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# Animal Keepers' Forum

May 1988



*Dedicated to Professional Animal Care*



ANIMAL KEEPERS' FORUM, 635 Gage Blvd., Topeka, KS 66606

Editor-in-Chief: Susan Chan  
Assistant Editor: Alice Miser  
Assistant Editor: Ron Ringer

May 1988  
Volume Fifteen  
Number Five

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## Legislative Outlook, Continued

### Tipton kangaroo rat

(*Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides*)

Endangered

The genus *Dipodomys* is found mainly in dry, open, scrub and grassland habitat in western North America. Three *Dipodomys* species are currently listed by the FWS and several others—including *D.n. nitratoides*—are under consideration.

*D. n. nitratoides* is currently found only in the Tulane Lake Basin of the San Joaquin Valley in south-central California. At one time ranging over 1.7 million acres, by 1985 this species' range had been reduced by more than 96%—to 63,400 acres—and much of the remaining habitat consists of small fragments surrounded by agricultural lands and other private property. About 10% of the remaining habitat is administered by local, state, or federal agencies. The public lands support low to moderate populations and are thought to be relatively secure, but many of the other habitat fragments may be too small to sustain a long-term population.

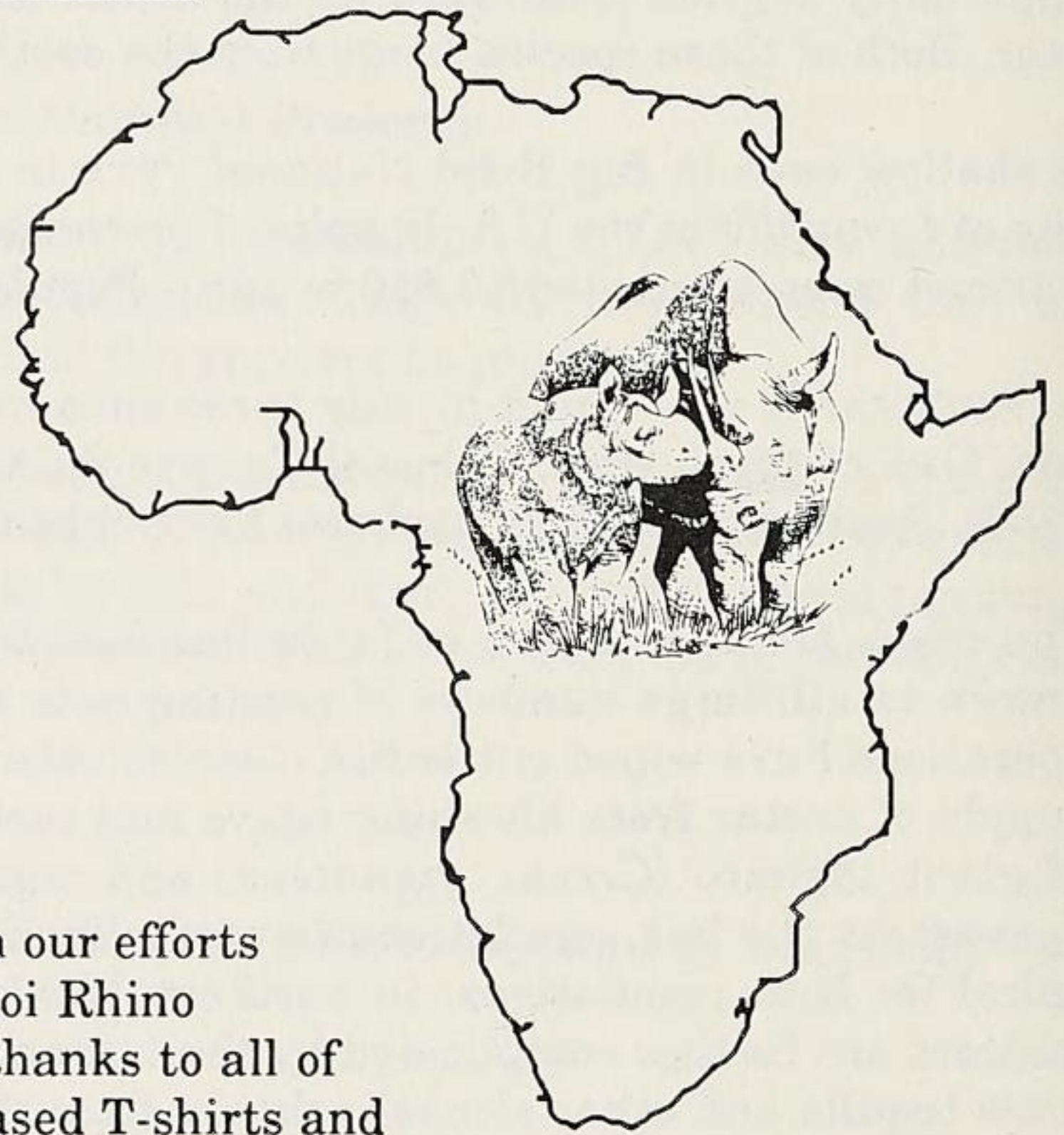
> From USFWS (*Endangered Species Technical Bulletin*, Aug. 1987)



