

# Births and Hatchings

SCHMIDT

## TEL AVIV-RAMAT GAN - ISRAEL

The Zoological Centre Tel Aviv-Ramat Gan reports the birth of 0.1 **Asian elephant** *Elephas maximus* on 1 October 1996. Mother 'Vered' was only aged five years and 10 months at delivery. The calf was viable and weighted over 70 kilos, but was crushed either by the mother or the grandmother. This is already the second time an Asian elephant conceived at such a young age in Ramat Gan. On 21 October 1996, 0.1 **African elephant** *Loxodonta africana* was born at Ramat Gan as well, bringing the current herd size to 3.8. 'Beauty' is the third offspring of the 35-year-old mother 'Bahati' who is wild-born. Father 'Yossi' was born at Ramat Gan in 1974.

Another female African elephant was born on 28 December 1996 in Parque de la Naturaleza de Cabarceno at Obregon (Spain). The approximately 15-year-old mother 'Zambi' arrived in August 1994 from Augsburg (Germany) at Cabarceno. Breeding of African elephants started in 1995 at Cabarceno and since then two calves have been born. This zoo participates in the African elephant EEP and houses a herd of 3.10 animals.

Only four of the 38 institutions participating in the EEP for African elephants breed this species. These are Ramat Gan, Cabarceno, Basle (Switzerland) and Howletts (UK). Ramat Gan is the most successful of all with 14 African elephants born there of which 12 survived. This amounts to 50% of all African elephants ever born in the EAZA region. Besides that, Ramat Gan is the only zoo in the EAZA region to breed both elephant species.

Source: Amelia S. Terkel/Jürgen Schilfarth

## FRANKFURT - GERMANY

Frankfurt Zoo reports the birth of 0.1 **Southern black rhino** *Diceros bicornis minor* on 18 February 1997 after a gestation period of 462 days. In order not to disturb the mother and her new-born calf, the Rhino House was closed to the public for a few days after delivery. Both parents were three years old when they arrived in 1989 as a gift of Zimbabwe to the Frankfurt Zoological Society. The first calf of this couple was born on 13 February 1994 and was reintroduced in South Africa in October 1996 (see under Conservation).

Frankfurt Zoo has kept Black rhinos continuously since 1950 and achieved the first breeding success of this species in Europe in 1956. Before 1950, two males lived from 1909 till 1917 and from 1927 till 1945 respectively at Frankfurt.

Source: press release, Christian R. Schmidt

## KAUNAS - LITHUANIA

A female **Pygmy hippo** *Hexaprotodon liberiensis* was born on 7 December 1996. The young weighted 5.9 kg at birth and is mother-reared. Both parents arrived in 1980 at Kaunas. The father was born in April 1978 at Poznan (Poland), the mother was born in November 1976 at Zürich (Switzerland). Since 1983, nine offspring were born of which four survived.

Source: Guna Vitola

## PRAGUE - CZECH REPUBLIC

Prague Zoo continues its success story with **White pelicans** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* in 1997. Until the end of February, already 0.0.12 White pelican chicks have hatched, while there are still approximately 25 eggs. This is the seventh consecutive year that Prague Zoo has bred this species, meanwhile already in the second generation. All pelican chicks are reared by their parents.

Another significant breeding success represents the hatching of 0.0.4 **Marabou storks** *Leptoptilos crumeniferus* in early 1997. The chicks are parent-reared. The breeding of Marabou storks started in 1995 at Prague Zoo and since then seven chicks hatched. Although at least 79 institutions keep Marabou storks in the EAZA region, only seven of them breed this species. Beside Prague, these are the zoos of St. Petersburg (Russia), Tierpark Berlin and Osnabrück (Germany), Ramat Gan (Israel), Emmen (The Netherlands) and Vienna (Austria) where the first chick hatched in early March 1997.

Other significant breeding successes in January and February 1997 at Prague Zoo include 0.1 **Grevy's zebra** *Equus grevyi*, 1.0 **Burmese brow-antlered deer** *Panolia eldi thamin*, 0.0.1 **Brown hyena** *Parahyena brunnea* (DNS) and 0.1 **Bongo** *Tragelaphus euryceros isaaci*.

Source: Tomas Kapic

Black rhino with calf at Frankfurt Zoo



Photo: Frankfurt Zoo

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