

Parks & Recreation

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RARE ZOO ANIMALS

By ROGER CONANT

Average zoo visitors, imbued with the American philosophy of bigger and better things, manifest a keen interest in almost any animal which is large, dangerous or rare. Most zoological parks of any consequence qualify in the first two categories, as witness the numbers of elephants and lions in the country. It is only in the larger well financed zoos, however, that one can find series of rare and unusual specimens. For many years the European parks have held an outstanding lead in point of unique animals exhibited but a recent survey of the leading American zoos shows that they are now not far behind.

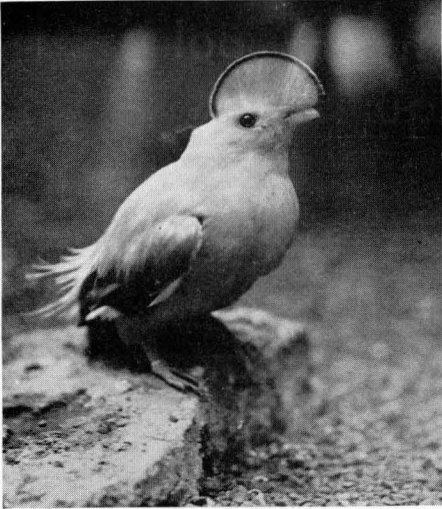
Many problems are presented in the acquisition and care of exotic species. Some animals are rare in nature and it is only after long and painstaking search that they are to be had. Others, while abundant in their native lands, inhabit such isolated or difficult countries that the task of getting them and their subsequent transportation to the customer require herculean efforts. The very shapes and natures of many beasts are against the collector as anyone who has had to crate such awkward or unruly animals as giraffes or wild cattle will testify. Mere size is another problem and one which militates against the capture and shipping of adult

large mammals. Food is still another item and especially with such animals as the panda and the koala which depend largely upon a certain type of plant for their sustenance. The field man might well tear his hair in despair trying to find a suitable substitute in the markets of civilization.

Even after the dealer has landed his specimens and has perhaps suffered a severe loss in transit he finds the average zoo director very chary about spending a large sum for an animal which is at best a gamble and may not live in captivity for more than a few months. With all these difficulties and many others too numerous to mention it is a wonder that many rare animals are ever shown in zoos.

Some zoos have engineered their own expeditions for specimens and in several cities wealthy yachting enthusiasts have taken zoo staff members to out-of-the-way parts of the world in search of unusual animals. However, most zoo stock comes from reputable and well established animal dealers.

As might be expected the zoological parks near the coasts have the finest assortments in general. Not only are they nearest to the ports of entry but they occasionally have an opportunity to secure rare specimens from sea captains or travelers who have acquired



COCK-OF-THE-ROCK, ST. LOUIS

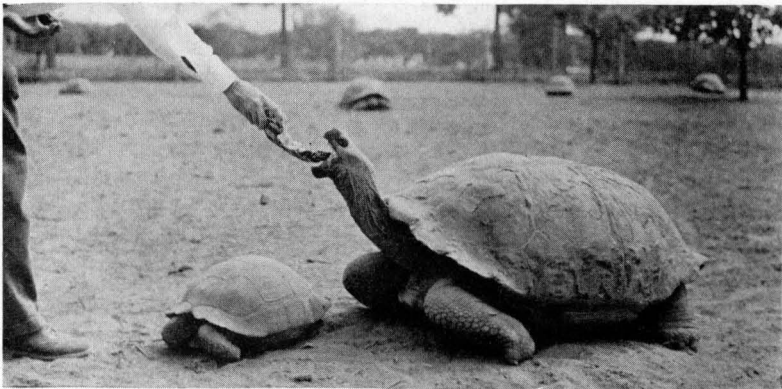
them from natives of the countries to which their voyage has taken them. Barter with natives appears to be the easiest way to obtain potential zoo animals. Even the professional collector rarely attempts to penetrate the wilds to capture his own despite the popular conception which has been created by several recent motion pictures.

