

Guam rails are flightless rail endemic of Guam (USA), where they were widely distributed in forest, scrub and agricultural areas until 1968. At this time, they entered a decade of decline along with most other indigenous species. This decline was due to the spread throughout the island of the accidentally introduced brown tree snake (*Boiga irregularis*). By 1981 the population was put at approximately 2,000 and the population on Guam continued to decline. By 1985, only 21 birds remained in the wild. These were captured to form the nucleus of the propagation program. Long-term survival of this rail is dependent on captive breeding and on the relocation of a second population onto Rota.

The Zoo has succeeded in producing a Guam rail chick using a foster pair of rails to hatch the egg as well as rear the chick. This is the first time such a rearing technique has proven successful for these rails. An additional three chicks, from a pair with a male reportedly past his reproductive age, have also hatched.

Chris Edelen, an aviculturist at the Zoo's Wings of the World exhibit has been working with captive Guam rails in the Aviculture Department's, propagation areas. In 1999, Edelen was enlisted by Guam DWAR to assist the biologists on Rota in the relocation of fifty rails onto Rota. In addition, he was trained in the use of radio telemetry equipment so that he could assist in

tracking the rails, monitoring their health and searching for any nests and eggs that may have been produced by the birds.

Three months after the relocation of the rails, nests and eggs were observed on Rota. Latest reports document eight chicks hatched. This marks the first time in 15 years that Guam rails have hatched in the wild.

In February, 42 additional birds were transferred to Rota; 24 were fitted with radio transmitters. The Zoo and Edelen assisted in this relocation as well. While in Guam, Edelen compiled data collected from the released birds and assisted in the release of additional rails in a protected area of Guam. Monitoring and tracking of these birds will continue in order to document their locations and the health of the population.

Black Rhino Born at Riverbanks

On 1 February an 85-pound black rhino was delivered at Riverbanks Zoo & Garden.

The infant female rhino is the second offspring of the pair of black rhinoceroses at Riverbanks. The first, a male, was born in 1996 and now lives at the Jacksonville Zoo in Florida.

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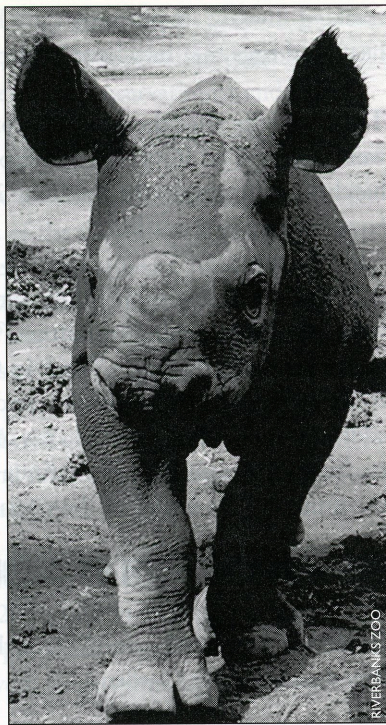
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The mother was born at the San Francisco Zoo in 1988. The father was born at the Los Angeles Zoo in 1986. Both came to Riverbanks in 1991 as part of the SSP for rhinoceroses.



The calf is the 103rd currently living in North America, according to the International Rhino Foundation.

The zoo's veterinary staff said the infant is in fine shape, healthy and nursing.

When she fully matures, in about five years, she should weigh about 2,500 pounds and will make her home at a zoo selected by the SSP.

SSP Births at Central Florida

Two significant SSP births recently occurred at the Central Florida Zoo.

On 7 February, a female clouded leopard was born. The cub, being parent-reared off exhibit, represents an important addition to the captive clouded leopard population in the United States. She weighed 265 grams at birth.



On 8 March, twin cotton-top tamarins were born at the Zoo. The infants are on display with their entire troupe. This is the second reproductive success at the Zoo.



Mystic Aquarium Officially Bids Farewell To Released Pilot Whales

Four months after their release back into the ocean, a pair of rehabilitated pilot whales are now officially on their own. After 132 days, the satellite tracking devices that were attached to the animals' dorsal fins have stopped transmitting. The project set a record for the longest time tracking the species. Aquarium scien-

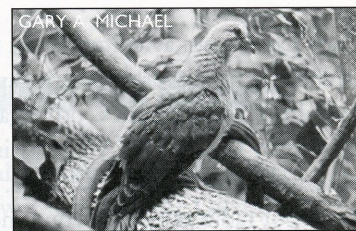
tists are now analyzing the data received and will eventually share their knowledge with the research community and with those responsible for protecting pilot whales in the wild.

The transmitters tracked the pair as they covered more than 1,000 miles, making excursions along the way. Information gained from this research project will help biologists better assess and identify critical pilot whale habitats and help protect the species from potential human and environmental impacts.

Two juvenile pilot whales came to the Aquarium's Aquatic Animal Study Center on 28 June. After receiving four months of care for infection and complications due to stranding, the pair was released 20 October 1999, off the coast of Rhode Island.

Propagaton of the Pink Pigeon at Louisville

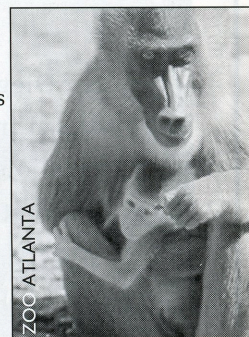
A Mauritius pink pigeon (*Columba mayeri*) is being parent-reared at the Louisville Zoo's Islands Pavilion. At the date of the writing, the adult birds are the only pink pigeons housed in North America that rear their offspring. The squab hatched on 4 March. A sibling hatched on 5 March and perished prior to fledging. The incubation period was 14 days. The youngster fledged at 28 days. The nest was built by the female bird in a fig tree (*Ficus benjamina*) at a height of approximately eight meters in the birds' forest-like exhibit.



The pigeons are housed at the Forest Bird Trail exhibit at Islands. The Trail is a large mixed-species display of tropical birds and plants.

Drill Born in Atlanta

The birth of a 1.5 lb. drill in Zoo Atlanta's Ford African Rain Forest lengthens Zoo Atlanta's lead in the conservation of this highly endangered primate. Drills, a small monkey native to the rainforests of West Africa, are currently the most endangered primate in Africa.



Zoo Atlanta is the only zoo in the United States with a breeding pair of drills, and one of only three in the United States to house a drill collection. This birth, a monumental achievement in international conservation, brings the number of drills in captivity in the United States to 21, with twelve residing at Zoo Atlanta.

Zoo Atlanta's baby drill, born on Thursday, March 23, is doing well under its mother's care. It is the seventh drill born at Zoo Atlanta to Inge and Adonis, a twelve-year-old pair of drills who have resided at Zoo Atlanta since 1990.