

During the period of lactation, she regained her complete coat so it was decided to return her with the cubs to the Roberts House, as soon as the cubs were weaned. As the other female was pregnant, she was moved to the cage in the segregation rooms in the hope that she would also find these quarters suitable. This decision proved fruitful when on 3rd July the second two cubs were born and nursed by their mother.

Our Lioness "Maire" who has already given birth to a record number of cubs, produced two litters during the year. This brings her total to 72 cubs in eleven years. In addition, the young Lioness "Amber" is now of breeding age, and during the year gave birth to 10 cubs in two litters. Other felines born during the year were 4 Black panther, 2 Leopard and 3 Puma cubs.

The new outdoor Tiger Enclosure was constructed primarily to give more space for these animals, but also in the hope that once again it would be possible to breed Tigers. As the adult pair which had been in the Gardens since 1967 were not compatible, they were sent to Southampton Zoo, and two young animals were obtained from Kuala Lumpur for the new enclosure.

Other major arrivals were a pair of Cheetahs from the Chipperfield Organisation, a male African Black rhinoceros from Cleethorpes Zoo, and 4 Eastern Grey kangaroos from Taronga Park Zoo in Sydney. A fine breeding male Chimpanzee was received from Chester Zoo, and has settled down well with our small group of four females.

Although the number of birds hatched was higher than the previous year, it was not a record. This is undoubtedly due to the depletion of our collection of waterfowl. For the past few years marauding foxes have continued to gain an entry to the Zoo from Phoenix Park, despite all efforts in prevention. Two foxes were shot during the year, but not before numerous ducks and geese had been killed. As many waterfowl as possible were penned for safety, and the Flamingos were kept indoors each night for fear of losing these valuable birds. These precautions reduced the breeding potential of the waterfowl, but we are happy to say that there has been success with other birds. The Sunbitterns again nested and hatched two young birds. The Sarus cranes reared two chicks and two Sacred ibis were hatched from the small colony in the Iveagh Aviary. Although the Choughs once again hatched out three eggs, they failed to rear the young which were found a few days later thrown out of the nest. The remaining pair of King penguins had an egg this year, but unfortunately the chick died in the shell. At present there are several nests of Cape penguin eggs, which we trust will be hatched shortly.

During a stormy afternoon three of the unpinioned Chilean flamingos on the lakeside took to the wing and flew over the Gardens. Two were soon recaptured, but the third made for the coast. For a long time it was to be seen at Swords estuary, and recently it strayed further afield to Rogerstown. A Cormorant which was sent to the Zoo because the feathers were severely oiled was cleaned by the staff and allowed the freedom of the lake. When fully recovered it flew off, but soon returned with a mate and both birds can often be seen on the Pelican Island waiting for food, or fishing in the lake. Incidentally, the lake contains a great number of Perch, Roach and a number of large Carp. During the summer a 9 lb. Carp was found dead in the water.

With a view to extending the moated enclosures, the Zebra and Ostrich will soon be relocated beside the Giraffe Enclosure, and part of the existing

Zebra Paddock will be used to extend Pets Corner.

The two young Gorillas "Gusto" and "Yinka" have developed into fine animals. "Gusto" has increased in weight from 39 lbs. to 67 lbs. and "Yinka" who weighed only 13 lbs. on arrival, is now 37 lbs. Now that "Yinka" is gaining weight rapidly, it is hoped that they will soon be together in their new cage in the Monkey House. At the moment "Gusto" is still too strong and boisterous for her.

In general the health of the animals has been good during the year, despite very wet and cold weather conditions. It is gratifying to note that the total losses in the collection were significantly less than in previous years.

Animals born in the Gardens during 1973 included: 3 Indian blackbuck, 1 Duiker, 2 Chinese Water deer, 1 Llama, 1 Guanaco, 1 Tapir, 15 Lion cubs, 5 Clouded leopard cubs, 2 Leopard cubs, 4 Black panther cubs, 3 Puma cubs, 1 Dromedary camel, 1 Ring-tailed lemur, 2 Squirrel monkeys, 6 Raccoons, 12 Bennett's wallabies, 8 Golden-mantled Ground squirrels, 30 Prairie marmots. Birds included: 2 Sunbitterns, 2 Sarus cranes, 2 Peachicks, 2 Sacred ibis, 3 Choughs, 5 Quaker parakeets, 7 Lovebirds (hybrid), 3 Collared doves, 14 Egyptian geese, 3 Snow geese, 1 Barnacle goose, 1 Bar-headed goose, 4 Greyleg geese, 2 Common shelduck, 3 Chilean teal, 1 Carolina duck, 1 Rosy-billed duck, 13 European pochard, 1 American wigeon, numerous Mallard. Animals purchased during 1973 included: 1.1 Cheetahs, 1 European otter, 1.0 African Black rhinoceros, 1 Blue-Yellow macaw, 2.2 Eastern Grey kangaroos, 3.3 Small-clawed otters, 1.0 Bengal tiger. Animals received in exchange during 1973 were: 1.1 Bengal tigers, 1.0 Chimpanzee.

FRANKFURT AM MAIN, GERMANY

11th Okapi born in Frankfurt

On 5 March, 1975 the eleventh okapi was born in Frankfurt. It is the eighth baby of the aged female "Safari", who has raised all of her young so far in exemplary fashion. Two of her offspring are still living in Frankfurt, and one each in Bristol, Chicago and Oklahoma City. Several of them have already produced young themselves, among them three second generation births in Frankfurt. Thus "Safari" has probably become the most productive Okapi mother in captivity.

Unfortunately the father of the eight babies "Epu" died six months ago, having lived in Frankfurt for more than twenty years. At the time of his death he was therefore certainly at least 23 to 24 years old, while "Safari" arrived in Frankfurt fully mature in 1958 and is at least twenty years old now. "Epu" had been the first okapi in a German zoo, when he was brought from the then Belgian Congo to Frankfurt on 4 May, 1954 by Professor Dr. Bernhard Grzimek. The young okapi will bear the name of "Bernhard", after Frankfurt's former Zoo Director, who retired in 1974 at the age of 65.

Dr. R. Faust

HELSINKI, FINLAND

Noteworthy breeding results in 1974: our 4 female Snow leopards raised eight young during 1974. The oldest female "Vilma" which was caught in the wilds in 1964, was joined in 1966 by a wild-caught male "Ville". This pair bred one young, which unfortunately died soon after birth. Altogether "Vilma" has so far given birth to 15 kittens. Three of her daughters, two born in 1968