Within the last few years knowledge of care and feeding has developed so rapidly that it is now possible to keep many animals which were considered as extreme rarities a short time ago. Thus until eight or ten

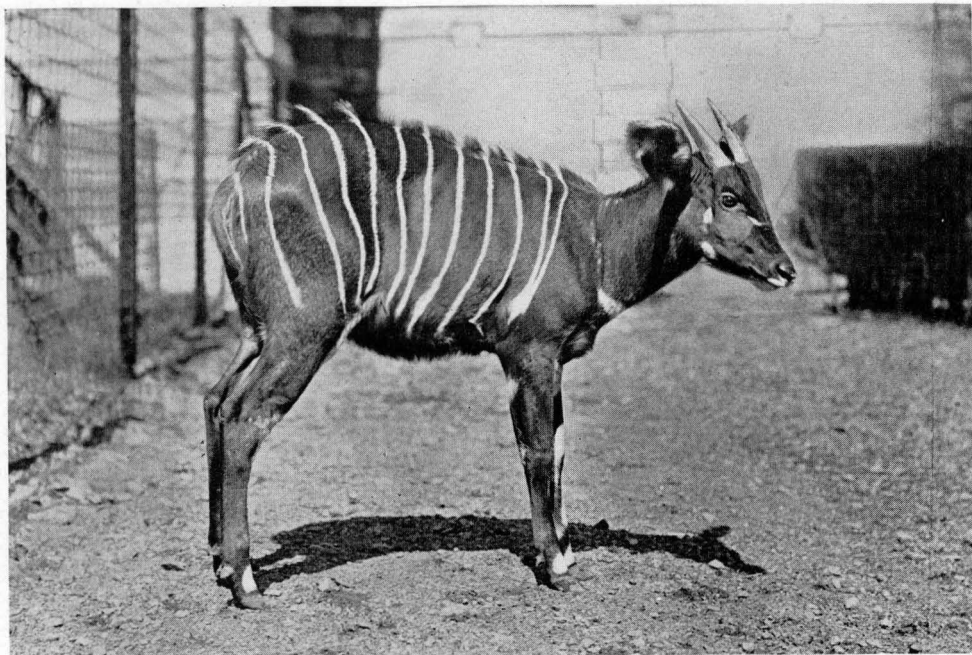
years ago the longest that a gorilla had lived in an American zoo was five days. Today there are no less than seven gorillas thriving in our parks; there is one each in New York, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, St. Louis and the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago and San Diego has the unique distinction of having two. Many other mammals, birds and reptiles long thought to be poor risks in captivity, have been kept successfully within recent years. The list of species which have been acclimatized and accustomed to cage life becomes steadily longer.

The question of just what is a rare animal is a difficult one to answer. Obviously any species which has never before been shown in a zoo is bound to qualify. There are many others, however, which have cost so much time and effort that they must be considered as unusual despite the fact that they may be found in zoos fairly regularly. Species which are near extinction are indeed rarities and, as an example, during the early part of the present century any zoo which possessed a herd of American bison considered itself fortunate. At that time the bison had been nearly extirpated on its natural ranges but as a result of protection it has now multiplied so well that today no one would consider it as a rare animal.

What may be a rare and widely publicized animal in one zoo may be commonplace in another. To attempt to correlate



GIANT TORTOISE IN THE SAN DIEGO ZOO



BONGO IN THE NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL PARK

the lists of rare animals from each zoo would be a most difficult task and the result probably would be unfair to many of the parks. It should be remembered, however, that an animal considered as unique in one collection may be represented by a pair or even a herd in another and hence would appear in one list but not the other.

