

Conservation in Action

A male Tule Wapiti bugles for a last time in San Pasqual Valley.



One of the main objectives of the San Diego Wild Animal Park—the return of threatened species to their natural environment—was achieved on 5 December 1974. Eighteen Tule Wapiti, *Cervus elaphus nannodes*, were presented to the Federal Government. The animals, 11 males and 7 females, were shipped to the 800-acre San Luis National Wildlife Refuge near Los Baños, California, by the California Department of Fish and Game. Included in the shipment were eight young animals born at the Park in San Pasqual Valley.

The breeding group, four males and four females, was acquired from the prospering herd in the Los Angeles Zoo on 7 July 1970. A pair was sent to Tierpark Berlin in an effort to establish this rare subspecies in a European collection.

Vast numbers of the Tule Wapiti, also referred to as Tule Elk, once ranged over the grasslands of central California. Between 1850 and 1870, competition from livestock, heavy hunting, and land development by settlers threatened it to near extinction. A cattleman protected remnants of the herd remaining in the tule swamps of Buena Vista Lake, Kern County. Later some animals were given protection at the Tupman refuge near Bakersfield and others were successfully transplanted to Cache Creek in Colusa County and Owens Valley in Inyo County. Presently about 400 Tule Wapiti are under protection.

THE SAN DIEGO WILD ANIMAL PARK, operated by the Zoological Society of San Diego, opened with only 150 species and 973 specimens in May 1972. Since then—through study of the social and reproductive behavior of the animals in the collection, through breeding loans with other zoos in the United States, and through purchase of animals—the Wild Animal Park has put conservation into action. On a recent visit to the Park,

Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary of the Interior, said: "... It (the Wild Animal Park) will do more for conservation and preservation of endangered species than anything."

During 1974, three new species of mammals—Banteng, Tur and Armenian Red Sheep—and four species of birds, including the rare Hawaiian Nene Goose, were added to the 1800-acre wildlife preserve. By the end of 1974, the number of

mammal, bird and reptile species at the Wild Animal Park totaled 161. Meanwhile, as a result of 775 births and hatchings, of which 606 survived, the number of animal specimens at the Park rose to 1,646 in 1974, an increase of 483 over 1973.

"We have a 78% survival rate at the Wild Animal Park," says Dr. James Dolan, Jr., general curator.

Breeding loans, which help assure continued reproduction in captivity among endangered species, played an important part in the conservation work at the Park in 1974. Three Lowland Gorillas, one from the Phoenix Zoo in Arizona and two from the Kansas City Zoo in Missouri, were received on breeding loan. Other endangered animals received on breeding loan last year include a pair of Northern White Rhinos from the National Zoo in Washington, D. C., three Grevy's Zebras from the Milwaukee Zoo in Wisconsin; a Turkomen Urial and a Przewalski's Horse from the Los Angeles Zoo (the mare will stay at the Park and her foals will be returned to the Los Angeles Zoo); and a pair of Nene Geese from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sent out from the Wild Animal Park in 1974 on breeding loan were four



Dept. of Fish and Game photo

Above: Two females emerge from the truck that transported them to their new home. All 18 animals arrived safely at the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge near Los Baños.



So far in 1975, five Slender-horned Gazelles, *Gazella leptoceros*, have been born at the Park: a set of male twins on 26 March; a female on 2 April; and a pair of twins, male and female, on 30 March. The latter twins are roaming the East African section with their mother; the other three youngsters are in a Nairobi Village enclosure with their mothers. One of the male twins was only hours old when he came out into the exhibit area of the enclosure to pose with his mother.



The Nilgai, *Boselaphus tragocamelus*, is a large Asiatic antelope that has reproduced at the Park. Adult bulls are dark blue-gray in coloration; young bulls and cows, tawny. One or two young are born after a gestation period of approximately eight months.

Hooded Cranes, a species that is extremely rare and has only once laid eggs in captivity, in Scotland. The Park's Hooded Cranes were sent to the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin, to breed, as were ten Lilford's Cranes and Three Demoiselle Cranes. The Foundation was established for the breeding of all cranes, many of which are endangered. The Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle was sent three Angolan Springbok.

