary from domestic cat size to animals almost as large as a *Leopard*.

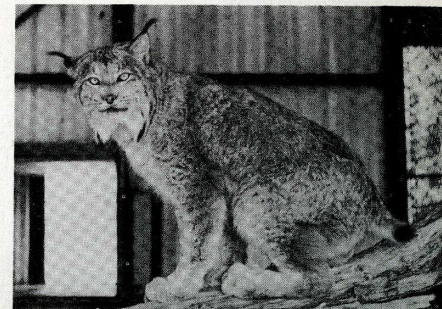
• LYNX & BOBCAT — The *Lynx* and *Bobcat*, two closely related species, range from the Gulf of Mexico north to Alaska and from coast to coast, with the *Lynx* inhabiting the northernmost extension of the range. There are many stories relating to the ferocity of these animals, but they do act as a useful check on such animals as rats, mice, rabbits, and hares.

• CANADA LYNX — This moderate-size member of the cat family ranges from the Northern United States into Canada and even into our northernmost state of Alaska. Its range is overlapped in the southern extreme by its close relative, the *Bobcat*, which is common throughout the U.S. and Mexico. The *Lynx* feeds primarily upon rodents, hares, and rabbits. On occasion, however, an individual will become a chicken thief and can cause serious damage to a flock before it is destroyed. The *Lynx* is characterized by a long tuft of hair on the tip of each ear and is a popular figure in outdoor Fiction Books of the Far North.

## Ocelot



## Lynx





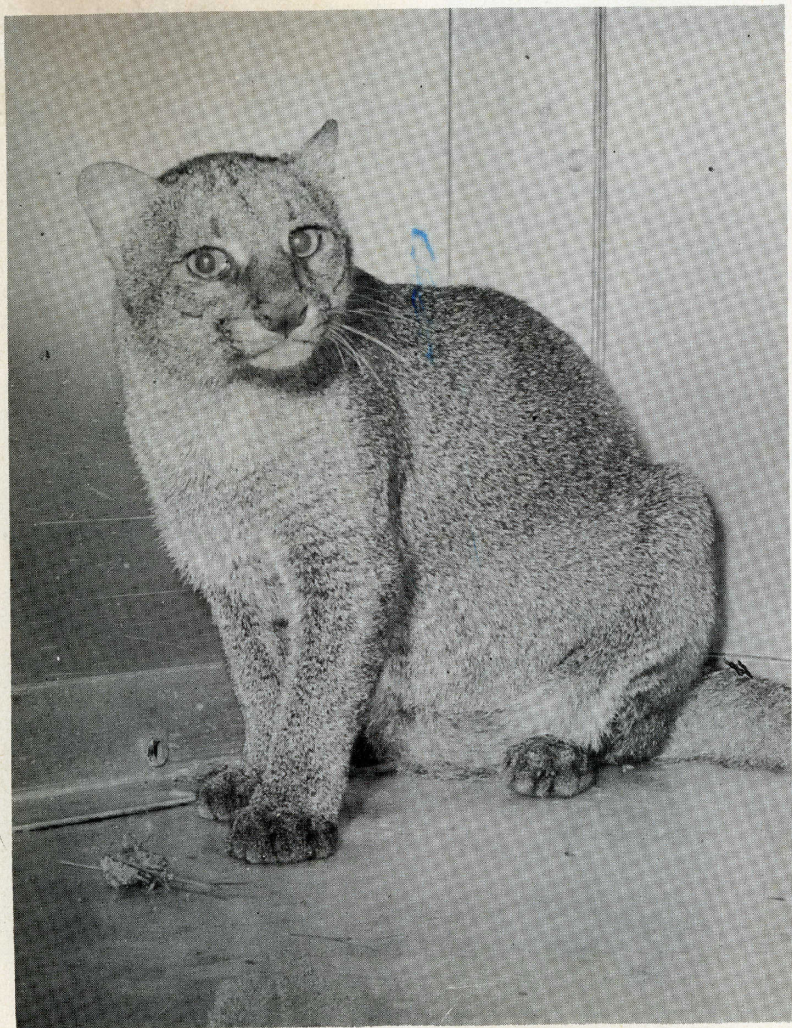
• **JAGUARUNDI** — This small otter-like mammal is not related to the *Jaguar* as one might infer from the name. Indeed, this is an entirely different species of the wild felines.

At first glance one is reminded of a miniature *Puma* only with a more elongated body, shorter legs and a smaller head. They average about 3½ feet in length.

*Jaguarundis* range from the southwestern United States throughout Central and most of South America. They come in two color phases, red and gray. For many years naturalists considered the red phase a different species of mammal and called it the *Eya Cat*.

They are carnivorous mammals like the other wild felines and, being very adept tree climbers, they are able to catch small birds of which they are very fond.

**Jaguarundi**



## BEARS — The Family

• **THE BEAR FAMILY** contains the largest land carnivores. They are found over most of the Northern Hemisphere, and North America supports several different types. Bears are great exhibitionists and probably enjoy your visit to see them more than any other animal exhibited at the Crandon Park Zoo. Have you ever watched a bear shuffle? This is known as a “plantigrade” walk. This means they walk on the entire sole of the foot as does man. They live on berries and other fruits and of course many eat fish which they catch in streams. *Polar Bears* also catch and eat seals and are very swift in the water. Bears occur in North and South America, Europe and Asia. A former *North African Bear* now appears to be extinct.

Crandon Park Zoo's bear cages have been provided with the greatest bear comforts — a swimming pool, large exercise area and a deep, dark retiring den or sleeping house. Bears generally have a life span of thirty years.

**American Black Bear**





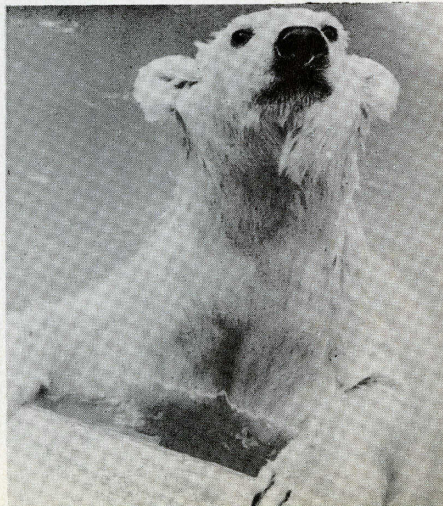
• **AMERICAN BLACK BEAR** — At present the Crandon Park Zoo is exhibiting just three species of bear. Probably the most familiar of all bears to the citizens of North America is the *Black Bear*. Visitors to many of our National Parks are amused by the *Black Bears* that beg for food along the roads. It is a grave mistake, however, to get out of your car and try to touch or pet one of these bears. Many people are injured because they seem to feel that the bears are quiet and inoffensive. This is hardly the truth, they are very mean, vicious animals. In the United States there are several subspecies or varieties of *Black Bears*, the largest of which is found right here in the State of Florida, where *American Black Bears* may reach a weight in excess of 500 pounds. The so-called *Cinnamon Bear* is just a color variety of the *American Black Bear*. Both cinnamon-colored cubs and black cubs may be found in the same litter. *Black Bears* weigh approximately one-half pound at birth and from one to four young are born usually in February when the bear is in hibernation. The term hibernation is probably a misnomer, insofar as *Black Bears* are concerned, because they actually can be awakened from their winter sleep. An animal that is truly hibernating cannot be awakened.

• **HIMALAYAN BLACK BEAR** — As the name implies the *Himalayan Black Bear* is an Asiatic species, but it is very similar to the *American Black Bear*. One major difference is the fact that it is much smaller. An adult animal might reach a weight of 200 pounds. They are characterized by a large ruff of fur around their neck and head and a white V under their throat. Like the *American Black Bear* they apparently are playful and quite

harmless, however, they are extremely vicious animals and cannot be trusted under any circumstances.

• **POLAR BEAR** — The *Polar Bear* may reach a weight of over nine hundred pounds, but despite its size is quite agile and very swift. It can overtake and kill seals in the water and is extremely adept at running. It is interesting to note that the underside of the foot of the *Polar Bear* is covered with hair which makes it much easier for the animal to walk around on the slippery ice floes. Like all bears, while it is classified as a carnivore, the *Polar Bear* is omnivorous in its eating habits. During the summer when vegetation is growing in the arctic the *Polar Bear* ranges far inland and eats a great deal of plant life. Also during the warmer months when the seaweed is growing rapidly it eats large quantities of seaweed. Contrary to popular belief the *Polar Bear* is not always snow white, they range from the snow white individuals that we normally assume to be the *Polar Bear's* color to brownish or even dark grey animals. While most of the bears kill their prey with a heavy swipe of the forepaw, the *Polar Bears* kill by biting.

**Polar Bear**



## BEAR FACTS . . .

By Susie



**Look At That Gang Of People Around The Monkey Cage**



**Oh-Oh — Here They Come My Way**



**I'll Put On My Fierce Expression**



- **GRIZZLY BEAR** — Depicted on the state flag of California, the *Grizzly Bear* is now extinct in that state. It is a species of brown bear of which scientists have recognized as many as 76 subspecies in North America. A fierce hunter and sometimes attacker of man, the *Grizzly* is still numerous in Yellowstone National Park, the Canadian Rockies and Alaska.

The *Rocky Mountain Grizzly* averages about 600 pounds in weight. The young (two to four cubs) are born with their eyes closed and weigh about seven to nine ounces at birth. They are unfurred when born and do not obtain their sight before forty days.

The Alaskan *Kodiak Bear*, a *Grizzly* relative, may attain a weight of over 1,600 pounds. One of the largest *grizzlies* ever seen in California was estimated at 1,400 pounds.

The *Grizzly* has extremely large claws and can inflict a painful wound with them. It is a good fisherman, flipping salmon out of fast-running streams with its adept wide paws. It does not usually attack unless provoked.

- **EURASIAN BROWN BEAR** — If you have seen a performing bear it might have been this type which is usually tamed for circus and fair acts. It has a wide range in Europe as well as Asia and Japan.

- **SPECTACLED BEAR** — This tiny cousin in the bear family is found in South America and is the only bear found in that continent. It stands about 20 inches high at the shoulder and weighs about 150 pounds. Its coat is a jet black and the cream colored markings on its face are responsible for its "spectacle" nickname. It is found in the Peruvian Andes mountains and in Colombia.

- **SLOTH BEAR** — Sharp of snout and with long hair the *Sloth Bear* is found in Southern India and Ceylon. It uses its long snout as a vacuum to suck up termites and grubs which it tears loose with its extremely long claws.

- **SUN BEAR** — This is another small species of bear found in Siam, Borneo, Malaya and Burma. It weighs between 100 to 150 pounds and has white chest markings and a white muzzle similar to the *Himalayan Black Bear* but with much shorter fur. *Sun Bears* have been born in captivity as have most of the other common types of bears

## RACCOONS

DID you know that the *raccoon* is related to the bear family? Found widely over North America, especially in the South where it roams in the wilds and suburbia. It is also found in Central America.

It resembles the bear in its choice of foods ranging from a diet of fish and game to fruits and garbage pickings. They are of small size and walk much like the bear. *Raccoons* have long ringed tails and wear a "bandit's mask" across their eyes. They are hunted with hounds in the hills and forests of the Carolinas and the deep South as sport. All climb well and are usually treed at end of the hunt.



Hyena

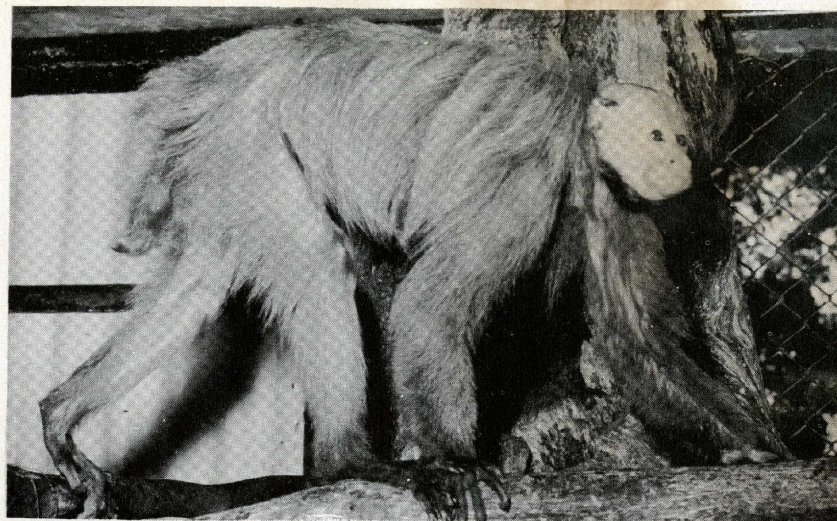
## THE HYENA IS AN ODD CARNIVORA

- **HYENAS** — There are three species of Hyenas: the *Spotted Hyena*, the *Striped Hyena* and the *Brown Hyena*. The *Striped Hyena* occurs in India, the Near East and Africa north of the Sahara Desert. The *Spotted Hyena*, most common of the species, is found in Africa south of the Sahara Desert. The *Brown Hyena* exists in the drier regions of Southwestern Africa. It is well known that the Hyenas are more or less scavengers, waiting on the outskirts of an animal's kill until the large carnivore has eaten its fill and then going in and cleaning up what remains. They are reported to have the strongest jaws of any of the carnivores, being able to crush the shinbone of a zebra with no difficulty. In Ernest Hemingway's famous story, "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" the Hyena plays a very important part in the plot, especially at the conclusion when he invades the camp as a symbol of death.





Graceful Arch Of Gibbon Cage Is Focal Point Of Zoo



## PRIMATES

PRIMATES are the highest of the mammal group. They range from the *Lemurs*, which are almost *squirrel-like*, to *man* who is the highest of all mammals. The ones most familiar to us are the *monkeys* and *apes*. Many of the *New World monkeys* have a prehensile tail, or a tail that can be used as a grasping organ. None of the *Old World monkeys* have a tail that is prehensile. *Apes* differ from true *monkeys* in many structural characteristics such as skull features and the fact that they have no tail at all. The *apes* include the *Gibbon*, the *Orang-utan*, *Chimpanzee* and the *Gorilla*.

One of the monkeys most familiar to inveterate zoo-goers is the *Capuchin* from South America, often called the organ grinder monkey. Of course on many of the monkey islands in some of the northern zoos you find the *Rhesus Monkeys*. These have been used a great deal in research here in the United States.

We are all familiar with the *Chimpanzee* as one of the very highly intelligent apes. But the *Gorilla* probably is the most intelligent of all apes. A great deal of scientific research work is being done with *Gorillas* at the present time.

The primate collection at the **Crandon Park Zoo**, while not a very large one at the present time, includes some of the very rare and extremely interesting primates. For instance, the *Gelada Baboon*, the *Lion-tailed Macaque*, the *Mandrill* and many others. We are especially proud of our *Gibbon* display and the young they bear. Nothing is more amusing than a young — or old — *gibbon*. We have been very fortunate in being able to raise many young primates here at the **Crandon Park Zoo**.

One of the rarer and more difficult to keep of the primates is our *Red Uakari Monkey*. We have found that this particular type of South American monkey eats a diet of about 80% animal protein in the form of lizards, birds' eggs, young birds and small mammals that it can catch. Since we have learned this and feed it on chicken necks and dog food, along with a typical monkey diet, we have been able to keep this animal healthy and happy.



## THE GREATER APES

THE greater apes are the *Gorilla*, the *Orang-utan*, and the *Chimpanzee*. Besides *man*, these are the largest members of the primate group of mammals. The *Gorilla* and *Chimp* are natives of Africa while the *Orang* occurs in Asia on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. *Orangs* and *Chimps* have been known to man for many hundreds of years, but it was not until around 1850 that the *Gorilla* was officially introduced to European and American scientists. There have been many stories and legends about the greater apes depicting fierce aggressive animals, but actually the contrary is true. The greater apes with their closely set beady eyes, long noses with mobile lips, short stout tailless bodies, immense arms, and hands with small opposable thumbs, short legs with large feet and large opposable big toes are truly in a group by themselves.

- **GORILLA** — The *Gorilla* is the largest of the great apes. Some individuals stand over six feet tall and weigh in excess of 600 pounds. Their tremendous arm span may be over nine feet. There are two widely separated types of *Gorillas*: the mountain *Gorilla* from the densely wooded mountainous areas of the eastern Congo, and the lowland *Gorilla* from the jungles of the Cameroon area of West Africa.

Despite this animal's bulky appearance he is exceedingly agile and fleet afoot. This, together with his tremendous power, makes him a very imposing foe. But, fortunately, this largest of primates is a shy, retiring mammal that is seldom seen in the wild and rarely attacks man. The *Gorilla's* main diet consists of leaves, fruits, vegetables and roots. In captivity some meat is usually added to their diet.

- **ORANG-UTAN** — The *Orang-utan* is the second largest of the apes and is found only in Borneo and Sumatra. The *Orang* is adapted for a completely arboreal (tree) existence with immense arms which may stretch seven feet from fingertip to fingertip. His legs are poorly developed, and he walks with some difficulty on the outer surfaces of his feet.

Old males grow to over two hundred pounds in weight and develop tremendous throat pouches. With his shaggy red hair coat he truly looks like a grotesque "man-of-the-woods" which is the translation of the Malay word "Orang-utan."

- **CHIMPANZEE** — This African specie of ape is probably the most familiar of all the apes. *Chimps* are commonly seen in animal acts in circuses and on television. As a *Chimp* approaches maturity which is about seven years of age, he can become very aggressive. Adult *Chimps* which sometimes weigh over 170 pounds have great strength and are very dangerous animals.

*Chimps* come in a great variety of sizes and color variations from brown to black with white faces to totally black specimens. *Chimpanzees* have a definite place in scientific research and are one of the animals selected for use in America's earliest space flights. There is much debate as to the comparative intelligence of *Chimpanzees* and *Gorillas*. There are many more *Chimps* in captivity and hundreds more have been used for comparative studies. However, many researchers feel that the *Gorilla* has a higher intelligence.

Most Comical Of Zoo Inmates Are The Chimps





## THE LESSER APES

• **GIBBONS** — The most graceful of all the apes, the *Gibbon* is adapted for an arboreal (tree) existence. As zoo visitors watch our *Gibbons* gliding from bar to bar they are amazed at the speed and dexterity that these animals show. Despite their arboreal characteristics, they are the only apes that normally walk upright on the ground.

The *Gibbons* form an important link between the greater apes and the true monkeys having some characteristics of both. One of these characteristics is the presence of callosities or smooth, calloused areas on the buttocks which are typically found in the African and Asian monkeys. These callosities are not found in the greater apes or in the Central and South American monkeys. In many ways the *Gibbons* resemble the greater apes — the tailless body and cranial characteristics to name two. *Gibbons* have greatly elongated canine teeth — much longer proportionately than any of the greater apes — and when a family disagreement arises, the *Gibbon* uses his sabrelike teeth to slash and bite his foe.

### Gibbon Apes Resemble Both Apes And Monkeys



There are many species of *Gibbons* which vary in color from silvery gray to jet black. The most common type of *Gibbon* is the whitehanded *Gibbon*, and this is the type exhibited here at our zoo.

The extensive development of the voice apparatus enables these primates to produce a loud whooping sound which can be heard for miles in their native habitat in the jungles of Southeastern Asia. *Gibbons* are omnivorous and subsist on fruit, leaves, insects, bird's eggs, birds, lizards and small mammals.

• **SIAMANG** — The largest of the lesser apes is the *Siamang* from the island of Sumatra. This jet-black animal stands about three feet tall when fully grown. The *Siamang* is difficult to keep in captivity and is therefore seldom seen in zoo collections. He has greatly enlarged throat pouches which aid him in bringing forth a tremendous whooping bark which rings through the mountains of Sumatra.

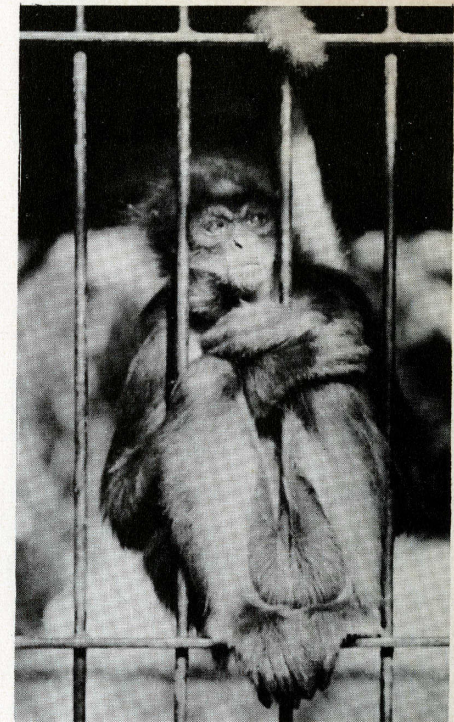
## NEW WORLD MONKEYS

• **SPIDER MONKEY** — Most comical and amusing of the New World monkeys, many of which have prehensile tails, are the *Spiders*. These lanky armed primates are very sad looking and climb and move very slowly with a locomotion that seems slow motion. Their range is from southern Mexico to the Amazon regions.

They obtain their generic title from *Ateles*, meaning imperfect, in that many have no thumbs on their hands. The tail is so prehensile, and developed for grasping, that they use it as a fifth hand. Their colors range from a tan to black and there are about 5 species.

You will find *Spider Monkeys* in most all zoos and pet shops. They are docile by nature and some make good pets.

• **SQUIRREL MONKEY** — The lovable *Squirrel Monkey* is both inquisitive and gentle. They have light brownish coats tinged with a green and white. Their faces have the black smut mark around the mouth as though dipped in a bottle of ink. They make fairly good pets and are often carried on a leash. They have sharp teeth, though, and can nip when



**Spider Monkey**

excited. They come from the rain forests of Central and South America where they roam through the jungles in large fun-loving troops.

The *Squirrel Monkey* was our first primate to be shot into space. Able and Baker were both *Squirrel Monkeys* and were chosen due to their docile nature and their body resemblance and structure to man.





Red-Faced Uakari

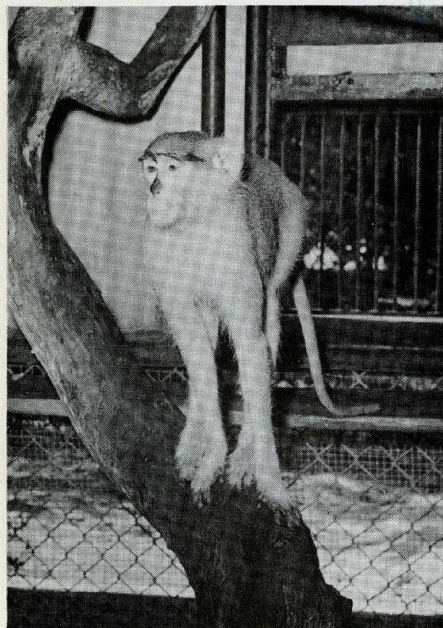
- **RED UAKARI** — This monkey with the appearance of always being on the point of utter dejection, is red of face and coat. It occurs in South America in the Amazon basin. It has no hair at all on its face. The body hair is quite long and luxurious being sparse on the underside. It is quite difficult to keep in captivity unless fed a great deal of animal protein along with vitamins, fruit and vegetables. They are almost entirely arboreal in existence, spending most of their life in the trees of the jungles where they live.

- **CAPUCHIN** — This is the familiar organ grinder monkey with a black haired body and tan face. It has a highly developed prehensile tail and is usually quite gentle. They range widely from Mexico to Brazil. They get the name "ringtail" because they carry their tail in a loop when not in use.

## OLD WORLD MONKEYS

*OLD WORLD Monkeys* differ from *New World Monkeys* by their structural forms, tails, teeth and cheek pouches. Their nose structure is elongated rather than flat and wide-spread. They have cheek pouches for food storage, their tails are non-prehensile and all have 32 teeth, the same number that is found in man.

- **PATAS MONKEY** — Terrestrial in habit, this African monkey is also an excellent climber. They live in small family groups up to ten individuals. Much of the diet of the *Patas Monkey* consists of frogs, insects, lizards, eggs, small mammals and birds as well as vegetable matter. They have a body length up to two feet with a rather long tail. The *Patas monkey* is a beautiful brick-red color above and white below with a black brow and nose.



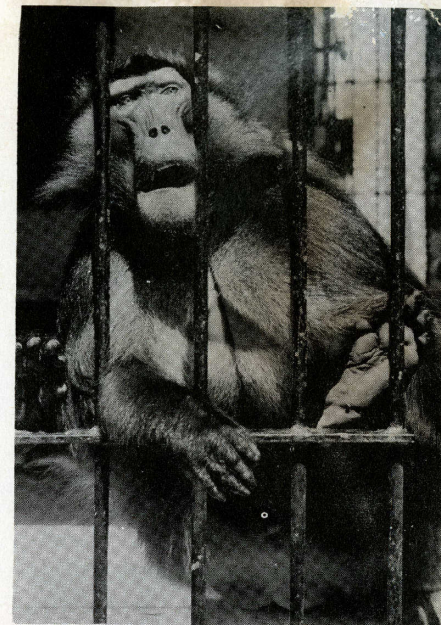
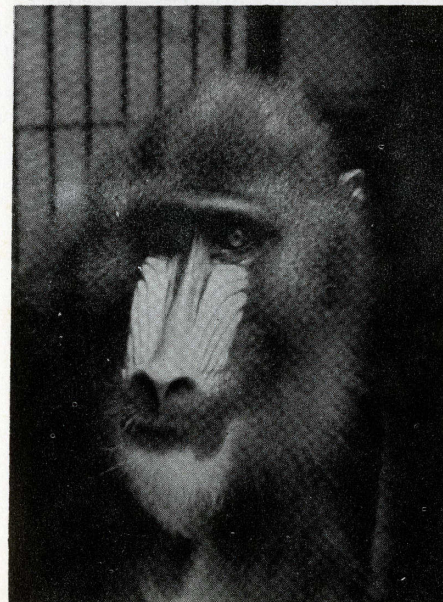
Patas Monkey

## THE BABOONS

The *Baboon* clan is mainly an African group preferring to roam in large packs. They are the largest of monkeys, easily distinguished by their size and dog-like snouts. They are quite ferocious and fly into a fit of fierce rage at the slightest provocation. When encountered by wild animals, including the *Lion*, these *Baboon* packs are usually given a wide safe berth. They are chiefly ground dwellers, preferring a rocky terrain. They will feed on most anything that is edible.

- **MANDRILL** — *Mandrills* occur in the forests of West Africa and are characterized by the brilliant colors of the face. The *Mandrill* male has a long muzzle with a bright scarlet center line flanked on either side by blue and purple fluted facial structures. The buttocks are also brilliantly colored. The female is similar but lacks the scarlet ridged center line of the nose. The head and body of an adult male is about 2½ feet long.