The information given below has been secured by writing to the directors of the various zoos and the lists are practically as they have presented them. The writer must express his indebtedness to the following persons for their kind help in preparing the data on their respective collections: Ed. H. Bean of the Chicago Zoological Park; Mrs. Belle J. Benchley of the San Diego Zoo; Dr. W. Reid Blair, Dr. Claude W. Leister, Dr. Raymond L. Ditmars and Dr. Lee S. Crandall of the New York Zoo; Edmund Heller of the Milwaukee Zoo; Dr. Roderick MacDonald of the Philadelphia Zoo; Dr. Wm. Mann of the National Zoo, Washington; John T. Millen of the

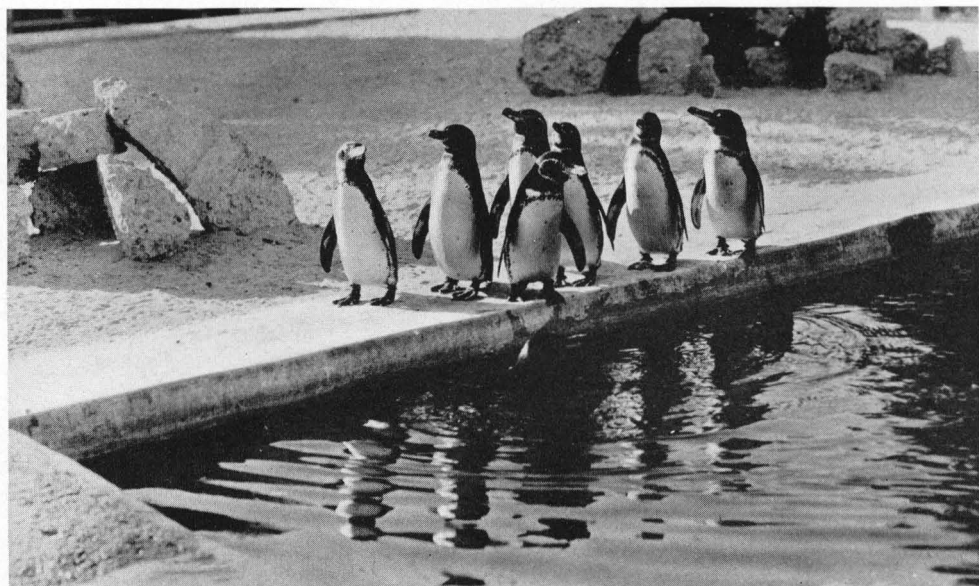
Detroit Zoo; Joseph Stephan of the Cincinnati Zoo; George P. Vierheller of the St. Louis Zoo, and Floyd S. Young of the Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago.

Time has not permitted a canvas of the smaller zoos of the country and doubtless there are many unsung rarities in their collections. To the possessors or directors of these we extend an invitation to acquaint the editor of these columns with the facts.

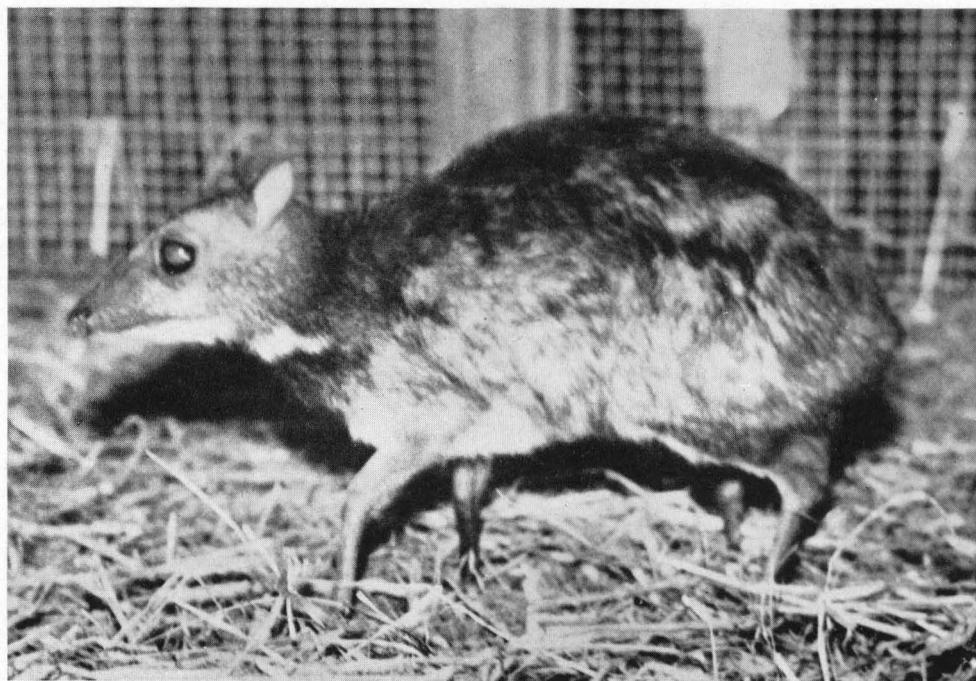
The list of rare and unusual animals in the various parks are discussed below:

CHICAGO (LINCOLN PARK ZOO)

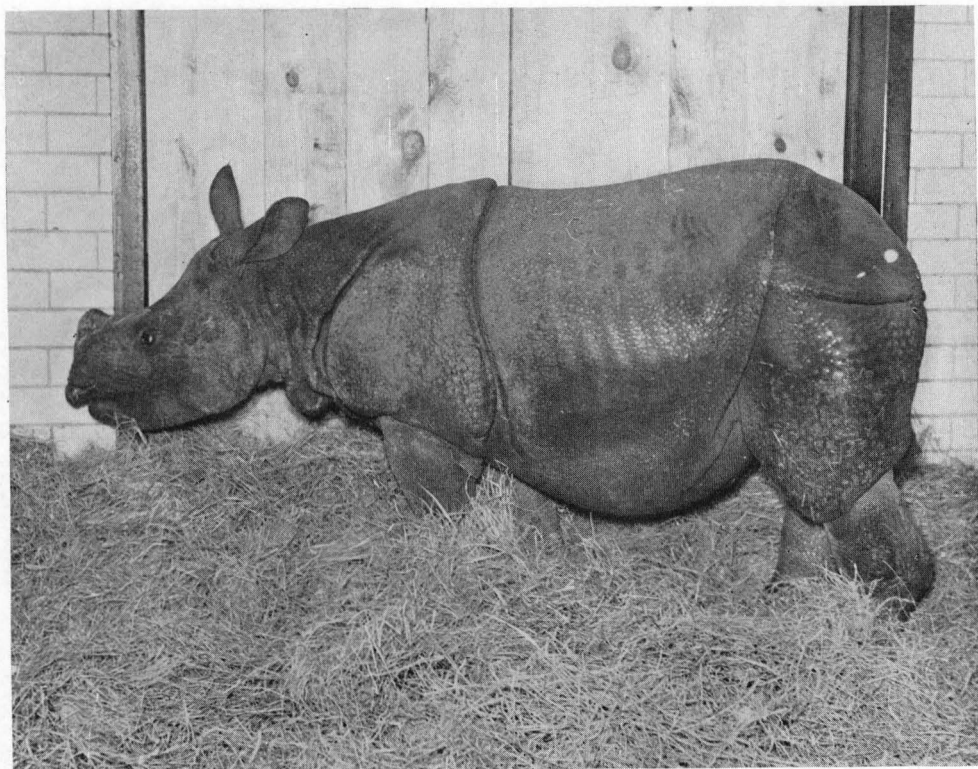
The collection of apes and monkeys in the Lincoln Park Zoo is of outstanding interest. Included are a gorilla, four orangutans—two each from Sumatra and Borneo, two black-faced chimpanzees and two white-faced chimpanzees. The baboons are well represented by the anubis, chacma, Guinea, hamadryas, mandrill and yellow baboons. Among the smaller monkeys are the black-cheeked guenon, DeBrazza, green, mous-



PENGUINS AT SAN DIEGO



MOUSE DEER, DETROIT ZOO



INDIAN RHINOCEROS, ST. LOUIS

tache, spider, vervets, etc. The zoo also has a fine collection of wild ducks and geese.