## On the Brink of Extinction:

### A Ngare Sergoi Update

By  
Andy Lodge  
Keeper, Columbus Zoo  
Columbus, OH



Dear AAZK Members:

The year of 1987 was a very successful one in our efforts to raise money for Anna Merz's Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary. On behalf of Anna and myself, thanks to all of you who made contributions and who purchased T-shirts and other items we sold as fundraisers.

Additionally, thanks to the following who supported our efforts in a variety of ways: Zoo Atlanta, Metro Miami, Lincoln Park Zoo, Kansas City Zoo, Topeka Zoo, Pittsburgh Zoo, Turtle Back Zoo, Staten Island Zoo, Metro Toronto Zoo, Detroit Zoo, Akron Zoo, Washington Park Zoo, Indianapolis Zoo, Cleveland Zoo Docents, Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, North Carolina Zoological Park, and the Columbus Zoo staff, docents, volunteers and the American Association of Zoo Keepers.

I've just spent two months with Anna this year and the sanctuary is a success. Two more calves have been born this year, but she still is in need of financial support. She informed me it's the American Zookeepers who have been her largest means of this financial support for which she is most grateful.

I hope I can count on all of you in AAZK to continue to help me help Anna and her rhinos in this most important conservation effort. If you would like me to come to your zoo and give a presentation on Anna and her efforts, please contact me at the Columbus Zoo, phone (614) 766-3413 or at the following address: Ngare Sergoi Support Group, P.O. Box 29503, Columbus, OH 43229 for details. Thanks again for your support.





598  
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# Animal Keepers' Forum

June 1988

British Institution Library



*Dedicated to Professional Animal Care*



## **Scoops and Scuttlebutt, Continued**

National Conference bid presentations are made at the annual national conference. If two or more Chapters bid for a national conference, the attending membership will vote on the site following bid presentations early in the conference week. Bids for hosting Regional Conferences **must** be submitted to the AAZK Board of Directors at least **six months** prior to the planned conference date.

Questions about procedure or planning should be directed to Phil Pennock, Conference Book Committee Chairman at the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, WA, or to AAZK Vice President, Oliver Claffey at Metro Toronto Zoo.

### **Maned Wolf SSP Looking for New Zoos**

Interested in working with endangered species? Want to expand your knowledge of canids? Then Maned Wolves (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*) are for you. There are only 20 zoos in North America holding this rare and exotic South American canid whose often secretive habits can offer a challenge to anyone interested in creative exhibit design and innovative reproductive technologies. In order to meet our Masterplan goals, the Maned Wolf SSP needs more involvement from the zoo community. For information about available animals and management criteria, please contact: *Melissa Rodden, Species Coordinator, Maned Wolf SSP, NZP Conservation Center, Front Royal, VA 22630 (703) 635-4166.*

### **ADT Forms Available Upon Request**

Animal Data Transfer Forms for zoos and aquariums are available free upon request. Contact: *Bernie Feldman, Burnet Park Zoo, 500 Burnet Park Dr., Syracuse, NY 13204.* If your facility is not already using the ADT Form, encourage your administration to implement its use whenever an animal is shipped.

