



Profile of the New York Zoological Society

Founded in 1895, the New York Zoological Society consists today of six major divisions operating facilities in the United States and worldwide: the New York Zoological Park (Bronx Zoo); the New York Aquarium and Osborn Laboratories of Marine Sciences in Brooklyn; the Wildlife Survival Center on St. Catherines Island, Georgia; Wildlife Conservation International (WCI), headquartered at the Bronx Zoo; and the City Zoos in Central Park, Prospect Park, and Flushing Meadows Park, soon to be renovated and managed by the Society. WCI supports active research projects in countries ranging from the People's Republic of China to Belize, and maintains stations in the Kibale Forest, Uganda; Valdes Peninsula, Argentina; and Amboseli National Park, Kenya. The Society's staff of 461 in all divisions includes curators, educators, veterinarians, animal keepers, research scientists, writers, administrators, artists and designers, photographers, gardeners, technicians, and a host of other support and maintenance specialists.

The *Bronx Zoo* and *New York Aquarium* are sensitive and popular tools for teaching environmental education in the nation's urban capital. Serving a metropolitan New York population of more than 17,000,000, as well as visitors from around the world, they combine nature, recreation, and education as do no other city institutions. In particular, they seek to arouse an interest in wild creatures and to stimulate compassion for them. In recent years, the captive collections of the Zoo and Aquarium, now totaling more than 26,250 individual animals, have begun to fulfill a new, if unwanted role as long-term repositories for vanishing species, sustaining and perpetuating rare and delicate creatures which are disappearing in nature.

The *Wildlife Survival Center*, founded in 1974, is wholly devoted to the propagation and study of endangered species. Its captive breeding programs are complemented by wildlife release projects designed to reintroduce certain species to the wild.

The *Osborn Laboratories of Marine Sciences*, adjacent to the Aquarium and an integral part of its programs, has devoted its resources since 1968 to basic studies in the mechanisms of heredity, to the characteristics and cure of fish diseases (with a special view toward the application of this work to aquaculture), and to broad investigations in marine ecology.

The objective of *Wildlife Conservation International* is to save pieces of nature. WCI is the country's senior non-governmental program sponsoring international wildlife conservation and research. As George Schaller, WCI Director, has written, "We strive to obtain a better understanding of the structure, functioning and stability of large ecosystems and to apply this understanding to their conservation." WCI's distinctive

approach has already contributed to the creation, enlargement, or strengthening of more than fifty reserves and parks, and to the education of many to whom the future is entrusted.

The *City Zoos Project*, now in progress, will expand the Society's public service throughout the New York metropolitan area, creating an entirely new and modern system of wildlife management and exhibition facilities, with emphasis on educational opportunities for children and adults alike. The redesigned Central Park Zoo will open in 1988.

1985-86 Highlights and Vital Statistics

Attendance at New York Zoological Society facilities reached nearly 2.9 million, with 2,267,940 at the Bronx Zoo and 621,547 at the New York Aquarium between July 1, 1985, and June 30, 1986.

Membership in the Society rose to 28,610, and more than 50,000 individuals, foundations, and corporations contributed \$10,496,663 in dues, gifts, and bequests.

Born or hatched at the Bronx Zoo, New York Aquarium, and Wildlife Survival Center during calendar year 1985 were more than 1,700 mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes.

Noteworthy offspring included Ella, Indian rhinoceros; Tinka and Tonka, Siberian tigers; Chico, grey seal; Rocky, California sea lion; five silvered leaf monkeys; four small-clawed otters; twelve Bulwer's pheasants; eight Guam kingfishers; seven Guam rails; twenty-two radiated tortoises; fifteen Coahuilan box turtles; and ten southern stingrays.

At the end of 1985, the New York Zoological Society was responsible for 4,504 animals of nearly 750 species and subspecies at the Bronx Zoo, 271 animals of 46 species at the Wildlife Survival Center; and 21,729 animals of 315 species at the New York Aquarium. More than 250 of these species are listed as endangered or threatened in some degree.

The Bronx Zoo's Himalayan Habitat was scheduled to open in September 1986; renovation of the Elephant House began in late summer 1985; and groundbreaking for the Aquarium's Discovery Cove took place in March 1986.

Wildlife Conservation International (WCI) sponsored 59 projects in 30 countries, including new efforts in Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malagasy Republic, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zaire, Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Costa Rica, Argentina, and Venezuela.

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"For it was never intended, from the beginning, that the Zoological Society's interests should be bounded by the fences around the Zoo and the Aquarium." So wrote Fairfield Osborn, the Society's illustrious sixth president, in 1948, and his words continue to guide and inspire the Society's activities today.

