

### **Serengeti Safaripark, Hodenhagen, Germany**

A white rhino born at the park is being reintroduced into Namibia. 'The five-year-old bull, called Kai, will serve as a pilot animal for all the others that will follow him,' says the park's director, Dr Michael Böer. 'We want to find out if captive-born white rhinos adapt to the African environment. For the first part of the programme, Kai will be kept in a *boma* – a suitably adapted enclosure – while he gets to know the vegetation and climate of northern Namibia. Before being released into the Etosha National Park, he will be fitted with a radio transmitter system to allow us to monitor his movements from the air or by car.' Etosha is one of the biggest national parks in the world, covering an area of 22,270 square kilometres. The white rhino has been extinct in the area for the whole of this century.

Between 1978 and 1995, 17 white rhinos were born at Serengeti Safaripark, 15 of whom were successfully reared to adulthood. [See reference under Böer in Recent Articles, p. 61 – *Ed.*]

### **Tama Zoo, Tokyo, Japan**

Three black-faced spoonbills (*Platalea minor*) hatched at the zoo in May 1996. Only 550 individuals of this species remain in the wild, and apart from several places on the Korean peninsula, it is not even known where the species breeds. Two of them were donated to Tama Zoo by the University of Korea in 1989. They were thought to be a pair, but it later turned out that they were both females. Each of them built a nest and laid and brooded a clutch of eggs. In 1991 it was decided to begin a breeding project in conjunction with the Uni-

versity of Korea, and Tama Zoo received three yearlings on breeding loan. A male from this group and one of the original females were put together in 1994.

No breeding behaviour was seen in the season of 1995, but the two were seen playing with a hammerhead (*Scopus umbretta*) nest in the same cage. In 1996 the female hammerhead was hurt by the male, and stopped building her nest. After the male hammerhead stopped defending the nest, the spoonbills took it apart, and within a week built their own nest next to it. In the wild they are said to utilize the nests of other birds or their own old nests.

The female laid one egg on 10 April, another on 12 April, and a third on 19 April. The first egg hatched on 5 May, and the chick grew fast. After ten days the parents stopped brooding during the daytime, and after three weeks they began to leave the nest alone. The third chick was smaller than the other two, and it was feared it would not grow; however, it called loudly for food, and was fed steadily by the parents, so that it too grew well. Beginning 35 days after hatching, the chicks left the nest one by one and never returned. Instead they begged for food from their parents outside the nest. Another two months passed before they were seen feeding on their own.

English summary of article in Japanese by Izumi Tsuchiya, published in *Animals and Zoos* Vol. 48, No. 12 (December 1996)

### **Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve, near Canberra, Australia**

Tidbinbilla, 40 minutes' drive south of Canberra, is well known for displaying Australian native wildlife in a different way – in large areas of