"It is obvious from the number of animals received at the Wild Animal Park on breeding loans that the success of the facility in terms of reproduction is being recognized by our colleagues throughout the country although the Park is but in its infancy. Reproduction among the animals in the Park's collection has been outstanding since the first animals arrived in 1969. It is now possible for the Park to supply certain species to other zoological institutions, thus

eliminating their need to draw on the wild population," continues Dr. Dolan.

"For example, the Philadelphia and Toronto zoos both received shipments of Southern White Rhinos because these animals bred so well at the Park that surpluses occurred. In addition, the Wild Animal Park was able to return its entire herd of Tule Wapiti, a species native to California, to the wild in a national preserve.



Rhinoceros unicornis

The first birth of a Great Indian Rhinoceros at the Wild Animal Park was a bull calf born 24 March 1975. Unfortunately, it died on the following day. As pathological reports were inconclusive, it is assumed that the calf was a weak animal. It was Jaypuri's first baby. Jaypuri (which means "untidy girl") came to San Diego on 28 February 1965 from a Kaziranga game reserve. She was born at Gauhati, Assam, on 10 July 1963. The sire, Lasai (chubby or the fat one), came from the Basel Zoo in Switzerland on 12 October 1963. He was born there on 31 August 1962. His father and mother, Gadadhar and Joy-mothi, began the world-famous breeding colony at the Swiss zoo. Dr. Ernst M. Lang, director of the Basel Zoo, gave interesting biological data in his article, "Safeguarding the Indian Rhino" (ZOOLOGICAL January 1967). Joy-mothi's weight was 3,546 pounds when she was between four and five years of age; and a bull, Arjun, weighed 4,410 pounds. Moola, a daughter of Joy-mothi, had her first calf at the age of four years, seven months. He also stated that a gestation period of 474 to 486 days could be registered.



Uganda Giraffe
Giraffa camelopardalis rothschildi

Mammals Born and Birds Hatched During 1974

Key: The common name of the species is listed first, then the number born or hatched (male/female/sex unknown), and the number which survived in parentheses.

• Endangered species.

Mammals—51 species or subspecies

Southern New Guinea Scrub Wallaby—11 (8)
Grizzled Gray Tree Kangaroo—1 (1)
Spider Monkey—0/1 (0/1)
Lowland Gorilla—0/1 (0/1) •
African Lion—10/2/2 (6/1)
South African Cheetah—2/1 (2/1) •
Przewalski's Horse—1/1 (0/1) •
Hartmann's Mountain Zebra—1/2 (1/2) •
Southern White Rhinoceros—4/4 (4/3)
Uganda Giraffe—0/1 (0/1)
Formosan Sika—4/3 (2/3) •
Burmese Thamin—0/1 (0/1) •
Barasingha—1/1 (1/1) •
Indian Axis Deer—10/12/1 (10/11/1)
Indian Hog Deer—1/1 (0/1)
Luzon Sambar—1/0 (1/0)
Tule Wapiti—3/2 (2/2)
Pere David's Deer—1/0 (1/0)
Wyoming Pronghorn—2/0 (1/0)
South African Greater Kudu—0/2 (0/1)
Cape Eland—0/1 (0/1)
East African Eland—1/2 (1/2)
Nilgai—4/4 (4/3)
Angolan Roan Antelope—0/1 (0/1)
South African Sable Antelope—0/2 (0/1)
Gemsbok—1/0 (1/0)
Fringe-eared Oryx—2/1 (2/1)
Scimitar-horned Oryx—4/3 (4/3) •
Arabian Oryx—3/0 (3/0) •
Addax—4/9 (4/9) •
Ellipsen Waterbuck—2/2 (2/2)
Red Lechwe—0/1 (0/1) •
Uganda Kob—2/2 (1/2)
Cape Hartebeest—2/0 (1/0)
Topi—2/1 (1/1)
Blesbok—1/0 (1/0)
White-tailed Gnu—0/5 (0/5) •
Eastern White-bearded Gnu—5/3/3 (5/3/3)
Blackbuck—8/10/2 (6/7/2)
Kenya Impala—3/2 (3/1)
Angolan Springbok—6/3 (3/1)
Roosevelt's Gazelle—2/4 (0/2)
Dama Gazelle—4/3 (3/2)
Persian Goitered Gazelle—9/9 (7/6)
Slender-horned Gazelle—2/1 (2/1) •
Armenian Red Sheep—1/0 (0/0)
Aoudad—1/5/12 (0/2/11)
Indian Gaur—1/0 (1/0) •
Yak—0/1/2 (0/1/2)
Cape Buffalo—1/1 (1/1)
Water Buffalo—4/0/1 (1/0/0)

