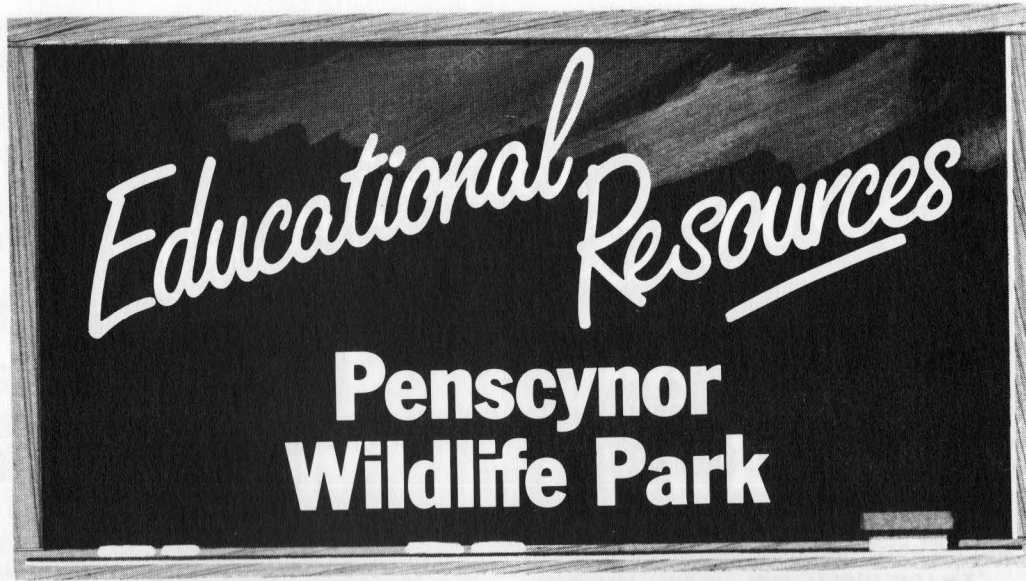


In the last ten years Pencsycnor Wildlife Park has built an international reputation for its work in the preservation of endangered wildlife; in the same period it has become the premier tourist attraction in South Wales. Over 250,000 people a year come to this beautiful hillside at the foot of the Vale of Neath to meet over 100 species of bird, 35 species of mammal and 60 species of fish; an increasing number of these are organised school parties pursuing a variety of wildlife/conservation/environmental projects.

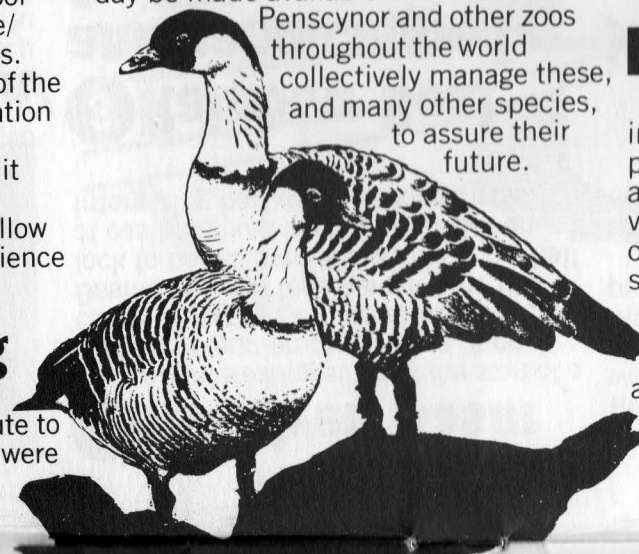
Pencsycnor sees itself as a part of the conservation movement; in cooperation with other zoos, universities, field zoologists and conservation bodies it strives towards the preservation of endangered species and works to allow as many people as possible an experience of wildlife.

## Captive Breeding

Captive breeding is the most obvious way in which zoos contribute to the conservation of wildlife. There were



less than 50 Hawaiian geese in the world in 1946; following captive breeding and reintroduction there are now over 400 in the wild and many more in zoos. Zoo-bred Golden lion-tamarins were returned to protected areas of Brazilian forest in 1985; Cotton-topped tamarins number less than 100 in the wild but zoos successfully hold a population in reserve in the hope that suitable habitat may one day be made available for their return.



Pencsycnor and other zoos throughout the world collectively manage these, and many other species, to assure their future.

## Research

Research carried out in zoos is often the only way in which zoologists can gather the data necessary to mount effective conservation projects in the field. Much of our understanding of individual and family behaviour, nutritional needs and habitat requirements comes from the sort of observational research continually underway at Pencsycnor.

## Education

Education is the most important area in which a modern zoo must be active if people - and especially young people - are to recognise the fascination and value of wildlife and act towards its conservation. Pencsycnor offers many services to schools, including:

- A regular Newsletter.
- Teaching Kits, designed to encourage a wider awareness of conservation/environmental issues.

An Education room with full AV facilities and seating for 50.

