

First Southern Black Rhino Birth at Fossil Rim

The first southern black rhino (*Diceros bicornis minor*) born at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center made its appearance on 29 December 1995. The 55-pound female was the only surviving birth of a southern black rhino in the U.S. during 1995. The new addition is the offspring of two wild-caught rhinos from Zimbabwe that were translocated to the United States along with eight others in April 1992. The mother is believed to be around 15 years old and has produced at least one calf in the wild. After successfully breeding at Fossil Rim, the seven-year-old father was translocated again in November 1994 to the Western Plains Zoo in Australia to join their herd of six females, which were also translocated from Zimbabwe. The birth was due to recent research results using a relatively noninvasive procedure known as transrectal ultrasonography. The mother was conditioned to the use of this procedure through positive behavioral reinforcement. Fossil Rim's animal care and health team is perfecting the use of ultrasonography to study the reproductive biology of both the white and black rhinos at Fossil Rim. *G. Rankin*



Southern Black Rhino at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center.

Saddle-Billed Stork Raised at the Dallas Zoo

For a second consecutive year, the Dallas Zoo has hatched saddle-billed storks (*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*). It is believed by zoo personnel that this species is not reproduced in captivity anywhere else. The off-exhibit breeding pair consists of a full-winged male and a pinioned female. Three fertile eggs were laid at 2-3 day intervals beginning 26 October. After the third egg was laid, two dummy eggs were added to the nest to halt further egg production. The first two hatchlings did not survive. The third chick hatched on 1 December, 32 days after incubation, and was left with its parents for eight days. Freezing weather forced zoo personnel to pull the chick for puppet raising. Fed an early diet of rat pups, smelt, osteoform, and vionate, the chick has reached adult weight of 5 kg and is now eating an adult diet. *C. Siegel*



Saddle-Billed Stork. Photo by R. Cabello.