



*By Courtesy of K. W. Green, Esq., A.R.P.S.*

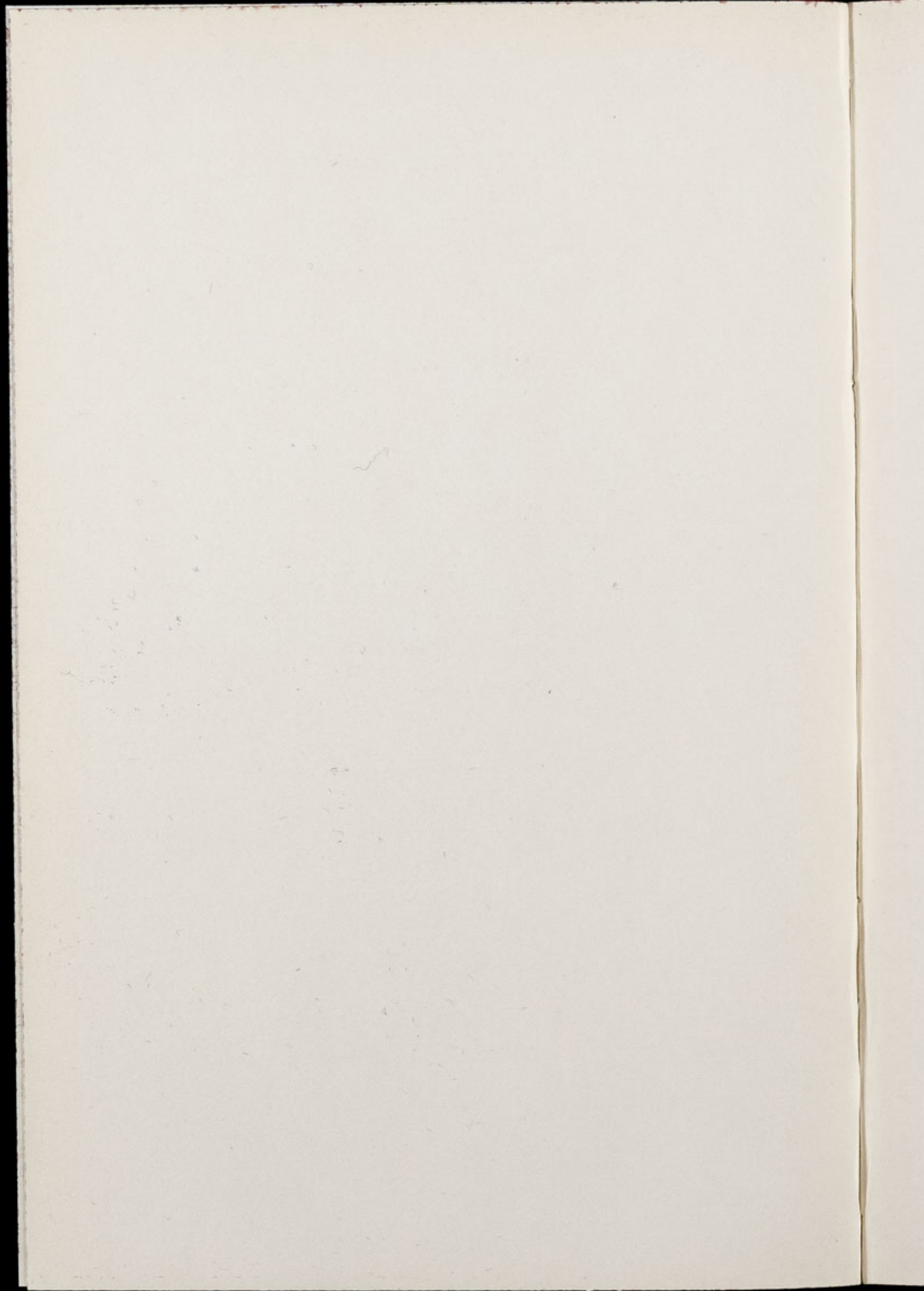
# **Chester Zoo News**

## **AND GUIDE**

**THE NORTH OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON - BY - CHESTER**

August 1967

Price 1/-



# The North of England Zoological Society

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*COVER: This month's cover photograph is of our male Bengal Tiger.  
For further details see page 11.*

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### ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

A large number of births have been recorded during the past month and our breeding record is well up to standard this year.