Mandrill



They have short tails, and are very muscular and surprisingly quick in their sudden movements and actions. They can climb, but prefer the ground where they hunt and live. They can never, under any circumstances, be trusted as they are quite vicious.

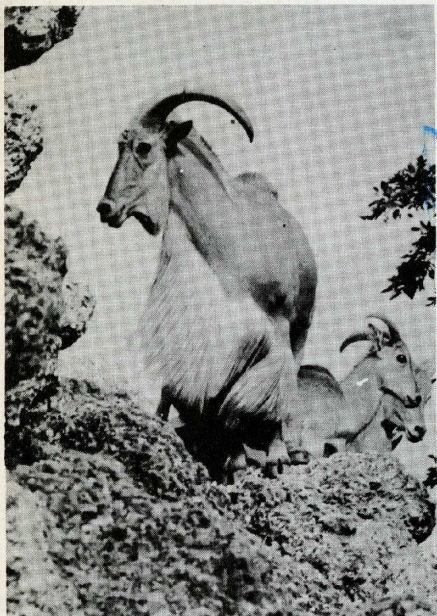
- **GELADA** — Rarely exhibited, the *Gelada Baboon* inhabits the mountains of Abyssinia. The male has a large prominent cape of flowing fur over its shoulders and a bare patch of red skin on the chest. Its long tail has a lion-like tuft on the tip. **Crandon Park Zoo** has one of the few breeding pairs of *Geladas* in captivity and they are quite interesting to watch as they grimace at spectators and move their lips in a form of silent language.

The male will measure about 30 inches when sitting up, with the female considerably smaller. In the wild state they live in troops led by a large male. They are known to display almost human like military tactics when attacked by their enemies and are much respected. They are omnivorous in their feeding habits, and prey on anything edible.



## CAMELS, DEER, SHEEP, GIRAFFES

**Cloven or Even-Toed Hoofed Mammals** — This classification includes some of the most economically important animals known to man. These are *Cattle, Goats, Sheep* and *Swine* as well as the wild species *Deer, Bison, Camel, Pronghorn, Giraffe, Musk Ox, Reindeer, Buffalo* and many others.



Aoudad Sheep

### Odd-Toed Hoofed Mammals —

The most familiar to us of this group is the *Horse*. Also included in this family are the *Rhinoceros, Zebra, Donkey* and *Tapir*.

A way to remember the class is that cloven-hoofed mammals are "even-toed." Through the ages their claws developed into hoofs that appear to be split. The deer is a good example. The "odd-toed" mammals have their weight distributed on an odd number of toes, or hoofs, such as the single hoof on each foot of the horse.

## SOME EVEN-TOED HOOFED ANIMALS

### • AOUDAD or BARBARY SHEEP

— The *Aoudad* is the only wild sheep that occurs in the continent of Africa. It ranges through the desert-like mountains of North Africa. It is very hardy in captivity and displays remarkable agility in climbing. Young *Aoudad* scamper about less than an hour after birth. *Aoudad Mountain* at the **Crandon Park Zoo** is usually the center of interest as the sheep leap among the high coral rock crags.

### • BLACKBUCK ANTELOPE —

The *Blackbuck* lives in India from the Himalaya mountains to Cape Comorin and from Pakistan to Assam. The male is a great favorite of hunters because of its beautiful shapely head and twisting horns. The male *Blackbuck* is dark above while the underside is a snowy white. The female is a light brown color.

• **COSTA RICAN DEER** — A subspecies of the *White-tailed Deer* found in Central America and comparable in size to our *Florida Key Deer*. Few zoos in the United States display this animal which is seen at the **Crandon Park Zoo**.



Western Progress Almost Eliminated The American Bison

• **AMERICAN BISON** — The *American Bison* is mistakenly called a *Buffalo* by many persons. Hunters of the Far West gave the name prominence. However, it differs a great deal from the true water-loving *Buffalo* of India. It is different in size, horns, temperament, and speed so the name "Buffalo" is a misnomer. This most typical American mammal was almost driven to extinction by wanton hunting. It was a source of food and shelter for many American Indian tribes. When Americans pushed westward, they killed most of the *Bison* and only a few farsighted persons saved it from becoming another casualty to progress as was the *Passenger Pigeon*. Today a few herds remain under close protection. A close relative is the *Wisent* from Europe. This animal is almost extinct.

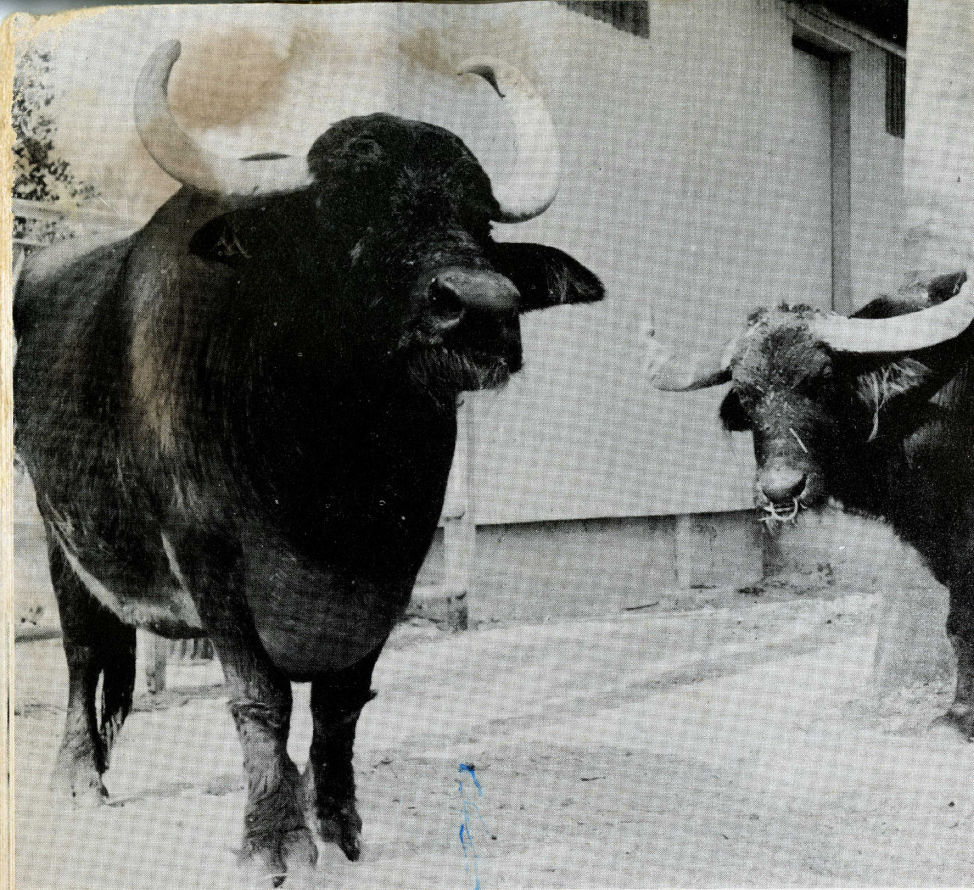
### Black Buck Antelope



### Costa Rican Deer







**Water Buffalo Is Domesticated Animal In Orient**

• **WATER BUFFALO** — The *Water Buffalo* is probably the most useful domestic animal in the Orient. As a wild animal it is much more docile than most large animals and is easily domesticated. It is found throughout India, the Malay Peninsula, Philippine Islands and Ceylon. When wounded by hunters it can be a savage opponent. Those found in zoos are untrained and are very dangerous. The *Cape Buffalo* found in Africa is a distant cousin and is an extremely dangerous wild animal that can not be domesticated.

• **CAMELS** — **Crandon Park Zoo** has a growing family of *Dromedary Camels* which has become quite famous through newspaper stories about their wedding. Since that time several babies have been born to the happy camel couple.

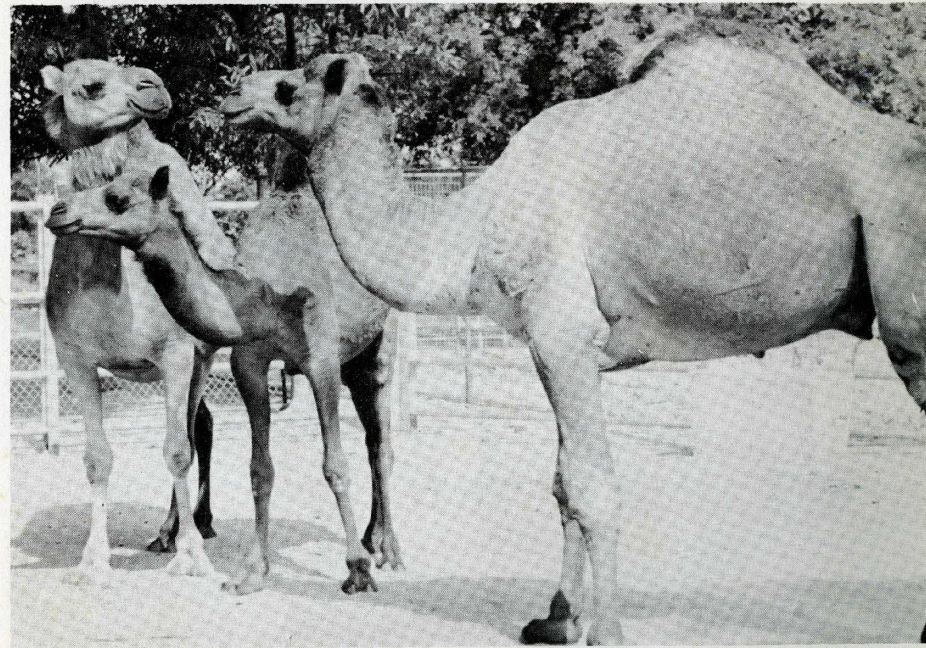
There are two species of camel: the *Bactrian*, or two-humped camel of Northern Asia, and the *Dromedary* or one-humped camel of Africa and Arabia. The camel family is represented in South America by the *Guanaco*, *Vicunia*, *Llama* and *Alpaca*. The last two mentioned species are domesticated and used as beasts of burden.

The *Arabian Camel* or *Dromedary*, is used in the hot deserts of Africa and Arabia both as a means of transportation and beast of burden. Its hump is composed of fatty tissue that in time of drought or famine breaks down to provide nourishment. It is often said that the Camel can go without water for long periods of time. However, it must drink every few days in order to remain healthy. Long camel trains are a familiar sight on the deserts as tribesmen move their wares to markets. It moves at a steady pace and it is used by Arabian soldiers since it can penetrate the desert country much more satisfactorily than the horse.

• **HIPPOPOTAMUS** — The Hippo family is confined to two species found only in Old World Africa. Although they resemble big pigs, they are in a separate family. The swine family consists only of the typical pigs (domestic pigs, Wart-hogs, bush hogs, etc.) and the peccaries.

The *Hippopotamus* is a large animal, weighing from 4,000 to 5,000 pounds and is found in most of the larger lakes and rivers of tropical Africa. It is aquatic spending most of its life in the water where it feeds in groups on dense water vegetation. It is generally mild of nature, but can be dangerous when provoked or attacked. Then it can upset boats and bring chaos to what was before a quiet, water-borne hunting party. *Hippos* weigh only 60 to 90 pounds at birth. The rare *Pigmy Hippo* weighs 400 to 600 pounds when fully grown, in contrast to its big brother. It is found in Liberia and Sierra Leone. The *Pigmy Hippo* prefers to roam alone, or in pairs, and is far less aquatic than its larger relative of the lakes and streams.

**Dromedary Camels Pose With Baby Born At Zoo**

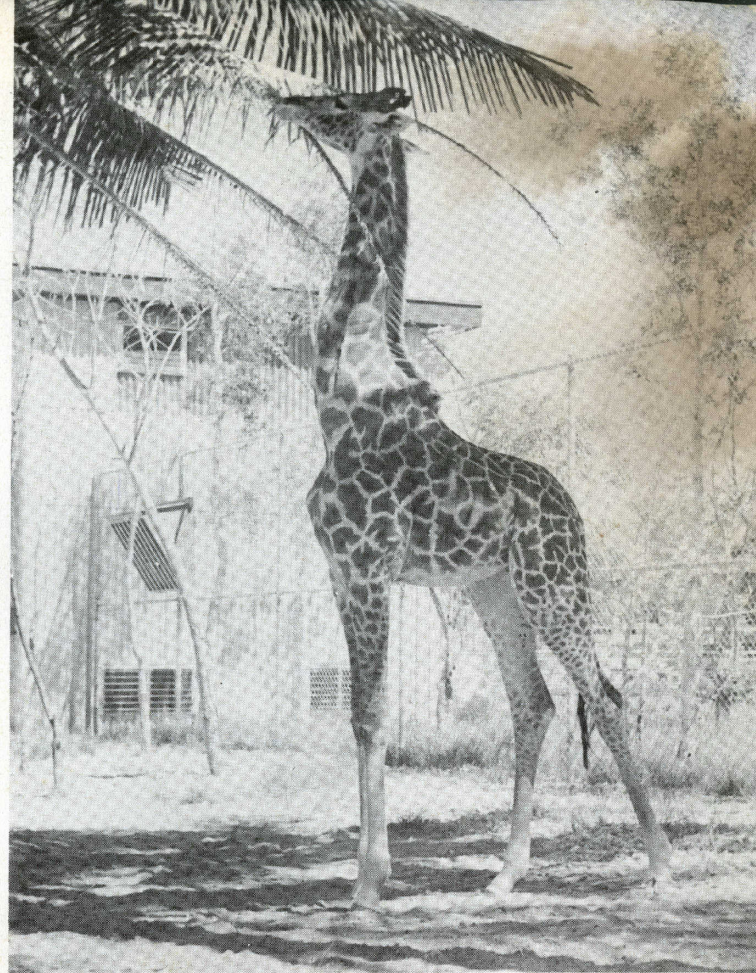






Picture Of Camel Family At Zoo

Aoudad Sheep On Coral Rock Mountain



Zoo Has Fine Display Of Reticulated Giraffes

• **GIRAFFE** — The *Giraffe* is probably the most unique and impressive ruminant (cud chewing) to be found in Africa. Contrary to popular belief *Giraffes* are not mute. They communicate with their young and have been known to make sounds especially when in distress.

Males may reach as high as 19 feet, but females are considerably smaller. The natural food of the *Giraffe* is the topmost leaves and twigs of trees such as the *Acacia* that grows in Africa. In captivity they live on hay and other legumes. The life span of the *Giraffe* is approximately 25 years and usually a single calf is born approximately 15 months after mating. Sometimes, though, two calves are born, but it is rarely.

The only living relative of the *Giraffe* is the *Okapi* that occurs in the Eastern Congo and was not known to civilized man until 1901. This maroon animal with white stripes on its legs and rump was the subject of rumors as far back as 1890. The *Okapi* is only about five feet tall at the shoulder and at the present time a few breeding pairs of *Okapis* live in zoos in the United States and Europe.





Zebras

## SOME ODD-TOED HOOFED MAMMALS

• **ZEBRA** — The *Zebra* almost equals the *Giraffe* when it comes to a bizarre appearance. The question is often asked: "Is a *Zebra* white with black stripes, or black with white stripes?" Authorities agree that the animal is white with black stripes. That should settle the question nicely. But no two *Zebras* are striped alike.

Like all of the horse-like animals the *Zebra* is a grazer. They are gregarious by nature and live in large herds. It is a favorite food of the *Lion* and protects itself by its swift speed and sharp hooves. They are extremely nervous by nature and can be dangerous in captivity.

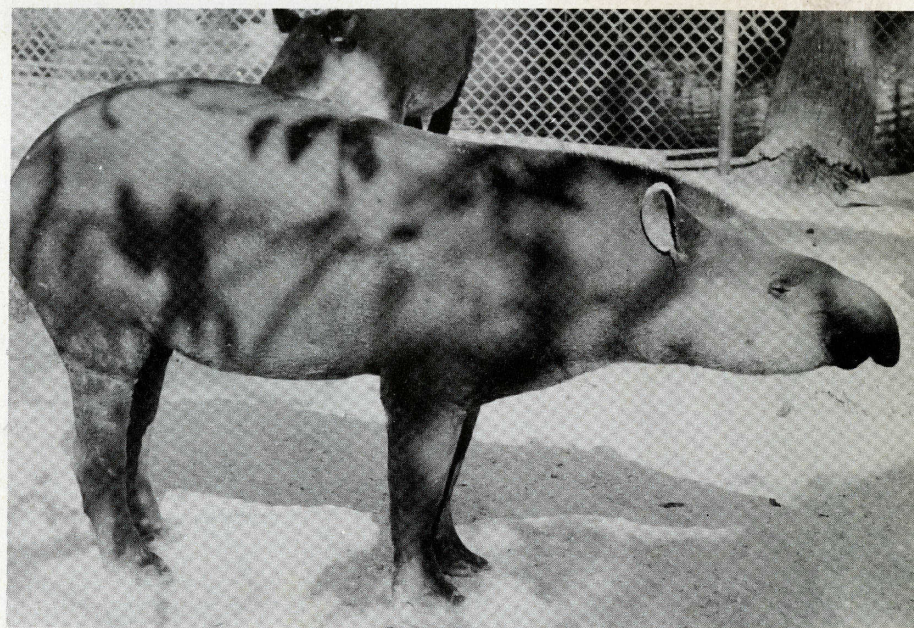
Largest of the group is the Grevy's *Zebra* found in eastern Africa. This stocky animal is vividly striped with narrow black and white stripes all over except for its pure white belly.

The common *Zebra* or Burchell's *Zebra* is the type commonly exhibited in zoos. It comes in a number of different color patterns and may be referred to as a Grant's *Zebra* or a Chapman's *Zebra*. These color differences are very slight and unimportant to the casual observer. This animal is widely distributed all over Africa south of the Sahara.

• **TAPIR** — Incongruous as it may seem, *Tapirs* are relatives of the horse. Most persons think they are related to the pig family. *Tapirs* are found in tropical America and southeast Asia. **Crandon Park Zoo** has the *South American Tapir* which is one of the smallest of the *Tapir* family. The *Malay Tapir* of Burma, Sumatra, Siam and the Malay Peninsula often reaches a length of more than eight feet and a weight in excess of 750 pounds. The smaller *South American Tapir* is about six feet and weighs about 500 pounds.

The *Tapir*, which comes down to us unchanged from prehistoric times, is very much at home in the water where it finds most of its food. They feed on aquatic vegetation. There is a species of mountain *Tapir* found throughout Central Colombia. All these animals are long snouted and slender bodied.

### Tapirs Have Come Down To Us Unchanged From Prehistoric Age



• **RHINOCEROS** — *Rhinos* are near-sighted beasts found today only in the Old World. Three species occur in southern Asia and adjacent islands. Two are native to Africa. They have been hunted extensively in Africa as big game for their impressive heads. However, this sport has been controlled to keep the big beast from extinction. They are not vicious as might be thought, but their hysterical charges are considered to be due to poor eye-sight and the sense of danger. They are alert animals and very difficult to stalk.

They are all of large size and characterized by nearly naked skin and by their tremendous horns that are composed of agglutinated hair. *Rhinos* have one or two horns depending upon the species. The *Black Rhino*, or hooked lipped, was once common throughout Africa and south of the Sahara. It has a prehensile, pointed upper lip and two horns. *Rhinos* feed entirely upon vegetation.



## SOME POUCHED AND OTHER STRANGE MAMMALS

In early geological times, when mammals throughout the world had not progressed much beyond the marsupial (pouched) stage, Australia became separated from the world's other land masses thus isolating its low form of mammal life from all other continents. The marsupials gradually disappeared in other countries (except the opossum) because animals of a larger size preyed upon them. However, they remained on in Australia practically unchanged. This is the case of the Kangaroo.

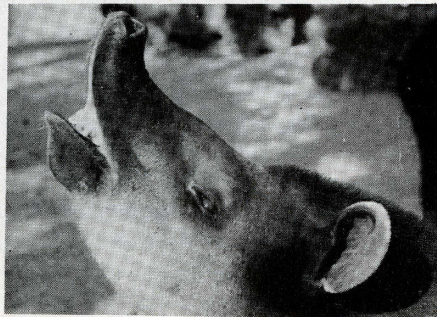
• **KANGAROO** — This is a large marsupial resembling in body shape ancient reptilian forms that roamed the earth as Dinosaurs and prehistoric monsters. They are smaller, but the resemblance is still there. They range in size from a rabbit to adult specimens over seven feet in height and weighing more than 200 pounds. The **Crandon Park Zoo** has examples of the Red Kangaroo which is the largest of this species. It also exhibits the Grey Wallaby, one of the smallest species of Kangaroo.

In Australia the Kangaroo ranges throughout every section of the vast country except the desert areas. It prefers the coastal and plains areas. There it is found in small groups and is quite common in this mysterious land of unusual animals . . . home also of the fierce Tasmanian Devil.

The birth of a Kangaroo is interesting. The young Kangaroo is only an inch in length, hairless, with the head, forelegs and mouth disproportionately large. Kangaroo babies are born in a premature state after a very short growth period in the body of the mother. Immediately after birth the young Kangaroo crawls into the fur-lined pouch of the female where it feeds and remains for about four months. It is then about one-fourth fully grown and is able to eat solid food and fend for itself.

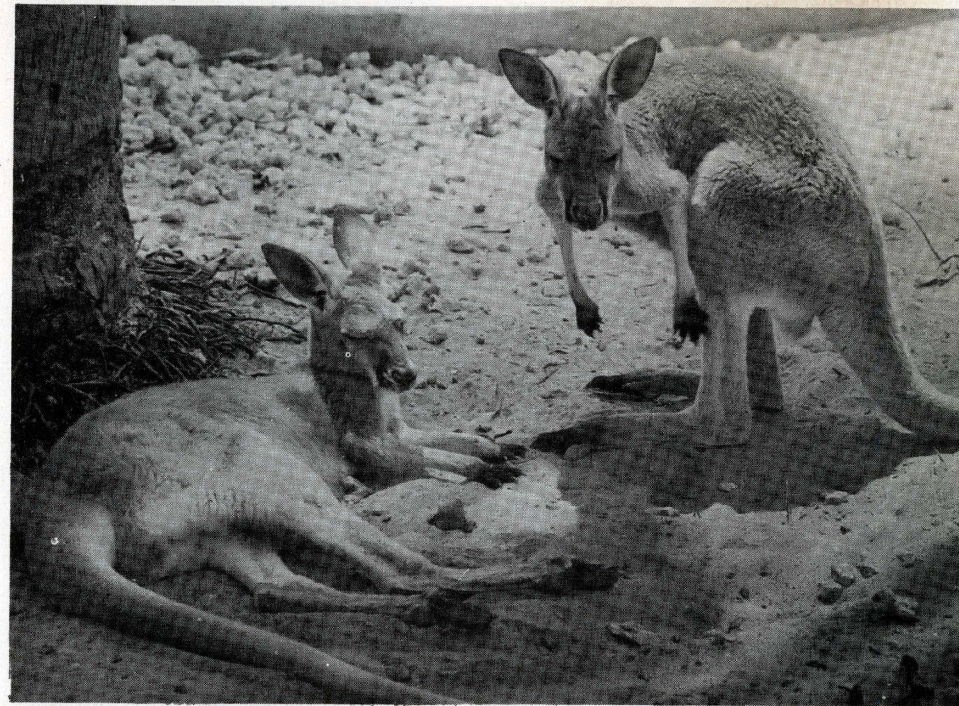
• **WALLABIES** — The only difference between the Kangaroo and Wallaby is in size. The Kangaroo is the larger type; the Wallaby is the smallest of the Kangaroos. There are several species of Wallabies including: Bennett's Wallaby from Queensland; the Red-necked Wallaby which inhabits the mountain brushlands of southern Australia; and the Gray Wallaby of South Australia.

**TAPIRS** roamed the world in prehistoric times and are related to the horse, not the pig as some believe. They are found in South America and Asia both in swampy areas and mountains. They grow to 750 pounds. Long snouts, prehensile lip, pig-like bodies distinguish them.



• **WALLAROOS** — These are heavy-bodied Kangaroos that live in the rocky hill country of Australia. They are very agile and surefooted animals and they range in color from blue-black to reddish hues.

• **OPOSSUM** — This is an American marsupial of the same primitive type of development as the other forms found in Australia. The 'Possum, as he is commonly called, is found throughout the eastern half of the United States and even into southern Canada. The 'Possum averages about two and one half feet in length including a long, scaly, prehensile tail. It has an abdominal pouch into which its young are transferred immediately after birth. The growth period of young opossums in the mother's body is only 13 days. When born the young are as small as honey bees. They remain several months in the pouch and later cling to the mother's back. When caught the opossum feigns death from which the expression "playing 'possum" has arisen. They are omnivorous, arboreal and chiefly nocturnal.



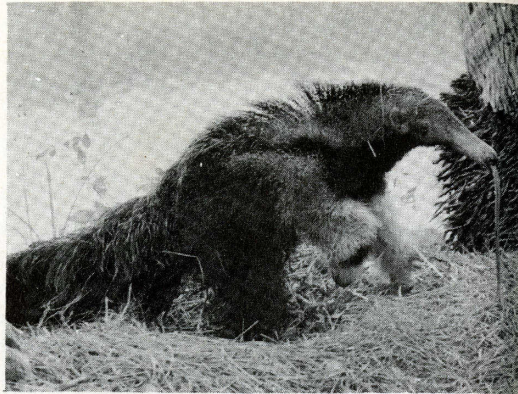
**Australian Kangaroo Is Unusual Pouched Mammal**

• **TASMANIAN DEVIL** — This rare, ungainly flesh eater, confined to the island of Tasmania off Australia, is noted for its strong jaws and extreme cunning. The natural prey of the Tasmanian Devil consists of Wallabies, sheep, ground birds and lizards. It has coarse, mostly jet black fur and is not very active, nor is it very attractive!



- **KOALA** — The most appealing of all the pouched animals is the *Koala* which resembles a fuzzy teddy bear. This little Australian feeds on leaves of the Eucalyptus tree and spends most of its life in trees. It is very slow and deliberate in its movements.

- **WOMBAT** — Know what a *Woodchuck* looks like? Its marsupial counterpart is the *Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat* of South Australia. This furry, burrowing, marsupial is distinguished by its hairy muzzle, soft fur and longer, more pointed ears. It subsists entirely on grasses, roots and bulbs.



**Giant Anteater**

## TOOTHLESS MAMMALS

- **ANTEATERS** — There are three living species of *Anteaters*, all of which have been exhibited at the **Crandon Park Zoo**. The *Giant Anteater* is found in the forests of Costa Rica, Panama and South America. Although it has no teeth, it can defend itself effectively with its heavily-clawed forefeet. It reaches a total length of about six feet.

