

# Smithsonian Year 1968

ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1968



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
City of Washington 1968

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# National Zoological Park

THEODORE H. REED, *Director*



PRACTICING GOOD ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, the National Zoological Park has sought throughout the year to make even better the splendid collection of animals which it now houses. Every effort was made to obtain mates for solitary specimens, and the resultant breeding records have been gratifying. The research program has been broadened, and the educational facilities offered to the public have been increased. The grounds, which for several years were torn up by new construction, have now returned to a green and parklike loveliness. Although unsettled civic conditions existed throughout the spring months, there were no incidents at the Zoo and the number of visitors was only slightly less than last year.

## The Animals

The collection grew through births, gifts, purchases, and exchanges. The aim of the Zoo is to present a wide diversity of fauna and at the same time to build up herds of rare and endangered species whenever possible.

The animal department has been reorganized and is now known as the department of living vertebrates.

### BIRTHS

This has been a most important year for births of rare and seldom-seen animals. In August the black rhinoceroses, Tony and Thelma, produced a fine male baby. Named Dillon in honor of S. Dillon Ripley,



Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, he has proved to be one of the most popular animals in the Zoo, both with the public and with the employees.

In May, a Père David's deer gave birth to a male fawn. This species is on the "rare and endangered list" of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and the Zoo hopes to build up a sizable herd of these animals, which have long been extinct in the wild. The golden marmosets, which are also on the IUCN list, produced another set of twins. Other notable births included giraffe, pygmy hippopotamus, Nile hippopotamus, black-footed cats, a Gambian pouched rat, bushbabies, Patas monkey, black and spotted leopards, a golden cat, and a California sea-lion (which is being hand-raised).

Efforts of the bird division to mate up pairs, try out new diets, and furnish acceptable nesting conditions have paid off. There was a notable increase in the number of species hatched, despite the disruption of the bird house, which underwent a complete replastering, re-roofing, and repainting job, making it necessary to move birds frequently from one cage to another.

#### STATUS OF THE COLLECTION

30 June 1968

<i>Phylum: Class</i>	<i>Orders</i>	<i>Families</i>	<i>Species or subspecies</i>	<i>Individuals</i>
Chordata: Mammals	14	48	210	601
: Birds	22	78	417	1,254
: Reptiles	3	29	259	743
: Amphibians	2	12	35	116
: Fishes	5	8	31	189
Arthropoda: Insects	1	1	1	15
: Crustaceans	1	1	2	126
: Spiders	1	1	1	2
Mollusca: Snails	1	1	1	30
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>3,076</b>

