

SIGNIFICANT EFFORTS IN CONSERVATION

SIGNIFICANT HATCHING AT MOODY GARDENS

On 14 May, 0.0.1 Common Piping Guan, (*Aburria pipile cumanensis*) hatched at The Rainforest at Moody Gardens. The egg, which was laid on exhibit, was pulled into the incubator on 21 April. The incubation temperature was 97.5 degrees Fahrenheit. The bird is healthy, and feeds on Mazuri pheasant diet, mealworms, fruits, and vegetables. Daily weights were collected from day five up into day 35. When fully fledged, keepers plan to introduce the bird to the free flight collection in the *Rainforest Exhibit*.



PRIMATE BIRTH AT CHAFFEE ZOO

On 7 May, a female spot-nosed guenon was born at the Chaffee Zoological Gardens of Fresno.

The baby's mother was born in the wild and the father was born in captivity at Santa Barbara Zoo.

The 17-year-old mother gave birth twice before, but both infants died shortly thereafter.

There are only about twenty spot-nosed guenons in zoos nationwide, which adds to the significance of this latest birth. Although spot-nosed guenons are not considered endangered by the IUCN, CITES lists them under Appendix II.

The new baby at Chaffee is in good health and catching the attention of many visitors. The lifespan of this species is about 22 years in captivity.

NEW ARRIVALS AT RACINE ZOO

Two significant Species Survival Program (SSP) births were recorded at the Racine Zoological Gardens earlier this year. Two snow leopard cubs (0.2) were born on 9 April, representing the second successful breeding for the parents. Less than a month later, on 6 May, three (2.1) red wolves were born for the first time in the Zoo's history. This litter was one of only five nationwide this year,

out of 30 recommended breedings overall. Human contact with the pups is being kept to an absolute minimum, as they are tentative candidates for reintroduction efforts in cooperation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.



SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN SOUTH FLORIDA

On 23 June, a female White Rhino named Eliza was born at Lion Country Safari in Loxahatchee,

Florida. This marks the 30th White Rhino born at the facility since its inception in 1967.

Both the dam, Lissa, and sire, Pop, were born at Lion Country Safari in the early eighties.

This latest birth is significant to the facility's active participation in the White Rhino Species Survival Program.

CONSERVATION EVENT PROVES PROFITABLE

On 20 May, the Lowry Park Zoo held its first Conservation Day in order to raise money for *in situ* conservation and increase conservation awareness. Admission to the Zoo was lowered, in honor of this event, to \$2 for each visitor. Total gate revenue collected was \$17,863.05 with \$8,931.52 being donated to the following conservation projects: The Bushmeat Crisis Task Force, Animal Asia Foundation and the Gray Bat Fund. Zoo visitors were given the opportunity to vote for the organization to which they wished to donate their dollar.

Eight local conservation organizations participated in Conservation Day and seventeen information tables were set up throughout the Zoo. Signage for this event included a general SSP sign and sign stationed in front of our eighteen SSP animals stating why they are endangered and how many are left in the wild. In addition, there were fifteen conservation tip signs placed throughout the Zoo explaining how everyone can help support conservation.

Additional highlights for the day included twenty-five scheduled conservation oriented shows and keeper talks. Most shows were well attended with numbers as large as 50 to 100 people.

Due to the overall success of this event, it will be held as an annual event to raise funds to support conservation efforts throughout the world.

SIGNIFICANT BIRTHS IN CONNECTICUT

On 17 May, two male pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*) were born at the Beardsley Zoo. This is the second birth for the mother, who had one offspring last year. The newborns will be showcased at the Zoo's Learning Circle at 10 a.m., 12 p.m., and 2 p.m. daily throughout the summer. A Zoo representative will be on hand to share facts about pronghorn and answer questions.

The pronghorn's range extends from all four deserts of the Southwest, from Saskatchewan, Canada south to Mexico. They live in grasslands, brushlands, bunch-grass, and sagebrush areas of open plains and deserts. Of the five pronghorn subspecies, three are endangered due to habitat destruction, livestock overgrazing, drought, and the damming of rivers.



BLACK RHINO BORN AT FOSSIL RIM

On 19 June, a Southern Black Rhinoceros was born at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. The female calf is part of a captive population management pro-

Continued on page 40

CONSERVATION

Continued from page 39

gram, which includes a total of 42 rhinos. The newest addition is the third offspring of mother CoCo, and the fourth successful black rhino birth at Fossil Rim. Two other AZA members, Disney's Animal Kingdom and White Oak Conservation Center, both saw the successful birth of black rhinos this year as well.

