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Births of Indian Rhinoceros in the West Berlin Zoo

The second Indian rhinoceros to be bred during the West Berlin Zoo's 132 year history, was born on February 18, 1976. Before World War II, Indian rhinos could be seen in the Berlin Zoo, but as their behaviour was nearly unknown at that time, the rhinos had always been kept separately, and no breeding had started. After World War II the fully grown wild-caught male, Arjun, arrived at the Berlin Zoo in 1959 and stayed there for six years. In 1965 he was sent to Basle, Switzerland, in order to replace the male there which had died some months before. In the same year the Berlin Zoo received a young pair, Miris and Gauhati, both born in 1964 respectively in Basle and Hamburg. As in 1965, the Berlin Zoo had secured the continuance of the breeding group in Basle Zoo by leaving them Arjun, it was arranged in July 1970 to send six-year-old Miris to Basle for mating with Arjun. She returned to Berlin in April 1971. After a pregnancy of 477 days she gave birth to a male baby named Kumar which was later sent to Amsterdam.

Although the young bull, Gauhati, was probably able to breed at that time, he was not yet interested in the female Miris. Therefore she was again sent to Basle in June 1974, where she stayed for eleven months. On February 18, 1976, after a pregnancy of 478 days, she gave birth to another male baby named Heiner. This is therefore the second birth of an Indian rhino in the Berlin Zoo, and we hope that in future we shall not have to send Miris to Basle again, if the male Gauhati now starts breeding.

Prof. Dr. Heinz-George Klös

CHESTER, ENGLAND

Recent births include two Ring-tailed lemurs, and the Weka rails have bred for the third time. The following birds and reptiles have been presented to the zoo: 1.1 Weka rail, 1 Plum-headed parrakeet, 1 African Grey parrot, 3 Starred tortoises, 1 Leopard tortoise, 1 Forest tortoise and 1 Bengal monitor. A Water python and a matamata have been received in exchange, the latter a male, to join the zoo's female.

Mr. P. W. Gallup, Head Gardener for 24 years, has retired owing mainly to ill health.

Chester Zoo News

DENVER, USA

Births and hatchings (16 January - 20 April, 1976) were as follows: 0.1 Mongoose lemur, 1.0 White-faced saki, 1 Spider monkey, 1.1 Cotton-top marmoset (0.1*), 1 Lesser Spot-nose monkey, 1.0 Patas monkey*, 1.1 margay, 1.1 serval, 6 Patagonian cavy, 1.0 African porcupine*, 1.0 Beisa oryx, 1.1 llama, 1.0 Axis deer, 3.3 reindeer, 5.3 aoudad (2.0*), 2 Bali mynah (1*), 1 roulroul, 2 Black crane, 2 Red-crested cardinal.

Acquisitions (16 January - 20 April, 1976) were as follows: 2.2 Malayan Fairy bluebird, 1.0 Lesser Green broadbill, 2.2 Hawaiian duck.

* failed to survive.

Saki Monkey Birth at the Denver Zoo

The Denver, Colorado, Zoological Gardens is pleased to announce the birth of a male Pale-faced saki (*Pithecia pithecia*) on 8 February, 1976. It is believed that this may be the first captivity-bred saki in a U.S. zoo in more than 20 years. The birth was totally unexpected.

Denver has exhibited sakis since 26 January 1972 when 3.3 were received from an animal importer. They proved very difficult to adjust to captivity and only 0.1 of this group survived longer than a year. We obtained an additional 2.1 on 2 June, 1972

and the breeding pair survived. For several years we maintained the 1.2 successfully in a spacious, glass-fronted exhibit in our primate house, but there was no sexual activity. In 1975 we sent the 0.1 from the January 1972 importation to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Colorado Springs, as a breeding loan. This was done on the advice of Fraulein Uta Hick of the Cologne Zoo who has considerable experience with sakis. A breeding date for the young born 8 February was not observed and we are unable to report an accurate gestation period. We estimate that conception occurred soon after the one female was removed. The young saki is progressing well and is being cared for by its parents.

Clayton F. Freiheit



Saki monkey with young born at the Denver Zoo.

Photo: Denver Zoo

FRANKFURT, GERMANY

During the first quarter of 1976 (1 January-31 March) the following births and hatchings are noteworthy: 25 boa constrictor, 6 emu, 2 Black-collared barbet, 6 Wattled starling, 12 Red bishop, 2 Bennett's wallaby, 1 Patas monkey, 9 Desert jerboa, 2.2 Bush dog (3rd generation), 2 Amur leopard (2nd generation), 0.1 Sable antelope (2nd generation).