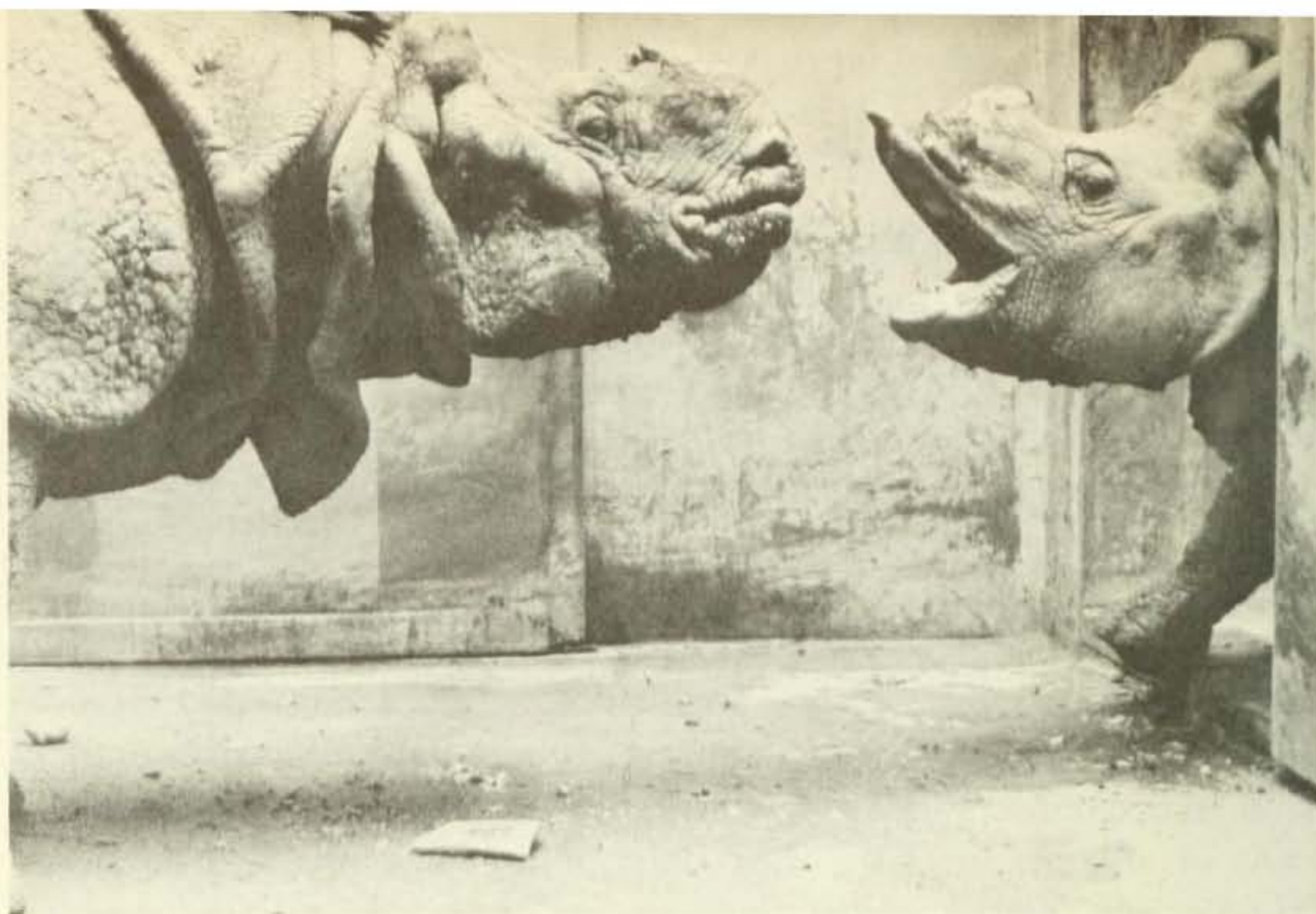
NOTE: Certain tabulated, statistical, and other information formerly contained in the report of the National Zoological Park in *Smithsonian Year* now appears as appendices to the Separate of this Report (available on request from the Director of the National Zoological Park). This information includes:

Visitor statistics and other operational information.

Report of the Veterinarian, augmented by case histories and autopsy reports.

Complete lists of (a) animals in the collection on 30 June 1968; (b) all births and hatchings during the year; and (c) changes in the collection by gift, purchase, or exchange.





Although our Indian rhinos Tarun and Rajkumari had been living in adjoining cages almost since Raj's arrival as an 8-month-old calf in December 1963, it was felt that she was too young to be introduced to the mature male before this spring. As far as Rajkumari was concerned, it was definitely **NOT** love at first sight. . . .

. . . but after a week or two, Tarun was obviously transforming into a prince.  
(Photos courtesy *The Washington Post*: Top, Ken Feil, bottom, Arthur Ellis.)





Marine and Fisheries, at which Lee Talbot read a statement by Secretary Ripley endorsing the legislation. Zoo Director Reed also testified for the Wild Animal Propagation Trust, and submitted a statement by William G. Conway (then president of the AAZPA), favoring enactment.

### Information and Education

During fiscal year 1968 the information-education section continued its signing and labeling program, as well as providing editorial and graphic arts services and assistance in planning special Zoo events. The section assisted with press, radio, and television coverage of Zoo activities on more than 77 occasions, and disseminated natural history and Park information by telephone and correspondence. For groups of handicapped children, visiting schools and colleges, personnel from other zoo's and museums, and special guests and dignitaries, 46 guided tours were conducted.

The section also cooperated with the Friends of the National Zoo in a number of projects, principally in training groups of volunteer docents or tour guides.

**African black rhino Thelma keeps a watchful eye on her (and the Zoo's) first-born rhinoceros, Dillon, named for Smithsonian Secretary S. Dillon Ripley.**

