

Texas Zoo Birds 2001

(Part II)

Josef Lindholm, III
Bird Keeper,
Cameron Park Zoo

Fort Worth Zoological Park

[Editor's Note: The following paragraph was inadvertently cut off the end of the account of the Fort Worth Zoo in the preceding Watchbird. Apologies to the zoo and the author. Ed.]

The Green Jay is the avian mascot for *Texas Wild!*, set to open late spring of 2001. This enormously elaborate interpretive center is especially designed to present the more positive aspects of the human impact on the varied Texas ecosystems. The Gulf Coast aviary will feature Fort Worth's famous breeding colony of Roseate Spoonbills, established in 1968, while White and Brown Pelicans will be exhibited nearby. Another walkthrough aviary will feature Roadrunners, Burrowing Owls, Scaled Quail, White-winged and Inca Doves, and Green Jays. Other birds visitors will find include

Peregrine and Aplomado Falcons, Bald Eagles, Caracaras, and Turkey and Black Vultures.

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center

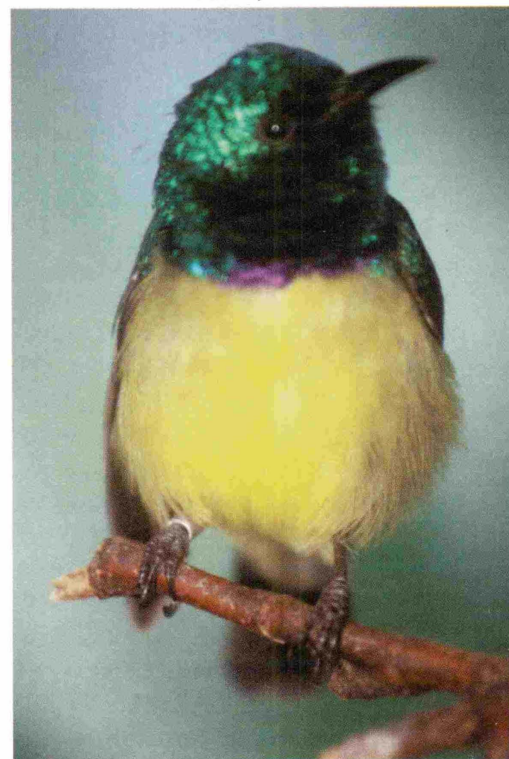
Amidst the plethora of drive-through safari parks encountered up and down Texas and Oklahoma, Fossil Rim stands out as a vital center for conservation projects. Occupying 1500 acres in Glen Rose, about 50 miles almost due south of Fort Worth, this partially nonprofit collection has long been well-regarded for off-exhibit propagation of Grevey's Zebras, Black Rhinoceros, Red Wolves, Cheetahs, and Attwater's Prairie Chickens. The Fossil Rim flock of Attwater's has been a vital component of the recovery efforts, without which it is quite likely this Gulf Coast endemic would have gone extinct years ago. On 31 December, 1999, ISIS indicates that Fossil Rim held 64 males, 68 females, and two unsexed birds, a very major proportion of the total population. There were also seven male, 10 female, and five unsexed Northern Greater Prairie Chickens.

I am not sure whether the pair of Red-crowned Cranes listed by ISIS are on exhibit or not, but visitors will find such species as Emus, Greater Sandhill Cranes, and an assortment of psittacines, such as Eclectus, Moluccan and Bare-eyed Cockatoos, and Timneh Grey Parrots.

Dallas Zoo

When I first visited the Dallas Zoo in 1977, I was overwhelmed by a remarkable series of avicultural rarities. Many of these "jaw-droppers" were represented by a single specimen: Dark-naped Dwarf Cassowary; European Black Stork; Saddle-billed Stork; Crowned Eagle; Pallas' Sea Eagle; Congo Peafowl (then the only one in the Western Hemisphere); Wattled Crane; Kori Bustard; White-bellied Black Bustard; Bronze-winged Jacana; Golden Conure; African Wood Owl; Northern Shrike; African Pied Starling; Lawe's Six-plumed Bird-of-Paradise. I was not at all surprised a few years later to find Dallas ranked

Photos by Natalie Mashburn Lindholm



This photo of the last Collared Sunbird in the United States was taken in February, 2001 at the Dallas Zoo, where the bird arrived in 1988. In 1989, it sired four chicks, a U.S. 1st breeding.



