

# TOUCAN TALK

A TRIP TO THE ZOO THAT COMES TO YOU!



GATHER A FLOCK, ROUND UP A HERD  
**IT'S FEAST WITH  
THE BEASTS WEEK!**

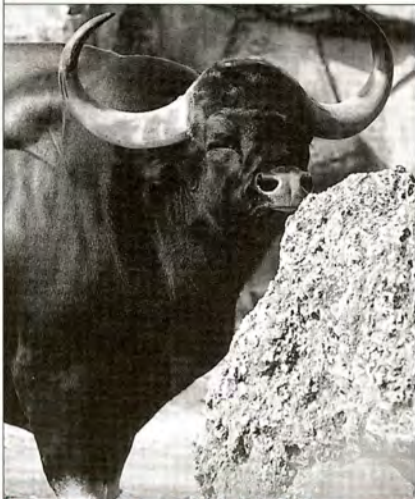
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Cover Photo: Adult male gaur  
by Ron Magill

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# GAUR

## THE LARGEST OF THEM ALL



Male gaur can grow to a height of over 6 feet at the shoulder and weigh over a ton.  
Photo by Ron Magill

**By Steve Conners**

**Metrozoo General Curator**

One of the most impressive hoofed animals at Metrozoo, or in the world for that matter, is the gaur. Gaur (pronounced GOW-er) are the largest members of the family Bovidae or cow-like animals. Males can grow to a height of over 6 feet at the shoulder and weigh over a ton, while females are somewhat smaller, but still massive. Coloration is reddish brown to almost black in the males and both sexes have white lower legs or "stockings" as well as a set of curved horns. Although the basic body form is cow-like, the gaur presents a much more muscular appearance than your typical Hereford (a breed of hardy red-coated beef cattle of English origin). Gaur are deep-chested with a hanging dewlap (a fold of skin under the throat), and a large

brawny hump extends from the neck over the shoulders adding considerably to the athletic appearance of these bovines.

Gaur are native to Asia. At present, they are found only in scattered populations from India and Nepal east through the Malayan and Indochinese peninsulas. Their preferred habitat is forested hills and meadows up to 6,000 feet in elevation. Green grasses are their favorite food, but they will also eat coarser fare such as bamboo, vari-

ous leaves and seeds. Herds are commonly made up of about 10 animals, and usually there is only one mature bull per herd. Bulls may wander widely in search of females in estrus (i.e. in heat). Mating may take place at any time of year, and a single calf is born after a nine month gestation period. Gaur may spar with one another, however, dominance is apparently established by size rather than by serious fighting. By displaying sideways males show off their size—especially their dewlap and dorsal hump—to one another, making battle unnecessary if there is an obvious difference between them.

In spite of their large adult size, gaur are vulnerable to predators. Tigers are capable of killing an adult, but they attack calves far more frequently. Indeed, an adult gaur is about the only animal capable of standing its ground against a tiger. Humans, of course, are another potential threat although habitat loss seems to have affected them more than direct shooting.



Photo by Ricardo Stanoss

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Continued from p. 2

Fragmented populations of small isolated groups separated by developed areas greatly increases the potential threat from inbreeding (the interbreeding of closely related individuals) within each group. Perhaps worst of all has been the exposure of gaur to diseases of domestic cat-

tle with mortality documented from rinderpest (an acute febrile disease caused by a virus), foot-and-mouth disease (acute contagious febrile disease caused by a virus), and anthrax (infectious disease caused by a spore-forming bacterium). The activities of humans can obviously affect wildlife in indirect and unpredictable ways.



The decline of gaur in their natural habitat prompted the formation of an SSP (Species Survival Plan) a number of years ago. Fortunately the species breeds quite well in

captivity, and population control measures are now in place at many zoos. Metrozoo has kept gaur in its collection since 1983 and they have bred several times. Any animal of this size can create special challenges in captivity. For example, when the adult male of our original pair arrived many years ago, he was unloaded into his holding pen and seemed quite calm, munching hay. Later that same day he decided he wanted to be somewhere else. With very little effort he snapped the two locks and heavy chains which we thought held his gate securely! Luckily he was corralled with trucks before he could travel too far.