## *From the Editor's Desk.....*

*(I would like to share the following letter with all members of AAZK. SC)*

Dear Ms. Chan,

I should be most grateful if you could inform the members of your Association of my deep and sincere gratitude for the wonderful support they have given, through Andy Lodge, to the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary. Please will you tell them that work on the Extension, which will double the size of the Sanctuary, is proceeding ahead of schedule and should be completed by the summer. Also two calves, both females, were born on the 18th of February and 9th of March this year and both are doing well. I am so grateful to you all, perhaps one day some of you can visit here.

Thank you all.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Merz





## Births & Hatchings, Continued

**San Diego Zoo/Wild Animal Park...** yet another Southern white rhino (*Certotherium s. simum*) was born to the Park's collection, bringing the count to 72 WAP births for this species. The new male's name is Marejo which means return. (He was named this because the intention was to return him to his mother.) Shortly after birth, Marejo had difficulty getting up so he was transported to the hospital for observation. Everything proved to be okay and a reintroduction was later attempted. However, his mother's older calf acted aggressively toward the new sibling. And when the mother sided with the older calf, it was decided to move Marejo to the Animal Care Center. He is currently doing well.

The Park's 35th Baringo giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalia rothschildi*) was born in February to Ginger. The new calf was unable to stand so keepers moved her to the ACC for observation. After a clean checkup, a reintroduction with her mother was also attempted. Although the young calf tried to nurse, the mother would not let her due to increased pressure in her teats causing pain each time the calf attempted to suckle. So this youngster was moved back to the ACC as well. The giraffe's name is Gadimiwa which means to be propped up. Unlike most young animals raised in the ACC, this calf did not learn to take a bottle but rather went right to slurping her food from a pan.

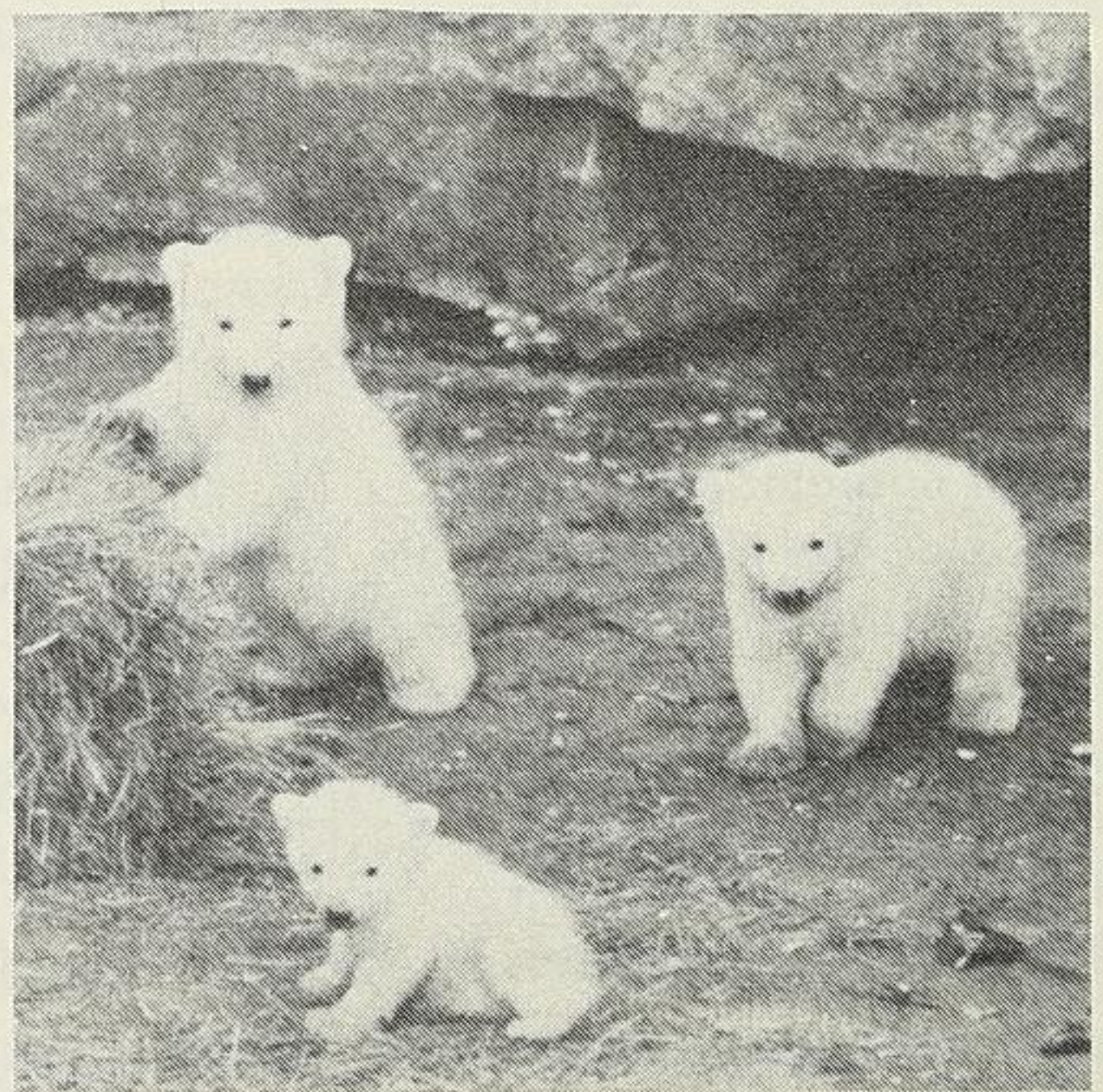
The Park also reports the birth of 0.1 Przewalski's horse (*Equus przewalskii przewalskii*), bringing our number of births for this endangered species to 59.