By special permit, Brazil allowed the Dallas World Aquarium to import Curl-crested or Pega Jays in 2000. It is one of the largest jays and only occurs in Brazil.



The world's heaviest flying bird, Cameron Park Zoo's Female Kori Bustard is on loan from the National Zoological Park where it was hatched. It is paired with a male from the Dallas Zoo.

only behind the San Diego Zoo for "number of species held by no other zoo" in the U.S. (Risser, 1981).

After nearly a quarter century, Dallas Zoo's bird collection impresses in quite a different way. Now heavily involved in the Species Survival Programs and Taxon Advisory Groups of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (none of which existed in the 1970s), its emphasis is on establishing and managing self-sustaining populations in American zoos. From the single specimens of Saddle-billed Storks and Kori Bustards that so impressed me in 1977, Dallas has gone on to sustained breeding successes with both. The first hatching of a Kori Bustard in the Western Hemisphere occurred there in 1992. The International Studbook for Koris indicates that on 7 March, 2000, eight were held at Dallas, of which three hatched there in 1999 (Hallager, 2000). One has since been transferred to the Cameron Park Zoo in Waco, while a 1998 bird lives in Fort Worth. The world's first captive-bred Saddle-billed Stork hatched at Dallas in 1997, and several more have been raised since. ISIS indicates seven present at Dallas at the end of 1999.

Most of Dallas's Saddle-bills and Koris are held in an elaborate off-exhibit propagation facility, which houses quite a variety of species, but specimens of both may be seen in *Wilds of Africa*. This section of the zoo was opened in 1992, on previously undeveloped land, and is reached from the older section (ZooNorth) through a pedestrian tunnel. In many ways it is maintained as a separate collection, with a different set of keepers, and separate quarantine. Along with Dallas's famous collection of African hoofed-stock, Kori Bustards, Hooded and breeding Lappet-faced Vultures, Goliath Herons (another first U.S. breeding), Pink-backed and Old World White Pelicans, African White-breasted Cormorants, and a variety of African waterfowl can be viewed from a monorail.

On foot, one may see Saddle-billed Storks and a couple of aviaries.

In one, glass-fronted and built into rockwork, is a collection of African Finches, including West Nile Red Bishops and Black-winged (or Crimson-crowned) Bishops, as well as a number of interesting, if accidental hybrids. Among other species in the beautiful outdoor walk-through aviary, with its nearly invisible mesh, are a large flock of Fischer's Lovebirds, around a dozen Speckled Mousebirds, Crowned Lapwings, Buff-crested Bustards, African Green Pigeons, a large breeding flock of Speckled Pigeons, a pair of Grey-headed Kingfishers, Green Wood-Hoopoes, Red-and-Yellow Barbets, Golden-breasted Starlings, and White-headed Buffalo Weavers.

In ZooNorth birds seen outdoors include an aged Harpy Eagle on loan from the Peregrine Fund, an Ornate Hawk Eagle, Bateleurs, a pair of Andean Condors (whose 2000-hatched offspring is intended for release in South America), the last Rufus Hornbill in a U.S. Zoo, Silver-cheeked, Great, and Javan Rhinoceros Hornbills, Spectacled Owls, Green Jays, flocks of Chilean and Caribbean Flamingoes, and Goffin's Cockatoos. In a large aviary, dating from the 1930s, breeding colonies of Roseate Spoonbills and Scarlet Ibises live with Crested Seriemas and free-flying Scarlet and Hyacinth Macaws. Ocellated Turkeys, due to arrive shortly from a collection in Mexico, where they were hatched, will join these birds.