The name *Anteater* is probably erroneous since actually they feed principally upon termites. The *Tamandua Anteater* is found from Southern Mexico through Central America and the northern regions of South America. It is approximately 30 inches long. It is quite arboreal, spending much of its time in trees searching out the nests of tree dwelling termites. Finally, the *Pigmy* or *Silky Anteater*, is a diminutive species reaching only 12 inches in size. It is found in Panama, Trinidad and the Equatorial regions of South America. It is not a hardy captive and is seldom seen in zoos.

**Silky Anteater**



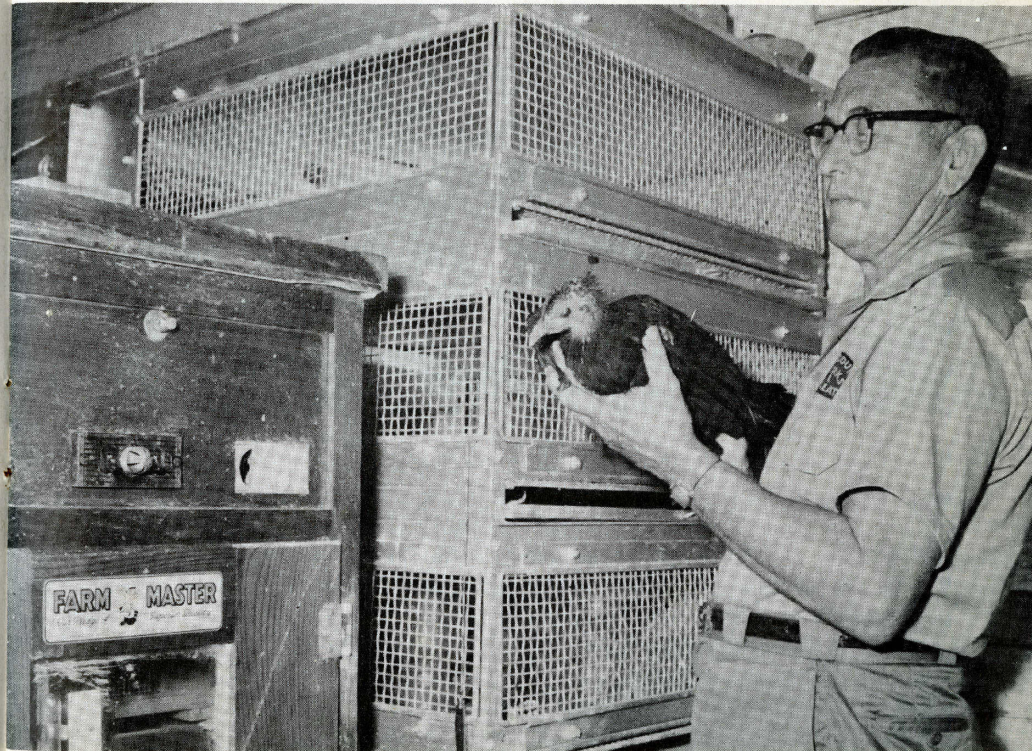
## BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE ZOO

A zoological park is far more complex than just a series of cages and open pens displaying animals. The real efforts that go into placing these animals on public exhibit to be enjoyed, is rarely seen by the average zoo-goer.

As an example: **Crandon Park Zoo** operates its own bird hatchery where the eggs of birds from *Ducks* and *Geese* up to *Ostriches* are hatched and the young raised under the most exacting, scientific care. Like most of the young animals raised at the zoo, these birds often are surplus and are used to trade with other zoos for other species not found in our collec-

tion. **Crandon Park Zoo** has set many bird-breeding records. Our *Vulturine Guinea Fowl* and *Great Argus Pheasants* are acclaimed by zoos throughout the world.

- **KITCHEN** — The Zoo Kitchen might correctly be called the “heart” of the zoo. It is here that special food diets to tempt hundreds of fickle appetites are painstakingly and scientifically prepared. Fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, insects, eggs, milk, minerals, vitamins, jars of baby food, grains of many types, hay and many other items of food go into daily zoo diets. There is a rule we use when purchasing food for the zoo. If you would not eat it yourself, don't give it to the animals. This does not mean we would eat crickets or mealworms,



**Zoo's Bird Hatchery Is World-Renowned**

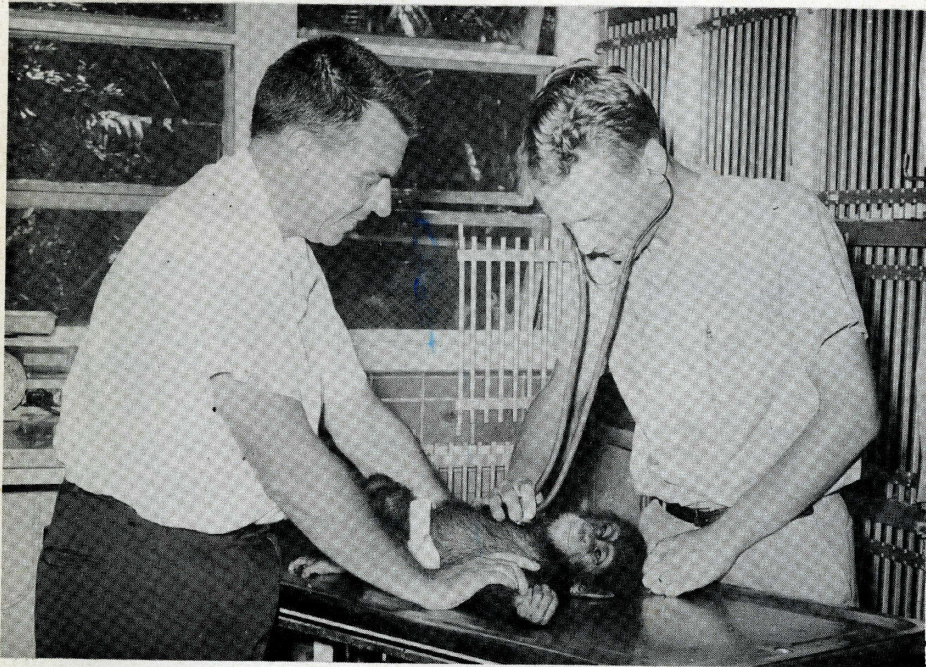




Kitchen

CRANDON ZOO'S neat kitchen is clean enough for home-cooked meals. Here the special diets and formulas for all animals are prepared under expert supervision. The Zoo's motto is: "If you would not eat it yourself do not give it to the animals."

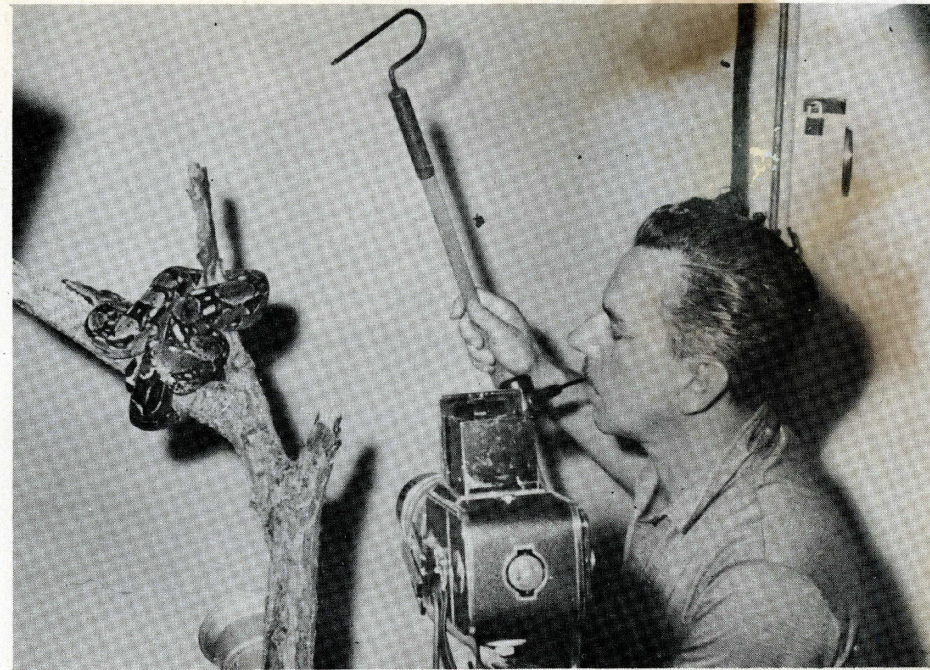
Crandon Park Zoo Hospital



but it is our way of saying that every food item used must be the very best.

• HOSPITAL — The Zoo Veterinarian has an important job at the zoo that is also very interesting. Often it can be quite hazardous such as the time we had to shave a *Polar Bear* for a fungus condition. It also is most frustrating. The patients of a zoo

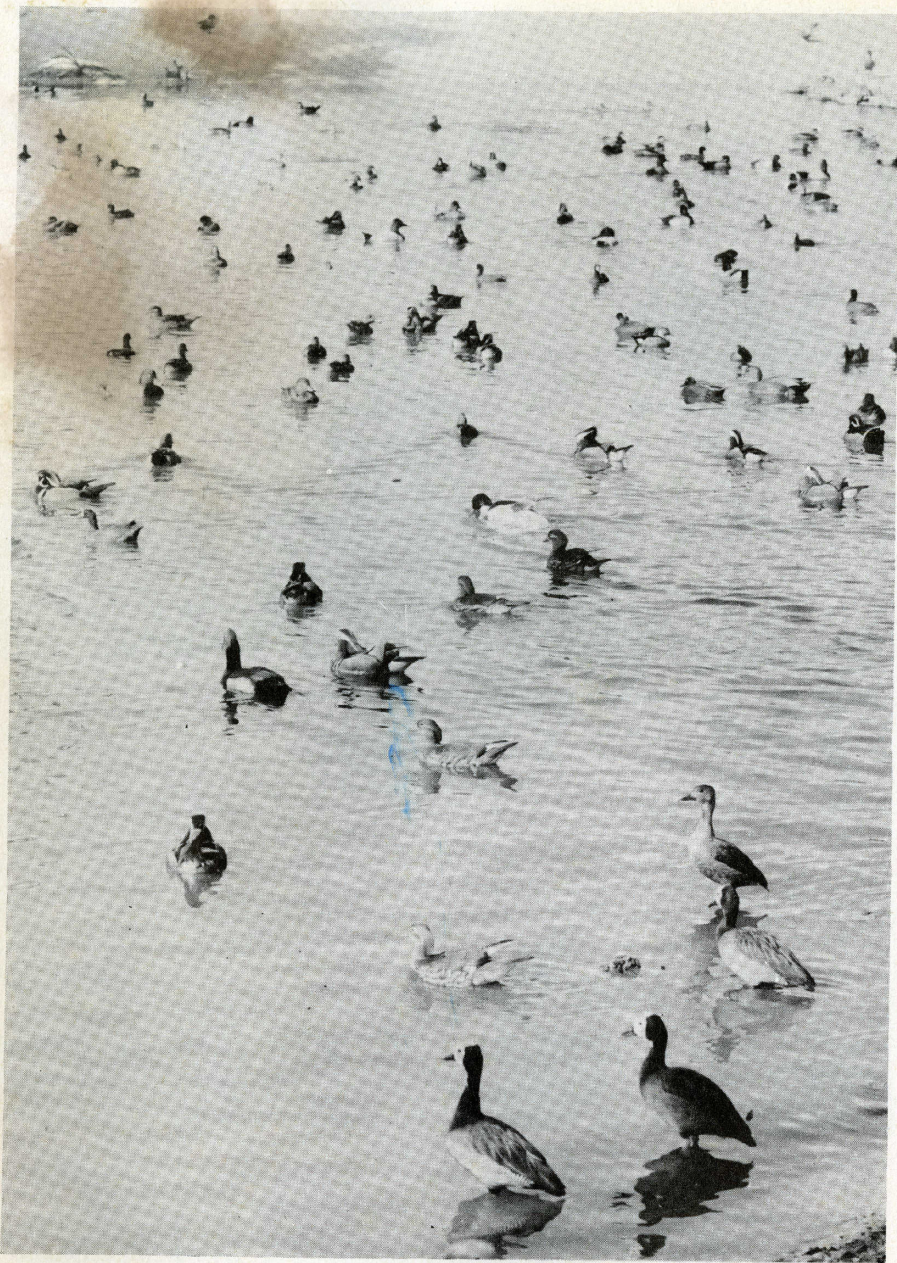
vet range from a *Hummingbird* to a deadly *Coral Snake*; a completely unfriendly *Tiger* or a *Lion*. Or it can be a sick *Camel* or *Giraffe*, or even a *Water Buffalo*. Not one of these animals will be in the least cooperative, making the job much harder. The zoo veterinarian is the unsung hero of the zoo world.



Photographing Snakes Is Job For Experts

• PHOTOGRAPHY — Note the picture of the photographer working with a *Snake*. It is in such an atmosphere that the best pictures can be made of these animals that do not lend themselves to outdoor photographs. Here we can control lighting and poses. It is very interesting work and highly important.





Ducks Form Picture Pattern on Lake

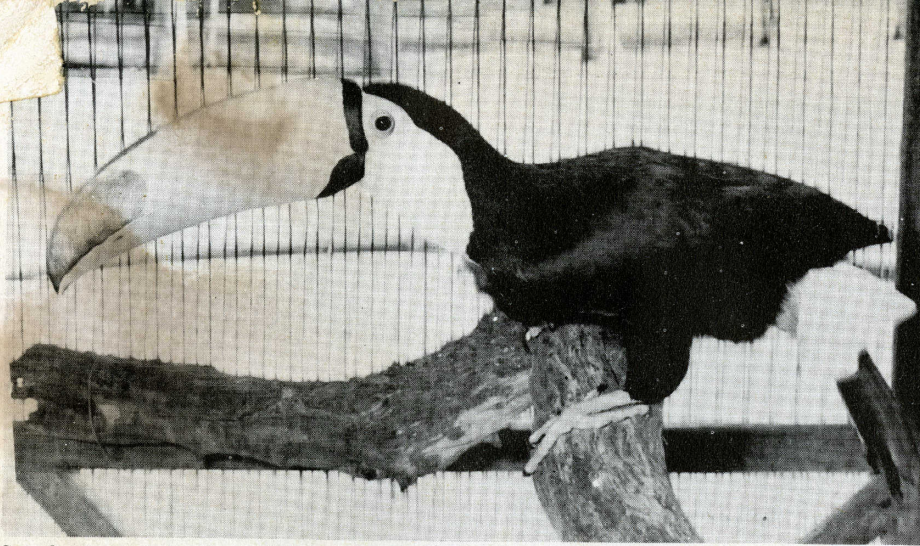


## BIRDS

Birds have come down to us from the age of reptiles millions of years ago when the earth was being formed. Ancient man was responsible for first domesticating birds such as fowl, geese, ducks and pigeons. He also collected birds for their colorful plumage, songs and the pleasant effect of having them around. There are more than 8,500 species (kinds) of birds as contrasted with 3,500 species (kinds) of mammals. When you consider the sub-species of birds, you can estimate there are 27,000 different forms. The main characteristic of birds is feathers. No mammal has feathers . . . yet some mammals fly, lay eggs and have beaks. Plumage is a unique avian feature.

The Crandon Park Zoo is justly proud of its bird collection; the waterfowl exhibit is one of the best in the nation and the Zoo's bird breeding program is widely acclaimed. A tribute to the Zoo is the fact that many species of wild native water birds such as *Herons*, *Gulls*, *Cormorants*, *Egrets* have taken up residence inside the Zoo grounds. Many rare species of *Ducks* can be found on Duck Lake at the Zoo. Also, the only breeding pair of *Pileated (Capped) Herons* in captivity is exhibited in the flight cage at the Zoo.

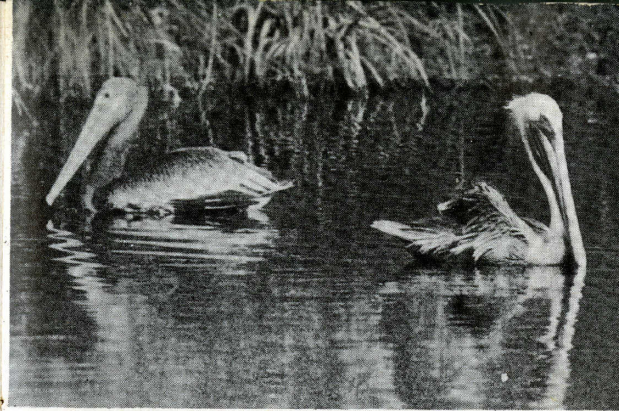




**South American Toco Toucan Is Largest Of Toucans**

- **TOUCAN** — The approximately forty species of *Toucans* that exist today occur only in the New World. They range from Southern Mexico through Central America into the northern half of South America. They are easily recognized by their outlandishly large bills which are usually very bright with red, blue, and yellow coloring. Normally several species of *Toucans* are always on exhibition at the Crandon Park Zoo. The largest of these is the colorful *Toco Toucan* of the Guianas and Brazil. *Toucans* are primarily fruit eaters, but their diets also include young birds, eggs, lizards and small mammals. Several smaller species of birds, found in the same regions, resemble the *Toucan*, but on a smaller scale. These are called *Aracaris* and *Toucanets*.

- **PELICAN** — Most everyone is familiar with the prehistoric appearing *Pelican* that has come down to us from ancient days. Remains of *Pelicans* that lived forty million years ago are almost identical to modern day types. Both the *Brown Pelican*, occurring on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts as well as the Gulf, and the *American White Pelican*, occurring from British Columbia southeast to Florida, are familiar sights to travelers in these areas. Persons watching *Pelicans* diving into water for food are amazed at the awkward manner in which they fish. The birds seem to collapse in mid-air and strike the water with such bone-crushing momentum that the observer is certain they will never recover from their splashing dives. But they always do, and usually with fresh fish in their bills. Three to five pounds of fish daily are necessary to keep a *Pelican* in good health. They are extremely friendly towards man and frequent pilings, docks and bridges mixing in with boats and people. They often wait for boats returning to the harbor to beg fish handouts. *Pelicans* appear in the Miami area in greater numbers during the winter months. During the summer large congregations of them are found along Indian River, in Florida.



**Pelican**

- **OSTRICH** — The *Ostrich*, or "camel bird", is a native of the plains of Central Africa. It is the largest existing bird of modern times and a male will stand about eight feet high and weigh about 300 pounds.

The female will lay about a dozen eggs that are incubated by both the male and the female. The male spends his nights on the eggs and the female her days. **Crandon Park Zoo** raises baby *Ostriches* in its hatchery each year, and the young are traded to other Zoos.

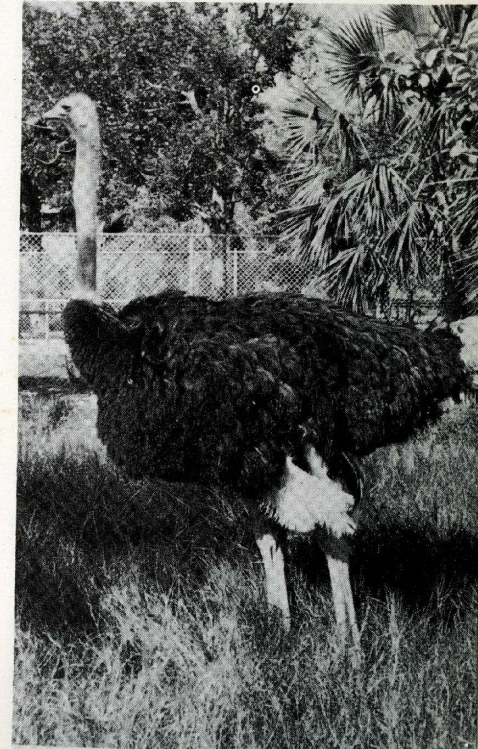
This large flightless bird is used as food by the natives of Africa, where they live a plains-life existence. The large three pound eggs are delicious, too, tasting much like a hen's egg. They are white and are laid in a shallow depression in the sand.

The *Ostrich* has great running speed clocked between 40 and 60 miles an hour. Its voice is a very loud drumming sound and it can kick savagely with its powerful feet. The male is deep black with scattered white feathers and plumes in the tail and wings. The female is a gray brown color.

- **EMU** — These are the second largest birds in existence today. They may grow to a height of six feet and weigh more than 100 pounds. They live in the semi-arid plains country of Australia. *Emu* eggs are a dark green color and the female lays from six

to ten in a "clutch". Incubation is about two months and the male bird not only incubates them, but has the responsibility of rearing the young *Emus*. Since farmers consider them a pest in Australia, bounties are paid for the eggs and hens. In order that this remarkable bird does not become extinct, *Emu* sanctuaries are now being set up.

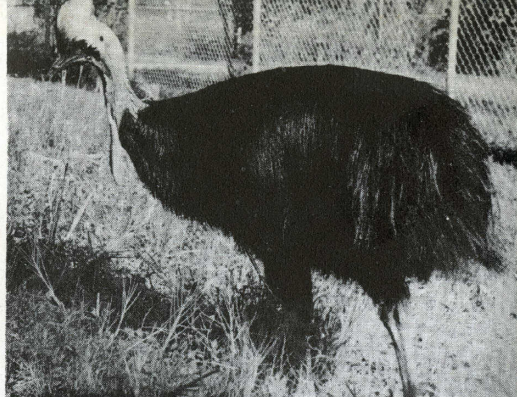
**Ostrich**







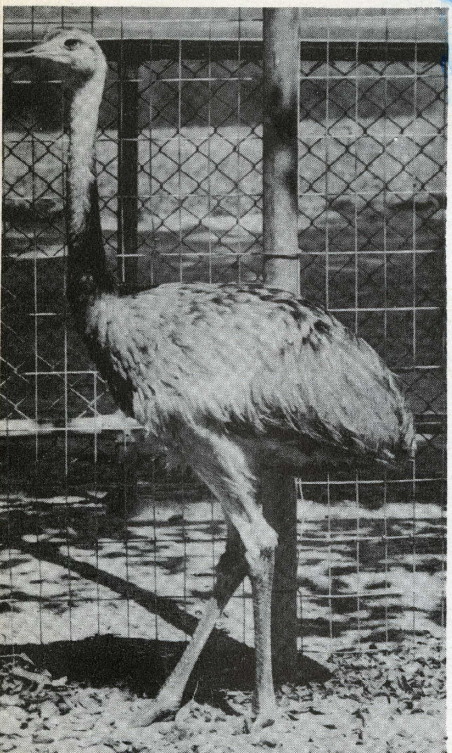
Emu



Cassowary

• **CASSOWARY** — The brilliantly colored *Cassowaries* are also native to Australia, New Guinea and some of the islands around these shores. There are six species of cassowaries, and all have the large bony helmet on top of their heads. The largest of this flightless bird will exceed five feet and weigh more than 100 pounds. They are quite vicious, and will attack with their heavy feet that are armed with long, sharp claws. It is interesting to note that the female is larger than the male in this odd species of flightless bird. Usually the males are larger in birds and mammals.

Rhea



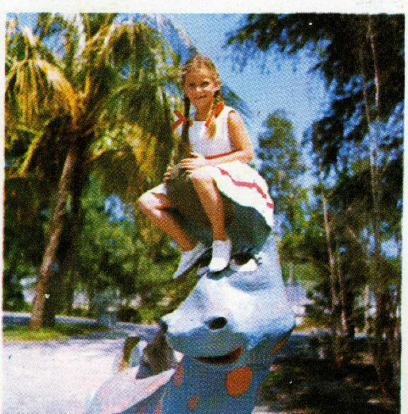
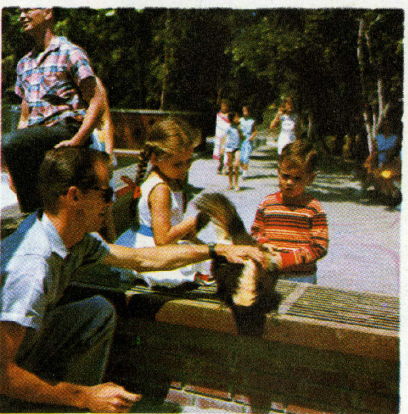
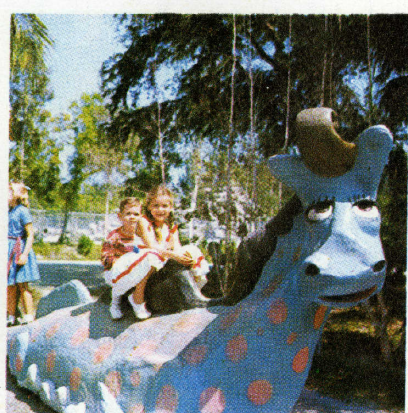
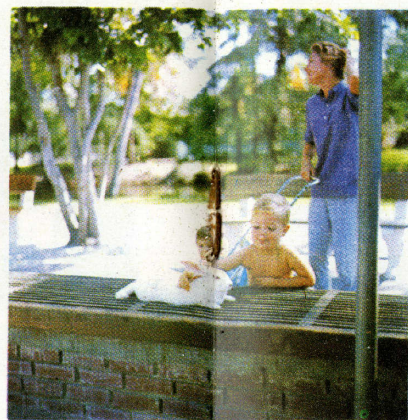
• **RHEA** — These birds are often called "South America Ostriches." While they are the very smallest of this group of large flightless birds, they still remain the biggest bird to be found in the New World. Maximum size is around five feet with a weight of 50 pounds. *Rheas* are polygamous, each male taking as many as five or six mates. These lay an aggregate of as many as fifty eggs. Here too the male bird incubates the eggs and cares for the young. *Rheas* are hunted on the South American Pampas for food and for sport.