**Busch Gardens/Tampa...** the Dark Continent reports the births in April of 1.3 Scimitar-horned oryx, a species highly endangered in the wild. Other births included: 0.1 Suni, 1.0 Grant's zebra, 0.0.2 Ring-tailed lemur, 1.0 Reticulated giraffe, 1.1 Grevy's zebra, 1.1 Black and white ruffed lemur, 0.0.1 Chimpanzee and 2.2 White Bengal tiger. *submitted by Mary Eisenacher, Animal Records, Busch Gardens/Tampa.*

**Henry Doorly Zoo...** for the period 2 January through April 1988, the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha reports these births and hatchings. In our Bird Dept., a first for the Omaha Zoo, an American flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*) chick was hatched 8 March. The chick is doing great and is being parent-raised in our outdoor aviary. Other hatchings include: 0.0.1 Black-footed penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*) DNS, 0.0.2 Cereopsis goose (*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*), 0.0.5 Ne Ne goose (*Branta sandvicensis*), and 0.0.15 Elegant-crested tinamou (*Eudronia elegans*).

Mammal births include: 1.0 Spider monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*) DNS, 1.1 Nile lechwe (*Kobus megceros*), 1.0 Reeves muntjac (*Muntiacus reevesi*), 0.0.1 Celebes ape (*Macaca nigra*), 0.2.1 Maxwell duiker (*Cephalophus maxwelli*), one female is being hand-raised, and 1.0 Gaur (*Bos gaurus*) DNS.

