

## ZOOLOGY

# Zoo Alters Animal Habits

► SCIENTISTS HAVE TURNED night into day for many of the animals at the London Zoo.

In a new small mammal house, which cost \$400,000, bats, bushbabies, pottos, lorises and other nocturnal animals have completely changed their bedtime. For the first time in a hundred years, visitors can see them awake during the day.

Instead of the bats being motionless hanging objects, they are now alert and their cage is large enough for flight.

Generally speaking, all zoos find it difficult to exhibit small mammals because they

are nocturnal, they burrow, or they just roll up into a ball and hide.

Dr. Desmond Morris, the curator of mammals, experimented for more than a year on the most effective combination of lights and colors to change the animals' sleep-waking habits. The results of his research have turned night into day and day into night, without the mammals being aware of it.

The animals' house, a jungle of climbing trees with plastic foliage, is now bathed throughout the day in a soft light of about full-moon intensity. It is sufficiently subdued to give the mammals the impression of nighttime, but strong enough for visitors to watch them.

From 5 p.m., the strip lighting gradually increases in intensity so that by 7 p.m., after the last visitor has left, the animal houses are flooded in bright artificial sunlight and the inmates are fast asleep.

Suggestions were made that it was cruel to interfere with nature. Dr. Morris was shocked.

"Nobody here would be associated with anything that remotely smacked of cruelty or caused the animals any discomfort," he better off: then can sleep undisturbed, better off: they can sleep without being disturbed by visitors."

In other parts of the new house, which has 134 cages in all, other methods are used to show off the creatures at their best.

Large numbers of small mammals can leap a long way, but those that cannot will be housed not behind the glass but behind a moat. It is the first time any zoo has used a moat to keep in this type of animal.

• Science News Letter, 85:270 April 25, 1964

## ORNITHOLOGY

## Bridge-Tunnel Sea Gulls Stalked With Cannon

► CAPTURING the 75 sea gulls used to mark the opening of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel April 15 was a feat nearly matching the building of the fabulous 17.5 mile structure itself.

Months ago bridge officials decided to supplement the traditional ribbon-cutting by releasing a mighty flutter of sea gulls.

Sea gulls, after all, had been watching the construction of the mammoth crossing over and under the open sea ever since September 1960 when the first pile was driven.

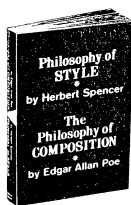
The job of catching the sea gulls, however, was not as easy as was thought. It represented three weeks of hard work for Robert H. Bain, U.S. game management agent of Richmond, Va.

Mr. Bain has caught and banded more than 40,000 ducks and geese in his career with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service. But he found the sea gull much wilier than geese.

He tried the baited wire trap with a V-shaped funnel which always worked with ducks and geese. But the gulls were so smart they found a way out of the trap and even took the bait along.

Aided by men from two national wildlife refuges in the area, Mr. Bain finally resorted to a cannon net to trap the birds. He lured about 50 gulls to Norfolk's garbage dump with pieces of bread. Three projectiles were then fired from three barrels placed in a triangle, throwing a nylon net over the gulls in an area 35 feet by 75 feet. The gulls were not harmed in the process, Mr. Bain said. The sea gull was chosen as the official symbol of the engineering wonder.

• Science News Letter, 85:270 April 25, 1964



### WRITE FOR MONEY!

Enrich your style through Herbert Spencer's and Edgar Allan Poe's classic principles that have influenced many of the world's great authors. Indispensable for writers eager to get published! Send \$1.00 to PAGEANT PRESS, 101 5th AVE., N. Y. 8, Dept. SN.

## MICRO-ADS

Equipment, supplies and services of special interest to scientists, science teachers and students, science-minded laymen and hobbyists. 25¢ per word, payable in advance. Closing date 3 weeks prior to publication (Saturday).

SNL, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

THE AMERICAN HUMANIST ASSOCIATION needs the commitment of those who can suggest rational solutions to modern ethical problems. Literature on request. Humanist House, Dept. SNL-2, Yellow Springs, Ohio.

BINDERS FOR SNL—BUFF-COLORED BUCKRAM. Snap-in metal strips hold 52 copies. \$4.00 pp. Send order with remittance to Science News Letter, 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

BUILD EXPERIMENTAL MODEL ENGINE—Runs on water—Room temperature. Instruction manual \$1.25. Details free. Thies Hobbies, Genoa, Illinois.

CHEMICALS, BIOLOGICALS, APPARATUS. Glassware and Microscopes. Illustrated Catalog only 25¢. Dover Scientific Company, 35-24 31st Street, Astoria, New York 11106.

DO TEN 2-SECOND EXERCISES WITHOUT movement! Write Minute-A-Day Isometric, 37 Centuck Station, Yonkers, N. Y. 10710.

FIND BURIED SILVER, GOLD, COINS. Antiques, with transistorized treasure finder. Ideal science project! Details free. Del Research, Dept. L, West Barnstable, Mass.

IS THERE LIFE BEYOND THE EARTH? BY Thomas Tsung, a Scientific Approach in the Light of Current Theories from the Origin of the Universe to the Evolution of Life Elsewhere in the Universe. Most suitable for high school and undergraduate college students. A fine addition to a library collection! Send \$3.00 plus 20¢ postage to Exposition Press, 386 Park Avenue, New York 16, New York. State book title.

LIVE SEAHORSES, MARINE SPECIMENS, aquarium supplies. Illustrated catalog, 10¢. Marine Life, Dept. 109, P. O. Box 626, Dania, Florida.

MUST SELL EVERYTHING. GOING TO SCHOOL. Send for free list. Electronics, Astronomics, Books. E. L. King, 1027 Yellowstone Rd., Cleveland 21, Ohio.

PALINDROMES—SET OF 100 JUST \$1.00. Dmitri Borgmann, 11 Ontario, Oak Park, Illinois 60302.

SOLAR ENERGY GRILL COOKS ANYTHING! \$15.95 ppd. Satisfaction guaranteed. Guyer's, Box 6, Miami 45, Fla.

SURPLUS WIRED IBM MEMORY PLANES SOLD for pennies on the dollar. Inquiries invited. Meshna, Lynn, Mass.

THREE FOSSIL LAMPSHELLS AND CATALOGUE, 50¢. Fossil Tidepools, Box 263, Lebanon, Ohio.



Acme Photo

**BRIDGE SYMBOLS TRAPPED**—The gulls for the opening ceremony of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel were harmlessly trapped by luring them with pieces of bread and throwing a nylon netting over them.