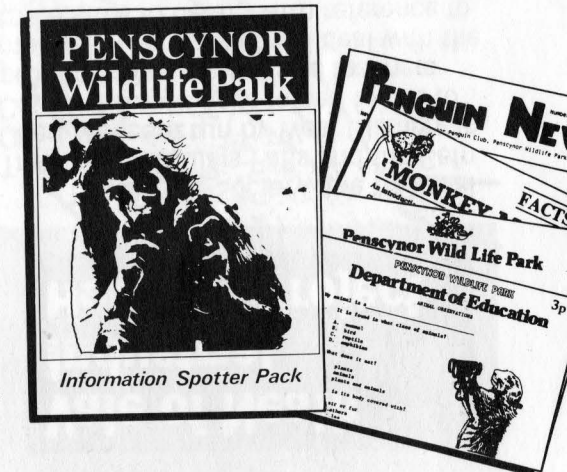
Preferential admission rates through the winter months when the services of staff members and the Education room are available.

Worksheets and a Natural History museum-display are in production and should be available for 1986.

Other activities of the Education Dept. include the publishing of a Pencsycnor Nature Trail and a guide to the many monkeys and apes living here, both available at 50% of cost price. (No copyright exists on any Education Dept. material, allowing free in-school copying). The Education Room is available to any interested natural-history groups.

Of special interest to children, the 'Penguin Club' meets monthly, offering wildlife enthusiasts age 8-18 the chance to join in the life of the zoo, visit other collections and join in conservation activities.

Further details of all these services can be obtained by sending SAE to the Education Officer.



Pencynor offers much more than exotic wildlife. The rushing mountain stream, with its spectacular 40ft water fall, and views of the mountain-flanked Neath and Dulais valleys, meeting and widening towards the sea, delight the eye while the geologist will note a classically glaciated valley, with associated hanging valleys and erratics, from the vantage points in the Park - if he isn't absorbed by the fossil-rich succession of grits and shales exposed in the steeper areas.

Within the Park there is a fascinating variety of habitats - native oak woods, larch plantation, grassland, shrub and flower gardens, fast flowing water, ponds and bogs - and native flora and fauna is correspondingly varied; over 70 bird species and 20 butterfly species were seen in 1984.

A nature-trail (guide available) leads around a few of the more interesting sites.

## The Animals

Rather than maintain an enormous variety of life forms, Pencynor has devoted much of its resources into relatively few species so as to gain the expertise necessary to make a useful contribution to wildlife conservation; even so, there is great variety and endless fascination to be found.

23 species of **PRIMATE** (lemurs, monkeys and apes) live at Pencynor, ranging from the squirrel sized marmosets and tamarins to the Chimpanzees; all live in family groups and all

successfully breed. Man himself is, of course, a Primate so it is not surprising that these animals are so popular with visitors.

Other **MAMMALS** demonstrate a little of the variety of the world's wildlife. Otters and sea-lions show different ways of exploiting a watery habitat; sika and muntjac deer, guanaco and wallabies illustrate some of the variety of animals who live from grazing. Coatis, woodchuck, Djungarian hamsters, tree shrews and a selection of familiar pets are other mammals to be seen.

**PARROTS** have always been a speciality at Pencynor and, although 90% of these birds are kept off-exhibit in special breeding conditions, a variety of cockatoos, macaws, Australian parakeets and Amazon parrots can be seen around the Park.

**WATERFOWL** are well represented at Pencynor, with several species of ducks, geese and swans on and around many of the ponds; as well as being very attractive birds, this family is popular with teachers as an easy to see example of animal adaptation and evolution. Other water birds enjoy the use of our stream - flamingos, spoonbills, penguins - and, again, give excellent opportunities for students of any age to observe how animal life 'fits into' habitat.

Many species of birds fly among visitors in the simulated rain-forest of the **TROPICAL HOUSE**; several days are needed here to observe all the brightly coloured inhabitants, ranging from tiny humming birds to tropical pigeons.

**THE AQUARIUM** building contains some twenty tanks holding a cross section of marine and freshwater life. Highlights include the air breathing reed fish, tropical corals and anemones, a reconstruction of Lake Malawi with some of its unique animal life and a native-marine tank which shows some of the astonishing marine fauna of the local coastline.

A small but representative selection of reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates will be housed in a new exhibit-area to be opened Spring 1986.

## Other Facilities

The running of the animal collection and all conservation works undertaken by Pencynor is financed solely by revenue from paying guests and, recognising that not every family member is a wildlife

enthusiast, several alternative attractions are presented. Most popular, by far, is the Alpine Slide; having ridden to the hill top on the chair lift, a thrilling ride down the hillside on a wheeled toboggan can be enjoyed. Other popular items include the radio-controlled cars and boats and the Children's Playground.

Catering: during the summer months the cafeteria offers a selection of 'fast food' meals, rolls, cakes etc as well as tea, coffee and soft drinks; there are several ice-cream sales points around the grounds. During the winter the smaller 'Birdcage' cafe offers softs drinks and light snacks.

A souvenir gift-shop is situated close to the entrance.

## General Information

Pencynor is situated half a mile off the A465 trunk road, two miles north of Neath; local bus services run to the entrance; nearest railway station - Neath.

### Admission:

open every day (except Xmas Day),  
10.00am - 6.00 (or dusk)  
adults: £1.80 children (3 - 14): 90p  
discount rate for parties on application

**For further information contact:**

**The Education Officer  
Pencynor Wildlife Park  
Cilfrew, Neath  
West Glamorgan**

**☎ NEATH (0639) 2189**