The Bird and Reptile House, crowning a hill, was built in the 1960s. While showing its age, this stately, cathedral-like building is still impressive. Over the years, the magnificent reptile collection has gradually taken over exhibits once occupied by birds, but among the species that may still be seen here are Wompoo and Beautiful Fruit Doves, one of the last Long-crested Jays in the country, a pair of Swainson's Toucans, an aged Schalow's Turaco, Blue-crowned Motmots, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots, Eastern Bearded Reedlings, Bali Mynahs, and very old Collared Sunbirds.

The Dallas World Aquarium

Ever since its opening in 1993, the Dallas World Aquarium, in Downtown Dallas' historic West End, has established a reputation for unique exhibits, beginning with salt-water fishes and invertebrates, many never before displayed in the U.S.

The Aquarium's creator and owner, Daryl Richardson, began assembling a collection of softbilled birds in 1995, in preparation for *Orinoco – Secrets of the River*, opened in 1997. In this enormous conservatory, replete with more than 500 species of beautifully maintained plants, Keel-billed, Swainson's, and Red-breasted Toucans, Black-necked and Green Aracaris, Blue-crowned Motmots, Plush-capped Jays, Troupials, Crested Oropendolas (hatching chicks), Roseate Spoonbills, Buff-necked and Scarlet Ibis, American Purple Gallinules, Sun Bitterns, and the only Curl-crested Jays in North America (imported from Brazil by special permit), range freely over a large school of Arapaimas, (one of the world's largest species of freshwater fish), the only West Indian Manatees in the U.S., gigantic Orinoco Crocodiles, White-faced Saki Monkeys, spectacular White-spotted River Stingrays (*Potomotrygon leopoldi*), and Giant Side-necked Turtles.

Helmeted Curassows roam up and down the winding path that begins at the top of an escalator, while Orinoco Geese and White-faced Whistling Ducks are found along the shore. Throughout this grand enclosure are special exhibits for Jaguars; Three-toed Sloths (again, the only ones in the country); Vampire Bats; breeding Red Howler Monkeys kept with Golden Agoutis, Bare-faced Curassows, and Collared Aracaris; Burrowing Owls; a Curl-crested Aracari with a Bare-throated Bellbird; Saffron Toucanets with red-handed Tamarins; Pygmy Marmosets; Guyana Toucanets; Hawk-headed Parrots; Anaconda; and various "jewel boxes" for reptiles, amphibians, fishes and arthropods.

In an Aloe-filled courtyard, near a colony of Black-footed Penguins,

Yellow-billed Hornbills are kept with Vulturine Guinea fowl and Cape Hyraxes.

Chestnut-eared Aracaris have recently been bred for the first time in an American zoo, in extensive off-exhibit facilities which also house such remarkable birds as Jabiru Storks (imported under special permit from Venezuela), Spangled and Pompadour Cotingas, both Andean and Eastern Cocks-of-the-Rock, Swallow and Paradise Tanagers, Moriche Orioles, five Ocellated Turkeys (hatched in Europe and thus unrelated to the birds Dallas Zoo will import), the only Ivory-billed Aracari in North America, and many other ramphastids (Altogether, the Dallas World Aquarium holds 21 taxa of toucans and related birds, the largest such collection in existence). The Ocellated Turkeys, the Jabirus, and soon to arrive Ornate and Tyrant Hawk Eagles will stand out in El Mundo del Maya, a showplace for the natural history of Meso-America, for which groundbreaking will shortly begin.

Caldwell Zoo

The city of Tyler, a short distance off Interstate 20 (the main route from the Fort Worth-Dallas Metroplex to Louisiana) has been long renowned as the "Rose Capital of the World." For more than a decade it has also been the destination of zoo enthusiasts from around the world. One of the last major zoos to charge no admission, Caldwell Zoo is owned by the Caldwell Foundation, which began as a preschool in the 1930s.

Since the 1980s, Caldwell Zoo has been a showplace for innovations in exhibitry. It certainly helped that the late George Speidal, the celebrated Director of the Milwaukee Zoo, which attracted worldwide attention in the 1960s, chose to retire to Tyler. As consultant, he designed enclosures meant to present entire ecosystems.