## Crandon Zoo Scenes



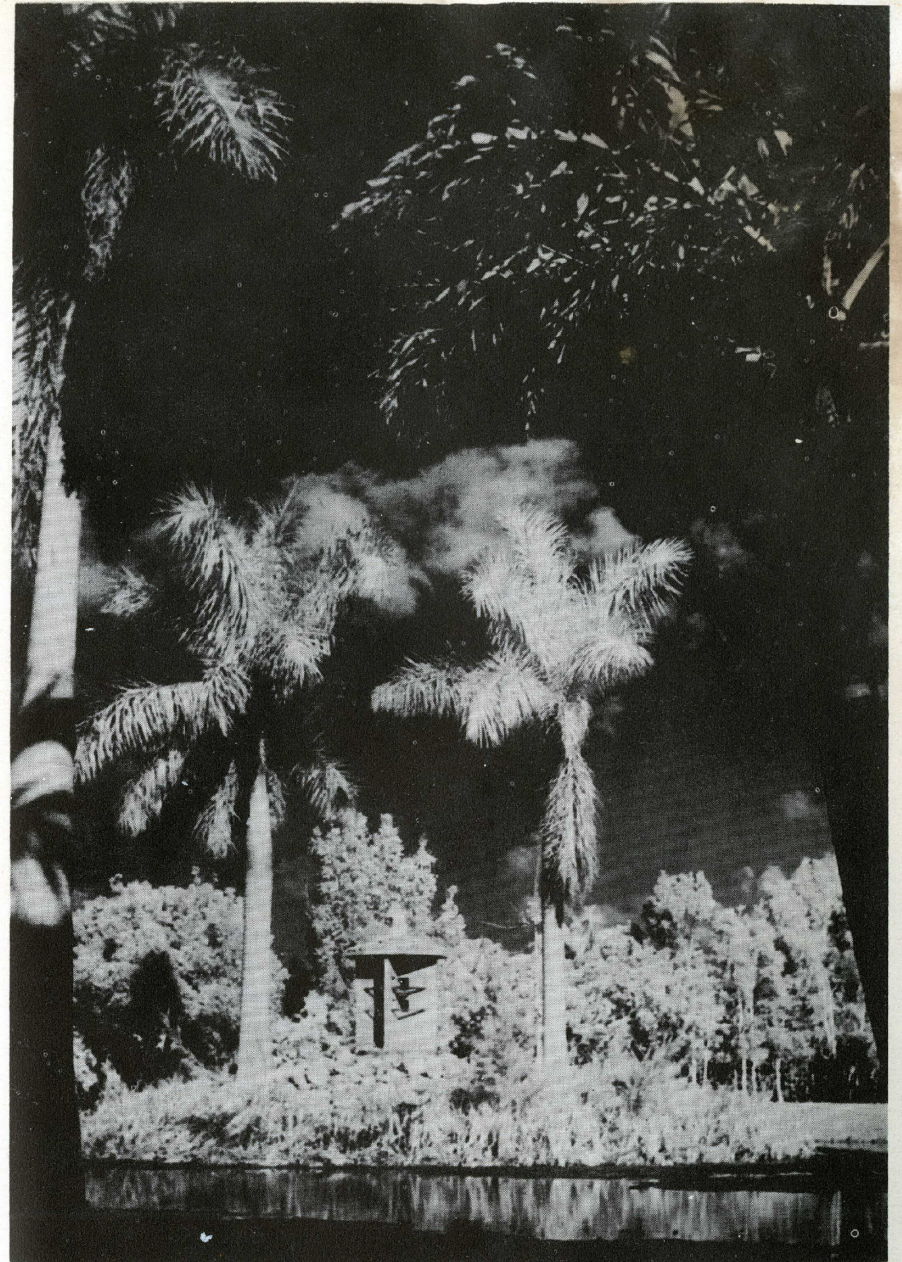
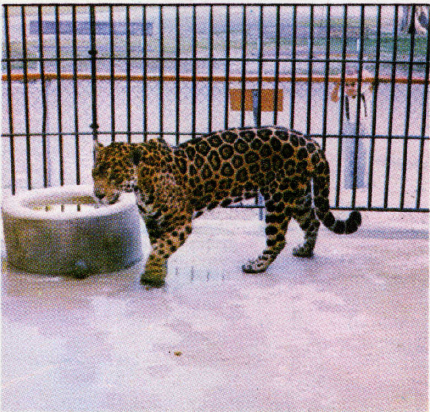
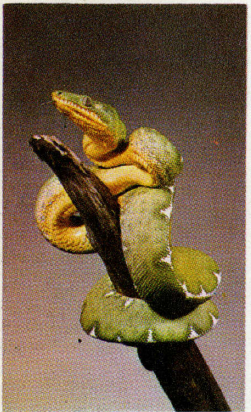


# Children's... Zoo





# Animals At The Zoo



Macaws Have Own Isle At Crandon Zoo





Kookaburra

American Eagle



• **KOOKABURRA** — The *Kookaburra*, or Laughing Jackass, is a large *Kingfisher* that lives in Australia and Tasmania. The wild rollicking call of this bird is surely familiar to everyone who has seen a jungle movie. To many motion picture directors the call of the *Kookaburra* is a typical jungle sound and is used promiscuously whether the setting be Africa, India, South America or Florida. *Kookaburras* feed well in captivity on raw meat, vitamins and minerals. Several are long-time residents of the **Crandon Park Zoo**.

## BIRDS OF PREY

• **BALD OR AMERICAN EAGLE** — Despite statements by so-called authorities and pseudo-sportsmen who consider it a destructive bird, the *American Eagle* is beneficial and now is protected. The greater portion of the *Eagle's* diet is fish and it is not beyond picking up a dead fish along the beach. It also follows *Ospreys* to attack them when they have caught a fish and, in a wild air battle, make them drop it. Then, the *Eagle* will swoop down and steal the meal away from the infuriated *Osprey*.

Some *Eagles* occasionally will kill and eat the young of some large animal such as a *Deer* or *Sheep*. But this is a natural law of nature and the bird is far more important than its occasional pilfering raids. It is the symbol of America's vigor and is shown on government seals, standards and coins.

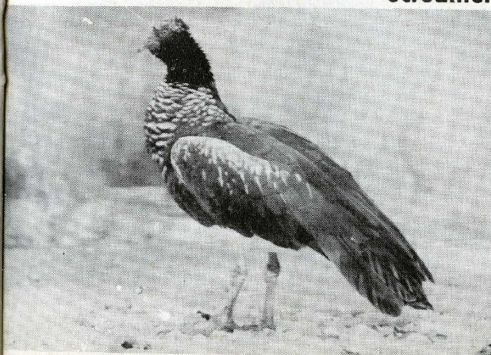
*Bald Eagles* are still found in numbers in Florida and Alaska where they breed in comparative safety. Everglades National Park is a stronghold for these great birds where they can be found nesting. It is well worth a trip to the Park to observe them.

• **HAWKS** — There are more than 200 different *Hawks* and hawk-like birds living in the world today. Since their diet is live prey, sought by day, these flesh eaters have earned an undeserved reputation of being very destructive to domestic fowl, game birds and small mammals. Like the *Eagle* they are greatly maligned since they do far more good than harm. For the most part they choose to feed on harmful rodents and insects. While it is true that individuals might, on occasion, take a *Chicken*, *Duck*, or song bird, the good they do far out-balances the bad. Several species of native and exotic *Hawks* are on exhibit at the **Crandon Park Zoo**.

• **SCREAMERS** — *Screamers*, despite their almost chicken-like appearance, are more closely related to the *Swan*, *Goose* and *Duck* family. The three species known are limited to South America. The birds are the size of a turkey with small heads and fowl-like beaks. They have very strong, thick-set legs and unusually large toes. Their voice, which is a loud trumpeting sound earns them their name.

The *Horned Screamer* of tropical South America, is distinguished by the long white horn-like appendage growing from the top of its head. The *Crested Screamer*, that lives in the

Screamer



Hawk

*Pampas* sections of southern South America, is basically a grey bird with a narrow dark band encircling its neck. The *Black-necked Screamer*, smallest of the three, comes from Colombia and Venezuela. It is a dark grey with a black neck and white cheeks. These birds are all semi-aquatic in habit.

• **TURKEY VULTURE** — One of our most recognizable tropical birds seen everyday in the skies over Miami. It is more commonly and incorrectly called a "buzzard". It feeds primarily on dead fish and dead mammals found along roads. It is a carrion eater. The *Black Vulture* is a smaller species found throughout the whole tropical and warm temperate regions of the eastern United States.

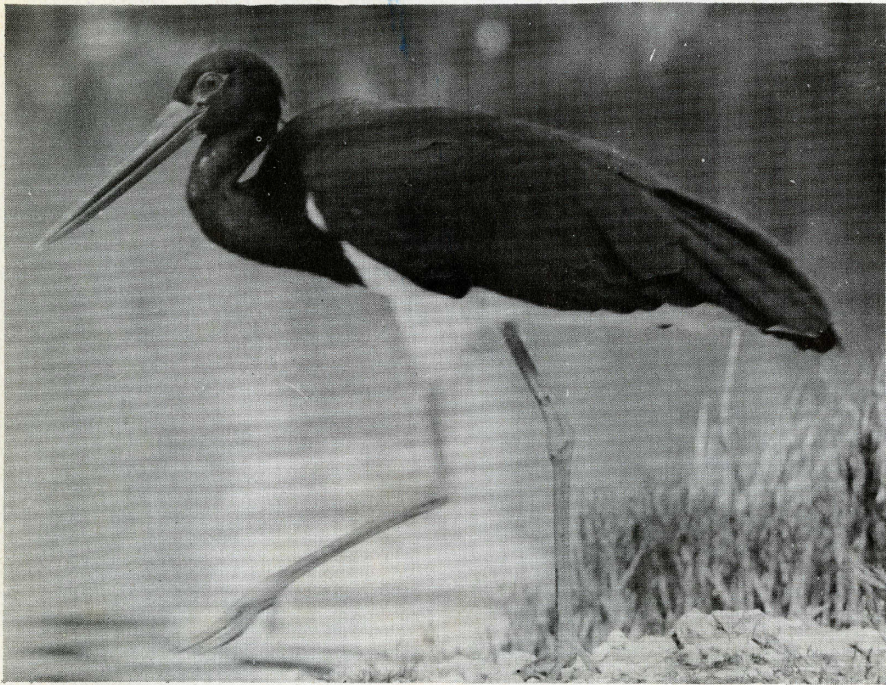
• **SECRETARY BIRD** — This long-legged, hawk-like bird feeds upon small mammals, birds and especially reptiles. It is considered valuable for the latter and is protected in Africa where it makes its home on the veldt. It gets its name from the peculiar crest of quills which resemble quill pens stuck behind the ears.



## WADING BIRDS — STORKS, HERONS . . .

There are at least seventeen species of living *Storks* that inhabit the warmer parts of the world. The *Wood Stork*, often called the *Wood Ibis* or *Iron-head*, is the only *Stork* native to the continental United States. This species is commonly observed along the Tamiami Trail and in Everglades National Park. Several individuals of the *American Wood Stork* are on exhibit at the **Crandon Park Zoo**. Often wild *Wood Storks* fly into the zoo and take up residence there for long periods of time. Two captive close relatives also may be seen here; the *Painted Stork* from India, so called for the pink coloring on its back, and the *African Wood Stork*, also having a tinge of pink in its plumage. All three of these species are about the same size. *Wood Storks* feed primarily upon fish, frogs, reptiles and even small mammals and birds. The better known member of the family is the *European Stork* or *White Stork* that ranges from Europe and Africa through Asia. Though it is now becoming rare in much of its habitat, the bird is still quite common in Holland, Germany and Poland where it is considered a good omen. It is also the legendary "baby stork", the one said to deliver all the new-born infants in the world. How this reputation began we do not know.

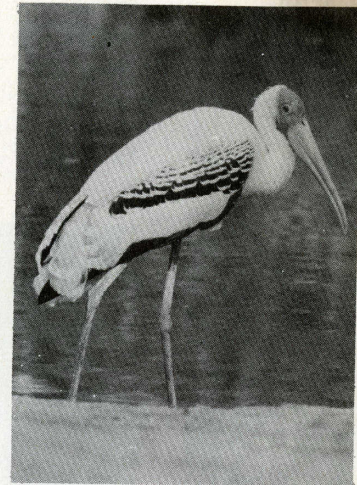
### Rare Black Stork Comes From Asia and Korea



## HIGH STEPPERS . . .



Woolly-Necked Stork



Painted Stork



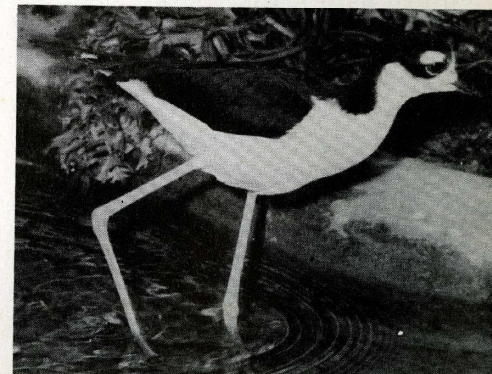
Wood Stork

• **BLACK STORK** — This is one of the rare *Storks* of the world. It ranges from Europe as far as China and Korea. It is feared that some populations of this *Stork* have been exterminated, especially in China and Korea. This bird is glossy black above and white below with a red ring around the eye and red beak and legs.

• **JABIRU STORK** — The *Jabiru Stork* ranges from Mexico to Argentina. It is a large bird with a long, heavy beak capable of inflicting a severe wound. The bird must be handled and approached cautiously. The head is bare of feathers and the body is white with wing-tips of black. The red neck is inflatable and, when inflated, Zoo visitors often think the bird is suffering from a severe case of the mumps. The *Jabiru Stork* is one of the largest flying birds native to the Americas.

• **BLACK-NECKED STILT** — One of the very popular birds of the Children's Zoo Aviary is the *Black Necked Stilt* found in South America and in the U. S. from Florida to Oregon. This bird is very aptly named since it has extremely long legs for its size. *Stilts* are wet-land birds seeking

### Black-Necked Stilt





shores where they probe with their long beaks for food in soft mud and sand.

• **EGRETS AND HERONS** — At least eleven species of *Egrets* and *Herons* occur in Florida and several species may be seen at the Zoo at all times. For the most part, however, these are birds that have “dropped in” to set up housekeeping inside the

*Heron* is much larger and has legs of a yellow-greenish color, not black. The *American Egret* is nearly 40 inches long while the *Great White Heron* ranges up to 54 inches.

• **REDDISH EGRET** — One of our more rare species of native *Egrets*. Its numbers thankfully have increased over the past few years. These birds are found in two colors. The most



**American Egret**



**Reddish Egret**

zoo grounds where they are assured protection and an abundance of food. They form rookeries where they congregate mostly around the Zoo's Flamingo Island.

• **AMERICAN EGRET** — One of the largest of the *Egret* family, this bird is easily identified by its yellow bill, black legs and black feet. It should not be confused with the *Great White Heron* found on the very southern tip of Florida and throughout the Florida Keys. The *White*

common has a grey body with a reddish head and neck. The other is a white species that can be distinguished from the *Snowy Egret* by its light pink bill that is black-tipped. The *Reddish Egret* is very erratic in its feeding habits, acting much like an inebriated person searching frantically for solid support as it dashes wildly about in shallow water chasing fish and other small water creatures on which it feeds.

• **BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS** — These birds have been nesting and rearing their young within

the boundaries of **Crandon Park Zoo** for several years. Adult birds and the immature young can always be found in the banyan trees surrounding the waterfowl lake. They have a more squatty appearance than the other longer-legged herons.

The *Black-Crowned Heron* is about 28 inches long and short legged. The wings are grey while the breast is white. The back and top of its head



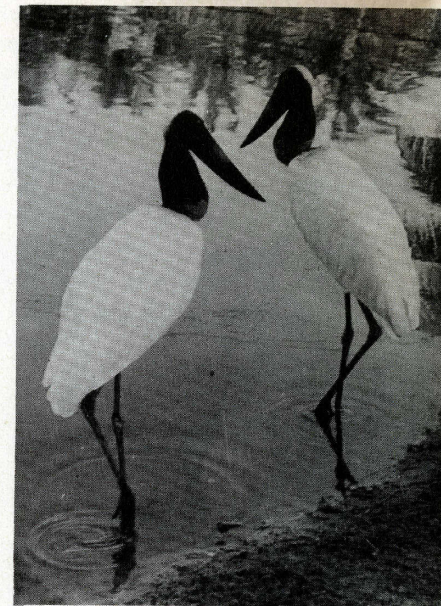
**Black-Crowned Heron**

are black and the eyes are large for the size of the bird. It is nocturnal in its habits.

• **CRANES** — Our Zoo exhibits several species of *Cranes*. Probably the most bizarre form is the *Crowned Crane* from Africa. This bird has an ornate head that shimmers with a gold crest resembling a rounded paint brush with its bristles extending upward. It looks very much like the bird has been crowned. *Crowned Cranes* are large birds, standing three feet or more in height.

The photo on page 47 shows two *Crowned Cranes*. It introduces our bird section.

*Cranes* are distinguished-looking birds with long necks and legs. Their long trailing wing feathers completely cover their short tails and often touch the ground. They take very well to captivity. *Cranes* have loud piercing cries that can be heard miles away



**Jabiru Stork**

and do fancy, comical dances with outstretched necks and flapping wings while honking vigorously.

*Cranes* eat mostly grains, but will also take greens, meat and fish for variety in their diet. Unlike *Herons*, *Cranes* carry their necks fully outstretched while in flight.

These graceful birds range in size from thirty-six inches long to a specimen sixty-inches in height. *Cranes* were once abundant throughout the northern part of North America during the days of the pioneers. The





Crowned Crane

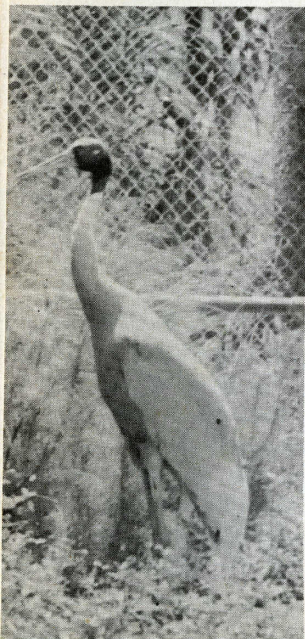
nearly extinct *Whooping Crane*, now down to less than 50 in numbers, still migrates southward each Fall.

• **STANLEY or PARADISE CRANE** — This graceful bird with a white crown of feathers and a soft-looking silver-grey body, comes to us from south Africa. It has long trailing wing plumes and red legs and beak.

Inhabiting the southern regions of Africa, the *Stanley Crane* is becoming quite scarce in its native state and it is becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain these specimens for zoological parks. However, it does breed in captivity which is helping to maintain the species.

• **SARUS CRANE** — This stately bird hails from southeast Asia and is the largest specie to be found in the *Crane* family. It will reach almost 6 feet in height. The coloring is grey with red skin on the head and upper neck. The call of the *Sarus Crane*, as well as that of other species, can be heard for many miles.

• **DEMOISELLE CRANE** — This is the smallest of the crane family, scarcely 36 inches in length. It is colored similar to the *Stanley Crane* except that the face, underside of neck, and breast are black. A tuft of white plumes, or feathers, extend outward and down from the rear of each eye. It hails from southeastern Europe and Asia.



Sarus Crane

• **FLAMINGO** — The *Flamingo* is a unique bird in several respects. Its extremely long graceful neck and legs are proportionately longer for its body than any other bird. The large bill is curved downwards like a scimitar. *Flamingos* feed on small aquatic plants and animals which they sieve from the muddy water with their peculiarly shaped beaks.

Of six living species found today, only the *American Flamingo* reaches the continental United States. Large colonies of this bird were found in the Bahamas and the northern area of South America. It is doubtful, however, that the *Flamingo* ever nested in the United States outside of captivity.

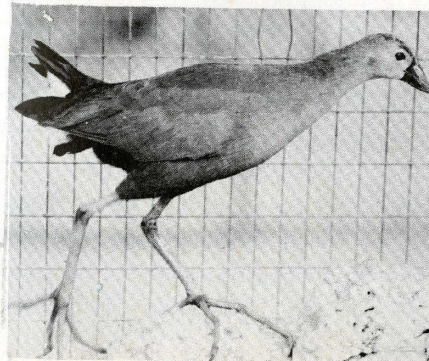
Stanley Crane



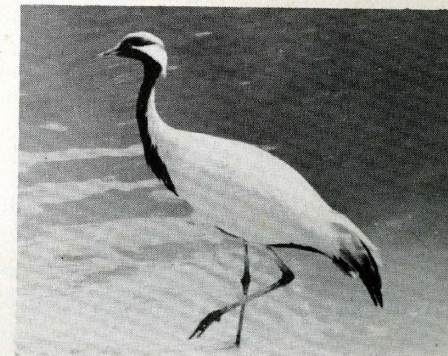
Flamingo



Gallinule



Demoiselle Crane





The *American Flamingo* is much redder than the *Chilean Flamingo* which is native to South America. Some *Flamingos* are found high in the Andes Mountains and are almost a white color where they exist in lakes lashed constantly by high winds and cold temperatures.

Take special note of the *Flamingo* exhibit at the **Crandon Park Zoo**. You will see the large mounds of mud that these birds build for nesting. Into each mound they lay one or two eggs. The male and female birds take turns sitting on the nest to hatch out the young. Their stately grace makes them somewhat resemble ballet dancers.

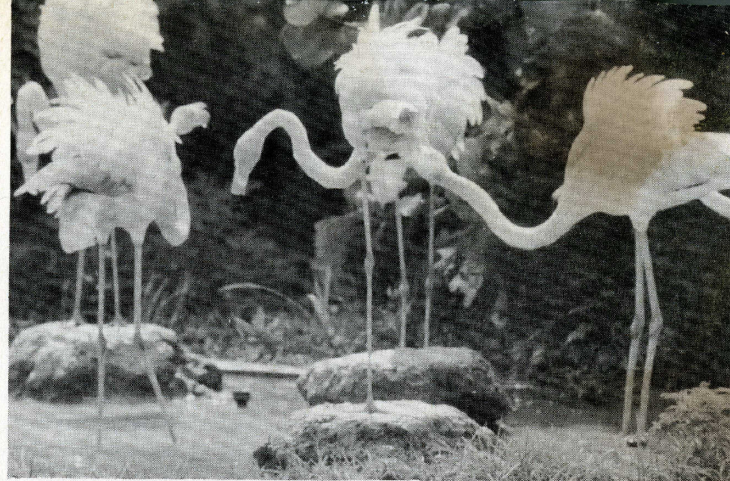
- **PURPLE GALLINULE** — The *Gallinules* and *Coots*, through their strange close habits, have earned many descriptive names: "mud-hen, hell-diver, lily-trotter" are among the most common. The *Gallinule* walks around on top of lily pads and can be seen doing this any day at Everglades National Park's Anhinga Trail . . . The *Asiatic Purple Gallinule*, often called the *Purple Moor-Hen*, is much larger than its native U. S. counterpart. It reaches a length of almost 20 inches. Both species may be seen at the **Crandon Park Zoo**. *Gallinules* and *Coots* are weak fliers. Actually they run across the surface of the water flapping their wings wildly to become airborne.

- **SPOONBILLS AND IBIS** — These birds are different from the *Storks* and *Hérons* chiefly by the shape of their beaks. The *Roseate Spoonbill*, frequently seen in the Everglades and Florida Keys, has a shovel-like flat beak which it works back and forth in the water and silt to strain its food. The flash of brilliant color in a flock of these pinkish-appearing birds set against a brown and green mangrove-lined pond, is something you will never forget once you see it.

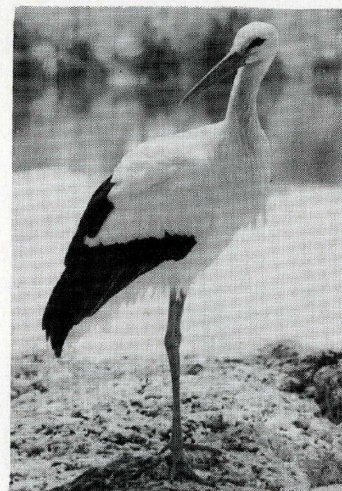
The *Scarlet Ibis* is found in Northern South America. The plumage of this bird is blood red and it is the most handsome of all the *Ibises*. The *White Ibis* is also found in tropical America. It has pure white plumage with black wing tips. The bare face, bill and legs are orange. The *Sacred Ibis* ranges through Africa and Asia.

- **CORMORANTS** — *Double-crested Cormorants* are usually seen in the various lakes at **Crandon Park Zoo** although no attempt is made to keep them captive. Like all *Cormorants* they are very aquatic by nature and catch fish by diving from the surface and pursuing them underwater. They are very swift beneath the surface. In China and Japan they are used by fishermen to catch fish. They tie a ring around the bird's neck which prohibits it from swallowing its food.

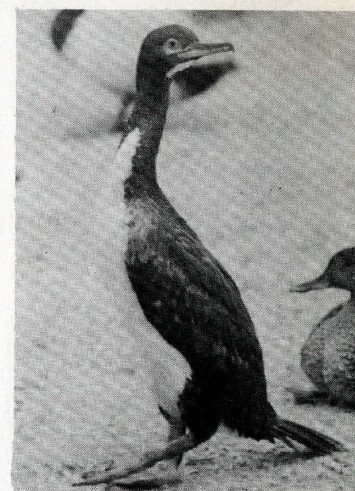
- The *Guanay Cormorant*, an exotic species of the *Cormorant* family, is kept on Duck Lake at the **Crandon Park Zoo**. These birds congregate by the thousands on small islands and their droppings are called guano. The guano is collected and used as a base for commercial fertilizer.



**Flamingos On Their Nests**



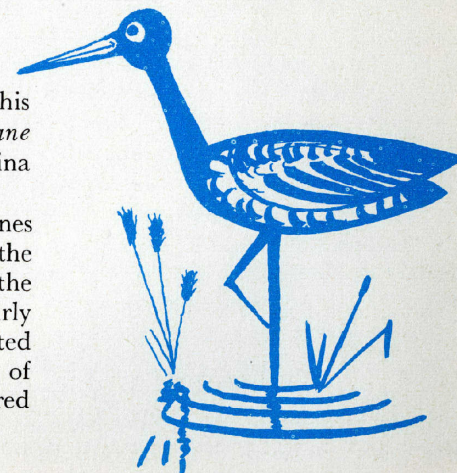
**White Stork**



**Cormorant**

- **MANCHURIAN CRANE** — This large black and white species of *Crane* nests in Siberia and migrates to China and Japan.

There are two species of cranes still found in the United States: the very rare *Whooping Crane*, and the *Sandhill Crane* which is still fairly common over most of the United States except in the East. Both of these species have uniformly-colored bodies with bright red faces.





## DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS

The **Crandon Park Zoo** has one of the finest waterfowl collections in the United States. Our breeding success with this group of birds is largely due to having an extremely capable bird specialist and an efficient hatchery. The sympathetic care and interest that have gone into this zoo effort has resulted in our raising successfully some of the rarest waterfowl in captivity anywhere.

- **SNOW GOOSE** — While it is not so well known as the *Canada Goose*, the *Lesser Snow Goose* of the middle and western United States breeds in the Arctic, and is probably the most numerous wild goose in America. It comes in two distinct color phases. One is snow white with black wing tips. The other is a blue-grey in color with a white head and neck. The latter is often called the *Blue Goose*.

- **RED-BREASTED GOOSE** — This small goose is a native of north-central Siberia. It is rather a rare species in waterfowl collections, but the **Crandon Park Zoo** is fortunate in having a pair. It is beautifully patterned with a deep chestnut, black, and white coloring.

