

ing into a second collection basin. The filtered water then re-enters the original creek. Aquatic flora planting was completed in October 1995, with some replanting in April 1996. Design and construction, along with an initial site investigation, was funded by the Department of Land and Water Conservation at an approximate cost of \$200,000; the zoo now manages and maintains the wetland. Volunteers also contributed time and labour toward the development of the site. Prior to the planting phase, an open invitation was extended to interested community groups to assist with the vegetation of the wetland, and as a result some 23,000 plants endemic to the area were planted; these will be monitored to establish their migration habits and suitability for constructed wetlands in central-west New South Wales.

David Blyde in *ARAZPA Newsletter* No. 29 (December 1996)

News in Brief

A second greater bamboo lemur (*Hapalemur simus*) was born at Paris Zoo (Vincennes), France, on 6 July 1996; the first was born on 28 April 1995. The zoo has kept these lemurs since 1986, and is currently the only collection in the world where they can be seen.

On 12 June 1996 a female aye-aye was born at the zoo. It was conceived at Jersey Zoo, and the mother is the first aye-aye ever born in a zoo (August 1992 at Jersey).

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The captive-breeding programme for the California condor continues to do well. Of 31 eggs laid in 1996, 23 were fertile and 18 successfully hatched. Most of the infertile eggs were laid by

five new pairs at the World Center for Birds of Prey, Boise, Idaho (see *I.Z.N.* 43:1, pp. 36-37). They also had their first fertile egg which successfully produced a healthy chick. That chick, and five others at Los Angeles Zoo, are being parent-reared, and it is hoped that all six will be released in the Grand Canyon area. Exactly 100 healthy chicks have been produced from eggs laid in captivity since 1988, and 121 condors are now in existence.

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A pair of wattled brush turkeys (*Aepyodius arfakianus misoliensis*) managed to reproduce under almost natural conditions in the tropical house of Parc Paradisio, Cambron-Casteau, Belgium. Their mound, consisting of leaves and other plant material, was not artificially heated. Around 20 June, a chick was discovered by the keeper. Surprisingly, it remained with its parents even though the enclosure allows chicks to come and go. The male showed no signs of aggressive behaviour towards the chick, as is described in most of the literature about this species.

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It was revealed in December that two (1.1) white rhinos sent from the U.S.A. to China died of exposure and dehydration last July while en route from Shanghai to Chengdu Zoo. They should have been transported by rail, a journey of eight hours, but instead were taken by truck along the 1,650-mile route in oppressive summer heat, apparently because their crates were too big for the Chinese rail cars. The animals, both born to wild-caught parents in a New Jersey collection in 1975, had been at Pittsburgh Zoo since 1977, but had never bred there. Because of inadequate parentage records, they were regarded as surplus by the SSP, and the Zoological

Society of San Diego negotiated their loan to Chengdu.

Another white rhino was shot and killed in December after breaking out of the privately-owned Zoo of Acadiana in Broussard, Louisiana, U.S.A. Veterinarians with tranquilizer guns were trying to approach it when it suddenly charged one of them. The ten-year-old female was believed to be pregnant.

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Three double-wattled cassowaries hatched at the Zoo de la Casa de Campo, Madrid, Spain, in July 1996. The male, who arrived in Madrid at the end of 1989, turned out to be an excellent father, both incubating the eggs and raising the chicks. The zoo has been successfully breeding the species for four years. The chicks hatched in 1993 and 1994 were hand-reared and those from 1995 and 1996 were father-reared.

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The Institute of Museum Services has allocated over \$135,000 in Conservation Project Support grants to

four U.S. zoos. The recipients are: Baltimore Zoo, for research into diagnosis and prevention of avian malaria in African penguins; Lincoln Park, for developing guidelines for use of animal databases; Riverbanks Zoo, for research into reproductive cycles of crocodile monitors (*Varanus salvadorii*), and into developing efficient semen collection methods for varanids in a collaborative effort with four other zoos; and Roger Williams Park Zoo, for examining the use of levonorgestrel implants as a new method of contraception for cebids, using the white-faced saki as a model.

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The first-ever captive-bred and parent-reared Cape griffon vulture (*Gyps coprotheres*) is soon to be released in the mountainous area north-west of Johannesburg. The chick hatched on 16 June 1996 at a South African research centre. Both parents suffer from osteodystrophy, a bone disease, caused by lack of calcium in the diet. Vultures are susceptible to the disease because of a decline in carcasses on the veld.

African Primates: Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan (1996), compiled by John F. Oates. IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group.

This is a fully-revised edition of the original Plan published in 1986. It deals with the primates of continental Africa; 64 species (15 prosimians, 46 monkeys and 3 apes) are recognised in the plan, which takes account of new taxonomic research. A revised system is used to rate species for conservation action, using a scale of one to five for the degree of threat they face, and either one or two points are added based on their taxonomic distinctiveness. This edition gives more attention to threatened subspecies; 43 subspecies and distinct local populations are identified as deserving of special conservation attention and are prioritised for action. The plan provides a summary review of progress on projects recommended in the original Action Plan, and gives recommendations for new projects in areas and on populations not previously included.

ISBN 2-8317-0304-2, 1996. 280 x 215 mm. viii + 80 pp., tables, maps, black-and-white photos. Price £13.50, US\$20, plus postage and packing. Details from: IUCN Publications Services Unit, 219c Huntingdon Road Cambridge, CB3 0DL, U.K. Tel: ++44 (1)223-277894; Fax: ++44 (1)223-277175; E-mail: iucn-psu@wcmc.org.uk