**Polar Bear Update:** The Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo's first set of polar bear triplets (*Ursus maritimus*) were removed from their isolation den on 22 February. "Olga" and 2.1 cubs were placed in their summer home to the delight of many spectators. Unfortunately, the smallest cub had to be removed a few weeks later. A male, he was much smaller than his siblings and was being picked on and short-changed at dinner time. He is being raised separately, without competition, and is now growing by leaps and bounds. *submitted by Carla Wieser, Cat Keeper, Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha, NE.*



**Triplet polar bear cubs born 29 November 1987 at Henry Doorly Zoo. The smallest cub is being hand-raised separately.**

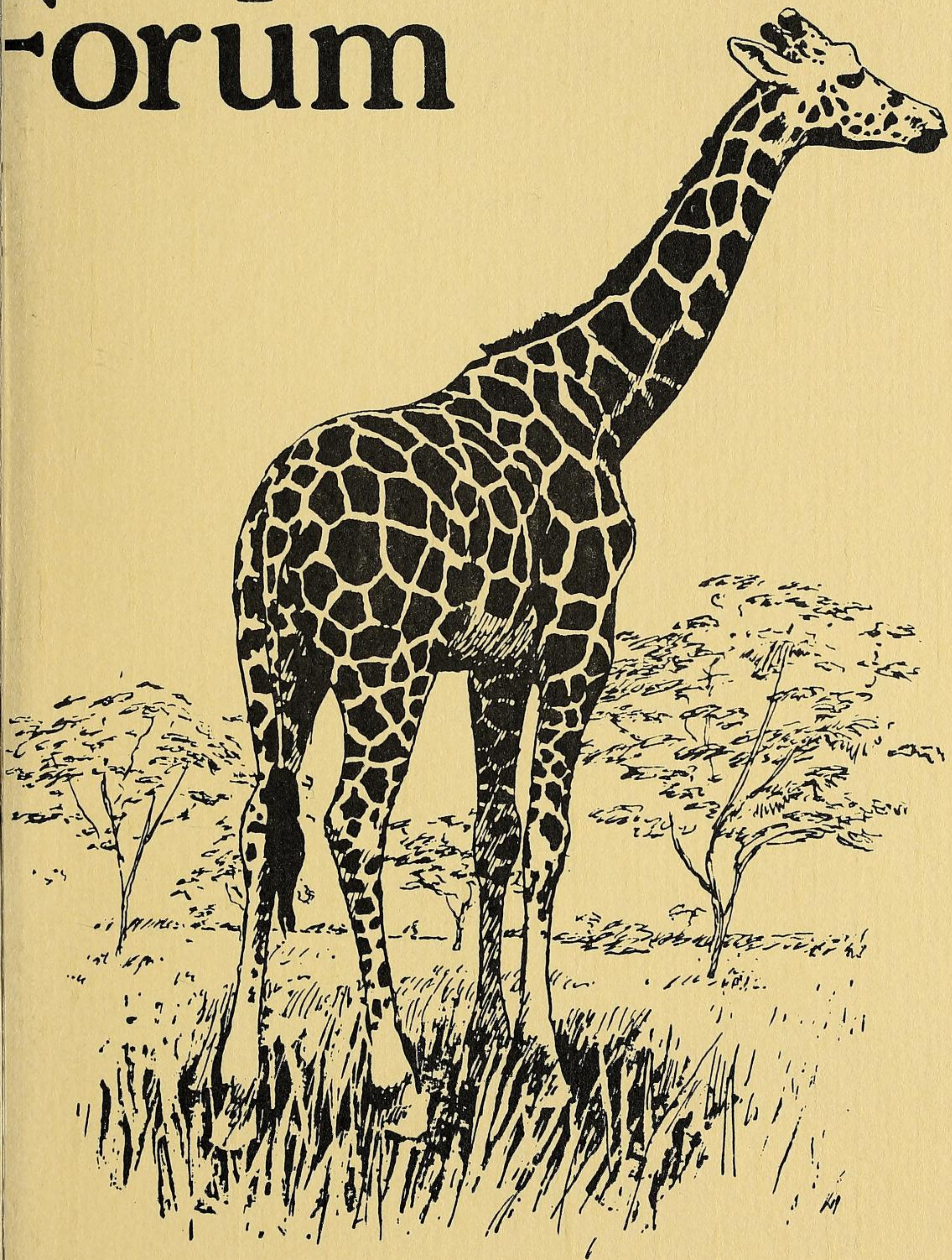




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## **Births and Hatchings, Continued**

gorilla (*Gorilla g. gorilla*) was born to Toni, owned by Columbus, and Sunshine, a male on loan from San Francisco. This infant did not survive. *submitted by Carl Gyarmaty, Columbus AAZK Chapter Secretary, Columbus Zoo, Columbus, OH.*

**Bronx Zoo...**the Bronx Zoo AAZK Chapter announces the following significant births and hatchings for the month of July. The Dept. of Mammalogy is proud to announce the births of 0.0.2 Rodriguez fruit bats, also known as Rodriguez flying foxes (*Pteropus rodricensis*).