The three Puma cubs born in the Cat House are now several weeks old and should be venturing into their outside enclosure in the near future. Baby Pumas are very appealing animals and in contrast to the adults have a spotted coat. This obviously acts as a form of camouflage whilst the Pumas are small as they could easily be preyed upon by other carnivores.

Two Fallow Deer Fawns have been born in enclosure (No. 78 on the Plan). Fallow Deer are very attractive animals, especially when young. The Fallow Deer is often to be found as a wild animal in this country; they are, however, not indigenous but are thought to have originated from Asia Minor and Southern Europe. Now, as in the past, many Fallow Deer are kept in parks but a large number escape and to-day can be found wild in most areas of this country.

Four Brindled Gnu or Wildebeeste babies, a species of antelope, can be observed in enclosure (No. 103 on the Plan). The youngsters are brownish-fawn at birth and for several months afterwards, in contrast to the grizzled grey and black fur of the adults. Gnus are not particularly beautiful animals and from the layman's point of view, are most unlike an antelope. They are, however, highly adapted to their mode of life on the Savannahs of Africa. One particular habit is their migration in vast numbers from one area to another. A great deal of research has been carried out in recent years into this phenomenon. It would appear that the migration urge is caused by lack of water and to a lesser extent, food. During this migration period, the Gnus are constantly being preyed upon by Lions, Leopards, Wild Dogs, Hyænas, etc., which wait



PUMA CUB

*E. Kirkland, F.R.P.S.*

on the outskirts of the herd and attack the youngsters or weaker animals. For the majority of the time, Gnus are to be found in smaller groups and often associate with Zebras and other species of Ruminants.

A Common or Grant's Zebra foal was born in enclosure (No. 78 on the Plan) which is shared with the Fallow Deer. It is particularly important to breed Zebras in this country as their importation is prohibited by Ministry of Agriculture Regulations.

A number of Coatis have been born in the Mammal House. It is not yet known how many there are and it will be several weeks before they become active.

Another Ankole calf has been born, the second this year and this birth brings our total stock of these animals to eleven.

A very welcome addition to the Nocturnal House was a Brazilian Tree Porcupine. The new arrival is only a youngster and of rather a placid disposition so has been accommodated with a Bushy-tailed Bushbaby and a Six-banded Armadillo. Our last Brazilian Tree Porcupine died of old age, after being at the Zoo for many years.

The Tree Porcupine has a prehensile tail which is used as a fifth limb when climbing trees. Many people seem to think that Porcupines shoot their quills at an adversary but this is entirely untrue; their quills merely act as a means of defence, similar to a Hedgehog's spines and any attackers have to face the sharp quills which fall easily from the Porcupine when embedded in a predator's mouth or face. Some of the ground-living Porcupines rattle their quills together when they are annoyed and swing their tails round to face the enemy.



GRANT'S ZEBRA HERD WITH LATEST FOAL

*K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.*

A recent arrival in the Monkey House is a White-faced Capuchin, a species from South America. When it has been checked thoroughly by our Veterinary Surgeon to make sure it has no infectious disease it will be introduced to our other eleven Capuchins already in residence in the Monkey House.

Another arrival in the Monkey Section is a Crab-eating Monkey, a species from South East Asia. They are to be found near the coast, where they feed on crabs and molluscs but otherwise subsist on various fruits.

Recent additions to the Mammal House include a Chipmunk and a pair of Golden-mantled Ground Squirrels. A pair of African Genets which arrived recently have been accommodated in the Animal Hospital but will be found suitable quarters, probably in the Mammal House, in the near future.

A number of new Lesser Pandas have been received. Our original male was transported to Bristol Zoo with the Giraffe, mentioned in this "*Zoo News*". The Bristol Zoo sent us a female Panda in exchange for our male. Our stock of these animals consists of two females and three males and all are accommodated in a spacious walled enclosure close to the Oakfield Restaurant. Chester Zoo has a very good breeding record with regard to Lesser Pandas and we hope to continue the success with these new arrivals.