We have recently put on display a young pair of gaur to accompany our older female. It will be a few years before they reach adult size. At 4 feet tall and about 250 lbs. they're still babies, but it will be fun for employees and visitors to watch them grow into the world's largest bovines.



The young pair of gaur seen on this photo was recently put on display. Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

Photo: Ron Magill

K E E P E R P R O F I L E S

# PATTY LEON-SINGER

## METROZOO'S MASTER CHEF

**W**hat's on Metrozoo's menu? Patty should know because, after all, she prepares all the diets for the animals every day (with some help, of course). Patty also is responsible for ordering and receiving food items, updating all diet changes, working with two other staff members to keep all animals fed fresh and nutritious meals, and overseeing the inventory.

If you are wondering how Patty got to be "Metrozoo's Master Chef," well...It's a long story, but we'll make it short.

Patty always had a special love for animals, but during a time when "little girls" cooked and sewed, she joined the 4H Club (a sort of Girl Scouts organization). She didn't really enjoy the cooking and the sewing (her mom, who got to do most of it, didn't either). One day Patty and her mom went to a 4H Fair and, to Patty's surprise, there was a variety of little animals on display. Most to her delight, Patty discovered that she could raise rabbits and guinea pigs as projects for the Club, so mom could rest and she could do something more to her liking.

At 15, Patty got her first horse called "Son" (short for "Harrison Spotty," the horse's original name). She rode and

trained horses for over 10 years until things "got busy." Patty applied for a job at the Crandon Park Zoo, and she was advised to volunteer, which she did at the Children's Zoo. During that period, Patty also was attending Miami-Dade Community College to earn an Associate of Arts degree. After 9 months of volunteering, she was hired part-time and worked at the so-called Rhino Corner, with some of the rhinos which still are part of Metrozoo's animal collection (Mohan, Shanti and Cora). Patty was later hired full time to work with birds, large cats and at the Children's Zoo. In 1979, Patty moved to the Zoo's present location, and started working in the quarantine area. In 1981, she became senior keeper at Sulawesi, a full petting yard with an Asian look, where she conducted education talks and had a chance to hand-raise animals. When Sulawesi closed in 1986, Patty was transferred to the kitchen temporarily. And voilà!...her chef career began.

Patty is proud of the organization she has brought to all the procedures in the kitchen, but she definitely misses the direct contact with the animals. To make up for that, Patty has continued her involvement in dog training and showing, something she has done



for 14 years. At home, Patty keeps her own little Zoo: two Australian shepherds, a Jack Russell terrier, an African grey parrot and two cats.

For the last 17 years, Patty also has been very active in the national and local chapters of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK), and she has been the South Florida

Chapter's liaison for the last 3 years. In the past, she served as secretary and treasurer for the same organization.

Whenever she has free time, she enjoys being with her husband, Greg, and daughter, Kristen. What else does she love? "Country music, the radio is always on in the kitchen while we work."

Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

# NEW APPOINTMENT

By Damien Kong

ZSF Senior Education Specialist



Photo: Ricardo Stamos

It was to my surprise this year that I was appointed AZA West Indies FIG Education Advisor. What does this all mean? AZA stands for "American Zoo and Aquarium Association," and most US and Canadian zoos are members of this professional organization. FIGs or Faunal Interest Groups, are made up of members from the AZA interested in wildlife conservation in a specific region of the world. In this case, it is the West Indies.

Having grown up in Jamaica, the conservation of its natural resources has been very close to my heart. For the past four years, I have developed education programs for the Hope Zoo in Jamaica, and the content of these programs reflected that deep concern. My work attracted the attention of Dr. Peter Tolson, chair of the West Indian FIG, who felt the programs could be expanded and used in other parts of the Caribbean.

