

produced a healthy male calf. A very noteworthy acquisition was a pair of snow leopards from the San Antonio Zoo. We purchased the male and the female is here as a breeding loan. It is hoped they will reproduce when they reach maturity. Another important purchase was a pair of South American tapirs. Our tapir stock consisted of a 20-year-old female (whom we thought was beyond breeding age) and her son. We felt that acquisition of new tapirs was of great urgency in order to infuse new blood and continue the breeding programme in the future. Two weeks before the new animals' arrival, our old pair produced a male baby quite unexpectedly. Unfortunately, the offspring was injured and subsequently died. The new pair are proven breeders and we hope for a baby tapir (or two). An important new species was a pair of young lesser kudu acquired from St. Louis Zoo in December to replace the greater kudu. They are quite delicate and very beautiful antelopes and a welcome addition to our zoo. A male Abyssinian colobus monkey was obtained in 1978 and we are currently seeking a female, or two, as prospective mates for him.

There were a number of notable mammal births during the year. Early in the year, our harbour seals produced their third offspring, a female which was successfully reared. This is a very rare birth and Denver is one of the few zoos in the world where they regularly reproduce. Significant primate births included our third owl monkey and our second white-faced saki monkey. Probably our most important mammal reproduction occurred on the 30 July when our orang utan, Roberta, gave birth to a female baby that was subsequently named Suka. This is the first orang utan born at the Denver Zoo and Roberta has been a perfect mother. Our Pallas' cats again reproduced — three female offspring were successfully reared. We are also pleased to report the natural rearing of a baby giant anteater born in early December. This is an extremely rare event in captivity!

Notable bird acquisitions in 1978 included a group of young Masai ostrich that were purchased to start a breeding programme. The addition of ten Chilean flamingos will increase our flamingo flock and perhaps enhance breeding by these birds. Important acquisitions in the waterfowl collection were a pair of rare Hartlaub's ducks, deposited as a breeding loan by the Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle, Washington. Only two US zoos keep Hartlaub's ducks. Another important addition was a pair of very rare white-winged wood ducks, imported as a breeding loan from The Wildfowl Trust in Slimbridge, England.

During 1978 the Bird World really came into its own. A number of interesting and significant species nested for the first time, including red-legged honeycreepers. We also managed to induce our speckled mousebirds to start reproducing and, after four months of laying infertile eggs, they successfully reared ten young by the end of the year. For the fourth year in a row, the blue-crowned motmots produced a chick; we are the only US zoo regularly reproducing motmots. The hatching and rearing of a lilac-breasted roller probably represents the first rearing of this species in the country. The successful breeding of four red and yellow barbets was also noteworthy.

At the end of the year the collection totalled 1,627 specimens of 387 species. During the twelve months some 535 mammals, birds and reptiles of 109 species reproduced. This figure exceeds by 229 the total number of specimens acquired from all other sources, so the Denver Zoological Gardens is a producer, not a consumer of wildlife.

Attendance during 1978 was 894,251, an increase of 1.3 per cent over the previous year.

"To Brutus and Baboeska at Wellington on November 27th, 1978, a daughter, Tanya". Proudly it was announced that the birth of Tanya had made history. She was the first Siberian tiger cub to be born in the southern hemisphere, an event of great importance to the many friends of the Wellington Zoological Gardens. Brutus and Baboeska, the only pair of Siberian tigers in the southern hemisphere, were acquired in exchange for a consignment of New Zealand birds. The exchange was negotiated through the Rotterdam Zoo. Our main importations, however, were again from Australia. It cannot be emphasised enough how much this generosity is the result of meeting Directors at the Biennial Conferences.

Births and deaths were a mixed bag. The open areas on the perimeter of the zoo do not provide enough shelter for mothers with babies and, as a result, pneumonia sets in when births are happening in inclement weather. Providing housing in these areas could help, but bigger trees and shelter belts of heavy shrubs would serve the purpose. The loss of three cheetahs within 24 hours after birth could also be put in the category of unsuitable breeding facilities. A small isolation area should be available to the mother where she would not be disturbed. The usual dens do not offer sufficient privacy.

In bird breeding we have seen a great improvement and our bird keepers should be complimented on their special effort. With further improvements in the aviaries, rearing areas, and incubation, we hope to see even more improved results in the future.

Wherever possible in cases of death we have had an autopsy done and complete records are kept. A reduction in the range of species is noted as a result of not continuing species such as domestic goats, huskies, hyena, wolf, which had reduced to singletons and no suitable enclosure is available to bring in groups of these animals. However, the bird species were increased after a reduction through discarding of budgies, canaries, and finches to make room for more valuable bird species.

At the year-end the collection totalled 717 specimens of 146 species. During the year visitors totalled 175,628, a decrease from 181,796 in the previous year.

MALAYSIAN ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Zoo Negara) in 1978

Five crowned cranes were obtained by air from Africa in April. A female serow donated in May by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks is a most valuable animal to have and we now hope to obtain a mate for it. A 9½-foot false gharial was donated by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks; it is encouraging to see that there still seem to exist a few gharials in the wild.

We obtained crowned pigeons, sacred ibis and blue peafowl from Jurong Bird Park and now keep the blue peafowl separated from our hybrid greens. The intention is now to obtain true greens and dispose gradually of the hybrids. Demoiselle cranes and sarus cranes were brought from the United Kingdom. Probably the most notable and publicised arrival was a female black rhino, a gift from Artis Zoo in Amsterdam. She treated her intended spouse very stand-offishly with lots of snorting but gradually they are getting along much better.