

Our Oriental Small-Clawed otters, *Amblyonyx cinerea*, were again prolific. Twelve young in two litters were born during the year, bringing to 70 the total number born at the Zoo since they started breeding four years ago. The survival rate to maturity has been about 55 per cent.

In the last two or three years the Zoo's colony of rare Yellow-footed Rock-Wallabies has diminished in numbers to a point that is causing grave concern. No breeding has taken place for two or three years for reasons which are not readily apparent. The colony, which about eight years ago numbered over sixty, had been established in the Zoo many years ago, the species having been first listed as an exhibit in 1897. No fresh blood has been added to it since one female was obtained in 1949, twenty five years ago, and another eleven years before that. Believing that continuous inbreeding may be the possible cause for the recent decline, permission was sought and obtained from the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service to collect two new animals from the wild. To date it has not proved possible to trap them. Hope of maintaining this rare species rests, however, in the fact that some of the animals sent in recent years from the Zoo to Mr. R. R. Rymill's sanctuary at Penola are breeding there.

The bird breeding results at the Zoo were excellent. Especially notable was the hatching and rearing by its parents of a young Gang-Gang cockatoo. Gang-Gangs are rarely bred in captivity and this was a 'first' for this species in the Adelaide Zoo.

Four Scarlet macaws were hatched. Two survived only two or three days. An attempt was made by the Superintendent of Birds to hand-rear the other two; one died within a few days but he was successful in raising the other to the point where it was fully-feathered. Regrettably, it died after a short illness when 4 months old. Post-mortem examination revealed very extensive deposits of urates in the kidneys and all the visceral organs, consistent with 'visceral gout'.

Other noteworthy breedings were 10 Common rheas, 3 Burdekin ducks, 10 Swinhoe's pheasants, a Blood-breasted pigeon, a Varied lorikeet, 5 Major Mitchell cockatoos, 3 Red-tailed Black cockatoos, 4 Regent bowerbirds, and a Green peafowl.

At the end of the year 617 mammals in 107 species, 1,448 birds in 250 species and 145 reptiles in 20 species were on exhibition.

#### CHESTER, ENGLAND

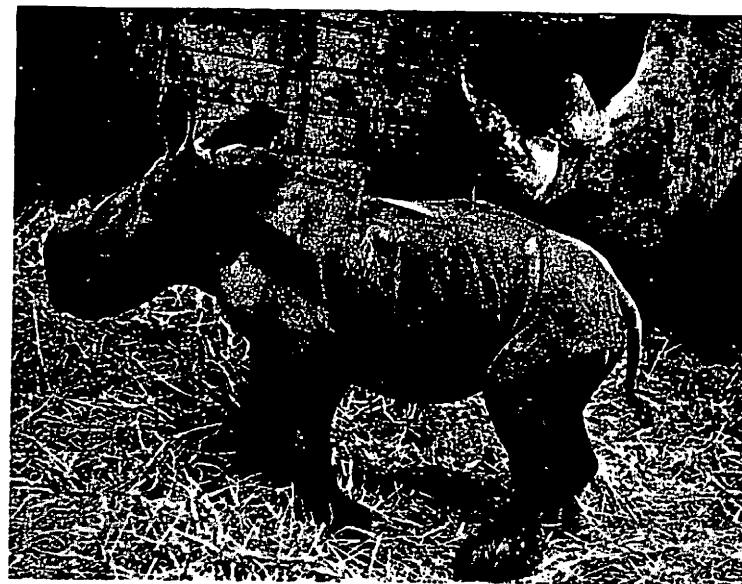
Births for November and December 1974 were: 3 Grey squirrels, 2 Sierra Leone Striped squirrels, 1 Plains viscacha, 3 jaguars, 1 tiger, 3 lions, 1 Green monkey, 2 Red lechwe.

Hatchings recorded were: 1 Scaly-breasted lorikeet, 1 Grand Eclectus parrot, 1 Orange weaver, 2 Red-billed weavers, 2 Zebra finches, 106 Cockatiel chicks were reared in 1974.

*Chester Zoo News*

#### COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

The year 1974 has been quite a noticeable year for the Copenhagen Zoological Garden as far as animal births are concerned. For the first time for many years our female Musk ox succeeded in raising young, — a male which



Female calf born to White rhino in Copenhagen, 4th December, 1974



Five-month old Musk ox calf in Copenhagen Zoo.

Photos: Erik Parbst

5415