With this new appointment, I will be able to participate in developing conservation projects in other West Indian countries. My next task will be working with the park service of the British Virgin Islands to develop a country-wide program to help make the locals more aware of their endangered wildlife. The endangered species "baseball cards" I designed (similar to the popular Texaco animal cards we hand out here at Metrozoo) were such a big hit in Jamaica that Dr. Tolson and I agreed to use them in other locations to increase awareness of local species.

I look forward to working with the West Indies FIG on many new conservation projects.

*Note from Toucan Talk Editorial Committee: Congratulations, Damien!*

## AN EVENING WITH DR. RICHARD LEAKEY



### Adults

The Zoological Society of Florida is proud to present world-renowned conservationist **Dr. Richard Leakey** for a special evening this spring. Honorary Chairperson for Feast With The Beasts 1998, Dr. Leakey embodies the triumphs and challenges that can face the modern conservationist. He has been an outspoken leader of conservation efforts in Africa, taking his message to audiences around the world. This special evening, hosted by Florida International University, will highlight the impact of humans on the environment, and the current conservation efforts that look at reversing the trend. Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear one of the true heroes of the modern conservation movement.

**Date:** Thursday, March 5

**Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** FIU Auditorium

**Cost:** Members \$4 / Non-Members \$5

### BREAKFAST WITH THE BEASTS

#### Families

Wondering where to go for breakfast? How about Breakfast with the Beasts at Metrozoo! A continental breakfast will be followed by a special behind-the-scenes look at animal diet preparation and a visit to some of our most interesting Zoo residents. This program is a family favorite, so sign up early.

**Date:** A: Saturday, January 31, New Year's Breakfast  
B: Saturday, February 14, Sweetheart Breakfast

**Time:** 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

**Cost:** Adult Members \$10  
Adult Non-Members \$15  
Child Members (12 and under) \$6  
Child Non-Members \$8

### TEACHER WORK DAY MINICAMPS

Ages 5-10

School is out, so why not spend your

time off with us? Our mini Zoofari Camp is a full day of wildlife adventures that will take you to the wilds of Africa, Australia, Asia and our own backyard of Florida. Complete your experience with a special Zoo passport to document your travels and animal adventures.

**Date:** A: Monday, January 19

B: Friday, January 30

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

**Cost:** Members \$45  
Non-Members \$55

### GOING APE!

#### Kids

Come to see how apes live their lives. Find out differences and similarities among them and ourselves! Do you think you can speak ape body language? How do you say "I am mad at you" or "I am not a threat to you"? You will be amazed when you learn how much humans and the other apes are alike!

**Date:** Saturday, January 10

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Cost:** Members \$8  
Non-Members \$12

### INTRODUCTION TO ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

#### Adults

Animal behavior is an amazing field. Now it is available for non-scientists at Metrozoo! Learn, in plain English, how to observe what animals do and some of the interpretations of their actions. Humans have the same basic behaviors expressed in such a refined fashion that, many times, it is impossible for us to recognize them as animal behaviors. Get ready for a fascinating and humorous observational time at Metrozoo!

**Date:** Saturday, February 21

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Cost:** Members \$10  
Non-Members \$14

## REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____			
Address: _____			
City: _____		State: _____	Zip: _____
Daytime Phone: _____		Evening Phone: _____	
I'm a Member: Membership # _____			I'm not a Member _____
<b>For children's programs, complete the following:</b>			
Parent's or Guardian's Name: _____			
Daytime Phone: _____		Evening Phone: _____	
<b>Method of Payment (Please do NOT send cash):</b>			
Credit cardholders may register by phone.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa			
Card _____		Expiration Date: _____	
Customer Signature: _____			
Program/Session	Name of Participant	Age/Grade	Fee
Mail this completed form with your payment to: Education Department / Zoological Society of Florida 12400 SW 152nd Street Miami, FL 33177-1499			TOTAL: \$ _____
All program registrations subject to a \$10 cancellation fee.			

