

the magazine for friends of the Brno Zoo

Zooreport

No. 1
July 2020

Virtual Expedition



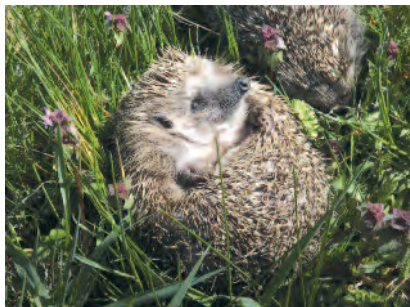
4 Virtual expedition

Become a part of the wild nature



12 Rescue Station

Starring hedgehogs



6 Winter is disappearing

Life is not possible without ice



14 Successful rescue programmes

Cranes have radios



8 Winter is disappearing

Under the snow duvet



16 Juveniles

Goats and fish with four eyes



10 Winter is disappearing

In a winter coat



18 Retrospect

Another record year



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UNSALEABLE

EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

The effects of the coronavirus pandemic have hit us very hard in the recent months. Apart from the financial losses because of the closure of the zoo, the issues of the Zooreport magazine were also postponed. Therefore, please accept my deepest apology for delivering the first issue of 2020 only now. We've also decided to keep the original content. A little cooling will come in handy in the summer. So, let's start gradually.

First, we talk about the event that we have been preparing for all year. After a series of hardships and vicissitudes, we opened a brand new exhibition called Virtual Expedition. This is not located in the Zoo complex on Mniší hora, but in the centre of Brno at Radnická Street No. 6. Yes, exactly where we once ran the Permanent Aquarium Exhibition. You can look forward to a unique experience that allows you to become part of the wild nature. You will fly with a flock of flamingos, you will dive down to see the coral reefs, you will travel with polar foxes, and you will stand face to face with the lions. Such a project has not been attempted anywhere in Central Europe, and from my own experience, I can confirm that a visit to the Virtual Expedition is definitely worth it.

As I mentioned at the beginning, we have decided to include some of our previously written articles, even though it's summer. I firmly hope that a little of that ice will make you happy during the hot holiday months. In addition, this issue covers topics that are relevant throughout the year. We will first look at the gradual rise in temperature and the effects of global warming on the Arctic. And I must point out that this is not a very cheerful read. Of course, we will also focus on domestic conditions and, for example, explain why snow is important for the whole of nature.



In the animal kingdom, we will focus on a popular animal, which almost everyone visits at Brno Zoo. Polar foxes inhabit the Beringia exhibition complex, and in this issue, we explain how their fur grows and what temperatures they can withstand. And speaking of fur, you can also read about other animals and their hairy coats.

As always, we cannot forget the Jinačovice rescue station. The beginning of the winter marks the end of the rescuing of hedgehogs – hedgehogs who have not been able to prepare for hibernation on their own are rescued and brought to the station for hibernation. Weaker individuals are fed in crates in the station, where they grow to standard weight and size so that they can go back to the wild. Read more on page 12.

The repatriation programme of Manchurian cranes and white-naped cranes has made us very happy in the recent

months. Last year, special radios were installed on the bodies of three cranes, which have now relayed important evidence of the life of cranes in the wild. Don't miss the article on page 14.

Of course, we haven't skipped our new arrivals this time. You can see all the young ones since the beginning of the year on page 16. In the next issues, of course, another group of little ones and cuteness will follow.

At the end of this issue, we review the previous year. Thank you very much for the kindness you showed us in 2019. We really appreciate the fact that you didn't leave us in the lurch even this spring. It is you, the adoptive parents, who have helped us significantly at the time of the zoo's closure. We really appreciate your help and thank you deeply.

Enjoy reading!

Michal Vaňáč



Brno Zoo has again reclaimed Radnická Street. Photo: Matyáš Slavík

Brno Zoo returns to Radnická Street with a unique project

Fly with a flock of flamingos, dive down to the coral reefs, wander with polar foxes and stand face to face with the lions. You can experience all this right in the centre of Brno at 6 Radnická Street. Brno Zoo has returned to the local spaces for its new exhibition called Virtual Expedition.