### **GIRAFFE SENT TO BRISTOL ZOO**

"Godfrey", the Giraffe born on Good Friday, 1966, and named in a competition run by a local newspaper, has been sent to Bristol Zoo as a mate for a lone female bred there.

The trouble with transporting Giraffes is that they are very tall. Even with a young Giraffe this can be difficult as "Godfrey"

is 12ft. 6in. high and even in our specially constructed low transporter the box was over 13ft. 6in. high.

The next task was to lead "Godfrey" into his crate for the journey. He was very reluctant to enter but was enticed with succulent food and was boxed after about an hour. All this work was done in the evening so that an early start could be made in the morning in order to reach Bristol by lunchtime and the Giraffe unloaded in time to settle in his new quarters by the following evening.

Zoo Officials thought it best to obtain a route from the "AA" so as to avoid any low bridges and the journey was duly completed. We are pleased to report that "Godfrey" has settled well in his new home.

### MARINE AQUARIA

Over three quarters of the Earth's surface is covered by sea and this fact gives some indication of the profusion of marine animals. These animals range from invertebrates, such as Lobster, Squid and Sea Anemones, to the animals with backbones, i.e., Fish, Reptiles and even the occasional Mammal. Many of these marine animals make interesting exhibits but there are problems in maintaining Salt Water Aquaria.

One of the major difficulties is in obtaining a supply of sea water. This is especially awkward when the Aquarium is situated some distance from the sea as at Chester. Recently we took delivery of 2,000 gallons of sea water which was brought to the Zoo by tanker; some of the water is now stored in fibre-glass tanks on the Aquarium roof.

Another difficulty is the supply of live food to marine exhibits. This in certain cases, e.g., the Sea Horse is a vital part of their diet.

# GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

## ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

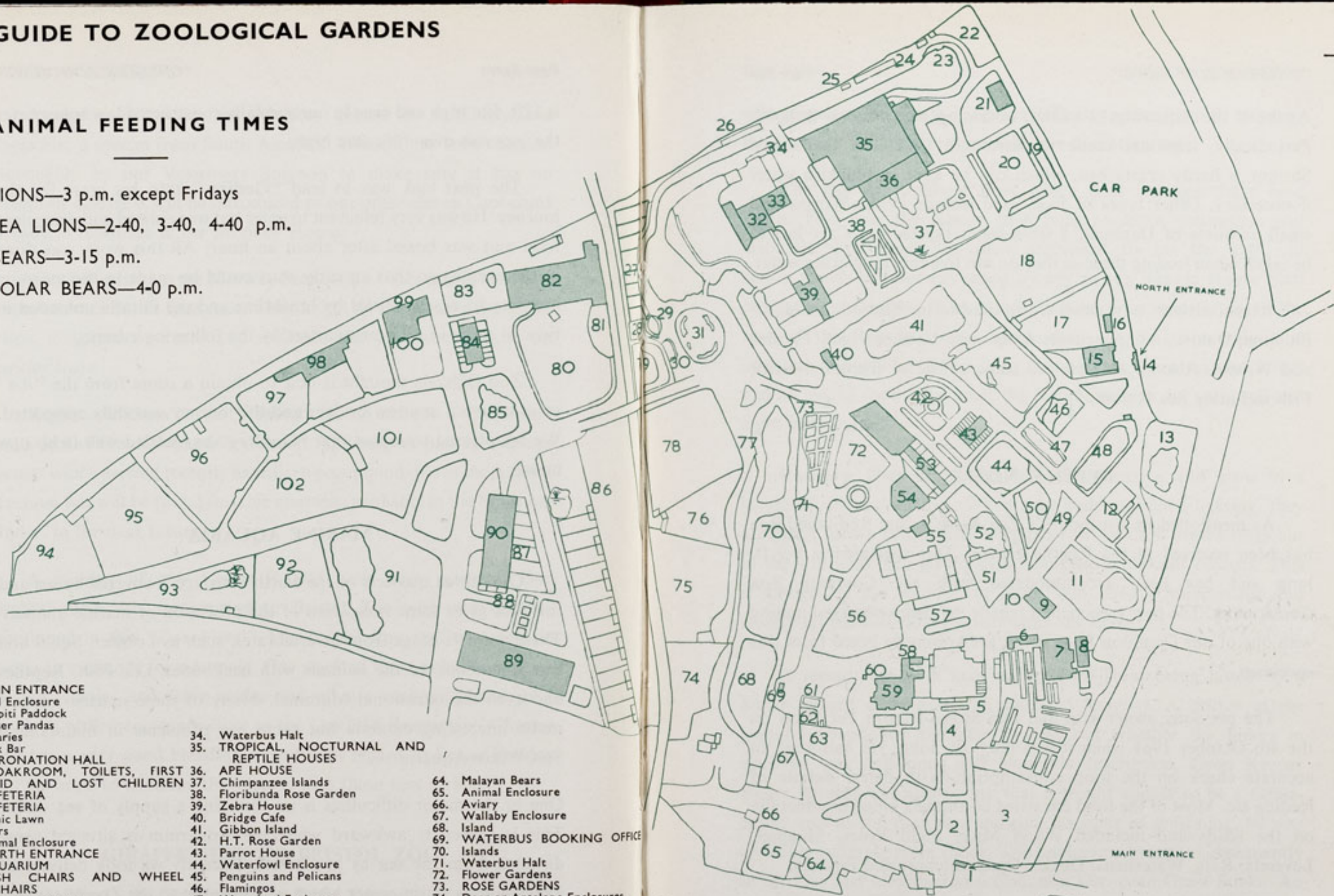
LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