# GATHER A FLOCK, ROUND UP A HERD AND CORRAL A PRIDE

JOIN US FOR A FEAST LIKE NO OTHER....

**F**east With The Beasts '98 sponsored by the Zoological Society of Florida and presented by American Express welcomes world-famous conservationist and paleoanthropologist Dr. Richard Leakey. Dr. Leakey is the Honorary Chair of Feast and will participate in three separate South Florida events. His participation has widened our scope of Feast Week to include events for anyone concerned about today's environmental issues.

This year's Feast Chair Diana Udel, along with the Feast Committee have been hard at work and invite you to join them at one or all of these incredible events.

On Wednesday, March 4 please join us as we officially welcome Dr. Leakey with a special evening at the Batchelor residence. This dinner is limited to the first 250 people and the cost is \$250 per person. Send your reservation form today - these tickets are an endangered species.

On Thursday, March 5 enjoy the rare opportunity to hear Dr. Leakey's lecture at Florida International University's University Park Campus in South Dade. This lecture is open to the general public so tickets will be selling fast.

Finally, on Friday, March 6 follow the herd to the Eleventh Annual Feast With The Beasts at Metrozoo. Join more than 1200 of this community's socialites, celebrities, business leaders and Zoo supporters as they participate in South Florida's "wildest" fundraiser.



The event is a music-filled night amid the wilds of Metrozoo's animal exhibits, with a generous sampling of the cosmopolitan cuisine and entertainment that makes South Florida famous. The event is limited to the first 1,500 people. General Admission tickets sell for \$150 and the exclusive Beastkeepers tickets are \$500.

As always, our elite Beastkeeper patrons receive special treatment, including a personal basket containing distinctive accessories to be worn to Feast, as they enjoy an exclusive pre-event reception to kick-off the evening in style with Norman's, Joe's Stone Crab and Chef Allen's.

And for the fourth straight year, the Feast With The Beasts raffle will give some lucky party goers the opportunity to win exciting prizes, some of which

are listed here:

- Five-day trip to Sandals Jamaica
- Seven-day cruise courtesy of Norwegian Cruise Line
- One-year membership to the Cellar Club at The Biltmore Hotel

Look for your invitations to be arriving soon, but we love "early bird" ticket sales! To make your reservations today, complete and return the reservation form, or call us at 305-255-5551. Don't delay... come celebrate Feast With The Beasts Week!

Please join us on Friday, March 6 to enjoy these incredible restaurants, entertainers, and eight open bars featuring wine spirits and night caps from Southern Wine and Spirits, Seagram Americas, Beverage Canners International and Silver

## RESTAURANTS

- Afternoon Tea and Bake Shop
- Barnie's Coffee & Tea Company
- Bijan's on the River Restaurant & Raw Bar
- Botticelli Trattoria
- Captain's Tavern
- Casa Juancho
- China Grill
- Christy's
- Courtview Club at Miami Jai Alai
- Creative Tastes Catering
- Fish
- Gaviña Coffee Company
- Giacosa Ristorante
- Hooligan's Liquor Locker
- Hooligan's Pub & Oyster Bar
- International Gourmet Foods
- Island Oasis Gourmet Frozen Cocktails
- JoAnna's Marketplace
- Le Basque
- Los Ranchos Restaurant
- Nemo
- Norman Brothers
- Old Cutler Oyster Company
- Olive Garden Restaurant
- Outback Steakhouse
- The Parrot Jungle Cafe at Parrot Jungle Gardens
- Perricone's Marketplace
- Pizzafiore
- Prezzo
- Rainforest Cafe
- Restaurant St. Michel
- Roasters n' Toasters
- Ruth's Chris Steakhouse
- Tex Mex Cafe
- The Melting Pot
- Tropical Chinese Restaurant
- Tutti's Trattoria & Bakery
- Victor's Cafe

## ENTERTAINMENT

- Bravo Musicians
- Drums of Polynesia
- Ed Calle Orchestra
- Eric Allison
- Jubilate
- Loray Misty
- Mideastern Dance Exchange
- Mirochnik Ballet
- Orpheus
- The Mora Arriagas
- The Goods
- Vivace Brass

## FEAST WITH THE BEASTS WEEK RESERVATION FORM

Yes, I would like to attend Feast With The Beasts Week 1998.