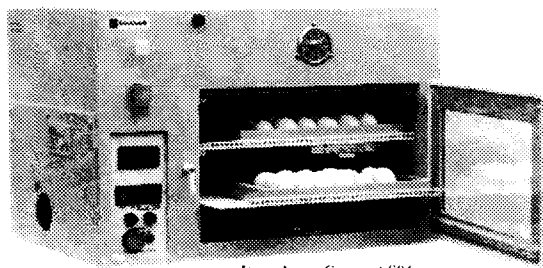
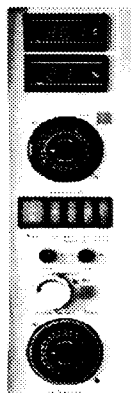
Caldwell Zoo showcases South America, Africa, and Texas. South American birds are particularly represented by aquatic species and

psittacines. The flock of more than 60 Chilean Flamingoes that greets visitors at the zoo entrance has been a particularly successful one. ISIS indicates that as of 31 December, 1999, 1,518 Chilean Flamingoes were distributed among 66 U.S. zoos. However, only 15 were produced in 1999. Two of these were hatched at the Alexandria Zoological Park, in Louisiana. The other 13 hatched at Caldwell. Unusually large flocks of ducks have always been a feature here. Around a dozen Sharp-winged Teal and about twenty Rosy-billed Pochards stand out amidst an array of South American anatids.

Large numbers are also a feature of the African section. Not only may one see nearly 20 specimens each of East African Crowned Cranes and Vulturine Guinea fowl, but both breed here. A flock of Taveta Weavers are a noisy component of the only indoor bird exhibit, shared with Leopard Tortoises and an array of Lake Malawi Cichlids. A Nile Crocodile lurks nearby, and through

GRUMBACH INCUBATORS OF GERMANY

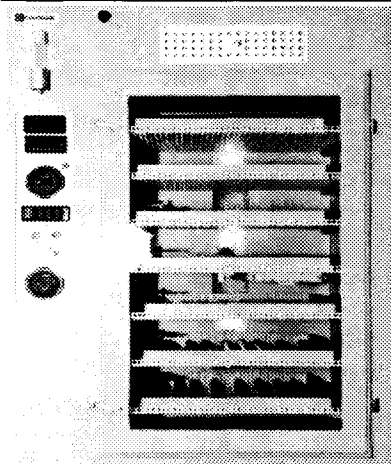
WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO



Item shown Compact S84

Larger units available

Item shown 8203/01/02-Incubator BSS300, includes programmable motor turning, 7 egg trays, each with 8 turnable rollers, adjustable to the size of the egg, directly adjustable automatic humidification system, cool down timer, digital thermometer and humidity readouts.



- Electronic regulation of temperature for maximum precision.
- Egg tray with rollers, adjustable to each size egg.
- Automatic humidity control, adjustable from 40% to 99%, water reservoir 4.5 liters. It can add humidity only.
- Automatic turning, determination of turning intervals and degree by pressing tabs on timer.
- Circulation air system for optimum distribution of temperature.



LYON ELECTRIC COMPANY INC. IS NOW THE EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR FOR
GRUMBACH INCUBATORS OF GERMANY FOR THE U.S.A. AND CANADA
1690 BRANDYWINE AVENUE
CHULA VISTA, CA 91911 U.S.A.
TEL (619) 216-3400. FAX (619) 216-3434
EMAIL: LYONELEC@CTS.COM, WWW.LYONELECTRIC.COM



glass, Greater Kudu and Reticulated Giraffes graze and browse.

Again, in the Texas area, waterfowl are everywhere (more than a hundred Wood Ducks are on inventory), but such rare exhibits as a Pileated Woodpecker and a couple of Mississippi Kites (with a third in a bird of prey show) may be admired as well.

Ellen Trout Zoo

If one heads to Houston from Tyler, one would go right through Lufkin, in the Piney Woods. The Ellen Trout zoo began as a prank. One Texas millionaire gave another a hippopotamus. From this origin more than 30 years ago, an impressive collection has evolved, with a special emphasis on reptiles. The most well-known part of the bird collection is the country's most prolific pair of West African Crowned Cranes. Other interesting species include a Tucuman Amazon, Leadbeater's Cockatoos, a Hyacinth Macaw, Malay Crestless Fireback Pheasants (the male hatched at Fort Worth), Falcated Teal,

Pied Imperial Pigeons, Tawny Frogmouths, and Bali Mynahs.

