

Information regarding the population dynamics of the whiskered auklets is limited. Both the whiskered and least auklets are vulnerable to introduced mammalian predators and environmental hazards. The Cincinnati Zoo has been working in the field and with the captive colonies to increase knowledge of these birds' natural history and to monitor the health of the colonies in the wild. This information will be utilized in the long-term conservation of the auklets in the North Pacific.



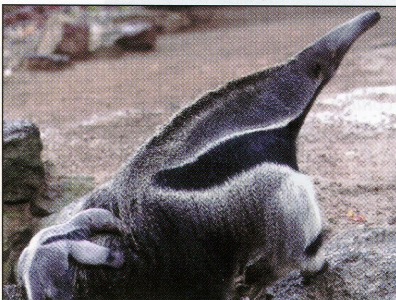
## WHITE RHINO BIRTH AT LION COUNTRY SAFARI

On 23 June, Lion Country Safari's White rhinoceros Lissa gave birth to Eliza, a 50-pound female and Lissa's fifth baby.

Before being introduced into the Safari's Hwange National Park to roam with the other White rhinos, Lissa and Eliza will remain in the Rhino Calving Pen to give them an opportunity to bond and to protect them from accidental injury from other animals.

The third largest land animal after the African and Asian elephants, the White rhinoceros is endangered in the wild. Most zoos only house them in pairs out of space considerations for these large animals; however, the male seems to need territorial interactions with other males to produce the testosterone levels that lead to an interest in mating. Therefore, most zoos experience limited success in breeding White rhinos, and it is even less common for zoo-born White rhinos to reproduce. Because the Safari can offer plenty of space for them, it is currently home to 12 White rhinos — 3 male and 9 female. The preserve setting allows natural behaviors and interactions to take place. As a result, Lion Country Safari's White rhinos have produced 30 offspring since 1979.

Lion Country Safari participates in the White Rhinoceros Species Survival Plan (SSP).



## SIGNIFICANT BIRTH AT CALDWELL ZOO

On 13 August a female giant anteater (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) was born at the Caldwell Zoo. The baby is the seventh giant anteater born at the Zoo to the same mother since March 1993.

This birth marks the first offspring from the pairing of the Caldwell Zoo-owned female with a male on loan from the Detroit Zoo.

Giant anteaters are native to open savannah areas of South America where termite and ant mounds are plentiful. The primary pressure on wild populations of this species has historically been from hunting and farming. The giant anteater is one of 28 endangered and/or threatened species currently housed at the Caldwell Zoo.

## VANCOUVER CALLS ON THE PUBLIC TO AID RESEARCH EFFORTS AND SHORELINE CLEAN UP

**BC CETACEAN SIGHTINGS NETWORK:** The Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre, in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, have called on the public to participate in research efforts by reporting all whale, dolphin and porpoise sightings in BC Waters. The BC Cetacean Sightings Network was a collaborative project between the partners last year. This year, the project received a \$66,000 grant from the Habitat Stewardship Program.

The Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) for Species at Risk is a partnership-based, conservation initiative sponsored by the Government of Canada. The program is managed cooperatively by Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Parks Canada. Contributions to non-government organizations are designated for the recovery of species at risk, identified by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). In British Columbia there are two cetacean species listed as threatened: humpback whales and resident killer whales. In addition, the North Pacific right whale is listed as endangered.

More than 17 species of whales, dolphins and porpoises — which as a group are called cetaceans — can be seen off the BC coast. Many are seasonal or infrequent visitors and range in size from the small harbour porpoise to the colossal blue whale, the largest animal that has ever lived on earth. The partners are hopeful that the public, who have long been fascinated by the beauty and mystery of marine mammals, will actively participate in the BC Cetacean Sightings Network.

**GREAT CANADIAN SHORELINE CLEANUP:** From 15 – 30 September, over 4,000 people volunteered to help clean up 130 different shorelines as part of the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup. Common items found were fishing line, plastic bags, plastic netting, six-pack rings, nets, fishing hooks and lures; all of which can significantly affect how aquatic animals eat, breathe and move. The Shoreline Cleanup is organized by the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre each year as part of the International Coastal Cleanup.

## TOLEDO ZOO ANNOUNCES FIRST ELEPHANT TO CONCEIVE BY SURGICAL ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

The Toledo Zoo recently announced the pregnancy of Rafiki, the first elephant to successfully conceive by surgical artificial insemination (AI). Rafiki, a 19-year old African elephant, spent a year at the Pittsburgh Zoo where natural breeding was attempted before she was brought to the Toledo Zoo to be prepared for AI. Dr. Dennis Schmitt performed surgical AI on Rafiki after identifying some anatomical abnormalities in the elephant that were not conducive to the non-surgical version of the procedure. The success of this insemination is significant since very few facilities have the capability or the resources to conduct the technologically demanding non-surgical procedure. Now, these facilities can be incorporated into future breeding program plans. The elephant calf is due in late July or early August 2002. ❁