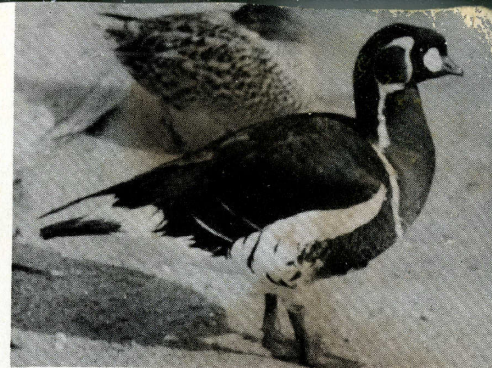
- **MANED GOOSE** — This is a very rare species from Australia. Because of its habit of perching in trees it is often called the *Australian Wood Duck*, or *Australian Tree Goose*. The name comes from the manelike ruff of feathers on the neck. **Crandon Park Zoo** has successfully bred this species.

- **SWANS** — There are six species of swans four of which are white. The remaining two are the *Black Swan* of Australia and the *Black-necked Swan* from Southern South America. At the **Crandon Park Zoo** we have exhibited all six species.

- **BLACK SWAN** — The *Black Swan* is native to Australia and Tasmania. It is completely black in coloring except for its contrasting red beak and white wing tips. The feathers on the back and upper wings are curled. Since, in its wild state, it normally breeds in the Spring, actual egg-laying takes place during the early winter months. This habit leads to many problems in northern zoos where there is a danger of the young cygnets freezing after being hatched.

- **TRUMPETER SWAN** — This is the largest of the swans. The *Trumpeter Swan* is a native of western North America. Up until a few short years ago this species was fated to join the *Passenger Pigeon* and the *Dodo* to extinction. But with careful conservation it now appears that this beautiful bird has been saved for posterity. It is a splendid specimen of the *Swan* family having a wingspread of ten feet and a weight of approximately thirty pounds. The **Crandon Park Zoo** was honored by the Federal Government in being allowed to participate in its captive *Trumpeter Swan* breeding program. Several Trumpeter Swans were sent to the zoo for breeding.

- **WHISTLING SWAN** — This is another specie of *North American Swan*. It differs from the *Trumpeter Swan* not only by its smaller size, but also by a small yellow patch located at the base of the beak. (The *Trumpeter Swan's* beak is completely black.) The maximum weight of the *Whistling Swan* is about twenty pounds. It is a tragic fact that during the spring migrations of this bird flocks of them rest on the Niagara River where, during the night, many sleeping birds are swept over the falls and killed.

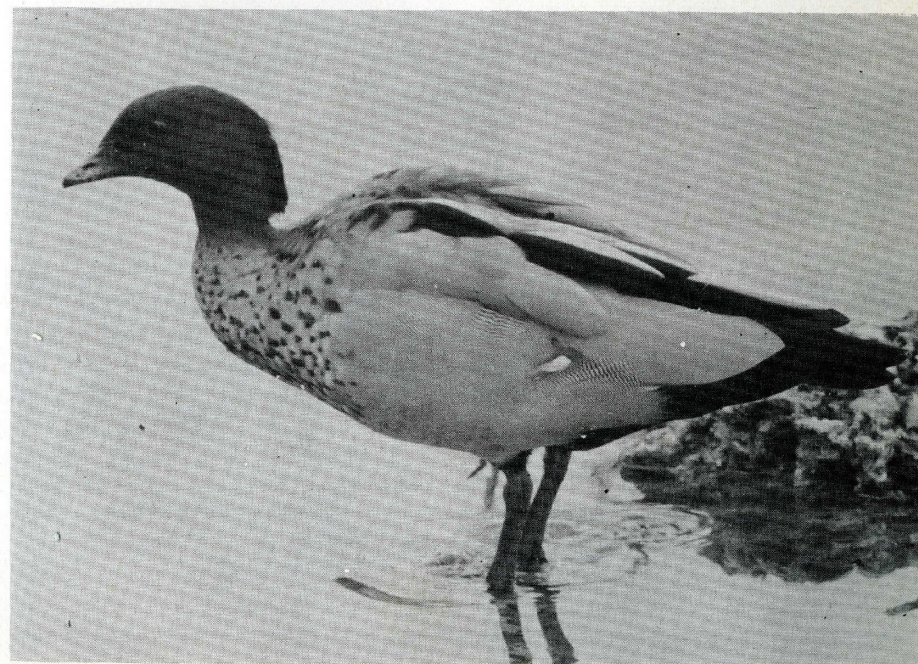


Red-breasted Goose

## DUCKS

*Ducks* and other water birds are generally the most popular specimens in the zoo as well as in nature. They are world-wide in distribution and members of this group were among the first birds to be domesticated. The early Egyptians kept flocks of *Egyptian Geese* for economic reasons — namely, eggs and meat. Water birds figure heavily in the art of the Orientals. Japanese prints quite frequently depict *Mandarin Ducks* and *Hérons*.

Maned Goose

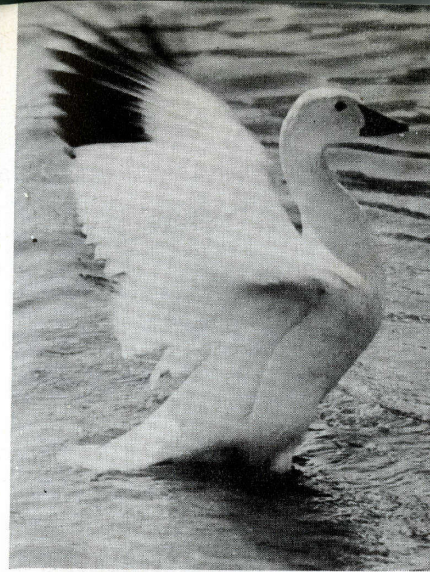
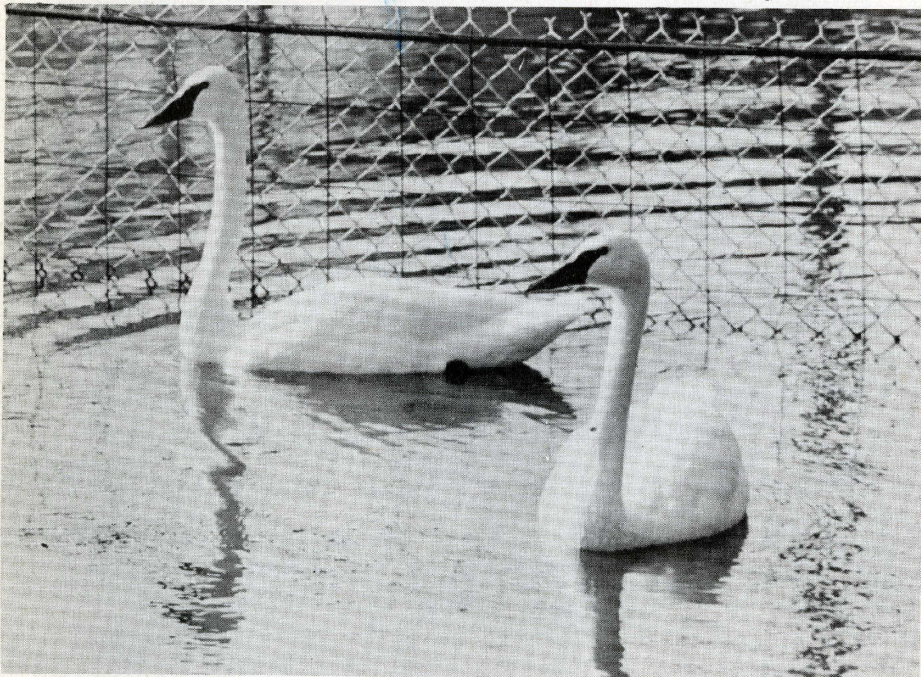






Black Swan

Trumpeter Swan

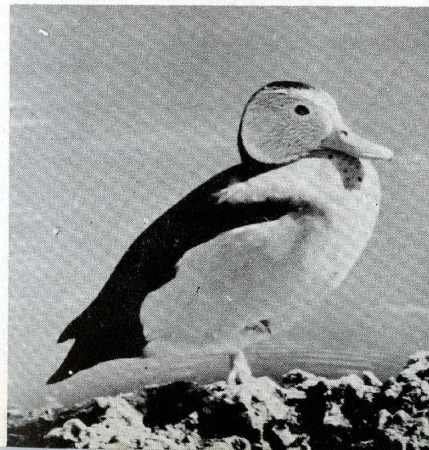


Snow Goose

• **WOOD DUCK** — Another beauty of the duck world that is comparable in its gay coloring with the *Mandarin Duck* for the title, "the most beautiful duck in the world." Quite a few of these are raised at the **Crandon Park Zoo** each year. A majority of those raised are released in various outdoor areas of Florida.

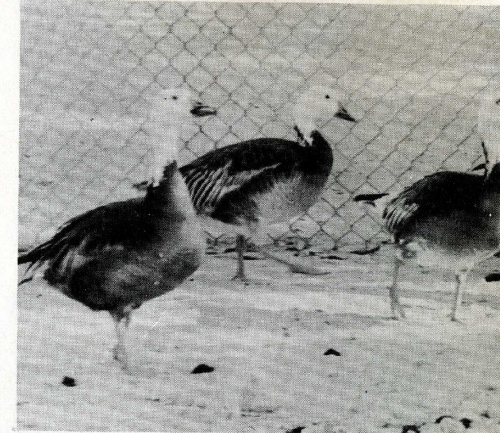
• **CANVASBACK DUCK** — The *Canvasback Duck* is one of the largest ducks native to North America. It is a great favorite with hunters. It is a good size bird and, being a vegetation eater, has a superior table flavor to other ducks.

Ringed Teal



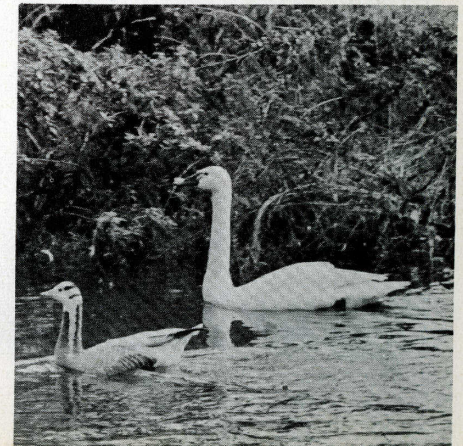
• **RINGED TEAL** — The *Teal* is the smallest of the duck family. The *Ringed Teal* of South America is quite beautiful with an intricate pattern of small light-colored rings over its entire body.

• **MANDARIN DUCK** — The *Mandarin Duck* of eastern Asia and Japan almost defies a word description as it is so beautiful in its range of paint-pot colors. They are used quite extensively in Japanese art and are also pictured on a Japanese postage stamp. They take readily to captivity and are bred extensively as an ornamental waterfowl.



Blue Goose

Whistling Swan & Bar-headed Goose

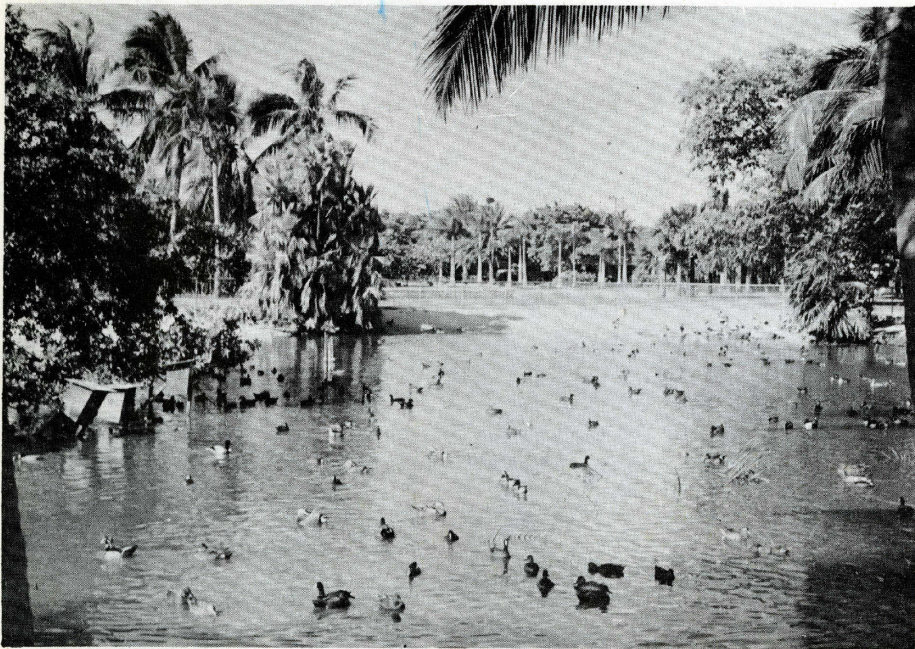




• **FULVOUS TREE DUCK** — These ducks are rather shy by nature and, as nocturnal feeders, little is known about their habits. Hunters often refer to them as *Whistling Ducks* due to their whistling calls made in flight. They are not true tree dwellers, but do nest and perch in trees occasionally. They are found in southern California and southeast Texas, Mexico and along the north and southeastern seaboard of South America, as well as Africa and India.

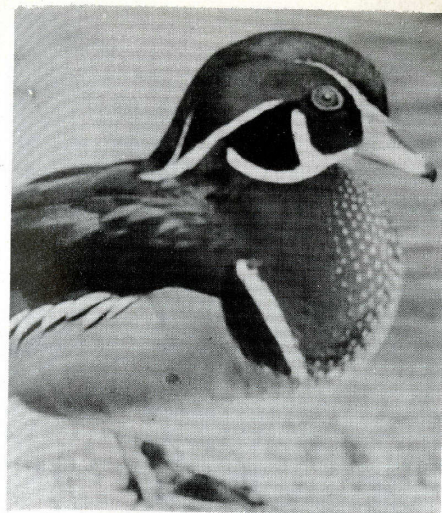
• **MALLARD** — This commonly hunted duck is one of the “dipping ducks” so called because of their feeding habits not by diving, but by dipping down from the surface with their necks extended and tails pointed at the sky. The *Mallard* is easily domesticated and keeps well in captivity. It has the familiar flat duck bill and its shining green iridescent head is a bright beacon as also the flash of metallic blue on its wingtips.

#### Duck Lake At Crandon Park Zoo

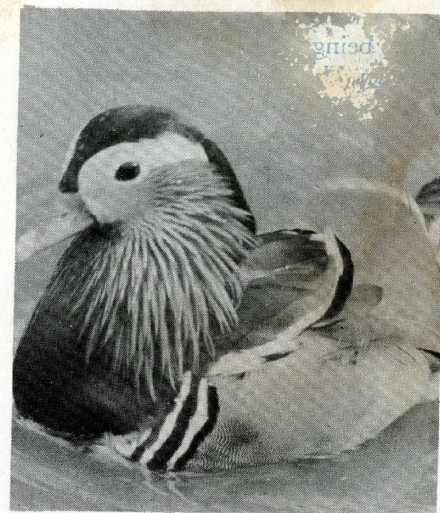


• **RUDDY DUCK** — This duck belongs to the Oxyurini family of ducks, more commonly called the “stiff-tailed ducks.” They are small ducks with short, thick necks and legs so far back on their bodies that they waddle when they walk. They are found in North America, West Indies and northern South America. The male is a rusty color with a blue bill set in a black and white head and normally swims with its stiff tail feathers erect. Since their wings are rather small they have a labored flight, but swim and dive exceptionally well. They nest on the ground in marshes and lay the largest of duck eggs for their size. The male assists in the caring of the young.

• **MUSK DUCK** — This Australian duck gets its name from the musky odor emanating from its body. It is regarded as inedible due to this body odor. They are among the largest of the species ranging from 24 to 29



Wood Duck



Mandarin Duck

inches in length and up to five pounds in weight. At one time they were considered to be flightless, but are not, flying mainly at night. They walk a great deal between swamps and ponds and are expert divers. The male, when courting, claps its wings to its side sending out streams of water like jets. It is a member of the stiff-tailed duck family.

• **HARLEQUIN DUCK** — Duck colors are always more or less striking. The *Harlequin* is rated among the more showy with its bluish-grey body striped with white edged in black. It has rust-colored flanks and an orange stripe over the eyes. It ranges far — from Northeastern Siberia, Labrador, Greenland and Iceland to northwestern North America. It is about 17 inches long. It nests on rivers that empty into the oceans of the Arctic, Atlantic and Pacific, preferring cold climates, where it swims among ice floes. It feeds on limpets obtained from kelp-covered rocks.



Duck Lake



• **EUROPEAN SHELDUCK**— This large duck from Eurasia is approximately the same size as the *Canvasback*. It is a beautiful bird with a bright red beak, greenish-black head and a body of white with chestnut and black.

habits which give them a fishy flavor. *Mergansers* are found in the entire Northern Hemisphere and are mostly silent birds, having few calls. They migrate southward each Fall to the salt water shores along the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.



**European Shelduck**

• **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** — This is a sea loving duck with a long, narrow, serrated orange-red bill. It is brightly colored, with blues, greens, whites, browns and grey. It swims with its tail down since it is not one of the stiftailed species. Long hair-like feathers project outwards and back from its head in both male and female making them look as though they are long overdue for a haircut. They are a fish eating duck and great divers, but are considered “Trash ducks” due to their eating

• **COMMON EIDER** — Found in the cold climes of the Arctic its distribution is circumpolar. From the breast of the female come the soft down that lines the nests. In Iceland large quantities of this is marketed as eiderdown for use in sleeping bags, pillows and linings for quilts and robes. These birds are strictly protected in Iceland and only a part of the down is taken from each nest leaving the rest for the raising of young ducks. They feed mainly on fish and mollusks.

• **BAHAMA PINTAIL** — This is a white-cheeked species found in the nearby Bahama Islands, the Antilles and the northern part of South America.

• **BLACK-HEADED DUCK** — This duck from South America is not particular about its nesting habits. It lays its eggs in the nests of other waterfowl, coots, rails, gulls and even hawks for foster parents to hatch. This seems a rather precarious habit for the species.

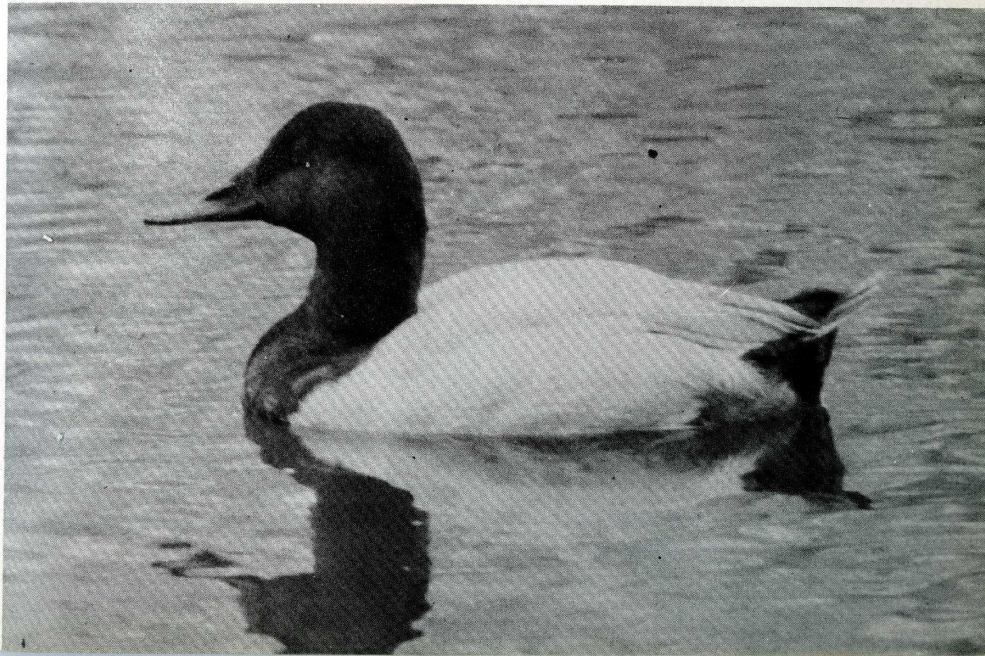
• **GOLDENEYE** — The Common Goldeneye is often called the “whistler” due to the noise its wings make while in flight. It has a bright golden eye from which it gets its name. They nest in the North American hemisphere around the tree line. They are found also in Greenland and Iceland.



## GULLS AND TERNS

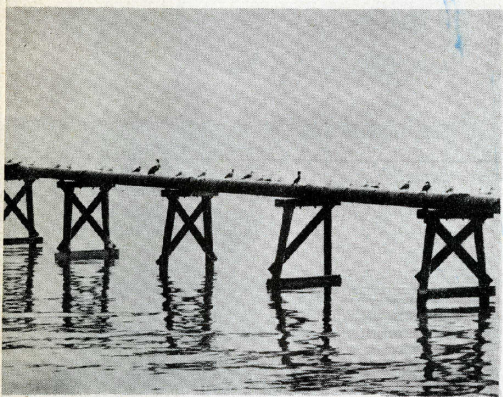
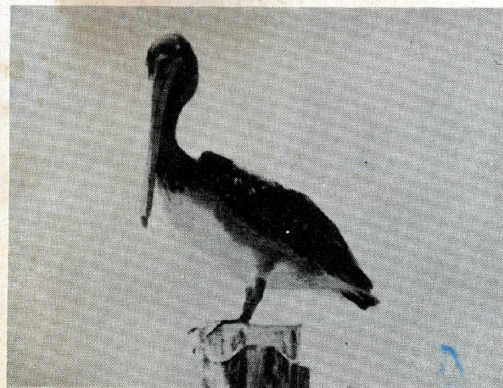
Many non-captive *Gulls* (and *Terns*) are seen frequenting Duck Lake at the **Crandon Park Zoo**. These birds fly in from the nearby Atlantic to feast on the extra fish that are put out for our zoo birds every day.

**Canvasback Duck**





### Florida Pelican



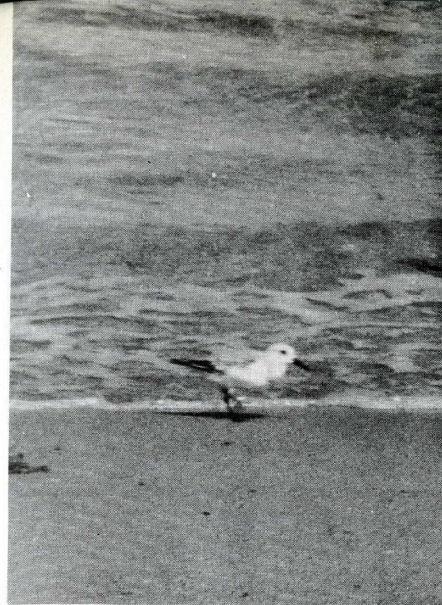
### Seabirds On Pipeline

This family of long-winged, web-footed birds that never collide in mid-air, despite frantic aerial maneuvering in close-packed groups on the wing, is probably the most common of all American water birds. *Gulls* are seen as far inland as the Midwest and Great Salt Lake. They are called *Sea Gulls* but rarely go far to sea. They prefer the ocean shores, beaches and harbors where they congregate in profuse numbers. They also gather around garbage dumps and airport aprons where they often pose a problem. Bridge fishermen often hook them since they are eager to swoop down and take a pilchard from an angler's line.

*Terns* are smaller and more graceful than the thicker-set gulls. They are also more choosy about their feeding habits, since *Gulls* will eat anything from garbage to crickets, worms and grubs. *Gulls* soar on graceful wings while *Terns* fly with steady wingbeats with their heads pointed downwards along the beach and water. Most of their food is obtained from live minnows and shrimp which they find around seaweed. They are poor swimmers and usually splash into the water to raise immediately to the air again, usually with a small minnow in their beaks.

• **LAUGHING GULL** — This bird sets up a raucous cry that sounds exactly like someone laughing loudly. It has a black head with red beak. The neck and underparts are white while the back is grey. It has red legs and feet. The *Laughing Gull* is found around our Atlantic and Gulf Coasts in increasing numbers.

• **CALIFORNIA GULL** — This is the bird credited with saving the first crops of the Mormons around the Great Salt Lake in Utah. A beautiful statue to them was erected in Salt Lake City.

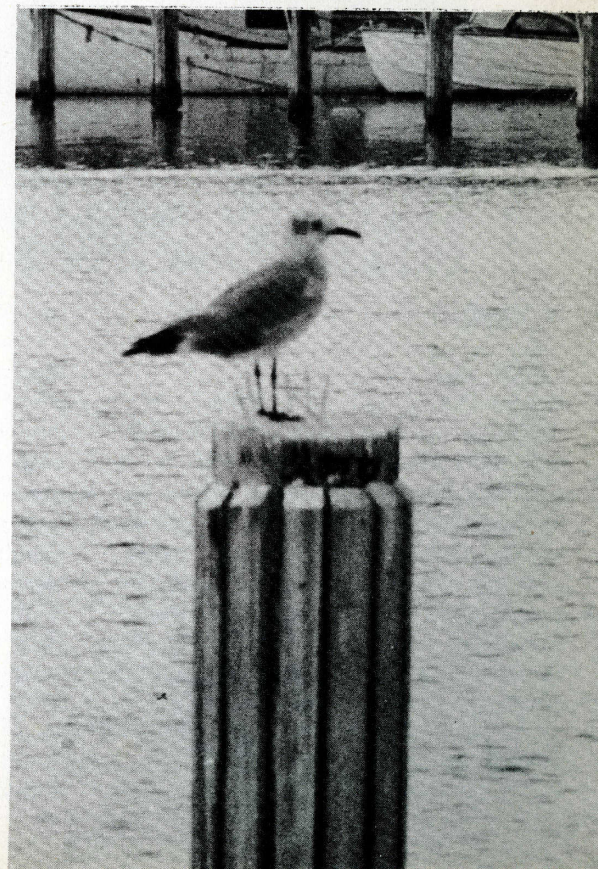


### Shorebird Feeding

• **HERRING GULL** — This is probably the commonest specie of *Gull* on the American continent and also in Asia and Europe. During the first year *Herring Gulls* are brown with a black bill. As they molt (twice a year) their plumage gradually changes to the white and grey and their bill becomes yellow colored. A *Herring Gull* that was banded as a chick was recovered 28 years later.

• **COMMON TERN** — Best known of the *Terns* it breeds around the world in the northern hemisphere both on the sea coasts, offshore inlets and inland lakes and marshes. It migrates southward across the equator. These *Terns* appear on Cape Cod in May from their southern wintering

### Laughing Gull





grounds to select their breeding sites and build nests. They return almost to the same exact place to nest where they did the year before. They nest in the sand, scraping the depression out with their feet. The female lays two or three eggs and may lay up to four. Both sexes share the incubation duties.

- **ARCTIC TERN** — These birds breed in the Arctic regions in the summer time and migrate to the Antarctic regions during the northern winters. Thus, the Arctic Tern makes the longest migration of any bird and spends more time in daylight than any other living animal, since it visits polar regions in continuous daylight.