The black rhino is one of five species of rhinoceros. A cousin to the white rhino, it is native to Africa. Slaughtered for its horn, which is believed to possess medicinal properties and is used for dagger handles, the black rhino is threatened with extinction. As recently as thirty years ago, the wild population of black rhino was believed to be approximately 65,000, now less than 2,500 exist in the wild, and only 1,400 of these are of the southern subspecies.

SIGNIFICANT BIRTHS AND HATCHINGS AT PHILLY ZOO

Spring has proved to be very fertile for the Philadelphia Zoo this year. In the last several months, a total of six endangered species were born, including three primates, two tigers, two kingfishers, and two penguins.

On 19 March, a female golden lion tamarin (*Leontopithecus rosalia*) was born, and is now on exhibit in the Rare Animal Conservation Center. The small primate is critically endangered due to the rising human population near its home in Rio de Janeiro. Severe deforestation is the main cause of their decline. Captive monkeys have been released into the wild, where VP for Animal Programs Andy Baker and other Zoo primate keepers have studied the animal's habitat and helped to protect it from logging.

On 6 May, a female golden-headed lion tamarin (*Leontopithecus chrysomelas*) was born, and is also on exhibit in the Rare Animal Conservation Center. Zoo professionals closely monitor the species through an international studbook management program.



A male douc langur (*Pygathrix nemaeus*) was born on 29 May, and is currently off-exhibit. The douc langur is endangered due to habitat loss in its native Vietnam, and the environmental destruction brought on by the Vietnam War. The Philadelphia Zoo is only one of two U.S. institutions to house this species. The Zoo's *One With Nature* conservation program has been providing support to the Endangered Primate Rescue Center (EPRC) in Cuc Phuong National

Park in Vietnam, which is home to animals confiscated from the bushmeat trade.

Weeks later, a pair of Amur tigers (*Panthera tigris altaica*) were born at the Zoo on 31 May. Recent studies show that only 400 of these cats exist in the wild. The critically endangered tigers are diminishing in the wild due to human encroachment and subsequent loss of prey, poaching and illegal hunting.

Recent hatchings include two Micronesian kingfishers (*Halcyon cinnamomina cinnamomina*) and two Humboldt penguins (*Spheniscus humboldti*). The Micronesian kingfisher is one of the most endangered species of bird in the world, due to the obliteration of its natural habitat in Guam following World War II. In



1983 and 1985, the Zoo participated in a captive breeding and reintroduction program for the endangered kingfisher. At present, there are only about 60 birds in U.S. zoos.

The Humboldt penguins at the Philadelphia Zoo are part of the Species Survival Program. Earlier this year, Bird Curator John Finch and keeper, Amy Ivins monitored activities of guano harvesters and fishermen near the largest Humboldt penguin breeding colony in Peru. As a result of this joint effort with other zoos, the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Peruvian government, no penguins were killed during the harvest. In contrast, 12 percent of the total population died during the last guano harvest.

JOHN BALL ZOO SOCIETY ANNOUNCES GRANT RECIPIENTS

In 1985, the John Ball Zoo Society created a Wildlife Conservation fund to provide financial aid to international conservation, education, and captive wildlife management programs. In addition to assistance from Mr. Fables, Inc., the fund is currently supported through the Society's animal adoption program (Footsteps to the Future), and through contributions to their conservation endowment fund at the Grand Rapid Foundation.

The fund enables the Zoo and the Society to contribute directly to conservation projects in the wild. Recently, the Society announced its conservation grant awards for 2001. This year's awardees include:

** Project Golden Frog/Proyecto Rana Dorada, Panama, Central America*

** Program to Monitor Status and Determine Critical Habitat of the Far Eastern (Amur) Leopard in Russian Far East, Primorski Province, Russian Far East*

** Effects of Subsistence Hunting and Habitat Fragmentation on Amazonian Forest Vertebrates, Brazil-Phase I, Alta Floresta municipality, Mato Grosso State, Brazil*

** Serosurvey of Canine Distemper Virus, and feline viruses in the Spotted Hyena in the Masai Mara, Masai Mara, Kenya*

** In situ Conservation of the Puerto Rican crested toad, Guanica and Quebradillas, Puerto Rico*

** Fiber as an Energy Source in Orangutans, St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis, MO*

** Effects of Full Spectrum Light on Vitamin D levels in Reptiles to Determine Optimum Duration of Exposure, John Ball Zoo, Grand Rapids, MI*

Continued on page 43