‘It will be a unique experience in the Czech Republic and Central Europe. Similar projects have been seen in France, the United Arab Emirates, China, Australia and the USA. We want to accommodate those who are not interested in going to the zoo because the animals are in paddocks as well as those who do not have the opportunity to spend the whole day, for

example, on the open plains or in the rainforest. There are no borders in the Virtual Expedition, and people can imagine themselves to be in the immediate vicinity of various animals around the world, and moreover in breath-taking environments,’ said Martin Hovorka, director of the Brno Zoo.

The magic of the Virtual Expedition lies not only in the extraordinary expe-

rience but also in its simplicity. Visitors can just walk in, sit on a swivel chair, put on special glasses and find themselves directly among the animals. This year we have a total of four films available. Currently, the exhibition allows visitors to go on a trip around the world and look at icy Nordic landscapes. During this year, we will also add pictures to the programme, which will transport visitors to under-sea spaces and tropical areas.

‘We have films from Wild Immersion, whose patron is the well-known conservationist Jane Goodall. From my own experience, I can confirm that it is an experience that one really remembers and is etched under one’s skin. And honestly, that’s what we want. Our goal is not just to show what it looks like elsewhere in the world. We would like to arouse people’s interest in nature, its diversity and above all in the protection of endangered species,’ added Hovorka.

The virtual expedition is open every day, from 10 am to 6 pm. All the necessary information is available on the website: virtualniexpedice.cz



Visitors can just walk in, sit on a swivel chair, put on special glasses and find themselves directly among the animals.

Photo: Michal Vaňáč



It is open from Tuesday to Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm.

Photo: Michal Vaňáč



We built a new exhibition: Virtual Expedition. Photo: Matyáš Slavík

Life is not possible without ice

In recent years, scientists have seen a gradual increase in the average temperature around the world: global warming.



Huge glaciers are beginning to melt, and their area is shrinking. Photo: enriquelopezgarre/Pixabay. com

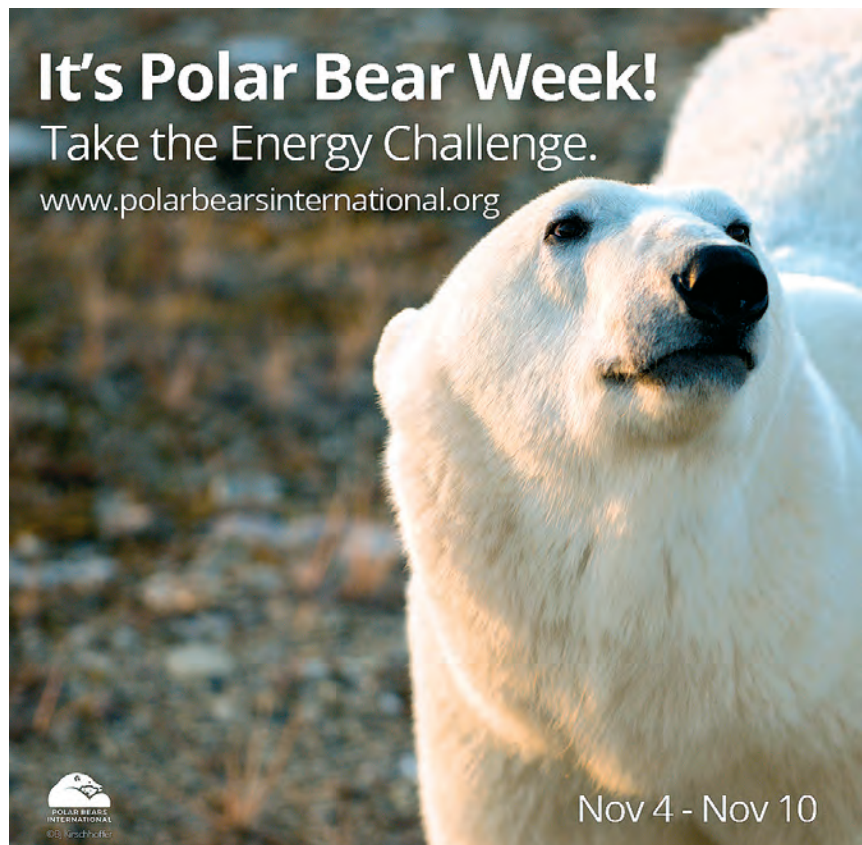
In the summer months, polar bears move from marine areas, where they cannot move without ice, to the interiors to survive the warm months. When the bays freeze again, the bears return to the high seas. One of the biggest migrations takes place around the Canadian city of Churchill, which is an attraction for many tourists who come every year to see the wandering bears.