Please reserve the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ An Evening With Dr. Richard Leakey at the Batchelor residence (\$250 per person)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Richard Leakey at Florida International University (\$5 per person)
- \_\_\_\_\_ General Admission tickets (\$150 per person)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Herd of Hippos (10 General Admission tickets - \$1,500)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Beastkeeper tickets (\$500 per person)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pride of Lions (10 Beastkeeper tickets - \$5,000)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Raffle Donation (\$20 each or 6 for \$100)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

My/Our Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

No, I cannot attend Feast With The Beasts '98, but I have enclosed my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to the Zoological Society of Florida, or charge your tickets by completing the information below:

American Express  Other card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledgement of your participation as Beastkeeper should appear in the Feast With The Beasts program as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider your contribution as a donation; there will be no refunds.

According to IRS guidelines, only contributions over the value of dining & entertainment are tax-deductible amounts Beastkeeper \$380/ticket, General Admission \$100/ticket.

## THE MILLER-BYNUM-KNIGHT HOUSE AT METROZOO

**O**n November 4th, 1997 the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners approved the name "Miller-Bynum-Knight House" for the newly constructed building formerly known as the Animal Resource Center. With a sturdy concrete slab roof, the facility is designated as the safe house for the majority of the Children's Zoo animals, replacing the structure destroyed by Hurricane Andrew.

The new building is named for the three gracious donors whose gifts to

wildlife advocate, Richard Leakey, to come to the U.S. to serve as the Honorary Chair of ZSF's Feast With The Beasts '98 (see p. 4, "An Evening with Richard Leakey," and back cover, "A Message From...").

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation has made key contributions to a number of new exhibits and innovations at Metrozoo, sponsoring the Malayan Water Monitor exhibit and the Sulawesi Children's Village in the 1980's. The Foundation's generosity brought about improvements

## PERSONALS

What do you say to a 450-pound gorilla???

**"I WANT TO ADOPT YOU!!!"**

For an adoption of \$50 or more, get a free T-shirt with J.J.'s photo.

Call 305-255-5551 for details.



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

## "ATTRACTING NEW NEIGHBORS"

**F**rom October 2-4, the Zoological Society of Florida hosted a conference entitled "Attracting New Neighbors" sponsored by the National Science Foundation. Participants from the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, Los Angeles Zoo, National Zoo/Smithsonian Institution, National Audubon Society, and a number of local community groups shared ideas about attracting a visitor base which reflects the region served by their institutions.

The Conference was facilitated by Informal Science, Inc. of Washington, D.C., with the assistance of RPM Worldwide of Miami. A conference report will be forthcoming and widely distributed to professional associations, such as AZA (American Zoo and Aquarium Association), NAI (National Association of Interpreters), AAM (American Association of Museums), and ASTC (Association of Science and Technology Center).

## GORILLA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Watch for more information on this year's tournament which will take place March 18 at University Country Club. Don't miss this "furry," fun and fantastic event. For information call 305-279-2298.

## ZSF PEOPLE RECEIVE HONORS

**I**ndividuals and corporations well known in ZSF circles were honored recently by the Greater Miami Chapter of the National Society of Fundraising Executives (NSFRE). Board of Trustees Chair, Sue Cobb, and her husband Charles E. Cobb received the Outstanding Philanthropists of the Year Award at NSFRE's National Philanthropy Day luncheon. Nominated by the Zoological Society of Florida, Sue and Chuck were recognized for their own charitable activities and also for motivating others to do likewise.