## SOME SMALL BIRDS FOUND IN OUR ZOO AVIARY



- **FINCHES** — The name "Finch" may be used to describe any of the small seed-eating birds which are found throughout the temperate and tropical areas of the world. Included in this large group of colorful birds are Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Saltators, Sparrows, Seedeaters, Grassquits, Goldfinches, Waxbills, Mannikins, Weavers, and Whydahs. These small birds are very colorful, undulating fliers with quick movements and like to sing while in flight. They are tree and plains dwelling birds, building open cup nests. Some *Finches* originated in Europe and spread to the Americas and Africa. They were

successfully introduced into Bermuda where they are now common. The *European Goldfinch* with his bright gold, black, brown and red coloring, is a popular cage bird. It sings well and thousands are caught for sale to pet shops. The *Canary* is a *Finch* and wild *Canaries* still exist on the Canary Islands. Some of the more common forms which are usually seen in the Zoo Aviary are: the Red Bishop Bird and the Paradise Whydah, both from Africa; the Zebra Finch from Australia; the Black-faced Grassquit and the Saltator from Central and South America; the Dickcissel and Eastern Cardinal from North America.

- **BLACK-FACED GRASSQUIT** — The *Grassquits* are found throughout the West Indies. They build covered nests with a roof and have a side entrance to it. You can see these nests in our Aviary. There is also a *Yellow-faced Grassquit*. They are seed eaters and all seed eating birds are very sociable and can be watched closely.

- **WAXBILLS** — The *Waxbill* family contains 28 species ranging from Africa to Australia. The *Orange-cheeked Waxbill* is found today in Puerto Rico where it has established itself after a few pairs escaped from bird cages to breed in the wild. These birds usually fly in large flocks in their native countries and build large domed nests that are pear-shaped. They have side entrances and are rather rickety-built. Into these nest houses the female will lay from four to ten white eggs in a clutch. The *Common Waxbill* is found in Africa south of the Sahara where it inhabits the reedy marshes. The *Yellow-billed Waxbill* prefers the forest edges or thick tangles of stream bank underbrush, living in small flocks. They are small birds about four inches in size. The *Orange-cheeked Waxbill* is found in the Aviary at the Zoo.

- **GROSBEAK** — This New World family of birds, originating in the tropics, is a colorful seed-eater found throughout the United States, Mexico, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Argentina and Venezuela. They are not too hardy, so some species migrate to the tropics when winter comes. The *Blue Grosbeak* of the southern U. S. and Costa Rica is all blue, including its bill, and has orange patches on its wings. The *Rose-breasted Grosbeak* and the *Black-headed Grosbeak* are more hardy varieties and stay north in winter.

- **PAINTED BUNTING** — This is one of the most striking, brightly-colored birds in North America with its orange-red breast, bright blue iridescent head and yellow back. It is not conspicuous, preferring thickets, but can be lured to feeding stations.

- **RED-LEGGED HONEY-CREEPER** — The *Honeycreepers* use their long, thin-pointed bills to pierce the bases of flowers and obtain nectar while perched, never hovering like humming-birds. The *Red-legged* variety is colored in blue and black with a light iridescent blue crown patch.

- **BARE-THROATED BELLBIRD** — The *Bellbirds* have a musical, bell-sounding call which is quite alarming the first time heard. They are found in Southeastern Brazil and are mostly white, a rare color in land birds. The *Bare-Throated Bellbird* has a throat and face bare of feathers but covered with bristles. Their calls are very sharp, ringing and earpiercing.

- **BLACK-MASKED TANAGER** — This family is a large one with some 222 species and obtained its name from the Tupi Indians of the Amazon regions who are bird lovers. It is found throughout the United States and Central and South America. Except for the North American species the Tanagers are non-migratory. They have many gay colors of red, yellow, blue and iridescent shades. The one named here has a black mask eyepiece.

- **RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD** — This common American species breeds throughout southern Canada, the temperate United States and throughout the West Indies to Central America. It is distinguished by the bright scarlet epaulet markings on its upper wings. The male is much more colorful than the female which is brownish in its coloration. The *Red-*

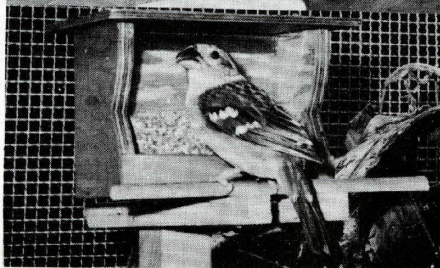
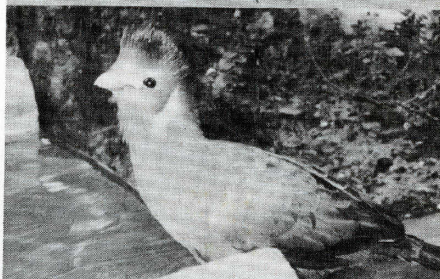
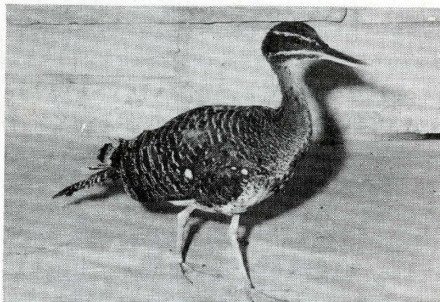


wings migrate southward in winter to marshy country where they live in colonies. Flocks of them can be seen on the wing in Florida in the Everglades. The male *Redwings* are the first birds to go north in the Spring to nest. They are followed later by the females and later by the young of the previous year. A flight of them is a colorful sight to see.

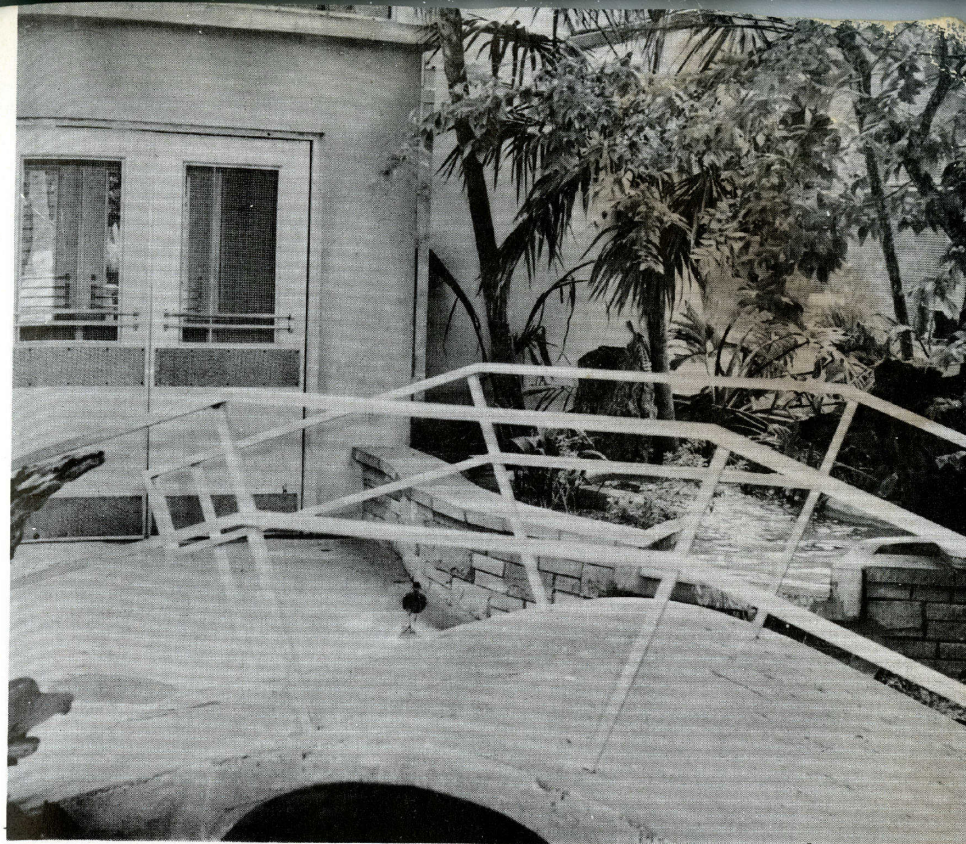
• **THRUSHES** — The name *Thrush* has become synonymous with singing in our language due to the melodious efforts of these highly-regarded song-birds. The *European Nightingale* is a member of the family which also includes the *Wood Thrush*, *Song Thrush* and *Hermit Thrush* to name only a few of this species. Close relatives of the *Thrush* are the *Warblers*, also good songsters. The *Wood Thrush* with its speckled breast of black dots on white feathers with a brown back, is a common sight in the East's woodlands. A typical *Thrush* is the *Robin*, also a highly-favored American bird. It is common on lawns throughout the north in summer and migrates south in the winters. A close relative of the *Robin* is the *European Blackbird* still hunted for its food value. The old nursery rhyme "four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie" attests to this fact. *Robins* were hunted as sport in America and sold in markets less than a century ago. This is not so today where the *Robin* is respected as the true harbinger of Spring.

• **MAGPIES** — This is a member of the *Jay* family and is widespread throughout the world. In the Old World they go about in flocks and are notorious thieves, stealing buttons, beads and any bright objects they see. They also eat the eggs of birds and are considered a nuisance,

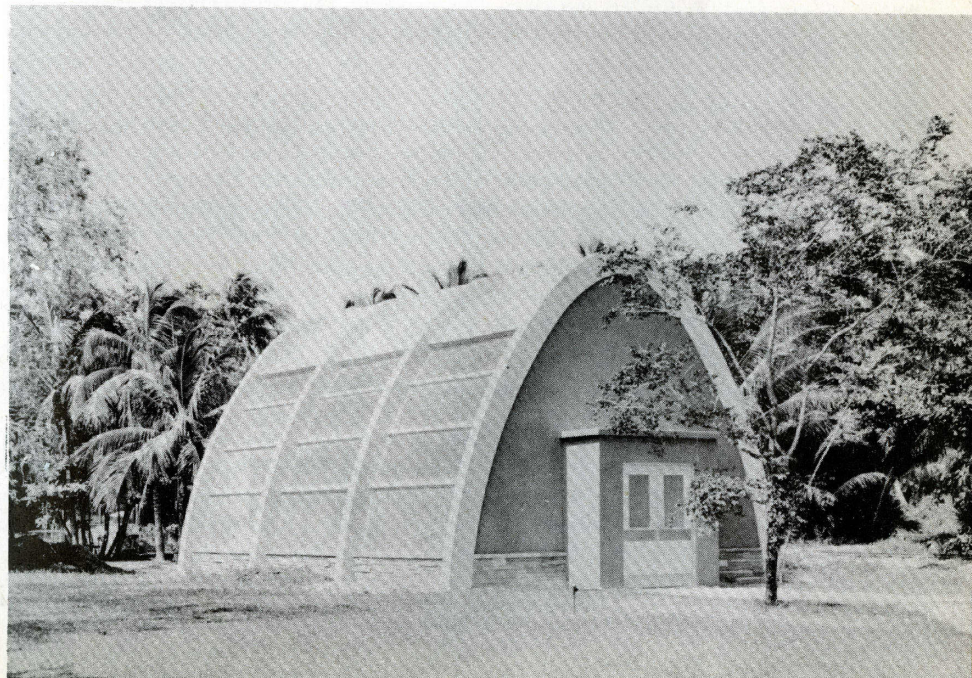
like the *Crow*, in some parts of the world. The *Black-billed Magpie* is found in Europe, Africa, Asia and North America. Its close relative, the *Yellow-billed Magpie*, is found in the western United States, especially in California and the High Sierras. They are very conspicuous birds with black and white coloring and very long tails. Asia has the *Green Magpie*, found in the Himalayas, and the *Ceylon Blue Magpie* with a red beak and rust colored feathers mixed with an iridescent blue. *Magpies* nest in trees building a large bulky stick nest from one to three feet in diameter. The male brings the female the nest material and she weaves it — a part of their courting. They prefer to use the same nest year after year.



Sun Bittern, Touraco, Grosbeak



Zoo Aviary . . .





## SOME UNUSUAL BIRDS OF THE WORLD

Through millions of years of evolution some species of birds lost their keel which is a structure that is part of the breastbone of flying birds. The keel provides a rigid attachment for the powerful wing muscles. Without the keel and the powerful wing muscles these birds became flightless and were forced to live entirely on the ground. Living examples are the Ostrich, Rhea, Emu, Cassowary, and Kiwi.

- **KIWI** — These round-formed, chicken-like birds are now protected in New Zealand after being hunted for food for years by the Maoris and attacked by a great number of predators. They are the smallest of the flightless birds and have long curved beaks and utter shrill piping calls sounding much like the word "kiwi" when heard. They are becoming rare, due to the extensive farming and cutting down of their native fern forests. Being shy of nature they are rarely seen by an observer visiting that island.

They have rather large feet and walk with a rolling unbirdlike gait. Their plumage is coarse, almost hair-like, concealing their tiny wings and giving them an almost mammalian look. They hide their heads under these small, inefficient wings when sleeping.

*Kiwis* nest in underground burrows and feed on worms and grubs. They have rather poor eyesight and it is believed they find their food by an excellent sense of smell and the sensory use of long hairy bristles at the base of their six-inch long bill. They lay large eggs weighing almost a pound and the male incubates them. These odd birds have become a symbol of their homeland and the New Zealand soldiers call themselves "Kiwis" with great pride.

- **PENGUINS** — These birds are highly developed for an aquatic or marine existence. They are excellent swimmers and divers and their thick oily coats shed water better than a duck's feathers. They swim underwater with great agility and speed and have been clocked in excess of 25 miles an hour. They have the keeled breastbone of flying birds, but lack flight feathers on the wings. The *Penguin* is an ancient bird, although some authorities still question the definite relationship. Fossil remains show they existed on earth 100 million years ago and were well established here 50 million years ago. Even in that early time, when modern birds were just beginning to fly, *Penguins* showed a decidedly strong resemblance to today's species. They are very awkward on land in contrast to their grace in the water where they swim with strong quick motions of their front flippers. The *Emperor Penguin* is the largest of the living *Penguins* followed by its close relative the *King Penguin*. The *Emperor* will stand over three feet tall with the *King* about six inches shorter. *Penguins* are found in the Antarctic, the Falklands, New Zealand, Chile, South Africa and the sub-Antarctic. Their human characteristics, Charlie Chaplin walk and tuxedo-like appearance are well-loved by persons visiting the zoo.

- **ALBATROSSES** — The bird made famous by "The Rhyme of The Ancient Mariner" has long black and white wings and a thick, stout body. They were first named by Portugese sailors who sailed the windy South Atlantic off Africa who called them "alcatraz" — the Portugese word for large sea birds. The name became corrupted into its present form.

They do not fear man, often swooping in over the stern of ships to land on the deck where they lack take-off room to leave without help. They are also unafraid of man's presence on their nesting grounds but will attack him clumsily on the ground with their strong beaks. They range throughout most of the world except in the North Atlantic and the frozen Arctic oceans. They are strong, graceful soarers preferring the windy oceans to the calm doldrums where they have trouble staying aloft. They can cover 250 miles in a day and are believed to range clear around the world on their majestic flights.

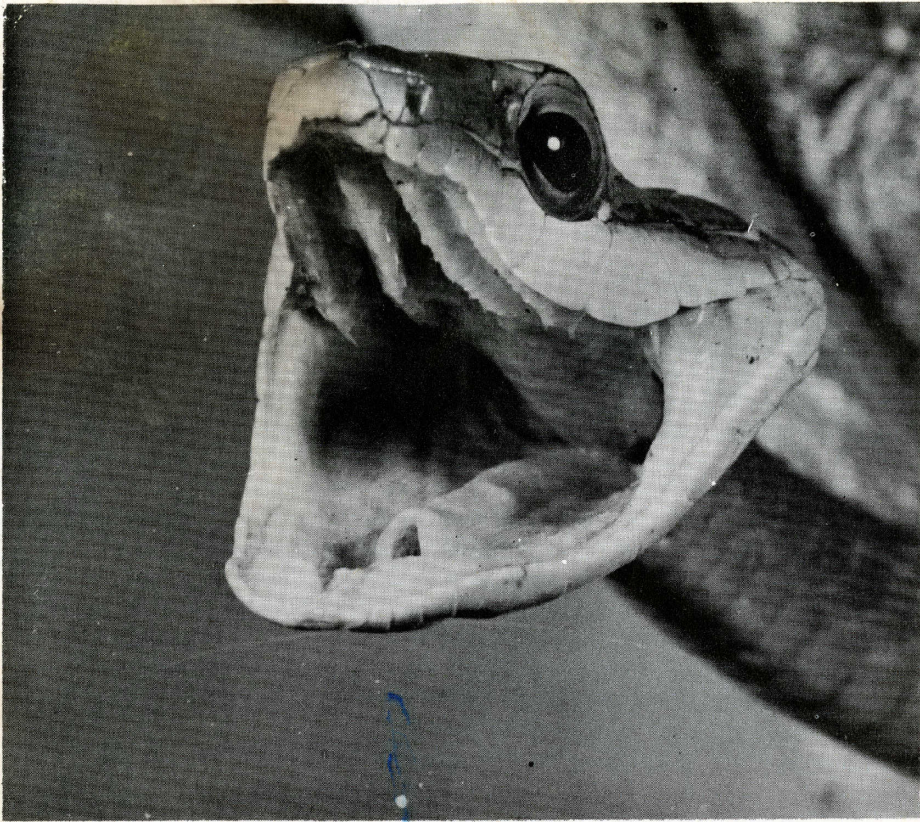
- **BIRDS OF PARADISE** — Without a doubt these are the world's most colorful and beautifully decorated birds. A riot of iridescent colors in red, orange, green, blue, brown, yellow, and black, they grow long trailing feathers either from their wingtips or their heads. They use these colorful plumes in their mating courtship. Not too much is known about these strange Old World birds because of their remote jungle existence in virtually unexplored sections of the world. They are native to New Guinea, but some species are also found in Australia.

More than 400 years ago, when their skins were collected and sent back to Europe, savage native skimmers often removed legs and feet causing widespread belief that these birds never alighted, but flew continuously in the sky. The female was believed to lay its eggs in a hollow on the male's back. All this, however, has since been discounted. Scientists have field studied the bird in its native habitat and live specimens have been sent to zoos where most of the present-day study has been made. They were once hunted for their beautiful plumage which found its way onto women's hats, but since the 1920's this has been outlawed.

- **PEAFOWL** — Related to the *Pheasant* this bird is commonly called the "peacock." The *Common Peafowl* is the one most seen by zoo visitors with its long trailing tail, eye-spots and iridescent hues. It has long been domesticated in India and Ceylon where it decorated estates. It is a quarrelsome bird, not getting along with other birds or domestic animals. It has a raucous, shrill cry which belittles its kingly appearance. The colors of these birds are breath-taking and when studied show some of the most intricate markings of any birds. The *Great Argus Pheasant* grows to seven feet in the Borneo and Malay jungles. It is a dull brown and gray but marked with fine etchings of black.

- **FRIGATE-BIRDS** — Most aerial of the southern ocean fliers is the *Frigate* or "Man-of-War" Bird. This graceful, long winged bird seldom alights on the sea as their feathers soon become waterlogged. They are frequent visitors over Florida's beaches noticeable by their high soaring flights on pointed, back-swept wings and trailing V-shaped tails. These birds nest in the Caribbean, especially around the Dry Tortugas area off Key West where they raise their young. They can soar almost motionless in the sky for hours riding wind currents. They attack other sea birds such as *Pelicans* and *Cormorants* making them drop their fish which the *Frigate* then swoops down and recaptures in midair. They are very awkward on the ground and need a strong steady wind to take off. They also prey on the young of seabirds and raid their nests on offshore islands. Young sea turtles are also a delicacy. The *Frigate bird* is a familiar sight to sailors, much like the Albatross, and is often confused by the inexperienced observer. It ranges from the Bahamas to the Gulf Coast, south to Brazil and Ecuador, the Indian Ocean and far off Australia over the world's tropic seas.





## REPTILES

### The Class

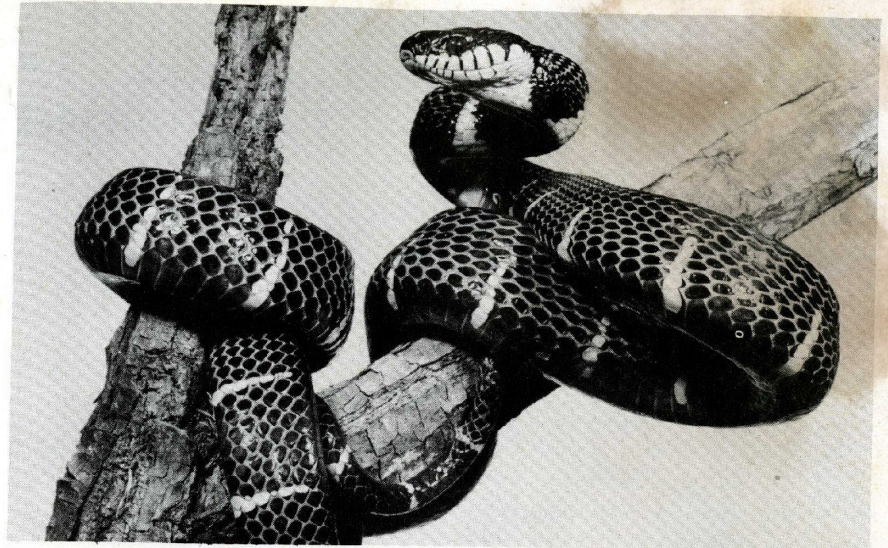
Reptiles as a group are probably the most misunderstood of the large group of animals. This class includes the *Snakes*, *Lizards*, *Crocodylians*, *Turtles*, and the lone *Tuatara* — a lizard-like reptile from New Zealand. In spite of the unwarranted fear most persons have for the species, these animals are a most popular exhibit in zoos.

### SNAKES

Snakes display a great diversity in size, habitat and habits. The

*Reticulated Python*, longest of the world's many snakes, occurs in Burma, the Phillipines, Malaysia and Indo China. It has been accurately recorded at 33 feet in length.

Heaviest of the snakes is the *Anaconda* of South America. This snake may weigh in excess of 300 pounds. All these contrast greatly with the tiny *Blind Snakes* which are scarcely six-inches in length. The habitat of snakes is equally as diverse as their size since they range from arboreal (tree dwelling) to completely aquatic (water-dwelling). You can see how interesting is the study of these species.



Mangrove Snake

## VIPERS

- **PIT VIPERS** — The majority of the poisonous snakes found in the United States fall into this family. Included are the *Rattlesnakes*, *Water Moccasin* and *Copperhead*. They are so named for the small opening in their head between the eye and nostril. This pit is known to be a heat sensory organ by which the snake can detect its warmblooded prey. The Old World has several forms also.

- **TRUE VIPERS** — The Old World is home to the *True Vipers*. Examples of these are the *Gaboon Viper* of Africa and the *Russell's Viper* of India. *Vipers* bear their young alive whence their name is derived. They have the same fang structure as *Pit Vipers* in that the fangs fold back along the upper jaw when at rest and can be unfolded to strike. *True Vipers* are found in the Old World throughout Europe, Africa and Asia. The most feared of the group is *Russell's Viper* which accounts for the death of thousands of persons each year in the Orient.

## VENOMOUS SNAKES OF THE WORLD

The dangerously poisonous snakes of the world display a great diversity in size from the *King Cobra*, which approaches a length of 18 feet, to the *Pigmy Rattlesnake* scarcely 18 inches in length. It can almost be considered a rule of thumb that the larger the venomous snake the more deadly it is. However, even some of the smallest species can cause death if a person is bitten.

- **MANGROVE SNAKE** — One of the most colorful and larger of the rear-fanged venomous snakes is the *Mangrove Snake* of India and Malaysia. It is beautifully patterned with yellow rings on a shining black background. Normally this species is mild mannered, but occasional individuals are quite ill-tempered. *Mangrove Snakes* are arboreal in habit.



• **COBRAS** — At this writing *Cobras* are not kept at the **Crandon Park Zoo**. They are strictly an Old World group of snakes although a close relative, the *Coral Snake*, is found in the United States, Mexico, Central and South America. A *Cobra's* fangs are fixed in the upper jaw and are not flexible, or moveable.

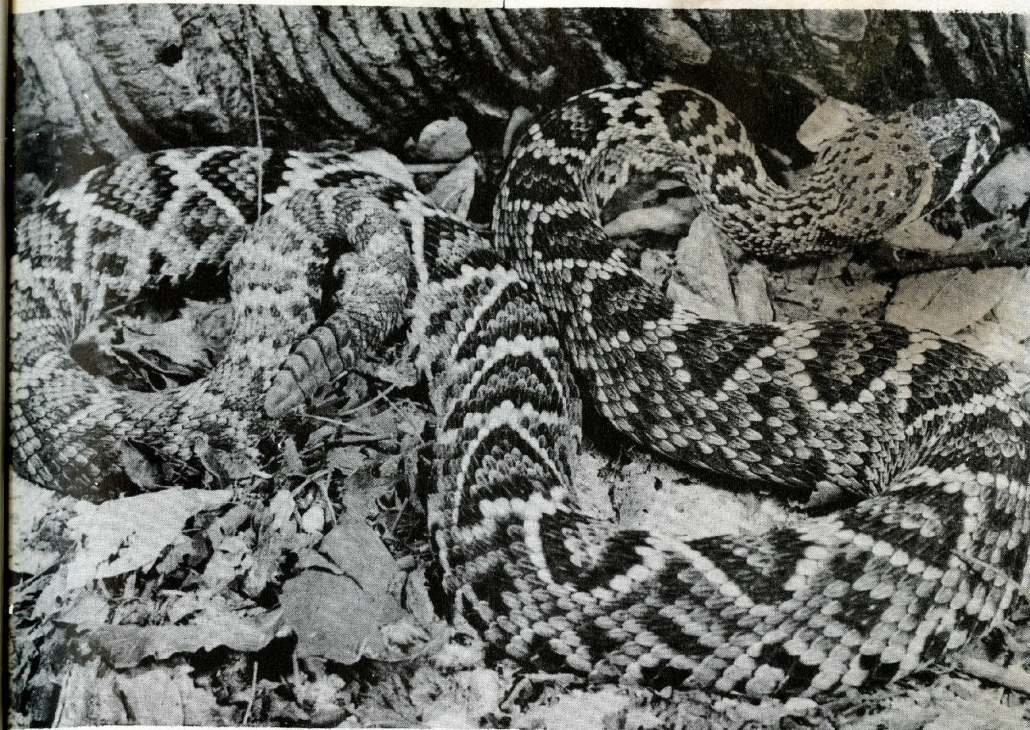
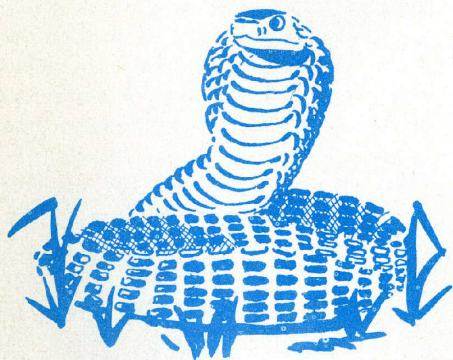
The largest-size venomous snake is the *King Cobra* of India and Malaysia. Specimens have been known to exceed eighteen feet in length. The *Spitting Cobra* of Africa has the unique habit of ejecting venom from its fangs into the eyes of an enemy with deadly accuracy. The bite of some *Cobras* is enough to kill an elephant.