The beginning of the bear migration to the frozen seas is when the Polar Bear Week is held. This large conservation campaign takes place at the beginning of November and lasts seven days. It presents seven different activities that each person can engage in to help improve the life situation of the polar bears. Brno Zoo also regularly participates in it. Institutions involved in Polar Bear Week urge their social media visitors to talk to


In short, this process is caused by the increasing concentration of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere, which is caused by greenhouse gases. The sun's rays, reflected from the earth's surface, cannot completely penetrate through the scattered carbon dioxide back into space, and some of them return to earth. This leads to an increase in temperatures. Greenhouse gases are mostly produced by burning fossil fuels.

The gradual rise in temperature may be a global problem in the future, but the polar regions are currently suffering the most. Huge glaciers are beginning to melt, and their area is shrinking. The icy seas and oceans, whose bays are about to freeze and form an ice surface, remain turbulent.

Unfrozen bodies of water are the greatest threat to polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*). Their lives are inextricably linked to ice. They need it when looking for partners, for their hunting technique and especially when looking for food.



It's Polar Bear Week!
Take the Energy Challenge.
www.polarbearsinternational.org

 POLAR BEARS INTERNATIONAL
www.polarbearsinternational.org

Nov 4 - Nov 10

Polar Bear International holds an annual Polar Bear Week. Photo: Polar Bears International



The icy seas and oceans, whose bays are about to freeze and form an ice surface, remain turbulent.

Photo: Pexels/Pixabay. com

friends and acquaintances about climate change and to think about how they can reduce their own carbon footprint, for example, by trying to reduce car travel and using public transport, car sharing or cycling. The information material distributed during the campaign also provide guidance on how to save energy or a request financial support for research projects from the conservation organisation Polar Bear International, which is also the organiser of the entire campaign.

Apart from the haunting images of emaciated animals roaming Churchill and waiting in vain for the arrival of winter, the critical situation of polar bears is clearly visible in Russian cities, which have recently been facing a bear invasion. Starving animals that have lost their natural hunting grounds are moving close to human dwellings and searching for food. Groups of huge carnivores move through the streets, and due to their danger, they are slowly taking over this environment.

It is not so easy to drive away a bear. They are fearless beasts, and if the city administration wants to avoid the most drastic step, i. e. shooting, they have to call a special group that puts the bear to sleep with a tranquilizer shot and moves it as far away from the city as possible.

We also knew of a bear monitored by a localisation collar, which showed that she swam almost seven hundred kilometres in an effort to reach a continuous ice surface. This performance is admirable, but for this female it meant the loss of 22% of the fat supply necessary for survival, which she will have to deal with in the future. Regaining the lost pounds is extremely challenging in a changing environment. Even sadder, she lost a bear cub on her way – the cub was unable to keep up with its mother and drowned. Even though bears are very good swimmers, the disappearance of ice, which forces them to overcome large areas of water in search of food, can be fatal for them.

While these incidents may seem trivial on a global scale, it is certainly worth thinking about the situation in our world. Even though it's spring or summer and it's far from November and Polar Bear Week.



Unfrozen bodies of water are the biggest threat to polar bears.

Photo: Polar Bears International



If there is not enough snow – especially in the mountains – acting as a natural reservoir of water, the spring thaw will not get enough moisture into the soil and will not saturate the water troughs. Photo: rotonnara / Pixabay.com

Under the snow duvet

Because of the changing climatic conditions, we have begun to increasingly encounter a phenomenon that is a barrier to enthusiastic skiers – the lack of snow cover.

However, this previously integral part of winter is not only missing for skiers and ski resort operators, nature suffers the most. This is because the snow ideally acts as an insulator and thus protects the soil from excessive freezing. Soil-dwelling organisms, such as

small rodents, amphibians and some insect species, benefit from this isolating layer.