Cameron Park Zoo

If one looks at a map of Texas, it is obvious why the zoo in Waco was formerly known as the Central Texas Zoo. A rather amazing number of animals were fitted into a 10 acre site near the airport, established in 1955. On 31 December, 1970, birds were represented by 260 specimens, but how many taxa there were is not recorded (Zoological Society of London, 1972). Johnny Binder, the long time General Curator, tells me a significant proportion of these birds were Indian Peafowl. However, over the years, such species as Nene, Cape Barren Geese, Bald Eagles (which bred repeatedly (Ruff, 1990), Golden Eagles, Edward's, Swinhoe's, and Lesser Borneo Crested Fire-back Pheasants, Kenya Crested Guinea fowl, Greater Sandhill Cranes, Laughing Gulls, Kookaburras, Goffin's, Ducorps's, and Moluccan Cockatoos, were displayed. When the zoo was relocated to its present site of 50 acres near Downtown and Baylor University, where it opened in 1993 and received its present title, little of its bird collection came with it, most being dispersed to other collections. Exceptions were a female King Vulture, obtained in 1967, a male obtained in 1982, and several offspring. Breeding had commenced in 1983. The emblem of the Central Texas Zoo was the King Vulture.

King Vultures, however, were not on display at the 1993 opening of the Cameron Park Zoo. Emphasizing spacious natural exhibits, the zoo's focus was primarily African. The major bird exhibit was a collection of aquatic species across the road from the White Rhinoceroses. Here, three male African Open-billed Storks have been on loan, for several years, from the San Diego Wild Animal Park, which has so far been the only place in the world to achieve complete breeding success. As of 31 December, 1999, ISIS indicated only five collections worldwide, all in the U.S., holding this species, a total of 19 speci-

mens. Before working with these birds, I had not been aware of just how astoundingly iridescent the neck feathers are. They look like they were made from tinsel. These storks share their exhibit with a small flock of Lesser Flamingoes, as well as African Spoonbills, Sacred Ibis, Cape Teal, and White-faced Whistling Ducks.

African birds are found in several other exhibits. East African Crowned Cranes and Maribou Storks share a panorama with Reticulated Giraffes and Greater Kudu. Across a boardwalk, Guenther's Dikdik, one of the smallest African antelope, are exhibited with a pair of Kori Bustards, the male hatched 18 April, 1999, at the Dallas Zoo, and the female hatched 30 October, 1999. Despite their youth and small age difference, the male is already dramatically larger. An aviary holds a breeding pair of Von der Decken's Hornbills, five Meyer's Parrots that had been in residence at the Sacramento Zoo for years, a Senegal Palm Dove, and a Baton Rouge-bred pair of East African Purple-crested Touracos.

Recently, the Cameron Park Zoo's Bird collection has broadened its zoogeographical scope. When the dramatic Herpetarium opened in 1998, the rattlesnake den looked out through glass apertures to an aviary housing Black and Turkey Vultures, Roadrunners, White-winged Doves, and Scaled and Gambel's Quail.

And in 2000, the breeding pair of King Vultures were finally back in public view, in the in a grand exhibit designed especially to showcase them. El Rey de la Montana is a soaring suspension aviary with extensive rockwork and water features. In addition to the 1967 female, her mate, obtained in 1982, and their 15th, 1999-hatched offspring, there are flocks of Patagonian and Sun Conures, White-faced Whistling Ducks, St. Vincent Island Agouties, Patagonian Cavies, a family of Capybaras (the world's largest living rodent), a mischievous troop of Guyanese Squirrel Monkeys, a common Iguana, and a surprisingly

