

gazelle, 1.0 Brindled gnu, 0.1 Common waterbuck, 1.0 Cape buffalo, 1.0 Himalayan tahr, 0.1 aoudad, 2 Collared peccary, 2 puma, 2 Gelada baboon and 1 Bosman's potto.

Birds hatched were: 5 American flamingo, 1 Chilean flamingo, 1 American x Chilean flamingo, 1 Stanley crane, 1 Tawny frogmouth, 3 Black-shouldered peafowl and 3.4 Fulvous Whistling duck.

The following animals were acquired during the same period: 0.1 Rocky Mountain goat, 1.1 Arabian camel, 3 Eurasian hedgehog and 1 Brazilian Tiger Shovelnose catfish.

Ernest E. Roney Jnr.

SAN DIEGO, USA

Koalas Arrive

Six koalas arrived at the San Diego Zoo on 27th July, 1976, as a bicentennial gift from the Australian to the American people. In making the gift, the Australian Government has approved a "once-only" waiver of the strict ban on koala exports. San Diego has the only koala colony outside Australia, and it is approved by reason of its suitable climate, the abundance of eucalyptus, and its excellent record in caring for koalas.

The six new animals, 2.4, will join three ageing females, the two oldest, aged 15 and 16, holding the captive longevity record for koalas. They are the remnants of the group imported in 1959, but they may still be capable of breeding. The new group came from the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, near Brisbane.

New Hospital Wing

The Zoo hospital is to be expanded by the addition of a new surgery wing, providing 10,000 square feet for additional facilities, including two heated barns and eight holding pens, at a cost of \$1 million.

New Bird Sexing Procedure

A testing procedure now under study in the San Diego Zoo's endocrinology laboratory may lead to a breakthrough in determining the sex of animals which lack sexual dimorphism. San Diego Zoo researchers measure the hormone levels in faecal material and compare them to hormone levels of known males and females of the same or similar species. Using this technique, the bird in question does not have to undergo the trauma of being handled with the risk of subsequent damage and loss. Although still in the experimental stage, zoo researchers believe the technique is a viable one and will be a tremendous aid in pairing and management of exotic birds in captivity.

The endocrinology laboratory was established in 1975 to study the inter-relationships between hormones and reproduction efficiency. Projects undertaken thus far include experiments to sex animals, determine sexual maturation and pregnancy, and a special project to study factors which produce identical twins.

Clyde A. Hill

SAN DIEGO, USA

Galapagos Tortoises Reproducing

The Herpetology Department of the San Diego Zoo is pleased to announce that Galapagos tortoises are again reproducing in San Diego. This is the first hatching in

San Diego since 1971 when one tortoise was born. The eggs of female No. 1 (thought to be *Geochelone porteri*) began hatching on June 27, 1976 and through July 6 a total of 11 young were born from her first clutch of 21 eggs. This is the largest number of young ever hatched in a single season from the San Diego herd. In 1963 nine young were born. On July 13, 1976 the twelfth young tortoise began to emerge. This twelfth hatching is noteworthy since this is the first time that eggs from two separate clutches by a single female have hatched in San Diego. There appear to have been two fertile eggs in the second clutch of 14 eggs. Incubation time at 82°F for the first clutch was 124 days; for the second clutch it was 96 days. (James P. Bacon, Ph.D. Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians).

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TORONTO, CANADA

Spring births included 1 yak, 2.2 nilgai, 4 West Caucasian tur, 2 muntjac, 0.1 barasingha, 2 sitatunga, 1 springbok (d.n.s.), 2 beaver, 3 mara and 1 Barbary ape.

Arrivals during the period June to August included 1.0 Great Indian rhinoceros, the first of this species to be exhibited in Canada. New exhibits opened to the public included the group of 5 orang utans, the Eurasian walk-through exhibit, and the addition of 0.6 zebra to the White rhinoceros exhibit in the savannah display. This includes 4 White rhinoceros, the zebra herd, Ellipsen waterbuck, Crowned cranes, Wattled cranes, Abyssinian Ground hornbills and several species of vulture. The young pair of Black rhinoceros alternate with the White. Eight Black-footed penguins went on exhibit in the African pavilion.

The 'Canadian Animal Domain' was opened on 1st July. This exhibits White-tailed deer, Mule deer, bison, pronghorn, moose, wapiti, Dall's sheep and reindeer. Grizzly bear and wolf exhibits are to be added.

Zoo: Metropolitan Toronto Zoological Society Newsletter

WASHINGTON, D.C., USA

The National Zoo's Red panda breeding programme has realised exceptional success this year with the birth of three litters totalling seven cubs. Included in this year's births were another second-generation litter of three cubs and a litter of two to a female who was herself born at the Zoo and established in a trio, rather than a pair, grouping. The third litter was born to a pair that was set up in the fall of 1975 resulting from an exchange of animals with the Houston Zoo.

The binturong breeding programme has produced the fourth litter in three years. After a gestation period of 87 days, 2.2 cubs were born on June 25, 1976. Although two of the cubs died shortly after birth, the remaining cubs continue to do well and at two months of age are beginning to eat solid food and leave the nest area on their own.

Growth and development of the Red panda and binturong litters are being closely monitored and are being studied by graduate students and zoo staff. (M. Roberts and P. Larkin.)

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