Amphibians, such as frogs, hibernate under the snow in a state of 'freezing'. Their bodies produce protective substances that save the tissues from

the effects of frost, and so a frog can survive the winter in a frozen state without any danger. Ideally, the snow cover works by creating a 'freezer' with a stable temperature for the frog's shelter. However, if there is no snow, the temperature in the shelter changes, and the frog can repeatedly thaw and freeze again. It depletes valuable nutrients and energy to produce substances that protect it from frost damage. Further, it can also happen that without snow insulation, the temperature drops so low that even the best protective substances do not protect the frog, and frost damage becomes fatal for the creature.

Similar problems occur in the burrows of ground squirrels or hamsters. They do not wait during winter; they hibernate. Bare soil exposed to frost freezes deep, and mammals' beds, which keep the temperature safely above zero under the snow, could cool below freezing

Amphibians, such as frogs, hibernate under snow in a state of 'freezing'.

Photo: Kathy2408 / Pixabay.com



The effect of insufficient snow cover is also felt by plants.

Photo: jplenio / Pixabay.com



and cause these animals to become hypothermic.

We can also see the effect of insufficient snow cover on plants. Their growth is influenced by microorganisms that help enrich the soil with nutrients. However, with dry frost, the growth of these microorganisms and their activity will stop. They are not able to produce enough nutri-

ents to support the surrounding flora.

The water cycle is also affected. If there is not enough snow – especially in the mountains – acting as a natural reservoir of water, the thawing in the spring will not get enough moisture into the soil and will not saturate the water troughs. During the summer, the dry conditions may prevail, sup-

ported by ever-increasing temperatures. And arid soil cannot absorb enough moisture. Thus, we fall into a vicious cycle of drought.

Human beings will also be affected by the problem. When the deep frozen soil melts in the spring, people will not be able to do their spring sowing and other field work.

In a winter coat

An exceptional beast moves on the snowy plains of the north, but because of the majestic polar bears, who are undoubtedly the polar kings, many overlook it. It is very difficult to find them on the winter plains, because they can be perfectly disguised in the white wasteland.

We are talking about the polar fox (*Vulpes lagopus*), a small canine beast, reaching a height of about thirty centimetres at the withers, with weight ranging from 1.4 to 9.4 kg. Anyone who has seen the polar foxes in Brno Zoo during the winter months will surely wonder about the weight range. 'Isn't that less?' an attentive reader may ask, thinking of the fat foxes.

It's not, because what makes a fox 'fat' in winter is its fur, which is truly unique among all other animals. It is the most perfect insulator in the animal kingdom. Thanks to this multi-layered waterproof coat, the fox can survive even in fifty-degree frosts. Reportedly, this coat is so perfect that the fox be-

gins to shiver with cold only at temperatures falling below -70°C .

Fox fur is not only exceptional due to its thermal insulation capabilities, it is also amazing that this fur coat goes away during the summer to prevent the fox from overheating. White fluffy fur, in addition to warming, also serves as a perfect camouflage. Only the fox's black snout and eyes can be seen from a distance in the snow. During the summer, however, this colour shines from far away. Therefore, in the summer months, the coat changes to a short black-brown colour, which perfectly masks the fox among the stones. It also slims the fox perfectly. The summer coat loses volume, and the fox

seems to have halved. This is also the case with our Brno foxes, which always miraculously 'lose weight' during the summer. At the time of moulting, when the fur changes, it is possible to see an incredible variety of spots of different colours and different lengths on the foxes.

The fox doesn't put up much of a show at the time of moulting, but its polar fur will be envied by any polar explorer.

If a masked predator moves like a fox in the snow, its prey must also be masked. In the polar regions, the young Arctic hare (*Lepus arcticus*) and the mountain hare (*Lepus timidus*) are the fox's prey. These close relatives of our European hare (*Lepus europaeus*) are adapted to live in the snow in many ways. They can get water by eating snow, their diet also includes moss and lichens, their ears are much smaller to prevent heat loss and their fur changes colour with the seasons. The change in the colour of the hare's fur is probably caused by the length of the day or photoperiod, and the fur turns white inde-



What makes a fox 'fat' in winter is its fur. Photo: Michal Vaňáč



During the summer, the fox loses its perfect coat to prevent overheating and exposure.
Photo: Michal Vaňáč

The fox doesn't put on much of a show at the time of molting, but its polar fur can be envied by any polar explorer.