SEA LIONS—2-40, 3-40, 4-40 p.m.

BEARS—3-15 p.m.

POLAR BEARS—4-0 p.m.

- |  |  |                                 |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. MAIN ENTRANCE                                   | 34. Waterbus Halt                          | 64. Malayan Bears               |
| 2. Bird Enclosure                                  | 35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES | 65. Animal Enclosure            |
| 3. Wapiti Paddock                                  | 36. APE HOUSE                              | 66. Aviary                      |
| 4. Lesser Pandas                                   | 37. Chimpanzee Islands                     | 67. Wallaby Enclosure           |
| 5. Aviaries  | 38. Floribunda Rose Garden                 | 68. Island                      |
| 6. Milk Bar  | 39. Zebra House                            | 69. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE     |
| 7. CORONATION HALL                                 | 40. Bridge Cafe                            | 70. Islands                     |
| 8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS, FIRST AID AND LOST CHILDREN | 41. Gibbon Island                          | 71. Waterbus Halt               |
| 9. CAFETERIA                                       | 42. H.T. Rose Garden                       | 72. Flower Gardens              |
| 10. CAFETERIA                                      | 43. Parrot House                           | 73. ROSE GARDENS                |
| 11. Picnic Lawn                                    | 44. Waterfowl Enclosure                    | 74. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 12. Bears  | 45. Penguins and Pelicans                  | 75. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 13. Animal Enclosure                               | 46. Flamingos                              | 76. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 14. NORTH ENTRANCE                                 | 47. Waterfowl Enclosure                    | 77. Waterbus Halt               |
| 15. AQUARIUM                                       | 48. Sea Lion Pool                          | 78. Zebra and Deer Enclosure    |
| 16. PUSH CHAIRS AND WHEEL CHAIRS                   | 49. Rock Garden                            | 79. Kamchatka Bears             |
| 17. Animal Enclosure                               | 50. Polar Bears                            | 80. Elephant Paddock            |
| 18. Animal Enclosure                               | 51. Tigers                                 | 81. Hippo Paddock               |
| 19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP                          | 52. Anteater and Penguin Enclosure         | 82. PACHYDERM HOUSE             |
| 20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn                       | 53. BIRD HOUSE                             | 83. Tapir Paddock               |
| 21. TOILETS  | 54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT                    | 84. Small Mammal House          |
| 22. Peccaries                                      | 55. TOILETS                                | 85. Waterfowl Enclosure         |
| 23. Waterbus Halt                                  | 56. Lions                                  | 86. Ankole Cattle               |
| 24. Birds of Prey Aviary                           | 57. NEW ZOO SHOP                           | 87. Stork Enclosures            |
| 25. Birds of Prey Aviary                           | 58. TOILETS                                | 88. Monkey Enclosures           |
| 26. Owls   | 59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT                    | 89. Cat House                   |
| 27. Jackal Enclosures                              | 60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk                 | 90. MONKEY HOUSE                |
| 28. Wolverines                                     | 61. Animal Enclosure                       |                                 |
| 29. Porcupines                                     | 62. Animal Enclosures                      |                                 |
| 30. Coypus   | 63. Cheetahs                               |                                 |
| 31. Beavers  |  |                                 |
| 32. Giraffe House                                  |  |                                 |
| 33. Camel House                                    |  |                                 |