## VENOMOUS SNAKES OF THE UNITED STATES

There are four general categories of venomous snakes found in the United States — *Rattlesnakes*, *Water Moccasins*, *Copperheads* and *Coral Snakes*. Every state in the Union has recorded at least one species of venomous snake with the exception of Alaska and Hawaii. Many states have several species, such as Florida. However, in spite of this, death from snake bite is a rare occurrence in the U. S.

• **RATTLESNAKES** — There are two genera of rattlesnakes occurring in the United States. One is called a *Pigmy Rattler* while the other is the *True Rattlesnake*. The *Pigmy Rattler* is smaller and differs from the *True Rattlesnake* in that it has large scales, or plates, atop its head. The *True Rattlesnake* has small scales. The *Dusky Pigmy Rattlesnake*, which occurs commonly throughout Florida, reaches a maximum size of about 30 inches. It prefers a rather moist habitat in the vicinity of lakes, streams and canals.

• **EASTERN DIAMOND-BACK RATTLER** — This is the largest species of venomous snake found in the United States. It attains a length of eight feet. Such specimens are rare, however. Reports of *Diamond-back Rattlers* of greater size have never been authenticated. The *Eastern Diamond-back* is most abundant in Florida and the southern region of Georgia.



Eastern Diamond-Back

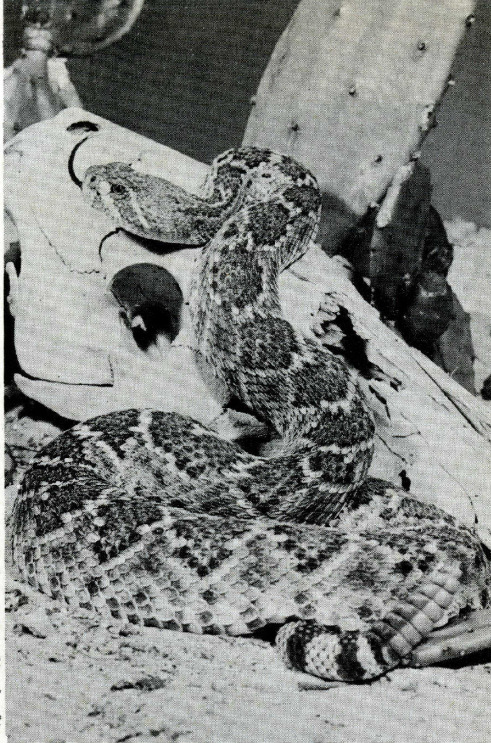
Pigmy Rattler



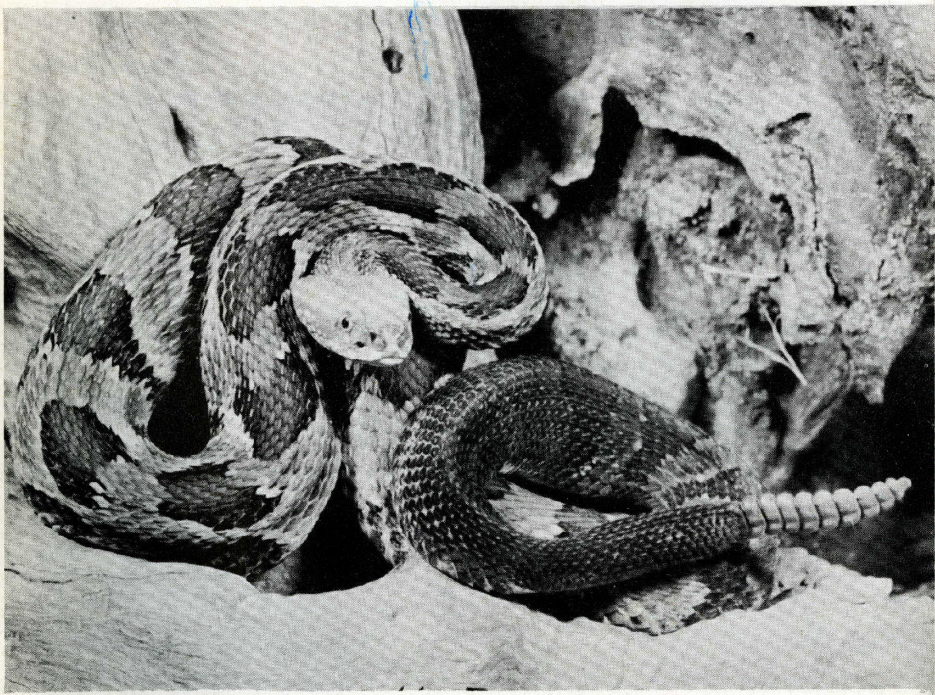


- **WESTERN DIAMOND-BACK RATTLESNAKE** — The *Western Diamond-back Rattlesnake* ranges from Arkansas and Texas west to California and south into Mexico. It prefers a more arid (dry) habitat than the *Eastern Diamond-back*. It reaches a maximum size of seven feet. Like the *Eastern Diamond-back* it feeds primarily upon rabbits and desert rodents such as ground squirrels, gophers, rats and mice.

- **TIMBER RATTLESNAKE** — This is a typical *Rattlesnake* of the northeastern sections of America. It may reach a length of six feet, but averages about four feet. It feeds entirely upon small animals. The *Timber Rattlesnake* congregates around wooded, rocky ledges in the Fall where it goes into den-hiding for winter hibernation.



**Western Diamond Back Rattler**



**Timber Rattler**

- **WATER MOCCASIN OR COTTONMOUTH** — This ill-tempered *Pit Viper* ranges from Central Texas north to Central Illinois, eastward to Virginia and south to Florida. It skips the mountainous regions preferring low-lying marshy lands and swamps. The name *Cottonmouth* stems from the snake's habit of widely opening its mouth when disturbed to display a cotton-like interior. This action tends to intimidate the enemy. *Water Moccasins* are quite varied in their eating habits feeding upon fish, frogs, salamanders, small alligators and small mammals.

- **COPPERHEAD** — The *Copperhead* is a close relative of the *Water Moccasin*. It is often referred to as the *Highland Moccasin*. It ranges from Massachusetts southward to north Florida and westward to Texas.

Where their habitat ranges overlap, *Copperheads* are often found in the same dens with *Timber Rattlesnakes* where they spend the winter hibernating. *Copperheads* feed almost exclusively upon rodents.

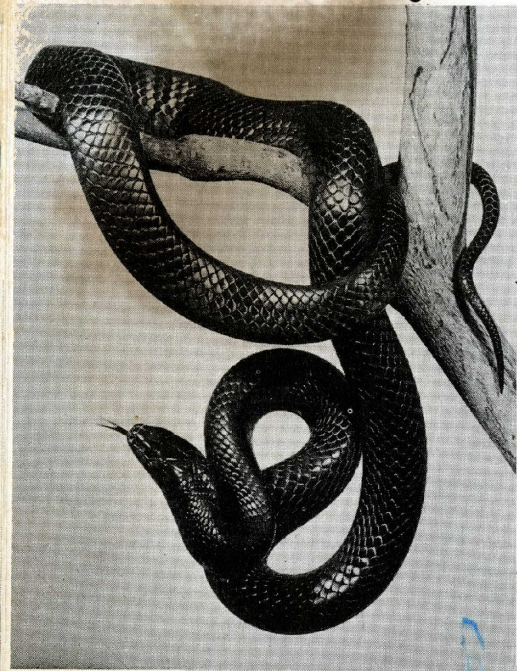
- **CORAL SNAKES** — Two species of *Coral Snakes* occur in America. The *Eastern Coral Snake* is found in the southeastern United States. The other type is found in Arizona. Maximum size of the Eastern specie is almost four feet while the *Arizona Coral Snake* seldom exceeds 18 inches. *Coral Snakes* may be distinguished from their harmless mimics (such as the *King Snake*) by the following color sequences: red, yellow; black, yellow; red, yellow. The *Coral Snake* also always has a black nose. They are very secretive by habit and are very seldom seen even where they are commonly found.

**Banded Water Snake**

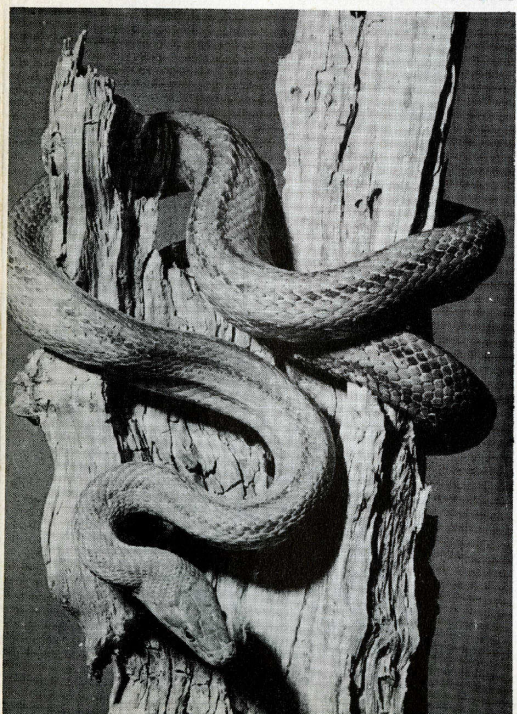




Indigo Snake



Yellow Rat Snake



## NON-VENOMOUS SNAKES OF THE UNITED STATES

Of the types of snakes found in the United States, nearly 90% are harmless to man and a vast majority of these are very beneficial. There are more than 140 species and sub-species of harmless snakes in America. Probably the most frequently observed of our native harmless snakes are the *Water Snakes* which can often be seen basking on the banks of streams, ponds and lakes. Much folklore is centered around snakes — snakes that milk cows, swallow their young for protection or roll down hills in the form of a hoop. All are mythical figments of some person's vivid imagination.

The largest of this group is the friendly *Indigo Snake* which will often exceed seven feet in length. These harmless snakes feed mostly on rodents and pests. Far too many persons still suffer from the delusion that the only **good** snakes are **dead** snakes! This results in the killing of many harmless snakes which really are mankind's friend.

• **YELLOW RAT SNAKE** — This large *Rat Snake* ranges along the east coast from North Carolina south through Florida. Several sub-species are recognized. It reaches a maximum length of seven feet. However, a length of between four to five feet is average. This is an extremely beneficial snake due to its nature of feeding almost entirely upon harmful rodents. It kills its prey by constriction.



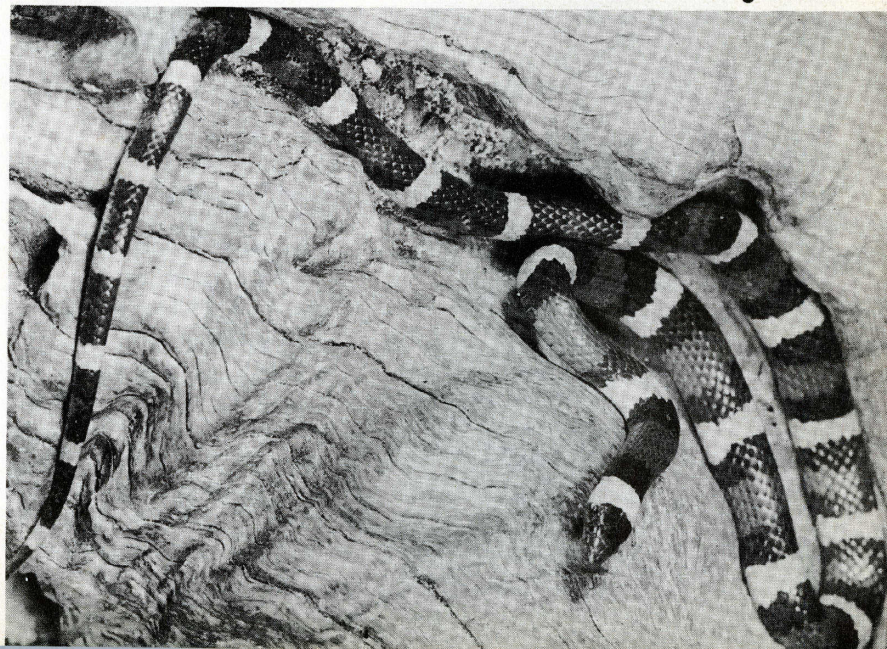
Hognose Snake

• **HOG-NOSED SNAKE** — This is a unique North American species and no doubt could win a snake "Oscar" as the best reptilian actor. Although perfectly harmless, it puts on a display of viciousness that would make the most ill-tempered *Rattlesnake* bow its head in shame. If all of its hissing

and striking with mouth closed does not intimidate an enemy it flops over on its back and feigns death. However, if the observer were to turn it right side up, it would immediately turn over on its back again. The *Hog-nosed Snake* feeds upon frogs and toads for the most part.

• **KING SNAKES** — Several species of *King Snakes* occur in the United States including the *Scarlet King* which is often confused with the deadly *Coral Snake*. Its bands are the same colors, but black intersects the red and yellow. Its color sequence is red, black; yellow, black, etc. . . It also has a red head and without the black nose of the deadly *Coral*. It grows to about two feet and is a burrower. *King Snakes* are so named because of their snake-eating habits. Members of this genus are immune to the poison of venomous species. While they do not deliberately seek out venomous snakes to kill and eat, they will feed upon them in the event they should cross their path.

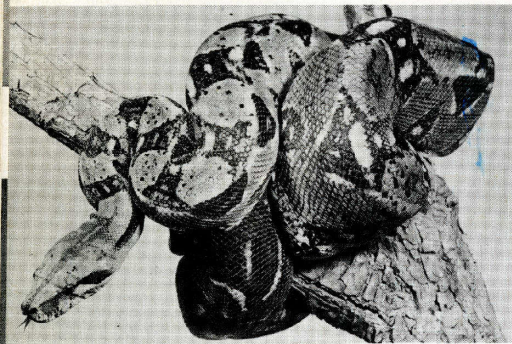
Scarlet King Snake





- **SCARLET SNAKE** — This snake resembles the *Scarlet King Snake* by its colored bands. It has a much blunter head, though, and is much smaller ranging about one and one-half feet in length. It is also a burrowing snake and rarely seen.

- **WATER SNAKES** — Many types of *Water Snakes* inhabit the United States. They occur in and around streams, ponds, lakes, large rivers and marshes. With few exceptions they are a fresh water snake. One of these exceptions is the *Mangrove Water Snake* of South Florida. As its name implies, it can be found in the salt and brackish waters of mangrove swamps. *Water Snakes* feed upon a variety of food such as fish, frogs, toads, salamanders and other animals.



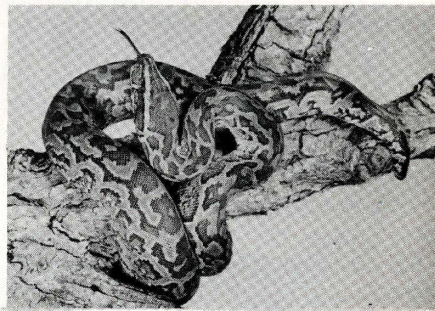
**Common Boa**

- **INDIGO SNAKE** — This is the largest of American snakes, either harmless or venomous. It reaches 103½ inches by actual measurement. In spite of its large size it makes an excellent pet and will live for years if properly cared for. It ranges from southeastern Georgia and southern Alabama throughout most of Florida. The *Indigo Snake* is varied in its feeding habits, feeding upon rodents, birds, reptiles including other snakes, and even carion. In captivity it will learn to eat strips of raw meat. There

is a sub-species of the *Indigo Snake* found in southern Texas called the *Cribo*.

## THE GIANT SNAKES — BOAS & PYTHONS

While it is true that the giants of the serpent clan are represented in this group, there are also species that are quite diminutive in size to be found among this group. An example is the little *Rubber Boa* of the western United States which seldom exceeds 20 inches in length. Contrast this, if you will, with the *Python* which grows longer than 30 feet.



**African Rock Python**

- **AFRICAN ROCK PYTHON** — This large *Python* is found south of the Sahara in Africa. It reaches a length of 20 feet or more in size. It is beautifully patterned as indicated in the accompanying photograph. Snakes of this species do well in captivity. It is interesting to note that many of the larger snakes are eaten by the natives of the countries in which they occur. The *African Rock Python* is no exception.

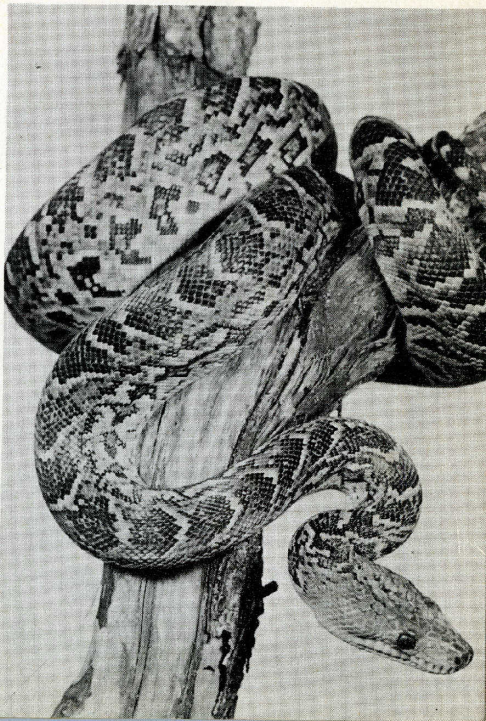
**Puerto Rican Boa**



- **CARPET PYTHON** — This handsome *Python* is native to Australia and New Guinea. It feeds upon a variety of small animals and birds. A large specimen is 12 feet long. However, from six to eight feet is more average. Australian farmers have learned the value of this snake as a ratter and release specimens in and about their farm buildings to control these rodents.

- **COOK'S TREE BOA** — This arboreal *Boa* from South America averages between four and six feet in length. It is rather difficult to describe as it comes in a variety of colors and patterns. It also has a vile temper and has extremely long teeth capable of inflicting a very painful bite. *Cook's Tree Boas* are quite common in the jungles of South America where they feed for the most part upon small birds and bird eggs.

- **COMMON BOA** — Ask the average person which is the largest species of snake in the world and more likely than not he will answer "Boa Constrictor". This is the common name for the Common Boa. Strangely enough a ten-foot specimen may be considered a giant for this species. Before bananas were so thoroughly decontaminated before shipping, hundreds of baby *Boas* found their ways into this country as stowaways on the banana boats. Many a budding herpetologist has enlarged his collection with Boas that were unintentionally imported in this manner.



**Cuban Boa**



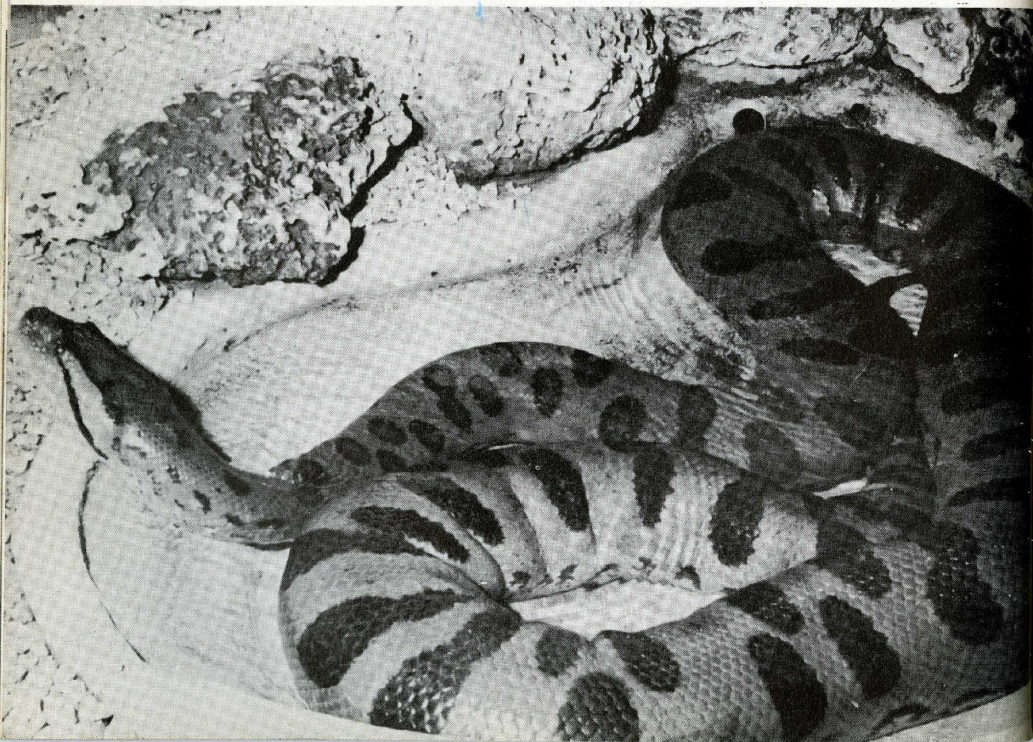
• **PUERTO RICAN BOA** — The **Crandon Park Zoo** is fortunate in possessing two specimens of this extremely rare serpent since they are virtually extinct on the island of Puerto Rico — the only place in the world where they are found. Many years ago Mongooses were released on the island with the hope that they would eradicate the rats. This, of course, was not accomplished. The Mongooses all but exterminated the *Puerto Rican Boa* which was the best natural rat control the island had. *Mongoose*s are now a problem since they cause much loss to the poultry farmers each year. They eat great numbers of chickens and eggs.

• **CUBAN BOA** — This is the largest snake to be found in the island of Cuba. In fact it is one of the largest of the *Boas* reaching a length of

almost 14 feet. It is found in the vicinity of caves where it is reported to catch bats on the wings as they emerge for their evening feeding.

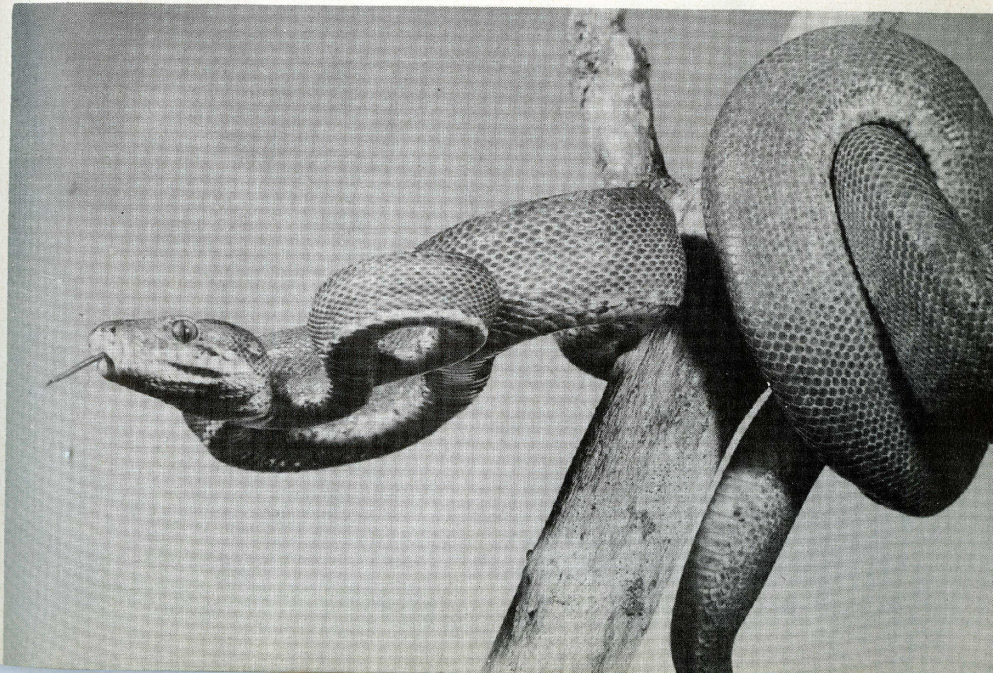
• **ANACONDA** — The *Anaconda* of South America has long been the central figure of much controversy in attempts to establish the length of the longest species of snake in the world. The *Reticulated Python* of Malaysia has actually been authenticated at 33 feet. The *Anaconda* has been reported to grow in excess of 50 feet. However, it is almost impossible to find one half this length. The New York Zoological Society has had a long-standing and, as yet, uncollected offer of \$5,000 for a 30 foot specimen of the *Anaconda*. This latter fact seems to speak for itself.

**Anaconda**



**Carpet Python**

**Cook's Tree Boa**







Swan Island Iguana

## LIZARDS

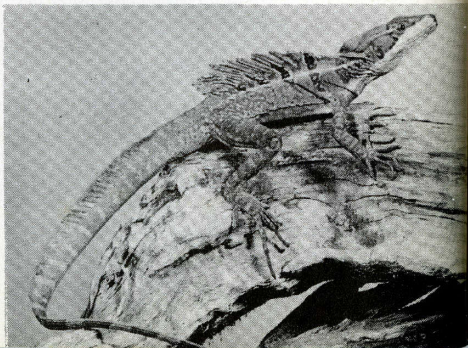
Lizards are very closely related to snakes. There are three interesting differences which we shall name: (1) Most lizards have legs, snakes do not. (2) Lizards have moveable eyelids, snakes do not. (3) Most lizards have external ears which snakes do not possess. There are exceptions also to the above. Some lizards are legless and the so-called *Glass Snake* is really a lizard. Some species of lizards do not have external ears. The *Gila Monster* of the southwestern United States and the *Mexican Beaded Lizard* are the only known venomous lizards in the world. All the others are harmless.

• **BASILISK** — The *Basilisks* of Central and South America are unique indeed in that they can actually run across the surface of small bodies of water when they are escaping an enemy. Their light weight, wide hind feet and high speeds combine to allow these lizards to

accomplish this remarkable feat. *Basilisks* feed upon all varieties of insects.

• **IGUANAS** — The *Iguanid* lizards as a group display a great diversity in size and are the most common group of lizards found in the United States. The common *Iguana* of Central and South America may exceed six feet in length. Close relatives of the southwestern United States never exceed five inches in length. Larger species are almost exclusively herbivorous while the smaller ones are, for the most part, insectivorous. The larger *Iguanans* with the long row of spines down the middle of their back are oftentimes referred to by the general public as miniature dinosaurs.