Photo: Matyáš Slavík



pendent of the snow cover. Therefore, the loss of snow is threatening for them, as they are not dependent on temperature changes.

The unwritten winner of the colour change, however, is the stoat (*Mustela erminea*). This small weasel beast is uninteresting in the summer, but in the winter, the fur of this animal turns into a royal commodity. The white winter coat of the stoat is of high quality and pure white except for the black tip of the tail, and surely everyone has seen the stoat's coat at least once in their life. It is a so-called ermine, which is used to decorate aristocratic robes since time immemorial and is depicted in many historical portraits, and in all correct Czech fairy tales, the king must have a cloak with ermine. A close relative of the stoat, the Siberian weasel (*Mustela sibirica*), can be seen in the Brno Zoo; it also changes its coat from brownish red to light rusty and very dense in the winter. Its coat is highly prized, as is the hair of the stoat. Although royal cloaks

are not sewn from it, it is still used for artistic purposes. The Siberian weasel coat is excellent for making brushes.

These amazing changes in the fur of animals are caused by hormones that are triggered by temperature changes, with the exception of hares. Due to global warming, all these species are at risk of losing this ability, even though they are otherwise very abundant in numbers. White animals would stop losing their white colour. When the temperature rises above a certain limit, we will

no longer see the fluffy fox fur, the white ears of the hare or the black tail of the stoat.

On the other hand, there is also the possibility that we will see these white jewels very clearly. If the temperatures remain freezing and the snow disappears, the animals coloured in this way will literally shine on the bare ground and thus become easy prey for predators, especially the hares, or, conversely, very unsuccessful predators in the case of foxes and stoats.



Winter at the rescue station in Jinačovice

The beginning of winter marks the end of the rescuing of hedgehogs--hedgehogs that have not been able to prepare for hibernation on their own are rescued and hibernate at the station. Weaker individuals are fed in crates, where they grow to standard weight so that they may be released into the wild.

With the arrival of winter, animals weakened, exhausted or injured by car traffic are brought into the station. If the winter is mild, the animals tolerate it better. Most of the soil is exposed, and a lot of food can be found in it. For some animals, however, a warm winter can mean death. Hedgehogs can wake up from hibernation, go out into the world in search of food, and then, when the temperatures cool down, if they do not return to their winter quarters in time, they may become ill or die. Stations often deal with afflictions of roe deer fed rapeseed.

These animals have severe diarrhoea, are apathetic, emaciated and tame. Unfortunately, most cases do not make it. The station solves these situations with the help of hunters from different hunting grounds. During the Christmas holidays, the roads are more busy, and animals crossing roads for food become victims of accidents. For an animal, a collision is usually fatal. Hunters have been feeding game since September to get it used to feeders. Very often, the station also sees cases of birds of prey and owls being knocked down by vehicular

transport. The fragile owl has very little chance of surviving the impact.

The public comes to us with questions about what feed to leave in their gardens. Definitely cookies or leftovers from the table are not suitable. Birds are grateful for ordinary sunflower, wheat, millet, apples and a piece of tallow. When the birds find a filled feeder, they fly together and create a beautiful spectacle, which can be made uncomfortable by the attack of the Eurasian sparrowhawk. The sparrowhawk also needs to eat, and it naturally behaves by eliminating weak individuals – the so-called natural selection.

Sometimes awake hibernating animals, such as bats, are also brought to the station. Because it is cold, they are frozen, do not have enough food and would have died in nature. They must be transported immediately and placed in the appropriate boxes at the station, or treated, fed and wintered again in our premises, where they will survive the winter, and with the weather warming at the end of April, they will be released into nature again.

We also encounter the much-discussed problem of fireworks and all the pyrotechnics that animals have a problem



Hedgehogs can wake up from hibernation, go out into the world in search of food, and then, when the temperatures cool down, if they do not return to their winter quarters in time, they may become ill or die.

Photo: Eduard Stuchlík

with. Detonation is a cause of great stress for animals, and they can injure themselves. After detonations, roe deer run from one field to another, over busy roads, where collisions can occur. The birds are also frightened and can be hit by various obstacles. Therefore, it is advisable to take them into account, and bring some common sense into New Year's Eve celebrations.

The first individual to enter the rescue station in 2020 was a female European greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*) with damaged feathers, who was treated and released back into nature. We all want as many animals as possible to meet the same happy fate this year.