- |                             |            |         |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|---------|------------|
| 91. Cranes and Waterfowl    | BIRKENHEAD | CHESTER | MANCHESTER |
| 92. Waterfowl and Wallabies |            |         |            |
| 93. Cranes and Waterfowl    |            |         |            |
| 94. Bison Paddock           |            |         |            |
| 95. Deer Paddock            |            |         |            |
| 96. Eland Paddock           |            |         |            |
| 97. Rhino Paddocks          |            |         |            |
| 98. RHINO HOUSE             |            |         |            |
| 99. TOILETS                 |            |         |            |
| 100. MPILA SNACK BAR        |            |         |            |
| 101. Antelope Enclosure     |            |         |            |
| 102. Antelope Enclosure     |            |         |            |

Animals may be moved from time to time.

Again, if the Aquarium is inland, obtaining such food is difficult. Periodically, trips are made to Barmouth to collect the Mysid Shrimp, a hardy crustacean, which can be kept in brackish water if necessary. Other types of food used include White-Worms and small amounts of Daphnia, a fresh-water crustacean. Care has to be taken when feeding these as they do not live very long in sea water.

Recent arrivals now exhibited in the Marine Section include:— Plumose, Dahlia and Snakelocks Anemones, Lobsters, baby Flatfish and Wrasse. Also to be seen are some colourful tropical Marine Fish including Sea Horses.

### REPTILE NOTES

As mentioned in last month's *Zoo News*, a rare Red-tailed Boa has been received in the Reptile House. This specimen is 8-9 ft. long and has been accommodated with the Common Boa Constrictors. The new specimen, a female, has been observed mating with one of our Common Boas so we are hoping to breed from this specimen.

The previous owner acquired this Snake from a Pet Shop on the 4th October 1961 when it was only 2ft. long. He had kept an accurate check on the food consumption, with dates, details of feeding etc. Most of the food consisted of animals killed accidentally on the roads and included Wood Mice, Field Voles, Magpies, Leverets, Rats, Waterhens, Ducks, Oystercatchers and Pigeons.

A number of Collared or Blue-spiny Lizards have been born. The youngsters are not as yet on show to the public as they are only two inches long and have to be kept away from other Reptiles. Their diet consists of small mealworms, flies and finely chopped fruit. At the time of writing, these specimens are two weeks old;

with a species like this it is always difficult to rear them to maturity but they are having every possible care and attention.

The pair of Rainbow Boas which bred last year have bred again. This year the female gave birth to seven youngsters and also laid three eggs. She then proceeded to eat the eggs, an action which was not envisaged by any of the Reptile House Staff present at the birth. The youngsters have been transferred to the rear of the Reptile House where they can be given individual attention and will be put on show to the public when they are larger and all taking food. Last year, the Rainbow Boas did very well and eight were reared.

Rainbow Boas are found in South America and grow to a length of about four feet. When seen under subdued lighting, they are just a brown colour with irregular rows of dark brown rings but in the sunshine they gleam with beautiful iridescent colours. This is caused by the translucent outer skin having microscopic and closely-set parallel ridges which catch the light.

A recent case of a man at Stoke-on-Trent being bitten by a Snake caused quite a stir at the local hospital. A doctor at the hospital telephoned the Zoo to find out whether the Snake in question was poisonous and from his description, Head Keeper Roger Ainsley was able to say that it would appear to be a Grass-Snake and as the man was showing no signs of poisoning, he was probably suffering from shock. The Snake was brought subsequently to the Zoo and identified as a Common European Grass Snake. An amusing incident occurred when the Snake escaped from the box whilst being transported from Stoke to Chester and coiled up beneath the dashboard of the car, causing great distress to the driver. Stocks of anti-Snake bite venom are kept at the Zoo in the unlikely event of any of our Keepers being bitten by a venomous Snake.

