



The Zoological Garden Newsletter



Lots of chicks and nestlings in the Zoological Garden

In our winter newsletter we wrote about the hatching of barn owl nestlings and nene chicks, and our hope that our Mandarin ducks, the newest inhabitants in the Garden, would also breed. To our delight, the breeding season is still at a peak: for the first time in many years a red-crested pochard chick has hatched and filled our hearts with joy (1); the little bitterns are nesting in the reeds beside the pool (2); the greyleg goose chicks are growing wonderfully (3); nene chicks have hatched in the incubator (4); chicken chicks are wandering around the Garden, close to their mothers (5); the yellow-legged gull fledglings are starting to discover the Garden on their own; the white storks have built a nest, laid eggs, and we are waiting for them to hatch; the Mandarin ducks have laid eggs from which their chicks have successfully hatched. And not only birds are breeding in our Garden: Caspian turtles have hatched in the thicket aviary and the fennec foxes have young cubs.





1. A red-crested pochard chick hatches from its egg, photo: Hadar Yosifon; 2. Nesting of little bitterns, photo: Hadar Yosifon; 3. Hadar and greyleg goose chicks, photo: Emanuel Bar; 4. A nene chick hatches in the incubator, photo: Hadar Yosifon; 5. A hen with chicks in the Zoological Garden, photo: Daphna Lev

"Research, nature conservation, and education in zoos" course: workshop, enrichment tools and more....

During the present academic year the course "Research, nature conservation and education in zoos" was held for the second time. This year the course was in an annual format. Most of the lectures took place in the first semester and most of the practical work in the second semester. The majority of our students did not have any experience in the practical work that is needed for their projects, so we devoted a double lesson to a practical workshop in the Zoological Garden. In the workshop the students learned from Roni Michlin about the animal's food supply chain; Barak Levi showed the students around the room in which he grows insects as food for the Garden's



animals; Hadar Yosifon demonstrated how to build a water pond; and Ehud Katzir and Emanuel Bar worked with the students on building concrete items in cages and Ron Elazari-Volcani worked with them on metal and wood.



At the end of May and the beginning of June we had two meetings in which the students presented their projects. Each group presented what it had done so far and its plans for the rest of the projects. Now we are waiting to receive their final reports, and are hoping that some of the enrichment tools they



have planned, built, and implemented will be used by our keepers for many months to come. In the photo, Rona Eckert is presenting the apparatus planned for the ibexes, a project that she is carrying out with Kaspit Ishlach and Nicole Hinnawi.

In the summer newsletter we are planning to write more about the projects and the most successful enrichments, but for now we are happy to be able to share with you a photo from the project undertaken by the group that worked with the jungle cats: Mai Bonomo, Inbar Dahan, Shatha Kaidbay, and Edan Mortman. In the photo, taken by Shatha Kaidbay, one of the jungle cats enjoys a tray with wheat sprouts.





Zoo design conference, Wroclaw, Poland, 2019

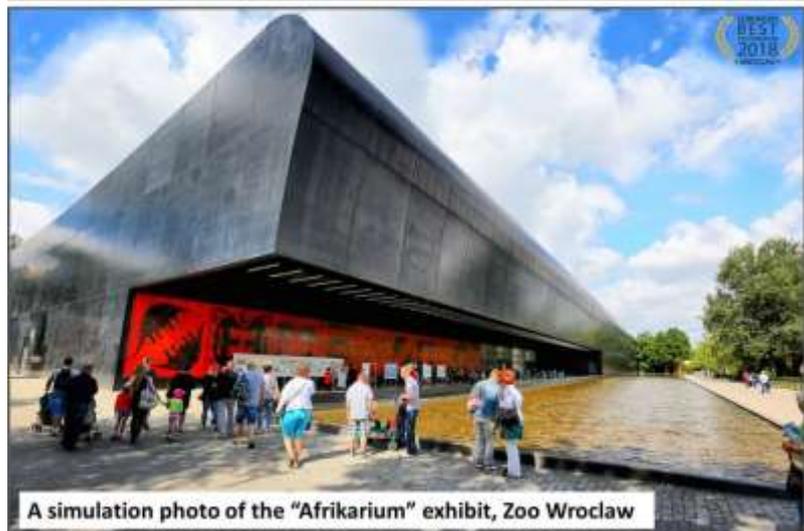
In May, the second conference on zoo design was held in Wroclaw, Poland. About 180 people attended the conference, among them leading landscape architects who specialized in designing zoos and exhibits, zoo managers, curators, zoologists, educators, and animal keepers from zoos around the world. Ehud Katzir, Hadar Yosifon, and Daphna Lev from the Zoological Garden also

attended the conference. This year the main conference subject was "Exhibits as habitats"; in other words, how to plan an exhibit so that it will be as close as possible to the natural habitat of its inhabitants. Two main themes reappeared in all the lectures: mixed species exhibits and aviary or walk-through exhibits – two leading themes in modern perceptions of zoos in recent years. The first speaker at the conference was Radoslaw Ratajszczak, head of Zoo Wroclaw, which had hosted the conference. The title of his talk

was "Cheap doesn't need to be bad". It was a very significant talk, especially following our visit to the huge "Afrikarium" exhibit that had been built about three years ago in Zoo Wroclaw, at a cost of around 50 million euros. From Radoslaw's talk, as well as from other talks at the conference, we learned that while it is indeed possible to build spectacular and expensive exhibits, it is also possible to improve dramatically the existing exhibits and animal welfare using very modest means. There is no doubt that we learned a lot and we hope to implement some of the things we have learned in our own Zoological Garden.



Hadar and Ehud enjoying the first day of the conference



A simulation photo of the "Afrikarium" exhibit, Zoo Wroclaw



Zoological Garden flash news

- ✚ **Spring cleaning:** as preparation for the summer, our turtle pond and the big pond on the main grass have been cleaned: the water was pumped out, the soil at the bottom was treated, and fresh water was poured into the ponds.



- ✚ **Massive growth of mealworms and crickets in the Garden:** the animals in the Zoological Garden enjoy a constant supply of fresh food – mealworms and crickets – thanks to the devoted work of Barak Levy, one of our animal keepers. Mealworm and cricket growth is intense, thus demanding daily care and extra precautions. It is a great advantage for us to use food that is produced here in the Garden, as this enables us to control the quality of the food and makes us independent of outside sources. We are probably the only place in Israel that grows so many mealworms and crickets, and we thank Barak for his hard and dedicated work.