Entering its ninety-second year, the New York Zoological Society, while firmly based at the Bronx Zoo and New York Aquarium, is more than ever involved beyond their fences. Ties between our New York bases and the worldwide efforts of Wildlife Conservation International continue to grow stronger. Educational programs, such as the Zoo's *Wildlife Inquiry Through Zoo Education*, reach tens of thousands of schoolchildren in metropolitan New York and across the country. WIZE was also recently introduced abroad, in the Central American country of Belize. In the past year, the Society has helped to formulate conservation legislation in New York State and has collaborated in saving two bird species, through captive breeding, that had become extinct on the island of Guam. The necessity for global involvement is reflected as well in the award of the Society's Gold Medal to British conservationist Dr. Norman Myers, who has done so much to broadcast the plight of the world's ecosystems and to propose action for their survival.

Even within the Zoo and Aquarium, the message is one of reaching out. In JungleWorld's first full year, nearly 700,000 people walked through its magnificent habitats and learned about the importance of saving the world's tropical forests. *Animal Kingdom*, coming into its own as one of the country's premier wildlife magazines, reached a rapidly growing audience of nearly 150,000 readers each month, including the members of 38 zoological societies around the country.

To an encouraging degree, this year of involvement has been matched by the involvement of friends and supporters of the Society. Literally extending the Society's interests beyond the fences of the Bronx Zoo and New York Aquarium is the Central Park Zoo, for which a number of generous gifts were received. Outstanding among them were Milton and Carroll Petrie's pledge of \$1 million for the Tropic Zone Building, a total of \$1.393 million from funds associated with the late Lila Acheson Wallace and the Reader's Digest, and a challenge grant of \$400,000 from The Kresge Foundation. Other capital contributions included \$250,000 from the Dunlevy Milbank Foundation for the Aquarium's Discovery Cove, and \$1 million from the Robert

New York Zoological Park

Mammalogy

Evolution in the jungle

In its first year JungleWorld has proved to be a dynamic, ever-changing, living environment. The flora and fauna have fully acclimated to their new home and have also begun to grow and reproduce. As in nature, growth and reproduction are indications of success.

Among the mammals that inhabit JungleWorld, the greatest reproductive success thus far has been achieved by the troop of silvered leaf monkeys. Five growing youngsters, born in the exhibit since November, clamber over the buttress-root trees, tangled lianas, and rocky ledges of the Lowland Evergreen Rain Forest. This population increase is especially gratifying because, of all the mammals living in JungleWorld, only the silvered leaf monkeys were brought from the wild. Establishing the troop required two grueling trips to Indonesia by General Curator James Doherty and nearly twelve months of careful monitoring by the Mammalogy and Animal Health staffs. The five baby monkeys represent the culmination of these human efforts—and the beginnings of a viable program for the only breeding captive group of this species in the United States.

Living in the Bornean Mangrove Forest is a pair of small-clawed otters acquired from the Rotterdam Zoo and the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. Of the fifteen species of otters distributed worldwide, the Asian small-clawed otter is both the smallest and one of the most endangered. It is one of thirty-five endangered animals that the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums has designated with Species Survival Plan (SSP) status. As participants in the SSP effort to breed these rare mammals, the Mammalogy Department staff were elated at the birth of four female otter pups on December 13. Throughout the spring, many Bronx Zoo visitors enjoyed the playful antics of the youngsters. Most important, however, will be the pups' future contributions to the survival of the species.

Other JungleWorld residents that have adjusted especially well to their new surroundings include proboscis monkeys, white-checked gibbons, Malayan tapirs, mouse deer, and slow lorises. Several of the proboscis monkeys, which are unusual both for their pendulous noses and their swimming ability, finally began to swim occasionally in their mangrove lagoon. The white-checked gibbons now travel arm-over-arm through the lianas of the Lower Montane Rain Forest, sometimes at amazing speeds and always with utmost

grace. The pair of rare Malayan tapirs seem particularly relaxed lying along the riverbank beneath the white-checked gibbons' arboreal hilltop. A pair of slow lorises and a pair of mouse deer are on a "reverse light schedule," enabling JungleWorld visitors to observe these normally nocturnal mammals during daytime hours.

Ella and Alisa

On December 11, 1984, Indian rhinos Mayang Kumari (Pinkie) and Heiner were observed breeding during a twenty-four-hour watch by Senior Keepers Robert Terracuso and Patrick Thomas. For more than three years the staff had made many attempts to bring together these rather solitary animals, or others in the group, at the optimal time for mating. As a result of this breeding, and after a gestation period of 484 days, Ella (named for the late NYZS Vice-president Ella Foshay) was born on April 9, 1986. The first rhinoceros born at the Bronx Zoo, Ella is one of only twenty-nine Indian rhinos currently living in Northern American zoos. Unfortunately, in India and Nepal where there were once hundreds of thousands of free-ranging Indian rhinos, today only 1,800 survive; thus, the importance of maintaining a self-sustaining breeding group in captivity. Ella weighed a delicate 107 pounds at birth, but will continue to grow until she reaches her adult weight of 4,500 pounds in about eight years.



Rocky and his mother Adrienne have delighted large crowds at the Sea Lion Pool since his birth on June 5, 1986.