Basilisk



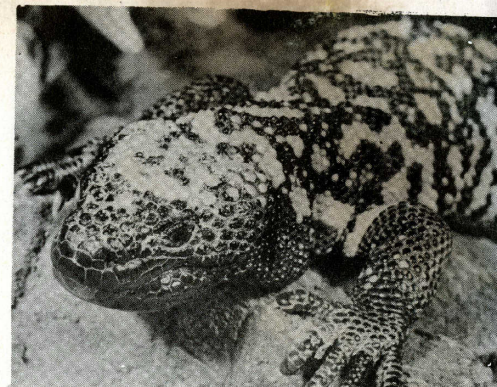
One of the most spectacular forms is the *Rhinoceros Iguana* which is a heavy-bodied land iguana from Haiti. It gets its name from the horny protrusions on its nose.

• **GILA MONSTER** — Found in Southwestern U. S. the *Gila Monster* and its close relative the *Beaded Lizard* are the only members of the lizard family that are poisonous. They have poison glands in the lower jaw and inject venom through grooved teeth by biting and holding on bulldog fashion until the poison flows into the wound. Many times the jaws have to be pried apart by pliers so tenacious is the grip of the *Mexican Beaded Lizard* and *Gila Monsters*. The venom works on the central nervous system of humans and animals and may cause paralysis of the respiratory organs. Treatment is much the same as for snakebite.

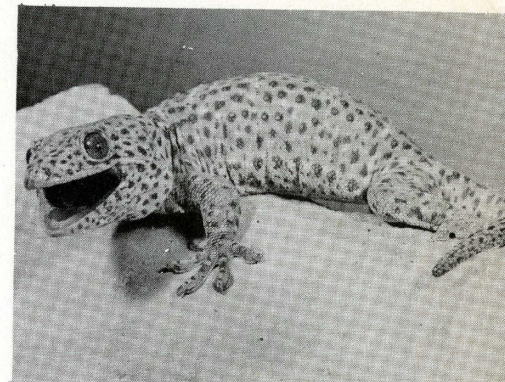
The *Gila Monster* is a slow, moving, sluggish creature which finds its food through a keen sense of smell and special taste glands in its mouth which are activated by its tongue. When it hunts its prey, the young of mammals and birds still in burrows and nests, it flicks its tongue out tasting the sand ahead to pick up any "taste trails" leading to the nest. It merely walks up on its prey and devours it — unlike many of the other lizards which are quick moving and agile.

It stores its food supply in the form of fat in the tail to last it through long periods of drought and famine conditions in the desert areas where it lives. It can go for months without food, but the tail shrinks in size as it does so.

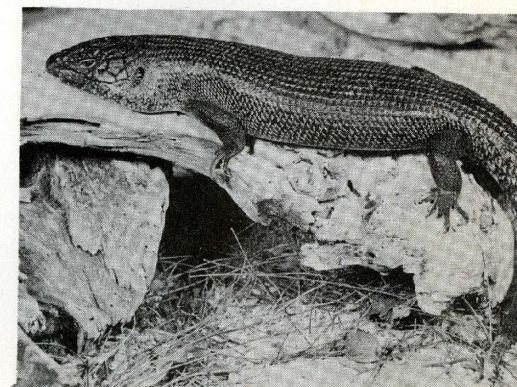
Both the *Gila Monster* and *Beaded Lizard* are black or brown, marked irregularly with light shades of yellowish white to pink. The arrangement of the scales which resemble beads gives it its name.



Gila Monster



Tokay Gecko

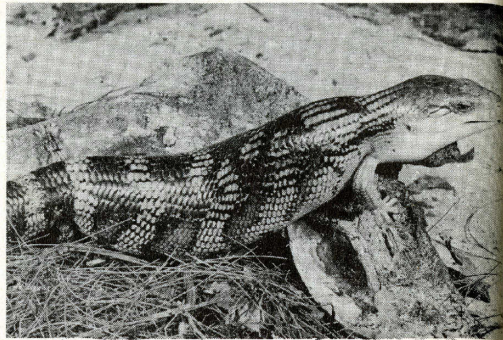


Cunningham Skink



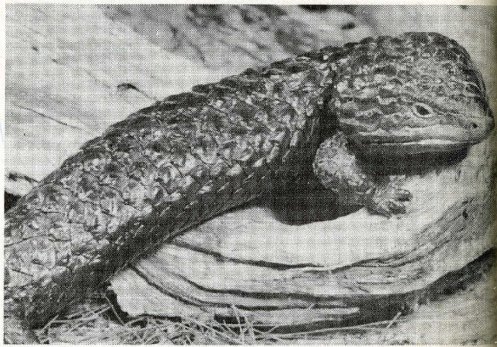
**MONITORS** — This family includes the largest of the living land lizards that came down to us from prehistoric ages. Lizards are (back-boned) vertebrates, descendants of the ancient dinosaurs. The *Komodo Dragon* most resembles the dinosaur, outside of the *Iguana*, due to its long neck and tail, armor-plated hide and cruel claw-like feet. It is also the largest lizard.

The *Komodo Dragon* reaches a length of 10 feet and a weight of 300 pounds. *Monitors* are carnivorous in their diet, feeding upon a variety of animal food including birds, small mammals and the eggs of crocodiles and turtles. In zoo life these lizards thrive well on horse meat and the dead carcasses of mice and rats.



**Blue Tongue Skink**

• **TOKAY GECKO** — For the most part reptiles make no vocal sound. The *Geckos* are an exception. One of the most notable noise makers is the *Tokay Gecko* from southeastern Asia. This remarkable lizard repeats its own name over and over again. It calls, "Tokay, tokay." It prowls about at night in search of insects, its main food.



**Stump Tail Skink**

• **SKINKS** — The *Skinks* are one of the largest families of lizards, boasting more than 600 species. In spite of this large family they display little diversity in size and shape. The largest of this group will measure scarcely two feet in length.

• **STUMP-TAILED SKINK** — The *Stump-tailed Skink*, or *Shingle-back Skink* of Australia is a very strange lizard. The large scales are arranged like the shingles on a roof. Its tail is very short and blunt. In circus or carnival side shows persons often paint eyes and a mouth on the tail of this lizard and advertise it as a two-headed lizard which it is not.



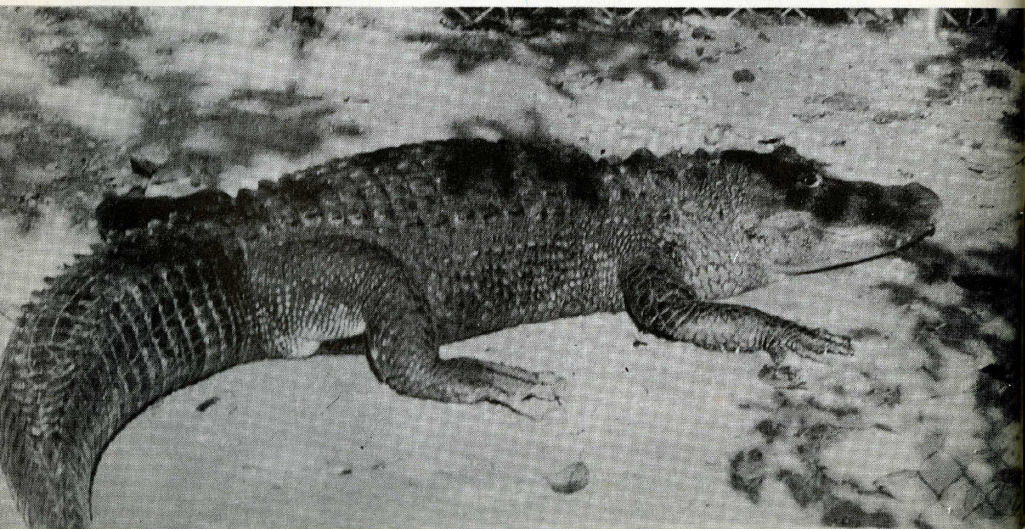


## CROCODYLIANS

The *Alligator* and the *Crocodile* belong to this family of large lizard-like reptiles of which there are 20-odd living forms in a fairly compact group. The more placid *Alligator* prefers the fresh water lakes, swamps and streams and does not venture far into salt or brackish waters as does the *Crocodile*. There is also a difference in the mouth structure. The *Crocodile* has a long pointed snout, whereas the *Alligator* has a more blunt, spade-like nose. Both open the lower jaw, although many persons believed that one beast opened the top jaw and the other the bottom. The *Alligator* is also more black in its coloration than the almost tan-colored *croc*.

Each lays its eggs in a rough stick and mud nest of leaves and decaying vegetation. This decomposition of the nest material helps to incubate them. The female stays close to the nest to protect the young from predators and even her own mate.

### Florida Alligator



*Alligators* and *Crocodiles* love fish and game as a diet. They hunt their land prey by remaining still near the water's edge, or just in it, and use their strong tails to stun the victim and knock it nearer their jaws. Once seized they will take it below the surface to eat in a subterranean den. Both animals swim by use of the tail. They hold their legs close to the body when swimming.

The *Nile Crocodile* grows to a length of 25 feet and is quite ferocious. Usually the *Crocodile* is more feared as a man-eater around the world than the slow, ponderous, placid *Gator*. The *American Alligator* commonly reaches a length of 8 to 10 feet and one was measured at 19 feet in length. There are two species of *Alligators*. One is found in S. E. United States and the other is a smaller relative in China. The



Salt Water Crocodile

*American Alligator* was hunted extensively for its tough hide to make ornamental bags, belts and leather goods and was nearly exterminated in southern Florida. It is now protected by law. The *American Crocodile* is found from the tip of Florida through the Greater Antilles to Southern Mexico and Northern South America, but its *Croc'* cousins range the world in the warmer climates of the globe. Some have been found as far as several hundred miles at sea.

There has been much discrepancy about the life span of *Alligators* and *Crocodiles*, much of it engendered by folklore and wild claims. However, studies have been made of captive *Alligators* and *Crocodiles* in zoos and

the life expectancy seems to be closer to 50 years. The *Alligator* lives longer than its faster moving, more aggressive cousin.

The *Indian Gaviel*, which has an extremely long pointed gar-like snout, is related to the *Alligator* and *Crocodile* and belongs in the *Crocodylian* order. It is a distinct Old World form, though, going back to the Tertiary ages in Europe and Asia and no fossils of it have been found in the United States throughout any of the prehistoric eras. This reptile grows to 21 feet in length and is a fish and carrion eater. It has not been known to attack man. The *Indian Gaviel* is common throughout rivers of that country and reaches the Burma coast.



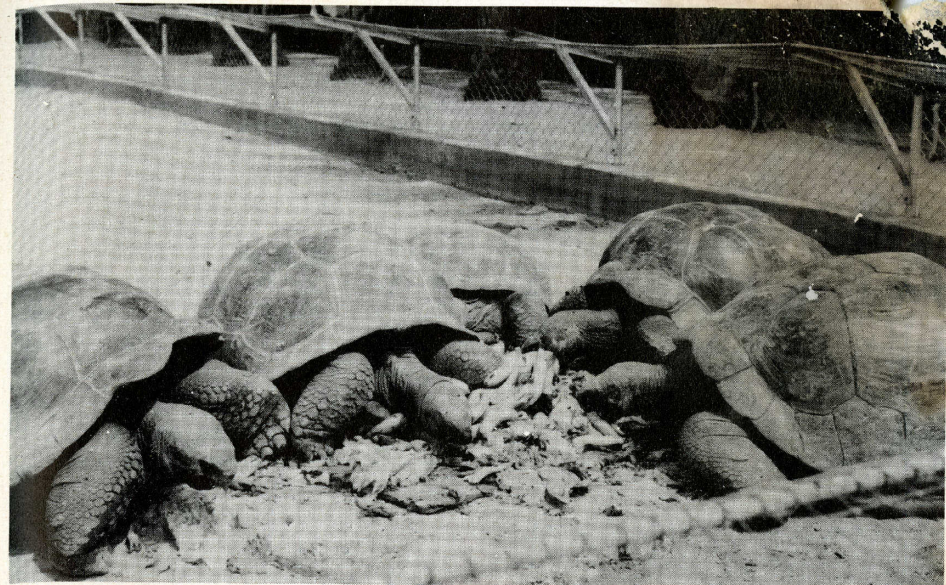
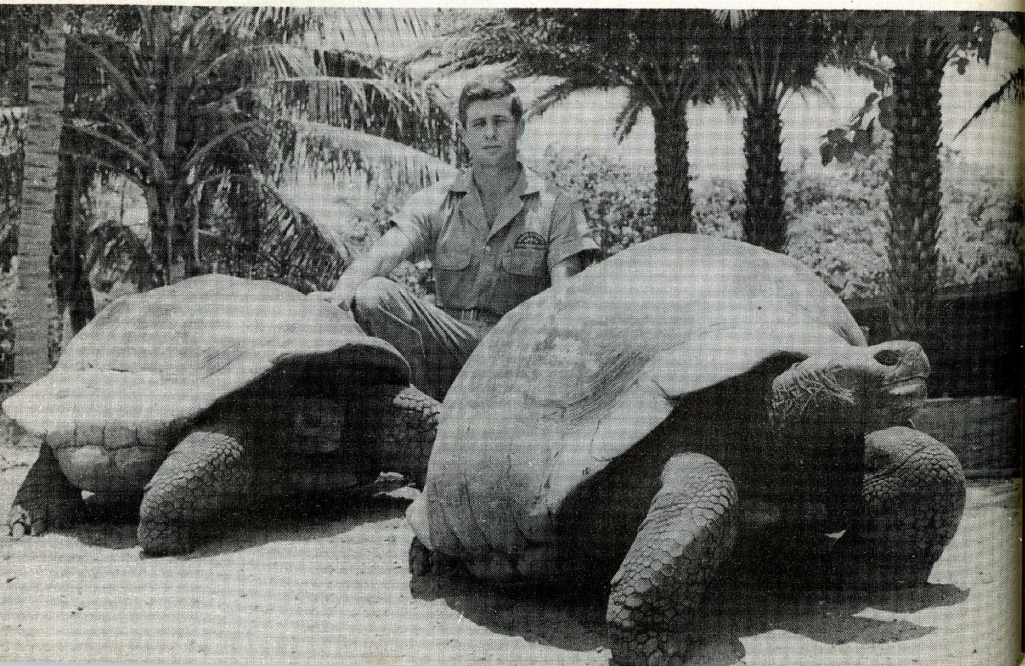
## TURTLES AND TORTOISES

These land and water animals developed early in history when reptiles roamed the world 50 to 100 million years ago. During their slow evolution nature developed their rib cages into a hard box enclosing all of the soft body and then left it this way as a means of protection. The mouth also became a hard beak used for tearing food. Nature did a good job because they have out lived the dinosaurs and other great reptiles of that area.

The *Tortoise* usually defines the

land type while *Turtles* are water-dwelling creatures rarely coming out onto land except to sun or move from place to place. *Sea Turtles* come ashore to lay their eggs in sand "nests" which they scoop out with their flippers and lay their eggs into the depression. They cover these with loose sand and seaweed. The young turtles are hatched by the sun and heat and emerge fully-formed from the eggs to crawl into the sea where they are self-sufficient. They know neither mother nor father and great numbers are lost to predators such as the *Raccoon*, *Frigate Bird*, *Gulls*, *Cormorants* and large fish.

**Land Tortoises were used by early seafarers as a fresh food supply due to their ability to survive long periods at sea without water or food.**



**Giant Tortoises**

• **GIANT TORTOISE** — These land dwellers, found only on two groups of islands off South America and India, are among the longest-living animals in our modern day world. They have been reported to live over 150 years. They are strict vegetarians and in the zoo eat lettuce, bananas and fresh fruits.

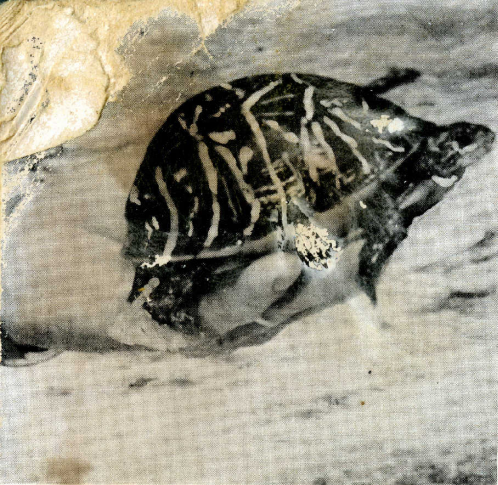
During the 18th and 19th Centuries whalers, pirates and men-of-war came ashore on the isolated islands where these giants lived and carted off tens of thousands of them in their ship holds as a source of food. In many cases a *Tortoise* could live 14 months without food or water and their flesh was still succulent. Defenseless, slow-moving, tasty, they were much sought-after and nearly exterminated. Laws today prohibit this slaughter, but dogs, rats and predators have made further inroads into their population by eating the eggs and young at an alarming rate. They are on the way towards extinction even now.

The *Galapagos Tortoise* is found on the Galapagos Islands several hundred miles east of Ecuador and Peru, South America. It reaches a weight of 400 to 500 pounds. The other species still remaining in the world today is the *Elephant Tortoise* found on the Aldabra Islands of the Indian Ocean. It is the one recorded in history as surviving for 152 years when it was accidentally killed.

*Giant Tortoises* are on exhibit at the **Crandon Park Zoo** where they may be studied by all zoo-goers. They do well in Florida's balmy climate and live outdoors there year-round. A den for them to go into in cool weather has been provided since they come from a climate that knows little temperature changes.

• **BOX TURTLE** — This is the most commonly seen turtle, often found crossing today's modern highways from one ditch to another. It has the black upper shell with yellow and orange markings and the lower shell closes as a shield to protect





### Box Turtle

the withdrawn head and feet. Many children keep these as pets.

The *Box Turtle* eats both animal and vegetable food and is easy to keep. It likes snails, mushrooms, berries, lettuce and meat. It is found throughout the Eastern U. S. and the Western Box Turtle inhabits the plains area.

• **SNAPPING TURTLE** — This is undoubtedly the most abundant of American turtles. It is found from Florida to Canada and from the Eastern seaboard to the Rockies. Another close form is found throughout Central and parts of South America.

The *Snapping Turtle* is gregarious and a healthy eater. It will attack anything in sight and often lunges at man, menacing him head-on with snapping jaws. In the water it is less of an aggressor and prefers to walk along the bottom of ponds searching for food, looking for vegetation and dead animal matter. It is a scavenger, but will also kill and eat snakes. The *Common Snapping Turtle* will grow to sixty pounds and its near cousin, the *Alligator Snapping Turtle* of the Mississippi River tributaries, reaches a weight of 200 pounds. This is a real giant for a fresh water turtle.

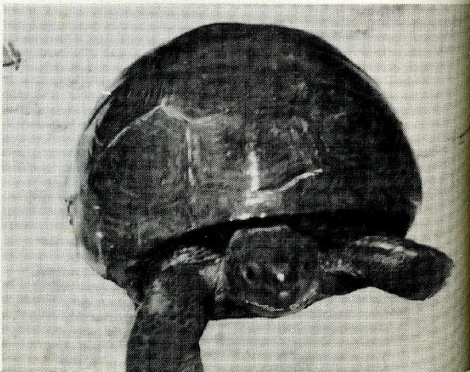
## THE SEA TURTLES

Sea turtles have come down to us from early times and reach enormous sizes and lengths. They are strong swimmers and the *Leatherback Turtle*, which often reaches seven feet and 1,200 pounds, is a continuous swimmer only coming to land to lay its eggs. It is not a shoreline or beach basker like the *Green* and *Loggerhead Turtles* that sometimes come to land to soak in the sun.

All Sea Turtles lay their eggs on the shorelines of beaches by digging out shallow depressions in the sand with either their hind feet or both fore and hind flippers. This is a laborious job as the female lugs her several hundred pounds up the beach against sand friction and her tremendous weight. She moves a few inches at a time, making tremendous sighs as she moves this bulk forward. The sighs are also due to her breathing and filling her lungs with air after each exertion.

Sea Turtles are found in all our Tropical Seas around the world including Borneo, Ceylon, India, the Bahamas, Florida, Central and South America. They are found in both Pacific and Atlantic, but the Atlantic varieties are slightly different in coloration and their shell structure than the Pacific varieties. The five varieties are the *Green Turtle*, *Loggerhead*, *Ridley*, *Leatherback* and *Hawksbill*.

### Florida Gopher



• **GREEN TURTLE** — This is the succulent member of the family and much sought after for its tender steaks and meat stock in making turtle soup. It is an algae and sea grass eater, not a fish-eater as is the *Loggerhead*. This diet is the cause of its delicious flavor. Key West has a Green Turtle cannery that sends soup and steaks around the world.

This turtle ranges the Pacific and Atlantic as far as the Galapagos Islands and is common throughout the Caribbean and Central America. It is a streamlined swimmer going to sea in schools from familiar island nesting places. Fishermen string nets across the routes taken by these turtles and trap them at night on their return since they are like chickens coming home to roost.

The female digs a nest above high tide mark in which she lays up to 200 eggs of a soft rubbery nature about the size of a golf ball. These are covered with sand and debris such as seaweed and she attempts to throw sand about the area to confuse predators from finding the nest. The tracks she lays in the sand in coming to the nest and on her return to the sea is a telltale mark though that does not confuse these predators which prowl the beach looking for turtle eggs.

The young turtles incubate in a period of 30 to 65 days depending upon the location of the site and the season. The *Green Turtle* and *Loggerhead* lay eggs between April and August and are protected against human capture during these times when they are on the beach. They spend most of the moonlight night laying the hundreds of eggs and return to the ocean the following morning. Males swimming offshore, during this time, mate immediately with the female upon her return to the sea.

• **TORTOISE SHELL or HAWKSBILL** — Many curio shops throughout the keys display this turtle's shell on their walls. The plates of the shell are translucent and have deep varied tones. It is the original "tortoise shell" from which combs and ornaments were made before plastics and celluloid took over. It was once highly valued for this feature, but is not as much anymore with cheap plastics invading the markets.

• **LEATHERBACK** — This odd turtle is a giant of the species reaching up to seven feet in length and a weight of approximately 1,200 pounds. Some reports have been made of ten foot specimens, but these are unauthenticated. It has a soft skin back, lacking a shell like other turtles, and enormous front flippers. These will reach nine feet in a seven foot turtle. They have been developed by its continuous life at sea as it never comes to land except for egg laying.

It has an extremely oily nature, with the skin, skeleton and flesh being saturated with an oil that may drip for years when a captured specimen is mounted. Degreasing them is a problem for museums and institutions displaying this odd member of the family.

Some think the *Leatherback* was an ancient fresh water turtle that went to sea and developed its sea turtle characteristics such as strong swim flippers and streamlined shape by constant swimming. Then there are those who are sure it is a "missing link" of ancient sea turtles that came down to us from prehistoric times.

• **LOGGERHEAD** — This turtle does not quite reach the size of the *Green Turtle* which is about 400 pounds. It is a flesh eater, though, and more gregarious. Its meat is stringy and strong and not used much commercially.

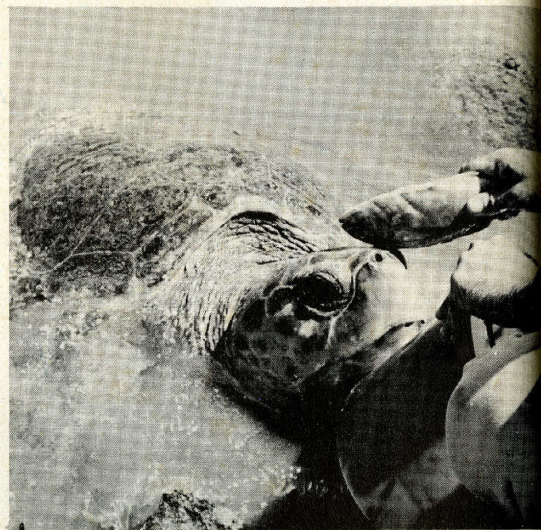
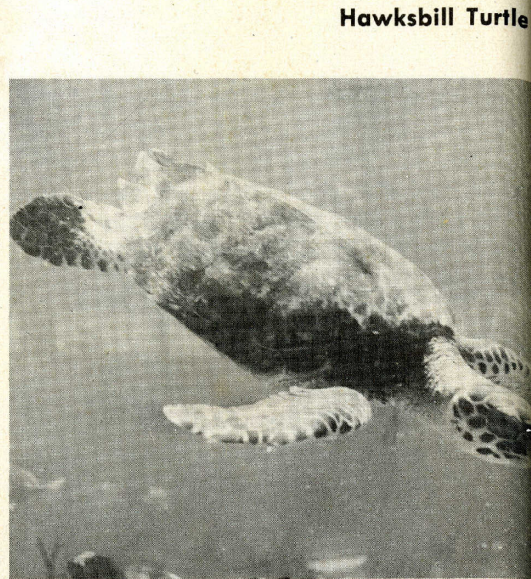


It ranges on both sides of Florida and as far north on the Atlantic as Virginia. It is also found in the Caribbean, but not as common there as the *Green Turtle*. It has a more attractive shell than the *Green Turtle* and has more color in its scales on the neck and flippers. These colors range from a cream tone to dark brown. All turtles have sad, big eyes and cry tears when exposed to air too long. They are turned on their backs upon capture to make them immobile and also so that they can breathe easily without their great weight pressing down on their undershell. If left too long right side up they will suffocate.

• RIDLEY — This Turtle looks like the *Loggerhead* and is often confused with it. However, the *Ridley* is much smaller and has a gray shell and gray on the upper parts of the limbs. The shell also is more conical, or rounded, than the elongated shape of the other Sea Turtles.

Not much is known about the breeding habits of the *Ridley* which reaches a length of only two feet. It is the smallest of the Sea Turtle family in this respect. It is believed by some scientists to be a cross between the *Loggerhead* and *Green Turtle* but there is a Pacific variety ranging from Ceylon to the East Indies that is a distinct type and resembles its smaller cousin. Thus, the *Atlantic Ridley*, must be a relative of the *Pacific Ridley*.

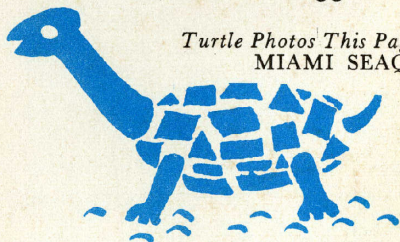
**Crandon Park Zoo does not exhibit sea turtles. However, since all five species are found in Florida and are all exhibited at the Miami Seaquarium, we included this segment as a natural history feature.**



Hawksbill Turtle

Loggerhead Turtle

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