CHICAGO (CHICAGO ZOOLOGICAL PARK)

The Chicago Zoological Park, the youngest but one of the largest zoos in the United States, has an outstanding collection of animals. It is particularly rich in Australian species which were received from the Taronga Zoological Park in Sidney, Australia. There are ten species of kangaroos and wallabies including the rare Matsche's tree kangaroo. Other rare mammals are six young kodiak bears, a black colobus monkey, a tiger of the western subspecies from the Caspian Sea and the smallest baby elephant in the country. The latter, an African elephant named "Honey," stands 3 feet, 8 inches high and is just being changed to a diet of solid food. It has been at the zoo since June, 1934.

Numbered among the collection of some 999 birds are the African spoonbill, American flamingo, blue mountain lorikeet, broad-billed roller, brush turkey, cock-of-the-rock, coucal, fig bird, Galápagos albatross, Galápagos penguin, green cat bird, green conure, green winged dove, ground hornbill, kea, king parrot, laughing jackass, Leadbeater's cockatoo, mallee fowl, maned goose, New Zealand sheldrake, purplish guan, red-billed blue magpie, regent bird, satin bower bird, tawny frogmouth, and white fruit pigeon. The collection of parrot-like birds is unusually large and numbers as many species as the perching birds.

Among the rare reptiles are the Australian coral snake, blotched skink, frilled lizard, Mullet's skink, tiger rattlesnake, tiger snake and the only captive bred rattlesnakes in existence. While it is not customary for



BABY ORANG-UTAN BORN AND RAISED IN THE ST. LOUIS ZOO

zoos to exhibit freaks of any kind the Chicago zoo has a two-headed snapping turtle which has attracted considerable public interest.

CINCINNATI

The Cincinnati Zoo possesses a large female gorilla and a young pigmy elephant.

