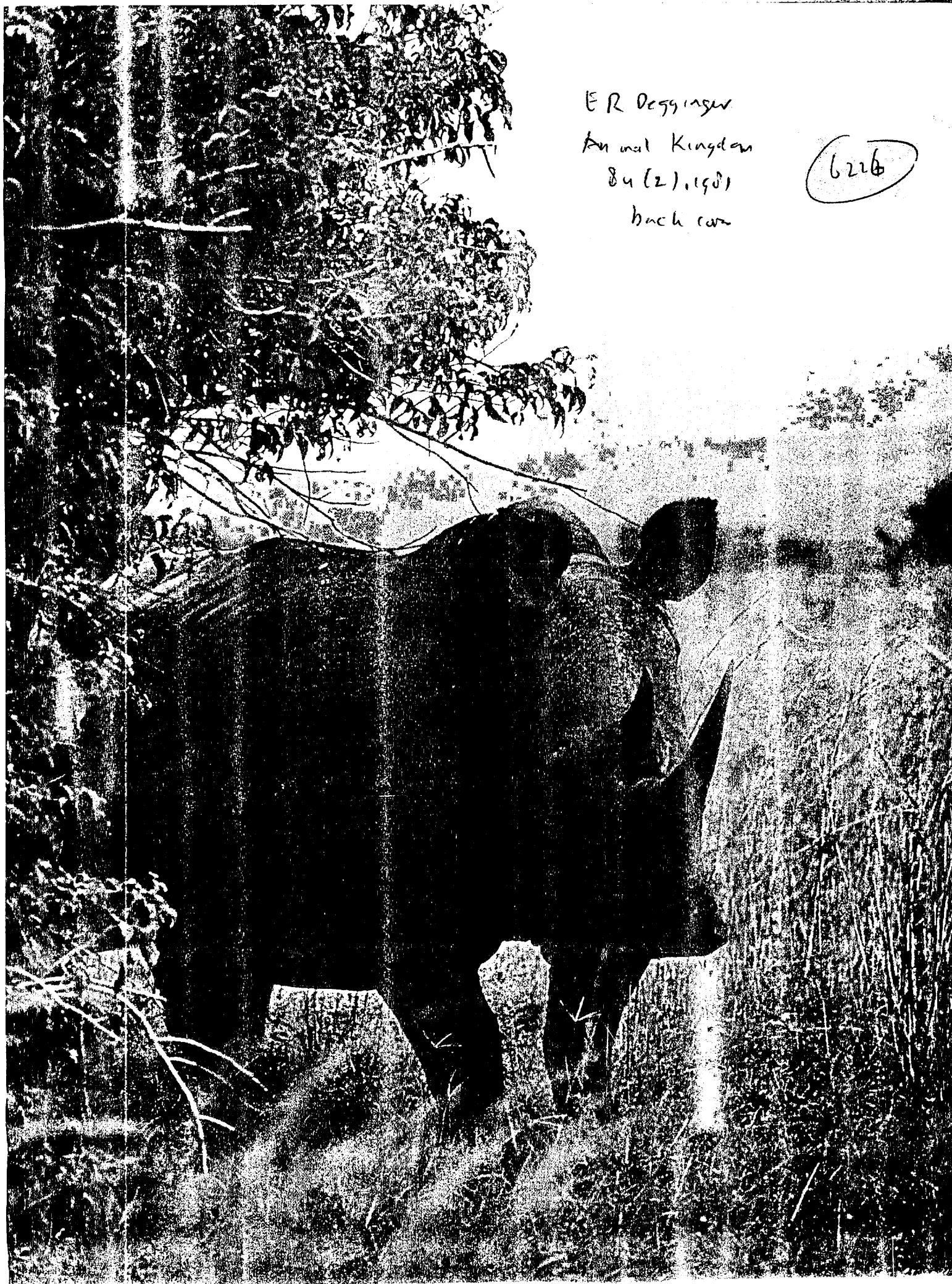


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ABOUT THE COVERS

Origin of a New Species, the Possible Demise of Others

Even though *Animal Kingdom* is person-produced, we think of it as an organic being. As such it has evolved through numerous changes in format since it began life in 1897. The present staff believed it could stand yet another dose of evolution.

Our primary goal was to make the magazine more readable, more inviting. Take a gander at the new, less cluttered contents page, for instance. In addition we strove for an appearance that is classic yet modern. And we sought to reflect the authoritative nature of our roots: twenty-four American zoological societies and many of the world's most respected field biologists. It's up to you to tell us whether or not we succeeded.

The covers of this issue reflect our concern for two very different animal families with similar problems.

It seems almost everyone wants a parrot or a cockatoo to converse with at home. Large numbers are bootlegged across international borders to be sold at prices more exotic than the birds themselves. Hardly anyone wants a rhino for a pet, but virtually all parts of these awesome beasts are in demand for a variety of dubious purposes, and unscrupulous individuals are eager to supply that demand.

Thanks to commerce, then, many psittacine populations have dwindled to a dangerously low level with extinction a very real possibility. In the case of the rhinoceros, some authorities believe extermination is likely within ten years; others give them no more than two.

I'm certain you will find these reports enlightening. Frankly, I hope you find them disturbing as well.

Eugene J. Walter, Jr.
Editor-in-Chief

Front cover: Scarlet and green-winged macaws. Photo by Gunter Ziesler.
Back cover: White rhino. Photo by E.R. Degginger.