### NOTES ON COVER PHOTOGRAPH

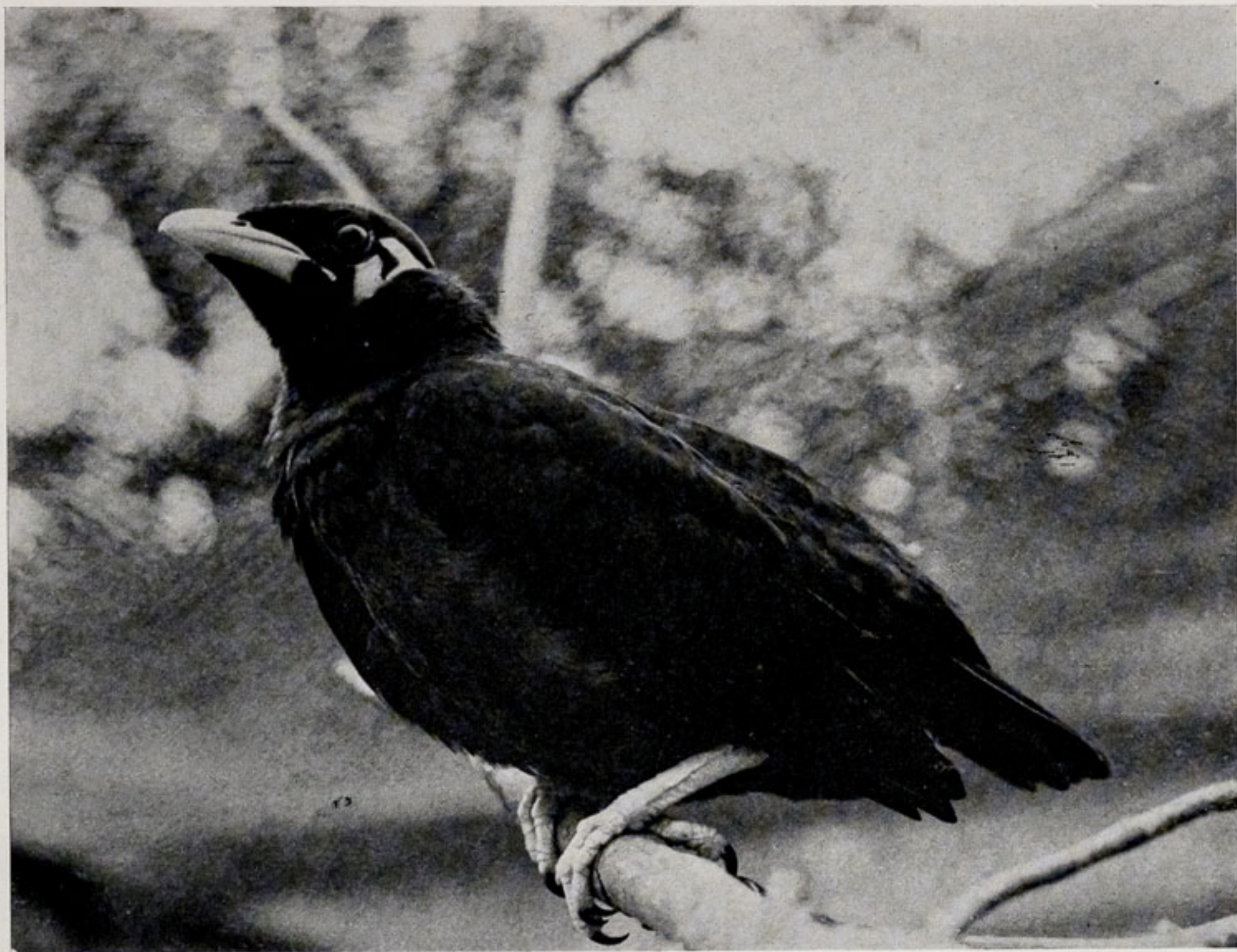
Illustrated in the cover photograph, is our male Tiger. A pair of Tigers can be seen in their spacious enclosure close to the Main Zoo Shop. They arrived at the Zoo during April 1957 and have occupied the same enclosure ever since the completion of their quarantine. As can be seen in the photograph, we have made every effort to make their enclosure as natural as possible, with a stone shelter and a large pool. Tigers, unlike most other cats, enjoy water and ours like to wade into the pool, especially on a hot day, but frequently they enter the water in cold weather.