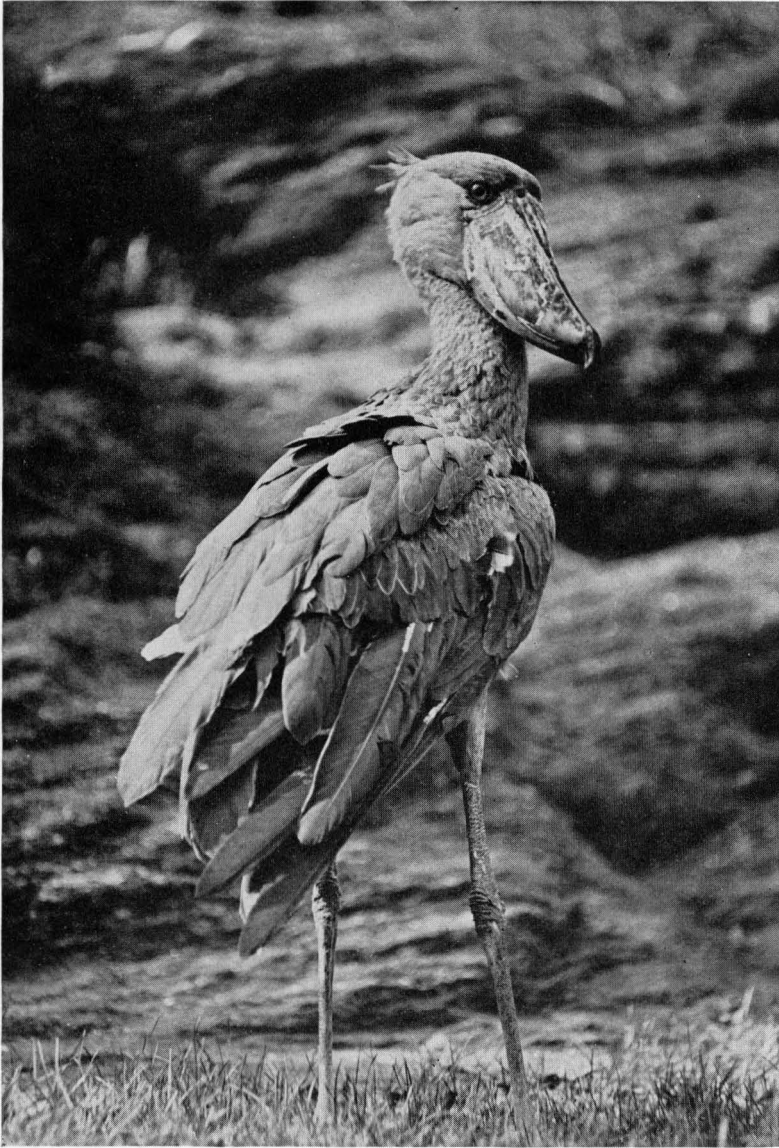
DETROIT

The Detroit Zoo has a mouse deer which it received from Governor-General Frank Murphy of the Philippine Islands in November, 1933. It also has the only pair of African black rhinoceroses in the country

although there are single individuals in other zoos. Also of interest are the pronghorn antelope and moose.

MILWAUKEE

Numbered among the animals in the Washington Park Zoo in Milwaukee are the following: Beisa antelope, giraffe, Kodiak bear, pronghorn antelope, red river hog, sable antelope, sasin antelope, Andean condor, blue-necked ostrich, hyacinthe macaw, Papuan cassowary, Paradise crane, six-plumed bird-of-paradise, Victoria crowned pigeon. The zoo also has ten kangaroos.



SHOE-BILLED STORK AT NEW YORK

NEW YORK

In the Bronx Zoo in New York is to be found the largest and finest assemblage of rare mammals, birds and reptiles in America. While the list of these is formidable it is given in full so that some conception of the magnitude of this collection can be obtained. It is probable that over half of the items

on this list are not represented in any other zoo in the country.

Mammals—Addra gazelle, bongo, gayal, gemsbok, gorilla, Indian rhinoceros, Lady gray's waterbuck, Malayan wild dog, spectacled bear and Tibetan blue bear.

Birds—Abyssinian buff-breasted sunbird, Abyssinian scarlet-chested sunbird, Abyssin-



YOUNG KODIAK BEARS IN THE CHICAGO ZOOLOGICAL PARK

ian splendid sunbird, Andaman white-headed myna, Australian broad-billed roller, Australian catbird, Australian white-eye, bare-eyed robin, black-bellied sand-grouse, black chinned siskin, black-headed catbird, black-headed finch, black-necked stilt, blue-eyed cockatoo, blue manucode, blue-rumped parakeet, Brazilian stilt, brown pheasant-pigeon, cheer pheasant, cinnamon-rumped seed-eater, Dalmatian pelican, Darwin rhea, double-collared Aracari toucan, Emperor of Germany's bird-of-paradise, fawn-breasted bower-bird, Gay's finch, Goffin's cockatoo, golden-breasted cotinga, golden-fronted barbet, golden-headed fruit pigeon, goliath heron, gray-backed bald myna, gray-headed crow-tit, gray struthidea, greater magpie tanager, great green cacique, hammer-head, hazelbacked green-winged pigeon, Hemp-

rich's hornbill, horned screamer, Indo-Burmese parakeet, James' horned manucode, Japanese pigeon, kagu, kea, lark-like finch, lesser superb bird-of-paradise, lesser Wagler's toucan, long-tailed bird-of-paradise, Loochoo jay, Lord Rothschild's forgotten bird-of-paradise, Magellan oyster-catcher, magpie-lark, milky eagle-owl, New Guinea pitta, orange backed troupial, Philippine cockatoo, Prince Rudolph's blue bird-of-paradise, purple-tailed wood hoopoe, Rajah sheldrake, red-fronted barbet, regent bird, rosy-patched shrike, rufous jay-thrush, Ruppell's vulture, shoe-bill, silvery-cheeked hornbill, Somali chestnut-winged glossy starling, South African gray hornbill, Swainson's toucan, wattled ibis, white-cheeked warbling finch, white-eared ground sparrow, white-naped sparrow, white-throated pigeon,

white-winged chough, yellow-heart pigeon, yellow-shouldered blackbird, yellow-thighed oriole.

