

Births and Hatchings

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also eggs, meat and insects. A healthy female young was born on 20 July 1999, and is developing very well.

Unfortunately, she lacks the companionship of peers as Rheine's wanderoo group consists of 2.1 adults only.

A male **gelada baboon** (*Theropithecus gelada*) was born on 11 November 1999. This is the sixth offspring of the female 'Gertje', and the first for the male 'Albert'. He was introduced at six years of age as leader of the harem in March 1999. The females were without an adult male for half a year (after the death of Albert's predecessor), during which time they became acquainted with 'Albert', housed in a separate enclosure. He was introduced to the group when two females (one of which was very high ranking in the group) were cycling regularly, and showed interest in him for mating. This strategy was chosen to minimize the risk of infanticide as there were two babies in the group. Two more females appear to be pregnant now, and inter-birth intervals of the females are in fact the same as they would have been with the established former group composition.

Source: Achim Johann

ARNHEM - NETHERLANDS

Two clutches of **African darters** (*Anhinga rufa*) were successfully parent-reared within six months in 1999. The breeding pair produced a clutch of four eggs in March; all of which hatched. Three chicks died, but the fourth, a male, was reared by its parents and developed prosperously. Nesting behaviour was observed again only 10 weeks after the first clutch hatched, and the pair produced a second clutch of two eggs. Although the eggs were fertile, the embryos died before hatching. A third clutch of two eggs, laid in August, hatched around 20 September. Both chicks are being parent-reared and doing well so far (December 1999). Burgers' Zoo at Arnhem has kept African darters since 1990.

African darters and their young



Photos: Burgers Zoo

The breeding pair is housed in the 1.5 hectares indoor tropical rainforest (Burgers' Bush), and a second pair in the zoo's mangrove eco-display (Burgers' Mangrove). The first successful reproduction occurred in Burgers' Bush in 1994, when three chicks hatched. One of them was successfully parent-reared, the other two also fledged but died within several weeks. Although matings and nesting behaviour was observed annually, reproduction only resumed in 1999, while nothing has noticeably changed in the birds' environment since 1994.

Other remarkable births include 1.0 **aardvark** (*Orycteropus afer*) (DNS) and 0.0.1 **blue duiker** (*Cephalophus monticola*), the first offspring within the ESB population this year.

Sources: Annemarie Bisseling, Marc Damen

PORT LYMPNE - UNITED KINGDOM

Port Lympne Wild Animal Park reports the births of 1.1 **black rhinos** (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*). The male calf 'Zambezi' was born on 29 October 1999 and is being reared by his 10-year-old mother 'Nakuru' who was born at Port Lympne herself. The father is 24 years old and originates from the Addo Elephant National Park (South Africa). He also sired the female calf 'Galana' who was born on 22 November 1999. She is being reared by her 29-year-old, wild born mother 'Rukwa'. 'Galana' was the sixth black rhino calf born at the park in the last 14 months. Port Lympne Wild Animal Park has bred black rhinos since 1977. A total of 20 black rhinos have been born since then, of which 15 calves survived. This makes Port Lympne one of the most successful black rhino breeders worldwide along with Dvur Kralove Zoo (Czech Republic), where 22 calves have been born to date.

Source: Michael Lockyer

NUREMBERG - GERMANY

After a gestation period of 486 days, a male **Indian rhino** (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) was born at 16:17 hours on 8 October 1999. The calf was on his feet within approximately an hour after delivery, and was observed suckling for the first time four hours after birth. Albrecht is being cared for by Purana, his seven-year-old mother, who arrived in 1993 from Basel Zoo (Switzerland). Noel, the 13-year-old father came to Nuremberg from Stuttgart in 1989. This birth is a first for both the zoo and the mother.

Source: press release 4 November 1999 by Peter Mühling