Tigers have a wide distribution area in Asia from the Eastern Caucasus to China, Southern Siberia to Southern India, Java and Sumatra. They are absent from Borneo and Ceylon. There are several races of Tiger, differing in size and colour depending on the region in which they are found. This is quite normal with an animal with such a wide distribution area as obviously a Tiger from a cold region will have developed differently from a tropical one. Our two Tigers are Bengal or Indian, a large and boldly marked race. The largest Tigers are those from Siberia; a large male can weigh up to 640lbs., which is far heavier than the largest Lion. The Siberian Tiger has very long pale fur as an adaptation to its environment.

Tigers live quite happily out of doors in our climate provided they have a draught free den in which to sleep and shelter during the winter; in fact they do not like hot weather at all. Scientists believe that they originated from Temperate areas and have spread to tropical regions in comparatively recent times.

### BIRD NOTES

The hatching of a relatively common Bird is not generally considered of any great interest in Zoos but in the case of Hill Mynahs things are rather different. These Birds are often kept as



*K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.*

YOUNG HILL MYNAH TWO DAYS OUT OF NEST BOX

pets due to their powers of mimicry which are unparalleled in any other Bird. They have rarely been bred in captivity however and as far as we know, our two are the second of this species to be reared in this country. These youngsters can be viewed at the rear of the Oakfield Restaurant in a long flight aviary.

A new addition to one of our Rainbow Aviaries is a Yellow-headed Marsh Bird, a black and yellow coloured species which is native to South America. Also new to the Rainbow Aviaries are several species of Weavers and Whydahs, including Red-collared Whydahs, Fischer's Whydahs, Baya Weavers, Red Bishops and Yellow-shouldered Whydahs.

A pair of Secretary Birds arrived and have been accommodated in one of the enclosures at the rear of the Monkey House. Unfortunately both these Birds are extremely nervous and we are having difficulty in settling them down. Secretary Birds are long legged Birds of Prey found in Africa, south of the Sahara Desert. They feed principally on Snakes, Lizards and Amphibians, which they catch with their feet whilst walking through grasslands. They are called Secretary Birds because of their long pendulous head plumes; many years ago Secretaries used to put quill pens behind their ears and this gave rise to the Bird's name.

Our good friends Lt. Col. and Mrs. Rubenstein sent us two rather unusual species which arrived during the past month. A Grey-winged Trumpeter has joined the other two which they sent us several months ago. All these Birds have been moved to an outside flight in the Bird House for the summer months but will be moved indoors for the winter, as they are unable to stand cold weather and are very susceptible to frost bite. Lt. Col. and Mrs. Rubenstein also sent us a young Spectacled Owl, a species found in the thick forests of South America. Little is known about the habits of this species due to the remote area from which they come and they are very secretive in their ways. They undergo rather spectacular changes in colouration as they become older and do not attain adult



SPECTACLED OWL

*K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.*

plumage until about five years old. As can be seen in the photograph, the young Spectacled Owl is quite boldly marked, the plumage of our specimen being mainly black and white. The black eye patch is a characteristic feature and is also found in the Laughing Falcon, a species found in the same habitat.

A pair of Egyptian Geese arrived during the past month and have been accommodated in the Macaw Flight Aviary. As its name implies, the Egyptian Goose is found in Egypt but it also has an extensive range in Africa south of the Sahara Desert, the whole Nile Valley and Palestine. Occasionally specimens have also been found in parts of Europe and have been introduced artificially into this country in a few places.