As recently as 30 years ago, thousands of these bats which are endemic to the Rodrigues Island in the Indian Ocean, could be found. Now, due to deforestation only about 200 are left on the island. Fortunately a breeding colony has been established by the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust. The Bronx Zoo hopes to have success in their breeding program as well and in doing so help in assuring the survival of this species. Two female Formosan sika deer (*Cervus nippon taiwanus*) were born this month adding to the herd of this endangered species. The Bronx Zoo maintains a major breeding program for this species. On 19 July a female Pudu (*Pudu pudu*) was born. These tiny deer are native to the deep forests of Chile and Argentina. On 13 July a male Nyala (*Tragelaphus angasi*) was born. Nyalas are in the group of spiral-horned antelopes which are only found in Africa. Usually only the males have the distinctive corkscrew-like horns. They can exist on quite poor quality of forage and are not territorial; this gives them a good chance of survival. The spiral-horned antelopes have a honored place in African traditions. Rock paintings on the Kalahari include sketches of the common eland as domesticated by the Bushmen.

The Dept. of Ornithology hatched two more, as yet unsexed, American flamingos (*Phoenicopterus ruber ruber*). These beautiful and popular exhibit birds are breeding well at the Bronx Zoo after a few years when they were disturbed by construction nearby. On 18 July 0.0.1 Malayan peacock pheasant (*Polyplectron malacense malacense*) were hatched.

The Dept. of Herpetology had an Independence Day hatchings of 0.0.6 Broad-snouted caiman (*Caiman latirostris*), and on 10 July 0.0.14 Dumeril's ground boas (*Acrentophis dumerili*) were born. *submitted by Wendy Worth, Corresponding Secretary, Bronx Zoo AAZK Chapter, Bronx, NY.*

**San Diego Wild Animal Park...**the latest success in the SDWAP's efforts to breed endangered species came on 11 September with the birth of a rare black rhinoceros. The newborn male, named Jioni by keepers, is only the third of his species to be born at the park. His name means "evening" in Swahili. Jioni is the offspring of Cornelius, a eight-year-old male owned by the Zoological Society of San Diego, and Judy, whose age is unknown, having been wild-caught in 1973. She arrived at SDWAP in November of 1986 on a breeding loan from the Brookfield Zoo. Jioni was born after a gestation of 489 days. There are currently 68 black rhinos in the U.S.; 80 rhinos have been born in the U.S. since 1941. The black rhino has suffered a dramatic decline in its native Africa in recent years. From an estimated 60,000 in 1970, the population has dropped to fewer than 4,000 today. *from San Diego Wild Animal Park News Release, Escondido, CA.*

**Zoo Atlanta...**births and hatchings for 1 March through 15 July include 1.1 California sea lion, 2.3 Black-necked swan, and 1.2 Grey hornbill. Acquisitions include 0.0.6 Sweet waxbill, 0.0.16 Orange-cheeked waxbill, 0.0.16 St. Helena's waxbill, 1.1 Hartlaub's duck, 0.0.4 White-crowned robin chat, 0.0.5 Green fruit pigeon, 1.1 Hadada ibis, 1.1 Jardine parrot, 2.2 Dumeril ground boa, 3.0 Red ruffed lemur, and finally 4.9 Lowland gorilla and 1.4 Sumatran orangutan. The great apes are on permanent breeding loan from the Yerkes Primate Center.