Thank you for your help in saving them – it makes sense!

Simona Blahoňovská



Hedgehogs are frequent guests at the rescue station. Photo: Eduard Stuchlík

Extraordinary success: Brno Zoo successfully completes a project to save cranes



Releasing cranes. Photo: Tatiana Parilova

Extremely valuable information about the movement of Manchurian cranes and white-naped cranes in their natural habitat has been obtained by experts thanks to the international project at Brno Zoo. Last year, special radios were installed on three cranes, which have now relayed important information about the lives of cranes in the wild.

‘This whole project is a personal and emotional affair for me. It had run into a number of complications that we are trying to deal with. I am very happy that our work leads to real help and understanding of how and where cranes fly. Although unfortunately the information is not always good,’ said Martin Hovorka, the director of Brno Zoo.

Last year, we reported that three cranes (two Manchurian cranes and one white-naped crane) from the Okski Zapovednik reservation in the Far East

had been fitted with telemetry radios to monitor their movements. ‘Until the autumn, the birds kept within tens of kilometres from the place of release. In October, however, two of them suddenly moved to China, from where they continued very quickly to the south,’ explained the curator of bird breeding at Brno Zoo, Petr Suvorov.

Colleagues from the Khingansk State Nature Reserve, who work extensively with us on the project and released these birds, were able to observe the

cranes using online data. With three monitored individuals, another nine feathered birds were released into the wilderness. However, as we pointed out last year, the aim of the project was to monitor obstacles on crane routes, too. Unfortunately, this has been confirmed.

In mid-October, one of the cranes stopped moving, according to data. With the help of the radio, his position could be very precisely traced. However, workers from the Khingansk State Nature Reserve only found the remains of the body. ‘He was shot during waterfowl hunting near the village of Nikolo-Alexandrovskaja in the Amur region. A criminal investigation has already been launched by the interurban department of the Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation in Otkjabrsk District,’

A crane with a radio paired with a wild crane in China. Photo: Wang Xiaoping

said Mikhail Parilov from the Khingansk State Nature Reserve.

Fortunately, the other two birds managed to start their migration on time. A white-naped crane flew over China to the Korean Peninsula and currently stays on the coast of the Sea of Japan in the DPRK at the border with South Korea. The Manchurian crane flew across the borders of three Chinese provinces and then stayed DPRK for about a month. He returned to China in mid-December and now resides along the Yellow Sea coast at the port of Lushunkhou. It is interesting cranes had overwintered at the place for the first time. And the colour of their feathers and their body shape suggest that they are doing very well and are definitely not hungry. After all, Oriental storks regularly winter in this locality, and the locals take very good care of them. In the spring, we will be looking forward to the return of both the birds to Russia.

'Apart from the discovery of a new wintering ground, perhaps we were even more pleased with the news from Chinese ornithologists and conservationists. One of the released individuals formed a pair with a wild crane. That was exactly the goal of our project and I firmly believe that similar news will only increase,' concluded Suvorov.

In 2015, Brno Zoo transported two Manchurian crane eggs to the Far East for the first time. In the following years, we approached other European zoos that keep cranes. The white-naped crane eggs were gradually added to the Manchurian crane eggs. Khingansk State Nature Reserve has been successfully releasing cranes for more than 20 years. Now, together with the Brno Zoo, they can watch how the cranes are doing even after being released into the wild. In the future, we plan to further expand and strengthen this cooperation and thus obtain even more information necessary for the protection and rescue of cranes.



Ring around the killed crane. Photo: Mikhail Parilov



Map of moving cranes. Photo: Brno Zoo



The breeders named the small female Kamilka, and the male was named Jeníček. Photographed with their mother. Photo: Michal Vaňáč

The first juveniles of this year in Brno Zoo: Goats and fish with four eyes

The first young ones in Brno Zoo came early this year. While last year the female blesbok was the first to see the world on January 17, this time the breeders met their first juveniles on January 8. And they could barely contain three times the joy. Two American Pygmies were born in the Children's Zoo, and largescale four-eyed fish were bred in the Exotarium.

