

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

Births at the National Zoological Park in January and February included 2.0 Golden marmoset; 1 Mountain viscacha; 1 Cuban hutia; 1.0 Indian rhinoceros; 2 Burmese brow-antlered deer; 3 Hawaiian goose; 3 Bornean great argus pheasant; 5 Crested green wood partridge.

Important arrivals included 1.0 American merganser; 0.1 Barrow's goldeneye; 1.0 Paradise shelduck; 1.1 Patagonian crested duck; 2.2 Fiji Island iguana; 3 Smooth-fronted caiman.  
(Theodore H. Reed, D.V.M.)

## INDIAN RHINOCEROS BORN

An Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) was born on January 30th, 1974 at the National Zoological Park in Washington D.C. This was the first live birth of this species to occur in the U.S.A.

The mother is eleven years old, the father is fifteen. The calf was born 487 days after the pair bred for the first time.

The calf is a male and is being reared by the mother. It weighed 125 lbs. at Day 1, and 261 lbs. just eight weeks later.

Extensive observations were made from breeding to birthing and after; much useful information was gathered during this period for publication later.

(Theodore H. Reed, D.V.M.)

## LONDRINA, BRAZIL

Births: 1 jaguar; 14 Vietnam pigs; 4 African pigmy goats; 2 Mongolian sheep.

Acquisitions: a collection of native animals for open-air-enclosure: 6 Rhea americana, 4 capybara, 4 seriema, also 1/0 lama and 4 White mute swans.

Deaths: our male European Stag died because he swallowed an apple and smothered up by it.

Donations: a gift arrived of 3 Boa constrictor, from 5 to 9 feet, also 1.0 agouti, to complete the pair.

(L. Filho)

## Chillan Viejo, Chile

On 15th February the Chillan Viejo Zoo celebrated its fifteenth birthday. The new mayor of Chillan, Gaston Cruz Quintan and all the members of the council attended the celebrations. The Antwerp Zoo has sent us 10 Striated finches (*Uroloncha domestica*), and two tortoises (*Testudo heronanni*). A dwarf opossum (*Dromicippus australis*) and a buzzard (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) have also arrived. A Snowy owl (*Tyto alba tuidara*) is to be bought.

(Carlos Junge)

## NEW CARNIVORE HOUSE IN THE BERLIN ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

In Summer 1972 an enquiry among zoo visitors showed that carnivores belong to the most popular group of animals in our Zoo. This year the Carnivore House will be finished; it will then be the biggest and most modern house in Europe and will certainly give enjoyment to both animals and zoo visitors. The spacious open-air enclosure of Siberian tigers will draw the greatest attention. The visitor may look at these tigers, which are the biggest carnivores living here, with a background of 75 m long natural granite rocks, for which 2,000 tons of granite were needed. In order to give visitors a realistic impression of enclosure and animals, there is a great window through which they get a chance to face the tigers directly; only the thick glass pane gives the necessary security. The indoor cages have been constructed according to the latest technical and zoological knowledge. There are cantilevered fences of refined steel which do not hinder viewing, but give the necessary security. All indoor cage floors are covered with a synthetic heat-retaining resin; this material is not slippery, and is easy to clean and disinfect. All indoor cages are combined with spacious outdoor cages. For females there exist special maternity dens in which they can give birth and rear their litters.

In a special section of the new house we will keep smaller carnivores which can be observed in a great number of species in modern cages. Fences have been replaced by glass so that the visitor is not at all disturbed while looking at them. Furthermore, there is an efficient air-conditioning system which takes away the strong smell of the animals. A real improvement for the keepers is the hydraulic system of the sliding doors.

A special attraction will be the nocturnal area beneath the whole complex. In 1975 visitors will have the chance to look at nocturnal animals in cages with a natural background, showing part of their home surroundings. Daytime is changed to night by artificial moonlight, and night becomes day, with artificial sunshine. In the middle of the new Carnivore House the visitor will find huge banks of tropical plants which he can enjoy while looking at the clawless otters in their pool. Several maps showing the geographical distribution, biology and conservation of carnivores will be welcomed by school classes. We hope that we will have numerous breeding successes in the future, especially with rare species.

## CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TROPICAL HOUSE

In February 1974, the Berlin Zoo began to construct a new Tropical House for breeding groups of small and medium-sized animals, whose biotope are the tops of trees in tropical rain forests. The public will see different species of monkeys as well as squirrels, insect-eaters, etc. All indoor cages will be separated from the visitors by glass. Plants will give a natural background, and visitors will be able to see a section of the natural surroundings of the animals' biotope. This house will be finished in about 1976.