It's been a busy summer for Zoo Atlanta. On 11 June our new African Rainforest exhibit opened with a 2000 square foot West African aviary and an outdoor three-acre gorilla exhibit (consisting of four separate yards) with an off-exhibit indoor holding area of 7700

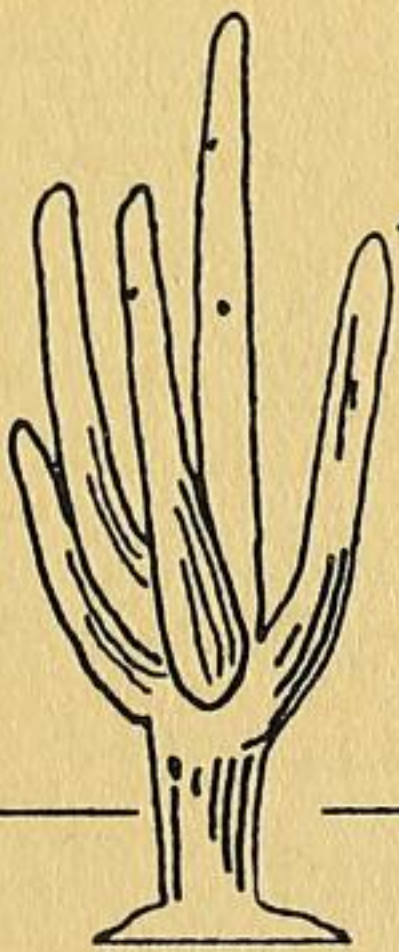


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December 1988  
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American Assoc.  
of Zookeepers



14<sup>th</sup>

NATIONAL CONFERENCE / Tucson '88

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## Births & Hatchings. *Continued*

Reptile Dept. - 0.0.12 Bullsnake (1 DNS), 0.0.6 Western pigmy rattlesnake ( 3 stillborn).  
*submitted by Melissa Carden, Animal Keeper, Dickerson Park Zoo, Springfield, MO.*

Columbus Zoo...during the months of August-October 1988, the Columbus Zoo experienced a multitude of notable Aquarium hatchings and acquisitions, our first yellow-backed duiker offspring, this year's fourth and fifth cheetah litters, and several significant animal acquisitions.

Our Aquarium has been the scene of extensive renovations the past several months, in terms of both exhibit designs and building repairs. Its collection has also been changed substantially, with new species and new bloodlines for extant species being added. Among the most notable additions were wild-caught Benga peacocks (*Aulonacara bengala*), an African cichlid displayed for the first time in Columbus; 1.1 *Chaetodon declivis*, which, as far as can be determined, is the only pair of this deepwater butterfly fish on display in the U.S.; and 2.3 Salton Sea pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*), an endangered species that has spawned at the Zoo. We have also built up an extensive collection of primitive fish, containing specimens of all lungfish species and most of the Polypterus species. Other notable additions include 0.0.3 Asian arowana (*Scleropages formosus*); 1.1 *Pomacanthus asfur* and 1.0 *Pomacanthus chrysurus*, both types of angelfish from the Red Sea; 1.0 *Chaetodon falcifer*, a deepwater butterfly fish found in cold waters; and 0.0.1 *Zebrasoma rostratum*, a black tang found only around Christmas Island. In addition to the 30-40 pupfish we have hatched, other important spawnings include Benga peacock, 4 Striped damselfish (*Dascyclus melanurus*), Blue regal peacock (*Haplochromis ovatus*), an African cichlid, and Trewavasae (*Labeotropheus trewavasae*), another African cichlid. The cichlid hatchings are notable because the parents were wild-caught, thus adding new bloodlines to the U.S. populations.

Among our Reptile Dept.'s productive output for this three-month period (148 animals hatched), three hatchings are particularly notable because this is the first time all three species bred at the Zoo. However, we have had offspring before because we received females that were already gravid. These hatchings were: 3 Pancake tortoise (*Malacochersus tornieri*), 3 Emory's rat snake (*Elaphe g. emoryi*), and 14 Beaded dragon (*Amphibolurus vitticeps*). We have had high infant mortality with beaded dragon infants in the past, and the cause was pinpointed to calcium and phosphorus deficiencies. However, we now utilize a diet obtained from the Toledo Zoo, which involves sprinkling their crickets, waxworms, mealworms, and produce with various vitamins and minerals. So far this diet has proven extremely effective, and all 14 offspring are doing well.