Birds—27 species or subspecies

South African Ostrich—20 (12)
Eastern Emu—1 (1)
Northern Red-billed Whistling Duck—14 (13)
Fulvous Whistling Duck—145 (136)
Mute Swan—2 (0)
Black Swan—25 (13)
Bar-headed Goose—6 (5)
European Shelduck—10 (9)
Ruddy Shelduck—5 (5)
Egyptian Goose—4 (4)
Red-crested Pochard—81 (49)
Rosy-billed Pochard—87 (70)
Mandarin Duck—2 (0)
Greater Brazilian Teal—79 (67)
Old World Comb Duck—6 (4)
Blacksmith Plover—7 (5)
Uganda Green Fruit Pigeon—1 (0)
Nicobar Pigeon—1 (0)
Lilac-breasted Roller—1 (1)
Northern Red-billed Hornbill—1 (0)
North African Ground Hornbill—3 (1)
Green-billed Toucan—1 (0)
Superb Starling—3 (2)
Eastern Blue-eared Glossy Starling—1 (1)
Ruppell's Long-tailed Glossy Starling—2 (1)
Bali Mynah—4 (1) •
Fukien Rufous Laughing-Thrush—1 (0)

“Also, all the Park's cloven-hoofed stock—Giraffe, Eland, Cape Buffalo, and all its species of deer and antelope—are captive-born; that is, none of the Park's collection of these animals has been taken from the wild and many of them are second- and third-generation.

“Of the 27 endangered species at the Wild Animal Park, 15 reproduced in 1974. These included Lowland Gorilla, South African Cheetah, Przewalski's Horse, Hartmann's Mountain Zebra, Formosan Sika Deer, Barasingha, Pere David's Deer, Scimitar-horned Oryx, Arabian Oryx, Addax, Slender-horned Gazelle, Indian Gaur, Eld's Deer, Red Lechwe, and the Bali Mynah.”

The San Diego Wild Animal Park is fulfilling its primary purpose—to preserve endangered species and to serve as a haven for vanishing wildlife.

ENDANGERED SPECIES IN THE COLLECTION San Diego Wild Animal Park MAMMALS

*Lowland Gorilla
Gorilla gorilla gorilla
Bolivian Ocelot
Felis pardalis steinbachi
Bengal or Indian Tiger
Panthera tigris tigris
*South African Cheetah
Acinonyx jubatus jubatus
Asiatic Elephant
Elephas maximus indicus
*Przewalski's Wild Horse
Equus przewalskii przewalskii
*Hartmann's Mountain Zebra
Hippotigris (Equus) zebra hartmannae
Transcaspien Kulan
Asinus (Equus) hemionus kulan
Great Indian Rhinoceros
Rhinoceros unicornis
Black Rhinoceros
Diceros bicornis bicornis
Northern White or Square-lipped Rhinoceros
Ceratotherium simum cottoni
*Formosan Sika
Cervus nippon taiouanus
*Barasingha or Swamp Deer
Cervus duvauceli duvauceli
*Burmese Eld's Deer
Cervus eldi thamin
*Scimitar-horned Oryx
Oryx gazella dammah
*Arabian Oryx
Oryx leucoryx
*Addax
Addax nasomaculatus
*Red Lechwe
Kobus lechwe lechwe
*White-tailed Gnu
Connochaetes gnou
*Slender-horned Gazelle
Gazella leptoceros
Javan Banteng
Bos (Bibos) javanicus javanicus
*Indian Gaur
Bos (Bibos) gaurus gaurus

BIRDS

Cuban or Black-billed Whistling Duck
Dendrocygna arborea
Nene or Hawaiian Goose
Branta sandvicensis
Cereopsis or Cape Barren Goose
Cereopsis novaehollandiae
Hooded Crane (out on breeding loan)
Grus monacha
*Rothschild's Starling or Bali Mynah
Leucopsar rothschildi
Listing based on IUCN Red Data Books and list issued by the U. S. Department of the Interior 4 January 1974 as amended.
Scientific names are those used by the San Diego Wild Animal Park, generic names in parentheses are those used by the IUCN or USDI.
*Born or hatched in collection during 1974.