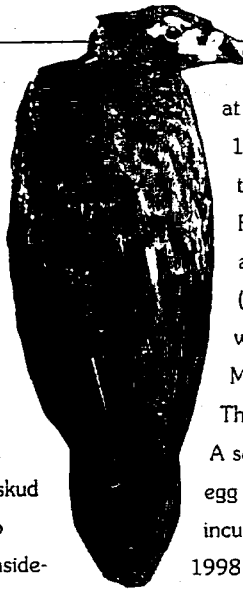


HILVARENBEEK - THE NETHERLANDS

A female white rhino (*Ceratotherium s. simum*) was born at Safari Beekse Bergen on 27 August 1998 after a gestation period of 511 days. This is the 17th white rhino birth at the park. Dounia is the first offspring of Hilvarenbeek's new male, Balthasar, who was born in the wild and arrived two years ago on loan from Antwerp Zoo (Belgium). His daughter is an important contribution to the gene pool of the White Rhino EEP, particularly as the White Rhino EEP population is aging and Balthasar's bloodline was not yet represented. The former breeding male, Oscar, who had already sired 16 calves at Hilvarenbeek, was sent to Givskud Zoo (Denmark) in order to avoid inbreeding. Moving two adult rhino bulls between different countries involves considerable efforts. There can be no better reward than this genetically valuable white rhino calf. The zoos involved in these transactions as well as EEP coordinator Kristina Tomášová share in this success.

Source: Hanny Verberkmoes



PARIS - FRANCE

Photo: Marsha Schlee

A palm-nut vulture (*Gypohierax angolensis*) hatched at the Ménagerie du Jardin des Plantes in Paris on 27 May 1998. This is most probably the first breeding success of the species in Europe and might even be a world first. Four juvenile palm-nut vultures were confiscated in 1991 and donated to Le Rocher des Aigles at Rocamadour (France). Le Rocher des Aigles kindly gave the oldest pair, which was just reaching maturity, on loan to the Paris Ménagerie in 1994. This pair built its first nest in 1996. The first egg, which later disappeared, was laid in 1997. A second egg, which broke, was laid in early 1998. Another egg was first seen on 6 April 1998. This egg was naturally incubated and the palm-nut vulture chick hatched on 27 May 1998. The parents reared their young without problems - except one: the breeding pair became extremely aggressive towards the keepers. This breeding success provides excellent prospects for regular breeding of this species at Paris in the years to come.

Sources: Jean-Luc Berthier, Marsha Schlee

WALSRODE - GERMANY

Thirty young cranes were reared during the 1998 breeding season at Walsrode. These included four wattled cranes (*Bugeranus carunculatus*) and three black-necked cranes (*Grus nigricollis*). For the first time one black-necked crane chick was reared by its parents which arrived at Walsrode in 1986 from Beijing Zoo (China). Another pair of black-necked cranes, made up of birds hatched in 1990 and 1991 at Walsrode, produced three clutches. Only one egg could be saved from all those laid, and while it was fertile the embryo died shortly before hatching. All the other eggs were destroyed by the parents. This popular avian hobby of egg smashing was also done by the breeding pair during their first years of maturity. A third pair of this species, from which both partners hatched in 1994, also destroyed their single egg.

Two hooded cranes (*Grus monachus*) hatched in 1998. This is perhaps the most difficult crane species to breed in captivity.

Only the International Crane Foundation (ICF) at Baraboo (USA) and Vogelpark Walsrode have bred 'hoodies' in recent years.

The most notable gruiform acquisition in 1998 was a female kagu (*Rhynochetos jubatus*) sent from Noumea Zoo (New Caledonia) to join two males received from the same institution in 1997.

The new female and one of the males will be housed in a large off-public breeding aviary. The other male, which is on public display, will receive a mate in 1999. Noumea Zoo has had a successful kagu captive breeding and release programme for some years. NogeYama Zoo at Yokohama (Japan) is the only other zoo to have bred kagus successfully.

Source: Dieter Rinke

ANTWERP - BELGIUM

Antwerp Zoo has supported the Indochina Programme of the World Pheasant Association since its beginning in 1993. This project also includes captive breeding as one of the strategies to preserve endemic pheasant species from extinction. Hanoi Zoo (Vietnam) has been so successful in breeding Vietnamese pheasants (*Lophura hatinhensis*) in recent years that a few specimens could be sent to Europe. Antwerp received a pair in 1997, and the first eggs were laid just a few months later. No less than 11 artificially incubated Vietnamese pheasant eggs hatched in 1998 at Antwerp. The chicks were all successfully hand-reared. The last clutch was replaced by chicken eggs which the Vietnamese pheasants successfully incubated. They also reared the resulting chicks, which provides excellent perspectives for parent-reared Vietnamese pheasants in 1999. Only two European zoos currently keep this species: Antwerp and Clères (France).

For the first time in the zoo's history, Antwerp was successful in breeding trumpeter hornbills (*Bycanistes bucinator*). The female was sealed in from 26 April 1998 onwards and left the nest together with three offspring on 5 August 1998. Other interesting hatchings in 1998 included eight Mexican military macaws (*Ara militaris mexicana*) all of which were parent-reared.

Two okapis (*Okapia johnstoni*) were born on 8 August 1998 (female) and 16 November 1998 (male). Both calves are important contributions to the gene pool of the EEP as father Karel is the only descendant of a 'wild' bloodline. The first okapi birth in captivity took place on 19 April 1941 at Stanleyville/Kisangani (Congo).

Palm-nut vulture at the age of 3.5 months

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