Sherrill Hudson, current Board of Directors member and former ZSF president, was honored as the James McLamore Outstanding Volunteer of the Year at the NSFRE luncheon. He was recognized for his service to United Way, FIU, Dade Community Foundation and the American Cancer Society, in addition to his outstanding work with the Zoological Society.

NSFRE awarded its Julia Tuttle

Award for Community Involvement and Corporate Citizenship to SunTrust Bank Miami. SunTrust was honored for supporting local economic development and affordable housing initiatives, Miami's cultural institutions and special programs of the Dade County Public Schools. Lynn Cambest, SunTrust executive vice president for Trust and Investment Management, serves as the Zoological Society's vice president, and SunTrust is a sponsor of Metrozoo's Sun Bear Exhibit.

ZSF sponsored a table at the Philanthropy Day luncheon in honor of Trustee, Carole Cotton. Carole and her successful business, Happy Balloons, have been long time supporters of the Zoological Society, decorating ZSF's major events and sponsoring two Metrozoo rest areas. ZSF recognized Carole for her financial and environmental contributions; Carole is a courageous advocate for environmentally responsible balloon decorating, avoiding balloon releases.



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

the Zoological Society of Florida made it happen. Betty Miller and Lee Bynum have been long-term friends who never stop giving for the cause of wildlife preservation and animal welfare. They donated \$50,000 towards construction and \$15,000 towards equipment of the safe house, gifts supporting the welfare of animals close to home and close to our hearts. Betty and Lee's most recent ZSF gift, one with international significance, should also be mentioned: they have made it possible for world-renowned African

in the Zoo's Animal Hospital, and most recently a system of colorful, educational and visitor-friendly signage throughout the Zoo, replacing what Hurricane Andrew destroyed. The foundation's most recent gift in the amount of \$150,000 made construction of the Bynum-Miller-Knight House possible.

The Zoological Society of Florida is thankful for these gracious donors, who hold the welfare of wildlife and the enhancement of our community close to their hearts.

## HAUTE COUTURE AT BLOOMINGDALE'S

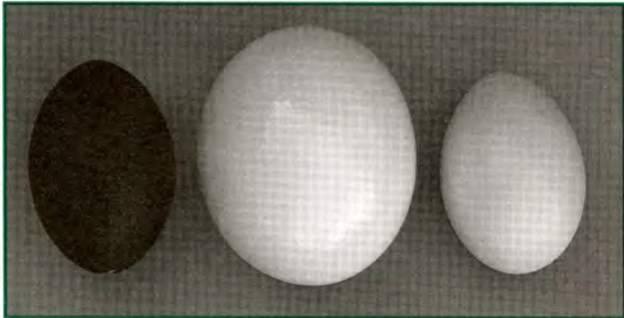
- ① ZSF Trustee member (left) Betsy Sue Singer and Chair of the Board of Trustees (right) Sue Cobb show off Dana Buchman originals at the Dana Buchman Show.
- ② ZSF Executive Director Glenn Ekey addresses a well-attended event at the Dana Buchman Fashion Show benefitting ZSF. The Show was held at the new Bloomingdale's Aventura on November 13, 1997.



# THE "EGGS" FILES

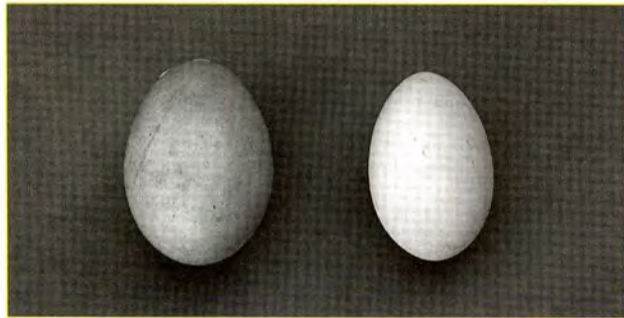
## SECRETS OF THE SHELLED

1-LEFT TO RIGHT: EMU, OSTRICH AND RHEA EGGS.