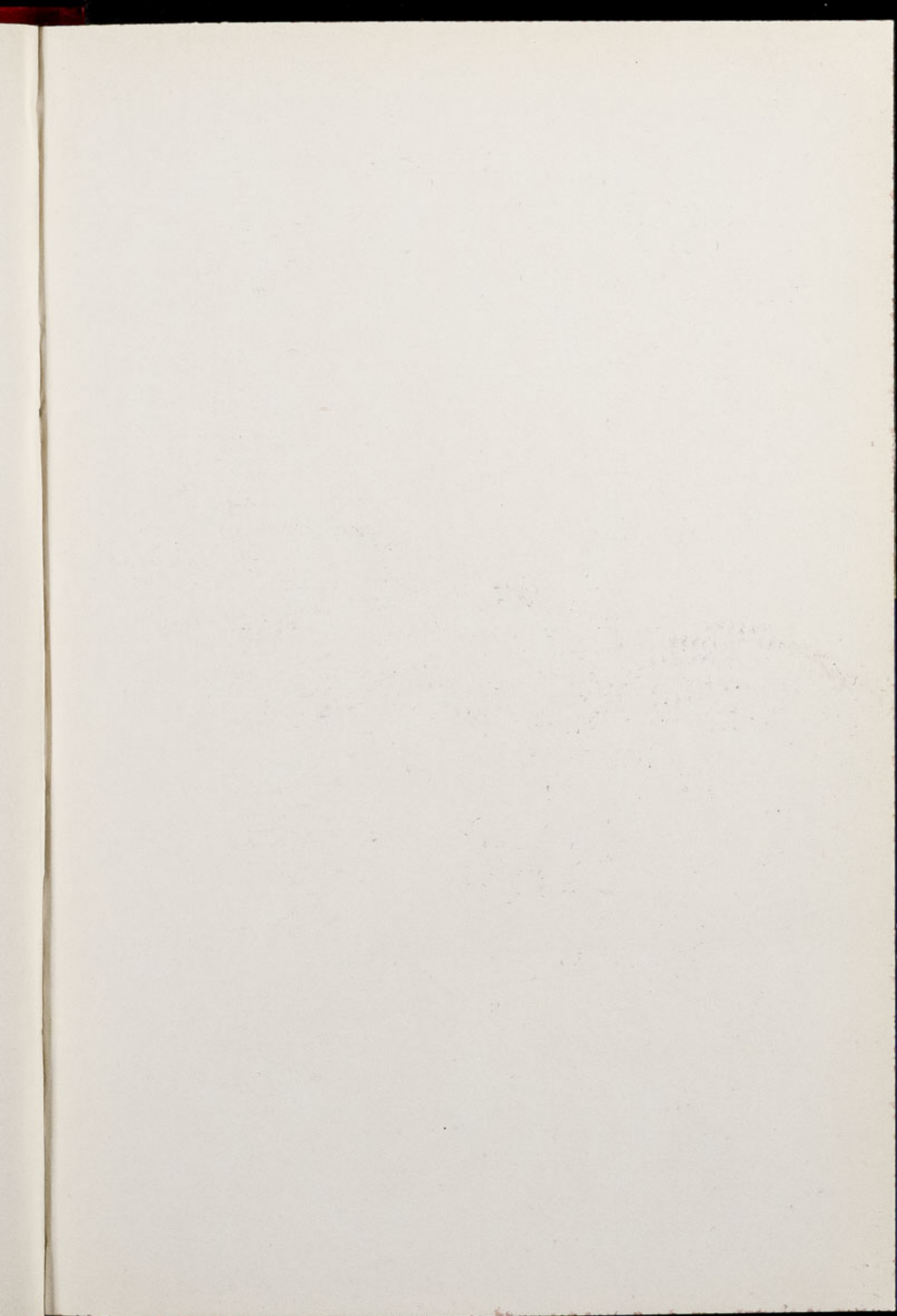
The most recent breedings in the Bird Section were three Barraband Parrakeets which left the nest-box on 24th July. Barraband Parrakeets are a most attractive species found in South Eastern areas of Australia, where they are usually seen in pairs but sometimes in small flocks.

### "ZOO TIME" SERIES

No doubt many readers are aware that Granada Television are at present producing a series of "Zoo Time" programmes from Chester Zoo, produced by Peter Mullings.

The programme features pictures of the Zoo itself and the various animals and the commentary is made by the compere, Chris Kelly. Afterwards, two children who have been selected previously are invited to the studio to ask questions which are answered by a Zoo Official.

Short descriptions are given but all attempts at advanced scientific instruction are avoided. The programme is designed as a "homely get together" to discuss various Zoological Specimens.



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