These unique fish live in fresh or brackish waters in estuaries and in shallows on the Atlantic coast, from southern Mexico to Brazil. Due to the tides, the salinity of the water in which they live varies. Largescale four-eyed fish usually swim such that their large, bulging eyes protrude from the water. They hunt insects from the surface, but at low tide, they sometimes leave the aquatic envi-

ronment and go to the exposed muddy or sandy shores with mangroves, looking for prey. The result of the evolu-

tionary adaptation of the largescale four-eyed fish to the specific conditions at the interface of the aquatic and terrestrial environment contributes to the unique structure of their eye. The English genus name of these fish already suggests something about it.

When viewed from the side, it can be seen that its eye is divided into two parts by a horizontal septum of dark

Largescale four-eyed fish are unique: they live in fresh or brackish waters in estuaries and shoals on the Atlantic coast from southern Mexico to Brazil.

Photo: Archive, Eduard Stuchlík



epithelium, so it seems like the fish has a total of four eyes. However, there is only one lens and one retina in the eye of the largescale four-eyed fish. The upper and lower parts of the lens differ in curvature: the top it is flatter, resembling the eye of terrestrial animals, and the bottom more rounded as in fish. A split lens can eliminate the difference in image transmission caused by different refraction of light in the atmosphere and in the aquatic environment.

In Brno Zoo, the largescale four-eyed fish have reproduced several times. However, the births were only successful when a maximum of two small fish were born. If more were born, in one case up to nine, the breeding was unsuccessful. This year, of the three small fish (largescale four-eyed fish are live-bearing), only one survived. That is not much! Even so, it is a great success for Brno Zoo, because largescale four-eyed fish are bred only in Brno Zoo.

On January 8, it was not only the fish that received a joyful welcome on Mniší hora. The herd of American Pygmies at the Children's Zoo grew by two more members. The breeders named the small female Kamilka, and the male was named Jeníček. In total, we have already welcomed five goatlings of this species this year. The American Pygmy is a breed of goat native to the west coast of Africa. It is an undemanding meat breed that is able to survive in areas with very poor vegetation. Currently, the Brno Zoo has bred a total of eleven American Pygmies.



Photo: Michal Vaňáč, Eduard Stuchlík.

BRNO ZOO receives a record number of broke visitors again!

For the second time in a row, Brno Zoo has broken its previous record of attendance. Last year, it welcomed a total of 331,298 people, the most since 1997, when it began keeping detailed and accurate records.

‘We really appreciate every person who comes and supports us. The growing popularity of Brno Zoo shows that the construction of new exhibitions in recent years made sense and that it is also appreciated by visitors.

I firmly believe that we will not disappoint them in the future. This year, for example, they can look forward to a new view of the giraffes or the opening of the Virtual Expedition in Radnická Street in the centre of Brno,’ said

Martin Hovorka, Director of the Brno Zoo.

From 2018 (a total of 330,118 visitors), the number of people visiting each month and each season has changed significantly. For example, in April 2018, Brno Zoo received 56,021 visitors, but a year earlier, the number was a little less than ten thousand. There is also a big difference in August attendance. Due to high temperatures, it exceeded



41,000 in 2018, but last year it was more than 54,000.

‘Three factors in particular have an impact on traffic. These are new animals (including newborns), repaired or new exhibits and the weather. The weather was good, especially in the spring of 2018, while in the summer of the same year, fewer people came to us due to the heat. Last year, the situation reversed and returned to the long-term average, which was again the most successful summer in terms of visitors,’ added Hovorka.

Other reasons to visit the zoo are also events that we organised throughout the year. Last year, we received a positive response, for example, for the newly introduced commented feedings and at the meetings in the winter. Every first weekend of the month, we focused on a certain topic and presented it to visitors from diverse perspectives. We continued to do so at the beginning of 2020.



► One of the attractions is still the cubs of lions.
Photo: Eduard Stuchlík



► In the summer, a female red panda, Oshin, arrived at Brno Zoo.
Photo: Michal Vaňáč

◀ In 2019, visitors could also see two new female Przewalski's horses.
Photo: Eduard Stuchlík

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STATUTÁRNÍ MĚSTO BRNO
FINANČNĚ PODPORUJE ZOO BRNO A STANICI ZÁJMOVÝCH ČINNOSTÍ,
PŘÍSPĚVKOVOU ORGANIZACI