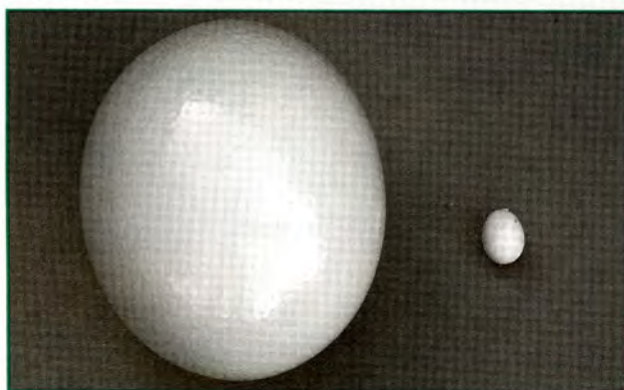
**L**arge birds lay large eggs, with the ostrich egg being the largest, just over 3 pounds, and capable of holding about a quart of liquid. The rhea's egg is the second largest egg, and weighs about 21 ounces. The emu's egg, dark green in color, obtains its coloration from pigments delivered by the female's oviduct, and it is the third largest egg among birds.

2-LEFT TO RIGHT: SWAN AND FLAMINGO EGGS.



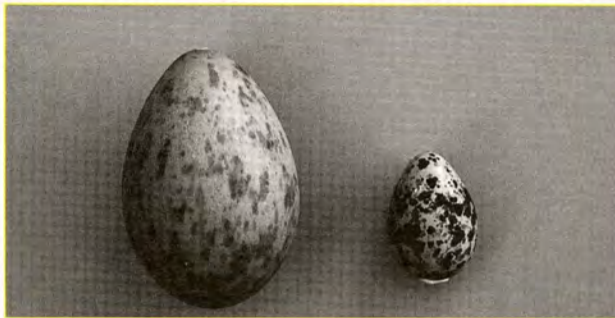
**T**hese eggs are similar in size and shape, but different in texture. Swan eggs are smooth while flamingo eggs have a chalky texture. Did you know that 26 pounds of weight have to be piled up on top of a swan egg to break it? The distinct combination of texture and oval shape gives some eggs great strength.

3-LEFT TO RIGHT: OSTRICH AND FIG PARROT EGGS.



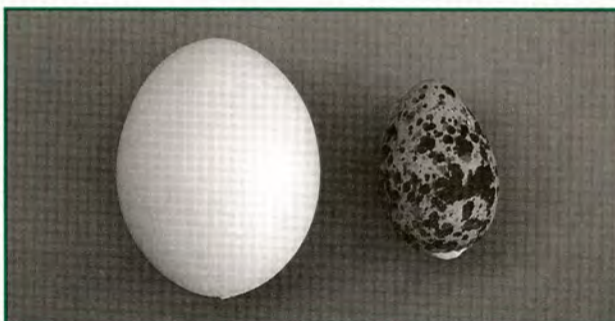
**T**he fig parrot egg is less than 1 inch long, and is dwarfed by the enormous ostrich egg. Well, of course, smaller birds lay smaller eggs, you say! But did you also know that the larger the bird, the smaller the weight of the egg relative to the bird?

4-LEFT TO RIGHT: DEMOISELLE CRANE AND LAPWING EGGS.



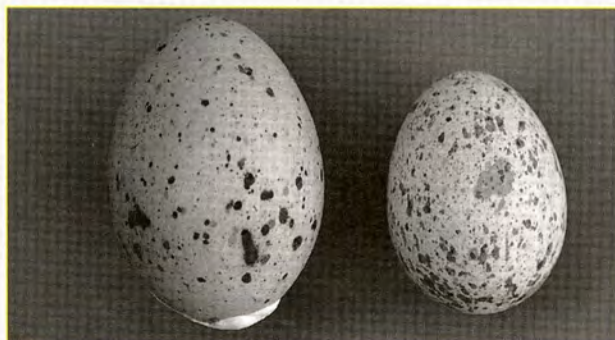
**T**hese two eggs are not only different in size, but in camouflage. Birds that build open ground-level nests rely on the egg's camouflage to avoid detection by predators. The markings break up the egg's outline and help it blend into the background.