Reptiles—Duncan Island giant tortoise, gaviol, giant horned frog, giant Orinoco turtle and Komodo blue viper.

PHILADELPHIA

The Philadelphia Zoo is noted for its collection of anthropoid apes and for its records of longevity in captivity. The dates of arrival at the zoo are indicated in parentheses in the most interesting cases.

Aard wolf, African buffalo, black-handed gibbon (7/26/06), Brazilian brocket, chacma baboon (6/15/08), chimpanzees "Sultan" and "Marianne" (have had three young), echidna (10/3/03), fennec fox, gorilla (8/5/27), Indian rhinoceros (5/24/23), orang-utan—Sumatran and Bornese, and two-toed sloth. Black-footed penguin, caffer ground hornbill, cock-of-the-rock, concave-casqued hornbill, (5/11/04), kagu, Lawe's six-plumed bird-of-paradise, six-plumed bird-of-paradise, lesser bird-of-paradise, Prince Rudolph's blue bird-of-paradise, six-plumed bird-of-paradise, twelve-wire bird-of-paradise, Wilson's bird-of-paradise.

ST. LOUIS

In this fine middlewestern zoo are the following unique specimens: Cheetah, clouded leopard, gorilla, Indian rhinoceros, musk ox, orang-utan, pronghorned antelope, cock-of-the-rock, saddle-bill stork, shoebill stork, satin bower bird and electric eel.

SAN DIEGO

The Galápagos fur seal is probably the rarest animal in this Pacific Coast zoo. The three specimens exhibited were taken from

a small herd in the Galápagos three years ago after the species had been believed to be extinct. It is feared that the survivors will be slaughtered by poachers if such has not already been their fate. The zoo also has what is probably the finest collection of lorries in the country, there being no less than twelve species in the group on display.

The rare species include, in addition to the Galápagos fur seal, the Andean marten, Baird's tapir, gibbon, gorilla, orang-utan, owl monkey, Pacific land otter and squirrel monkey; Andean condor, blue-faced lory, boobook owl, California condor, frigate bird, Galápagos hawk, Galápagos penguin, kookaburra, and shimmering lory. Among the reptiles are the Galápagos land iguana, malpelo lizard and nearly a hundred Galápagos tortoises.

TOLEDO

Outstanding animals in the Toledo Zoo are African black rhinoceros, giraffe, kaffir buffalo, mandrill, musk ox, orang-utan, Siamese red-faced monkey, hyacinthe macaw, blackfooted penguin and Gunther's cobra. The zoo's big Indian elephant, "Babe," standing 10 feet, 5 inches in height is probably the largest elephant in the country.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

In the National Zoological Park are a number of rare species, several of which are exhibited nowhere else in the country. The list includes the aard-vark, brown hyaena, gerenuk, glacier bear, impalla, maned wolf, raccoon dog, saiga antelope, Siberian ibex, white tayra, California condor, Philippine thick-billed parrot, saddle-bill stork, shoe-bill stork, broad-nosed crocodile and Komodo dragon.

A NEWSPAPER ASSIGNMENT TO DETROIT'S ZOO OPENING

By OMAR RANNEY, *Cleveland Press Staff Writer*

One afternoon the city editor comes over to my desk and tells me he's sending me to Detroit—to the zoo. I right away get all

excited because I haven't thrown peanuts to the elephant Pauline for a long time and I've heard they have bears now that roller