Marwell Zoological Park, U.K.

Funds generously given by Marwell Zoological Society have been used to make additions to enclosures, which we hope will be of benefit to their occupants. The siamang enclosure has been re-roped, and the ropes are attached by shackles which can be taken off and hung in a different position, thus giving the animals something to think about next time they leave their house. Another purchase has been a food ball for the coatis, a scaled-down version of the one originally developed for domestic pigs. The food ball is filled with pellets of food, which drop out when the ball is rolled, keeping the animals occupied for hours. This is the first time a food ball has been used with this species, and the Scottish Agricultural College, who sponsored the pig food ball, requested some video footage of our coatis to show at the Royal Agricultural Show.

The funds raised from the Lynx Express Marwell 10K Road Race, which took place at the zoo last May, have also played their part. Two hard plastic 'Boomer' balls have been purchased for the babirusas as part of a study now under way. Babirusas are foragers and may enjoy using their noses to push things around – a large bed of wood-chippings in their enclosure should also give them something to get their noses into. Posts have been bought to provide supports for the platforms for the snow leopards and jaguars, giving them a better view of the park. The De Brazza monkey enclosure was completely re-vamped recently by a one-day challenge carried out by Calor Gas. Although the time and materials were all donated, the shackles and apprentice labour of a local rigging company to hang up the new branches were not, and were paid for out of Society funds and Race money.

Wherever possible, we are trying to monitor the effects that changes to the enclosures may have on our animals. A full-time behavioural research assistant, Chris McGinn, taken on under the Training for Work scheme, is now making observations of the babirusas and the lions, as well as assisting with projects by keepers and students. The behavioural data, recorded on check sheets, will all be transferred to a computer spreadsheet and then analysed statistically, to see if additions made to an enclosure are beneficial or not. To help with these studies, funds donated to the Enclosure Enrichment Project have been used to obtain items as diverse as stop watches and a tape of gibbon song recorded in the wild. Still to come are a browse feeder for the giraffes and a smaller feeder for the okapis; these are constructed from lamp-posts, with a winch inside to raise and lower the browse, so providing them with an artificial tree to feed from.

The Society has also made a grant of £210 to Southampton University's Way Kambas '93 Expedition. Way Kambas is a national park located in the south-east of Sumatra, and is one of the last protected localities where habitats such as lowland rainforest, freshwater non-peat swamp and mangrove swamp can be found. The area is a refuge for Asian elephant, Malayan tapir, Sumatran tiger, clouded leopard and white-winged wood duck. Despite the importance of this park, only basic information is available on it, and the expedition's task will be to increase this knowledge by surveying the area, amassing data on the resident large mammals and evaluating the food plants. The latter is especially important, as Way Kambas is being considered as an area to be used to help conserve one of the world's rarest mammals, the Javan rhinoceros. Despite its name, this species was native to Sumatra before probably becoming exterminated in 1961, on an island it shared with the almost equally endangered Sumatran rhinoceros. The Indonesian government, the IUCN and the WWF are considering relocating a small breeding group from Ujung Kulon, Java, to another reserve in Indonesia, to give the species a better chance of survival. It is not firmly known if Sumatran rhino reside in Way Kambas, and there is also just a chance that a few Javan rhino remain – so the results of the expedition may offer proof of the existence of these animals, as well as assisting conservation efforts for their survival. The modest grant from Marwell Zoological Society will enable additional trip-cameras to be used; these are critical in determining what large mammals remain in the forest. We await the expedition's reports with much interest.

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San Diego Wild Animal Park, California, U.S.A.

Five baby saigas (*Saiga tatarica*) are being hand-raised and doing well. The saiga, one of the most endangered of antelope species, is difficult to care for in captivity, and captive-breeding efforts have been slow. Currently, the Park has the only group in the United States. The saiga is native to the Siberian steppes and, at one time, vast herds lived on the plains. Scientists believe the saiga's characteristic bulbous nose helps to heat and humidify the frigid, dry air of the steppes before it enters the lungs. Another unusual characteristic of this species is that it does not produce antibodies to disease, presumably because so little could threaten the animals in such a harsh climate. This makes them difficult to care for elsewhere, however, because they succumb easily to common diseases. For decades, the saigas' only threat was the wolf. Now, humans are the principal predator, killing these delicate antelope for their ridged, translucent horns. In the wild, their population is dwindling rapidly, even though they are now protected in their native habitat. The Wild Animal Park hopes to aid in reversing this trend – the park has had 129 births since 1970, and nine have been born this year.

The 1993 condor breeding season was the park's most productive yet. Of the ten eggs laid, one was infertile and the other nine hatched. These birds were produced by six pairs of condors. The last chick, Hoy, emerged on 11 June; this chick is significant because its mother, Molloko, was the first California condor to be both conceived and hatched in captivity. Incidentally, Molloko's mate, Nojoqui, was hatched in 1986 from the last California condor egg produced in the wild. With Los Angeles Zoo hatching six condors this season, the total population is now 76 birds, with 38 at Los Angeles, 33 at the Wild Animal Park, and five in the wild. Based on this year's chick production and how well they are genetically represented, up to six birds are slated for release this year. Four condor chicks from San Diego were recently transferred to Los Angeles to be socialized with two release candidates from there. They will then be evaluated and sent to the release site. Even with those