

JERSEY WILDLIFE PRESERVATION TRUST

In 1959 Gerald Durrell established a Zoological Park on Jersey, one of the Channel Islands. The purpose behind this was that he hoped to build up breeding colonies of creatures threatened with extinction in the wild state, to ensure their future survival. Within four years the Zoo contained over five hundred animals and had become one of the major attractions of the Island, being visited by 100,000 people each year. By then the Zoo had managed to acquire the following pairs of threatened species: Lowland Gorilla, Orang Outan, Chimpanzee, South American Tapir, Cheetah, Mongoose Lemur, Binturong, Spectacled Bear, Kea, Aldabara Tortoise, Tuataras (believed to be the only true pair in captivity) Corroboree Frogs, New Zealand Geckos.

It became obvious, however, that if the work of building up breeding colonies was to be accelerated, outside funds would be required, so Mr. Durrell founded The Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust whose aims are the conservation of threatened species under controlled conditions. The Trust has now taken over the Zoo to use as their headquarters.

As a scientific Trust dedicated to animal conservation, they have many tasks ahead of them. First, the enlargement of the present Zoo and the construction of cages and breeding pens on the as yet undeveloped area. Gradually, the commoner species will be replaced by the rarities, so eventually it is hoped to have a zoological display which will be unique, consisting entirely of species that are either threatened with extinction or those that have been successfully saved by the work of private individuals or zoos (such things as the Pere David Deer, for instance).

Plans are already in hand for the construction of laboratories and a film studio, so that every aspect of the animals kept can be studied and recorded.

Today, when so many animals are threatened, it is of vital importance that zoos all over the world expend their energies on conservation rather than simply public display, as they have done hitherto.

Money is still required, of course, and it is hoped that many people who have read and enjoyed Mr. Durrell's books all over the world will become members of the Trust and thus assist in the urgent work of animal conservation.

ANDEAN FLAMINGOES

The birds collection in the Frankfurt Zoological Gardens can announce a very remarkable addition: the Andean Flamingo (*Phoenicoparrus andinus*). This high mountain flamingo has never before been kept in a European zoo. Only a couple of years ago an expedition of the New York Zoological Society was successful in catching the first Andean and Jameson Flamingoes for a zoological garden, and bringing them to New York alive and healthy.

The rarest flamingo, the Jameson Flamingo (*Ph. jamesi*), about 60 cm high, and the slight larger Andean Flamingo, are the only representatives of the species *Phoenicoparrus*.

Their joint characteristic is the lack of the hind toe. The Jameson Flamingo was only discovered about 110 years ago. In 1956 it was strongly questioned whether this species was still in existence. But a year later, a larger flock was observed in the Andes at a height of 4,500 m.

The Andean Flamingo also lives at this level. The hatching places are the coasts of various salt lakes which are often covered with thin strata of ice. Only in extreme winter do the Andean Flamingoes leave their hatching places, and probably migrate into warmer areas. Where they actually hibernate is not yet known.

Although the Andean Flamingoes are used to cold weather, they will spend their first winter in Frankfurt in our Bird Halls in order to get used to change in food and to get better acclimatised.

(Prof. Dr. Dr. B. Grzimek)

THREE SPECIES OF RHINOS

Three of the five living species of rhinoceroses are now exhibited at the San Diego Zoo. Added to the collection of hook-lipped rhinoceroses, *Diceros bicornis* and square-lipped rhinoceroses, *Ceratotherium simus*, is a male Indian rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros unicornis*. The new Indian male, "Lasai", was born August 31, 1962, in the Basel Zoo and was purchased by San Diego. He was placed in a new moated exhibit complete with pool on the large mammal mesa. San Diego hopes to soon acquire a female in order to start a breeding nucleus for this species.

(Clyde A. Hill)