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• Generate interest in and membership in the Society.
• Contribute to the reader's knowledge of exhibits, research, education, animals, plants, and other matters pertinent to the Society's purposes.
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COVERS

Front: Hammerkop Scopus umbretta. Photo by Michael Mace.

Back: The pygmy slow loris Nycticebus pygmaeus occurs in Vietnam and in Laos. The San Diego Zoo received six of the diminutive primates in April 1987. San Diego Zoo photo by Ron Garrison.

Opposite: Asiatic lion cub Panthera leo persica at the San Diego Zoo. Only 150 to 200 of the lions remain in the wild, in the Gir Forest of Gujarat in western India.

This month, read about a construction expert of the bird world that always carries a hammer—the hammerkop of East Africa. Then learn why zoos are not just for exhibition as ZOO NOOZ takes you behind the scenes to follow some of the unseen and often unsung efforts that benefit wildlife conservation.

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*Dhoruba, the 70th southern white rhino *Ceratotherium simum simum* born at the Wild Animal Park since 1971, was photographed with his mother shortly after his birth on January 5.*

*Brilliant emeralds, sapphires, and amethysts, together with a breast of gold, combine to make the royal starling *Cosmopsarus regius* a living jewel.*



*Southern, or Chilean, pudu *Pudu pudu*.*



The unusual projection on the tip of the sharp-nosed pit viper's snout stands out. The eyes, on the other hand, are nearly hidden. This is a boon to an animal that preys on small mammals and an occasional ground bird. This snake uses an ambushing technique—lying in wait to surprise its prey. Prominent eyes can serve as a warning signal, frightening away prey, and the last thing the pit viper wants to do is scare away its next meal.

HAVE YOU SEEN . . .

The recent weather reports: It's raining cats and dogs—and rhinos at the Wild Animal Park! No one can say for sure if a heavy downpour precipitated the arrival of the Park's 70th southern white rhino baby, but the 125-pound male was named Dhoruba, the Swahili word for storm. Unlike most of the Park's baby rhinos, which have been born at night, Dhoruba arrived at 11:30 A.M. on January 5, much to the delight of Park visitors and staff who witnessed the birth. The Wild Animal Park's breeding program for the southern white rhino *Ceratotherium simum simum* began in 1971 with a group of 18 white rhinos presented by the Natal

Parks Board of Zululand. Since then, more white rhinos have been born at the Wild Animal Park than anywhere outside Africa.

Dear deer—a southern, or Chilean, pudu *Pudu pudu* was born at the Zoo on January 11. The pudu is the smallest native American deer, standing only 375 to 415 millimeters (14.5 to 16 inches) at the shoulder and weighing about 9 kilograms (less than 20 pounds). The Zoo's little fawn is the first of this endangered species born to the Zoological Society's collection.

Royal watchers can catch a glimpse of a regal pair at the Wild Animal Park. Two royal, or golden-breasted, starlings *Cosmopsarus regius* with beautiful long tails have taken up residence in the front flight cage.

A passel of pelicans (well, almost) can also be seen at the Park. Four Dalmatian pelicans *Pelecanus crispus* joined the Park's single male at the lagoon in the East Africa

exhibit while the final remodeling touches are completed on their permanent home in Nairobi Village. While the single male Dalmatian pelican that has been on exhibit at the Park since 1969 delights in his newfound company, the Park's bird department looks forward to developing a breeding program for this endangered species.

Pit stop. Take time to see the new sharp-nosed pit vipers *Deinagkistrodon acutus* in the reptile house when you visit the Zoo. This species has not been in the Zoological Society's collection for 18 years and is rarely seen in captivity. This snake has earned the names sharp-nosed pit viper and snorkel-nosed pit viper because of the sharp projection on its snout.

Large or small, soft or sharp, the animals at the Zoo and the Wild Animal Park offer a fascinating and fun look at nature's handiwork.