Once again, our Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) breeding program has yielded outstanding results with two litters produced. 1.2 cubs were born to Stinky and Duey. This was Stinky's third litter and her second for this year, and it is the first time she is raising them on her own. 4.1 (1.0 DNS) cubs were born to Johari and Duey. This was Johari's second litter, and the Zoo was able to videotape her giving birth. Johari's litter was the fifth cheetah litter this year for Columbus, the first time we have had so many in one year. Our cheetah statistics so far for 1988 show five litters with 18 cubs, with 5.4 surviving.

On 13 October, the Zoo witnessed our first Yellow-backed duiker (*Cephalophus sylvicultor*) birth, a male that DNS. This was the third offspring from the seven-year-old mother, on breeding loan from the National Zoo, and the first for the two-year-old father, purchased from the Dallas Zoo. The infant seemed unable to obtain sufficient milk and started to lose weight. We began a schedule of supplemental bottle feedings while still leaving the baby with his mother. However, he died after eight days.

In addition to the above offspring, we have also had some exciting acquisitions. Two new cervid species now reside in Columbus. We have purchased 1.1 Red brocket deer (*Mazama americana*) from the Bronx Zoo that are both a little over a year old. These small deer are native to Central and South America where their status is undetermined, but they are



## **Births & Hatchings, Continued**

seldom seen in U.S. zoos. We have also obtained 1.2 Reindeer (*Rangifer tarandus*) that will be displayed in our Children's Zoo barn and used in the Zoo's Christmas programs this year.

Several noteworthy individuals have also been obtained. On 5 October, we received a 12-year-old female Lowland gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*) named Molly from the Kansas City Zoo. She will be introduced to our male, Bongo, soon. On 7 October, we received a new female Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) from Patuxant Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD. She is five years old and is capable of flight, although she is non-releasable. She has laid eggs and raised chicks at Patuxant, and she will be paired with our male, George. George's mate, Georgina, died of aspergillosis in July at the age of 25 years. George and Georgina hatched nine chicks, of which four survived. Some of these were hacked into the wild.

Finally, our Southern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) pair were joined by a new female, 24-year-old Luanne, on breeding loan from the Louisville Zoo. Prior to this, Luanne was at Kings Island Wild Animal Habitat. Our pair, Pandullah and Mama (both are 21 years old) are wild-caught, as is Luanne, and this makes all three very valuable to the U.S. gene pool. White rhinos traditionally do not breed in pairs, and this was the case at Columbus. Thus Luanne was recommended to us by White Rhino SSP Coordinator Bob Reece. Luanne is a very vocal rhino, roaring and grunting alot at the other two, but she has integrated well with them. We hope that her presence will stimulate Pandullah to breed both females. *submitted by Carl Gyarmaty, Chapter Liaison, Columbus Zoo AAZK Chapter, Columbus, OH.*

**Attention all B&H contributors:** Beginning with the January 1989 issue of *AKF*, we will no longer publish submissions which consist only of a numerical listing of births and hatchings. We have tried in the past year to encourage contributors to submit their B&H information in a text format, noting why these B&H are significant to their institutions (i.e., first ever captive reproduction, first ever for the facility, first second-generation, SSP species, reproduction due to change in exhibit or husbandry techniques, etc.) Two good examples of how we would like submissions sent are those from the Columbus Zoo and Bronx Zoo in the October 1988 issue (page 302-303). We would also ask that all those submitting B&H please include the scientific name (as per ISIS) following the common name of species listed. We greatly appreciate those individuals who have continued to submit material for B&H and our goal is to make this section of *AKF* not only more readable and interesting, but to include reproduction data in a context where it may be more valuable to anyone seeking information of captive exotic animal births and hatchings. We know it will mean a little more work on your part, but we feel the effort will be well worth it and we appreciate your assistance. *The Editor*