Advertisers Index

AFA Store	45
All Pets Medical Centre	25
Avicultural Society of America	9
Baker Zoo	5
Classic Feathers Bird Club, Ohio	40
Cuttlebone Plus	47
Everybody's Bird Mart (Pomona, CA)	17
Gabriel Foundation	37
Golden Oak Aviaries	26
Hal Vokaty	19
L & M Bird Leg Bands	27
Lyon Electric Company, Inc.	57
Magnolia Bird Farm	17
Michael Dee, natural history books	5
Mutations Unlimited	15
Myers Menagerie of Birds	16
Nest Box Creations	16
Northwest Ohio Bird Club	19
Pet Air	23
Pippin's Roost Exotics, brooders	44
Pippin's Roost Exotics, travel	30
Pyrrhura Breeders Association	44
Rose's Pet Emporium	37
San Diego Bird Breeders	19
Sun Seed Co. Inc.	Back Cover
The Parrot Perch	40
Transworld Zoological, books	29
Veterinarian Listings	13
ZuPreem	Inside Front Cover

mobile two-toed Sloth. This spring, other species, including a pair of Collie's Magpie Jays and some sort of curassow will be integrated into this display.

Great changes are shortly to come. In the last Presidential election, McClennon County passed a 9.5 Million dollar bond. Part is earmarked for exhibits of Asian animals which will likely include at least two aviaries. And ground-breaking is projected to begin this year for Brazos River Country, which will trace the course of the river from the New Mexico Border to the Gulf of Mexico. Plans call for a number of bird exhibits, scattered among mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fishes and invertebrates, a celebration of Texas biodiversity.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank the following persons for providing me with information: Jeff Bullock, Director, and Rodney Weatherby, Lead Keeper, Abilene Zoological Park; Clarence Dixon, City of Borger; N. Brad Hazelton, Curator of Birds, J. Christopher Davis, Bird Keeper, and John Ward, Lead Keeper, Texas Wilds, Fort Worth Zoological Park; Christopher Brown, Curator of Birds, Dallas Zoo; Daryl Richardson, Director, Paula Powell, Curator, and Shelly New and Rudy Jara, Keepers, the Dallas World Aquarium; Yvonne Carbis, Curator of Birds and Reptiles, Caldwell Zoo; James Fleshman, Director, Johnny Binder, General Curator, Joseph Grubic, Curator of Birds and Mammals, Derek Spencer, Keeper, Cameron Park Zoo. I am most grateful to Natalie Mashburn Linholm for arranging expeditions to various places, and documenting them with photographs.

References for Entire Series

- HALLAGER S. (2000) International Studbook for the Kori Bustard (*Ardeotis kori*). National Zoological Park
- LINDHOLM, J.H. (1997) The Laughing Thrushes (*Garrulax* sp.). Part II. A.F.A. Watchbird XXIV (No.2):53-58.
- _____. (1999) The Wrinkled Hornbill (*Aceros corrugatus*). A.F.A. Watchbird XXVI (No.5): 55-62
- RISSER, A.C. (1981) The future of zoo bird-breeding programs. AAZPA 1981, Annual Conference Proceedings.





Surprise someone

with a Gift Membership to the American Federation of Aviculture

P.O.Box 56218, Phoenix, Arizona 85079-6218
Phone (602) 484-0931 · Fax (602) 484-0109

A card will be sent notifying recipient of your gift.

Check membership category desired: NEW ☐ RENEWAL ☐

Individual \$30/year ☐ Family \$35/year ☐ Supporting \$75/year ☐

Commercial \$125/year, includes listing in Watchbird ☐

FOREIGN MEMBERS: Add \$18 for year in U.S. Funds.
request. First Class rates available on request.

☐ check is enclosed for \$_____ ☐ money order is enclosed for \$_____

Gift for : _____ Charge my ☐ MC or ☐ Visa account:

Address _____ **Account #** _____


City _____ **Exp. Date** _____

State _____ **Zip** _____ **Signature** _____

Telephone () **Please allow 60 to 90 days for delivery.**

AREA

Prices effective January 1, 2000



“Gifts that Keep on Giving”

The American Federation of Aviculture's Endowment Fund

Leaving a Legacy to the Future

**For Further Information on How to Participate
Through Honoraria and Bequests, Please Contact
Jim Hawley, Jr., AFA Chief Financial Officer**

**P.O. Box 56218
Phoenix, AZ 85017**