5-LEFT TO RIGHT: RUDDY DUCK AND LAPWING EGGS.



**S**pherical eggs are common to birds that make well-constructed nests. The conical shape is found in species that nest on bare ground. This causes the egg to rotate around its pointed end if it is bumped. The shape of an egg may also be influenced by the shape of the bird's pelvic bones; there is certainly survival advantage for the species that can pass eggs through the birth canal easily.

6-LEFT TO RIGHT: PURPLE SWAMP HEN AND WHITE BREASTED WATERHEN EGGS.



**B**ird eggs come in an incredible range of colors and markings. Colors come from two main pigments, red-brown-probably from the hemoglobin of the blood-and blue-green-probably derived from the bile. The markings include scrawls, marbling or mottling.

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JANUARY

**VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE**

Saturday, January 17  
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

If you want to join our "wild team" as a volunteer, this is your chance to learn about the volunteer opportunities at Metrozoo. Reservations are required. For more information, call the Volunteer Services Department at 305-255-5551.

FEBRUARY

**SEX AND THE ANIMALS**

Saturday, February 14  
7:30 p.m.

Back by popular demand, Metrozoo Communications Director Ron Magill will present his fascinating program "Sex and the Animals." This "adults only" presentation deals with everything from frogs to elephants, and illustrates the incredible facts surrounding courtship and breeding behaviors. Tickets are \$15 for Non-Members and \$12 for Members, and the admission fee includes a wine-and-cheese reception. All proceeds from the presentation go to the Harpy Eagle Project in Panama. For information and tickets call 305-251-0401.



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

**A MESSAGE FROM...**

For the past ten years, the Zoological Society of Florida with a committee of dedicated volunteers has presented **Feast With The Beasts**, the wildest fundraiser of the South Florida social season. Feast '98 on Friday, March 6 will continue this tradition of grand events as it evolves into a week of activities around South Florida. We are proud to announce **Feast With The Beasts Week: A Celebration of Wildlife and Environmental Awareness**. Feast Week will consist of a variety of events for all ages and budgets. The highlight of these events is the participation of world-famous conservationist and paleoanthropologist, **Dr. Richard Leakey**. He is our Honorary Chair of Feast With The Beasts '98, and his presence will increase environmental awareness in our community on both global and local issues. Dr. Leakey's participation enables the Zoological Society of Florida to further its mission of conservation education. Dr. Leakey will be involved in various events during Feast With The Beasts Week, including an exclusive dinner reception hosted by the Batchelors, a program for high school students at a Dade County school, a lecture at Florida International University, all this culminating in his appearance at Feast With The Beasts '98.

As a proud ten-year participant in the event and as Feast '98 Chair, I urge you to partake in Feast With The Beasts Week; in doing so, you will be supporting your Zoo, one of our community's greatest treasures.

Diana Udel  
Chair  
Feast With The Beasts '98

**ZOO NOTES**

- Picnic lovers: get ready for a better place! There have been some wonderful improvements to Metrozoo's Picnic Field. Now you can enjoy two new shelters and renovated bathrooms, plus the existing amenities. For more information and reservations call Julio Mesa at 305-251-0401.
- Pardon our dust! The Petting Yard of the Children's Zoo is temporarily closed for reconstruction. However, ZSF staff and volunteers are eager to make your visit to the Children's Zoo a memorable experience. They will have animals and biofacts for "close-ups" with our visitors. Look for them near the entrance and the Ecology Theater. Don't forget: Ecology Theater shows are presented 365 days a year at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.



Photo: Ricardo Stanoss

TOUCAN TALK



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