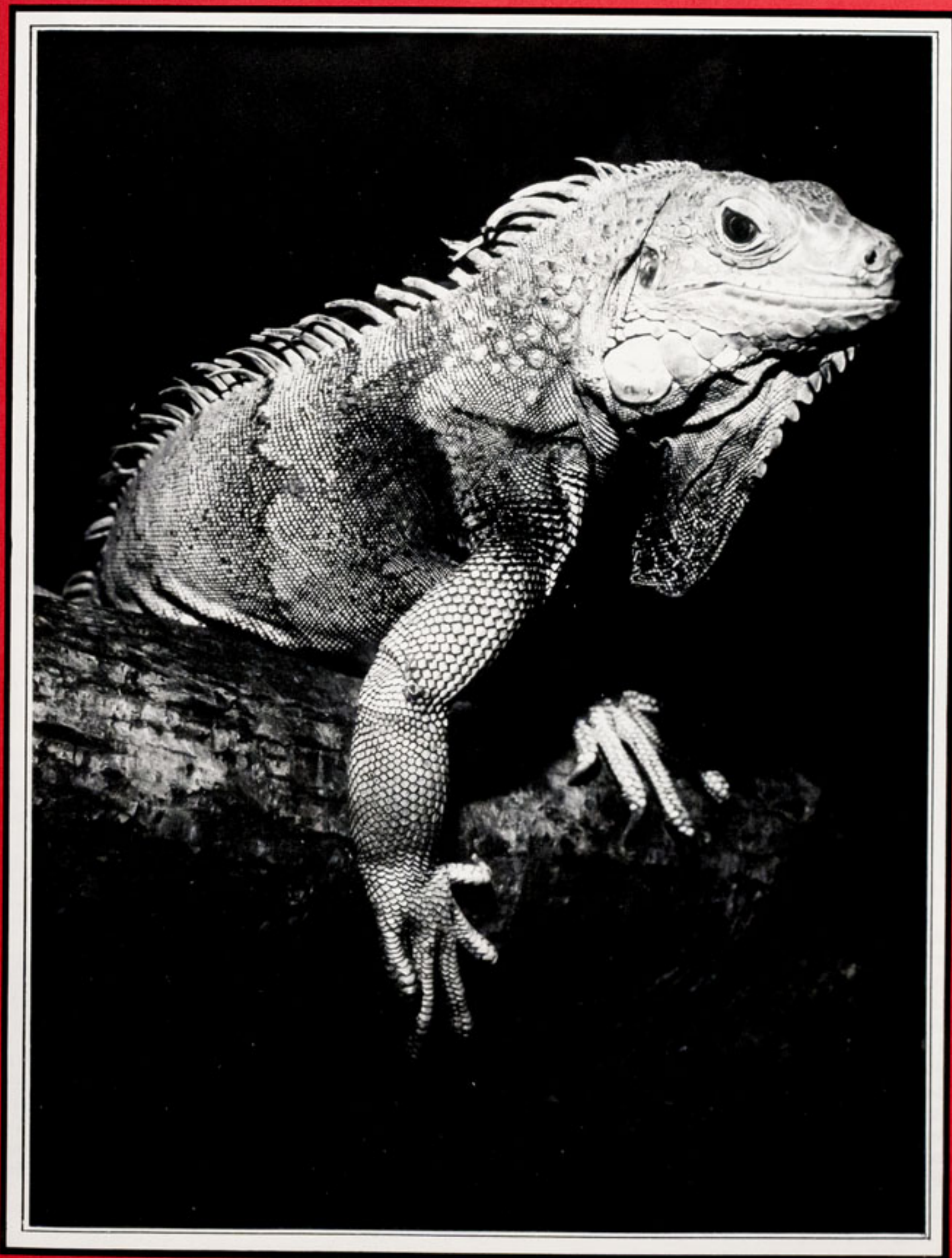


CHEZ NOUS



CHESTER ZOO NEWS

WINTER 1986



Courtesy of Dave Pearson, Chester Chronicle

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Editorial Board:

Penny Rudd *Editor*
 Dr. Michael Brambell *Director*

Front Cover:
 Common Iguana
 J. Whitworth

Editorial

Perhaps, as the year draws to its close, it would be helpful to explain how changes in recent years in the movement of animals across international boundaries have brought about fundamental changes in individual zoos throughout the world.

Twenty-five years ago there were no significant barriers to international trade in exotic species. Furthermore, there were a great number of expatriates and "corresponding members" in far-off countries only too ready to send animals home to their favourite zoos. It was very easy to replace stock which had died out in zoos without having bred their own replacement stock. Indeed, there used to be pressure on zoo managements to have as wide a variety of species as possible, and it was difficult to justify the use of space for increasing numbers of individuals of the same species, in order to improve their breeding potential.

There were obvious exceptions—Père David's Deer for instance—where there were no animals in the wild to replace zoo stock, so greater emphasis was given to breeding herds.

Several things happened in the 1960s which led to a complete change in the situation.

After two outbreaks of rabies and a devastating epidemic of foot and mouth disease in hoofed stock, the threat of several viral diseases of pigs and of Newcastle disease in birds, Disease Control Regulations became very much more stringent. It began to be difficult to import animals from the wild. Added to this, wild-born animals tended to carry a wide spectrum of undesirable infective organisms against which any captive stock was unlikely to have retained any permanent resistance. Thus, not only was it harder to acquire the animals but, once adequate breeding stocks had been built up, the wild-caught stock was not wanted.



Southern Stone Curlew

John King

Secondly, the numbers of "ambassadors" in the overseas countries began to fall away as expatriates left the former colonies. No longer were there people scouring the food markets and the like, nor were there so many opportunities for young animals to be brought to expatriates as pets and then later to be sent "home" rather than be left behind to be eaten. Very few animals are moved internationally for these reasons nowadays.

Thirdly, the movement towards the establishment of the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species Treaty began to take effect, making it much more difficult for irresponsible exporters to send animals abroad "on spec".

Fourthly, the effect of CITES on importing countries has been to encourage positively the development of captive breeding, in favour of importing from the wild.

Whereas two of a kind in a zoo was once the norm, we have now moved to a situation where at least six of a kind is regarded as a safe minimum and even that is a *very low figure*. With many species, in which the individuals live more or less solitary lives in the wild, it is very difficult to keep adequate numbers of the right age and sex in one zoo, each animal in its own enclosure. Consequently, it is now the norm for species to be managed through inter-zoo co-operation.

At first, these co-operation schemes were national, but they have grown in scope and very many species are managed on an international basis and some on truly global terms. Britain played a very important role in getting these ideas established and it is gratifying to see our system of a Joint Management Committee being copied by the zoos in Western Europe, with close co-operation and the interchange of observers with the British Group. The Joint Management of Species Committee in the UK is made up of representatives of all

National Federation of Great Britain and Ireland Zoos, who meet twice a year to discuss the situation of various endangered and threatened species which come under their control, and they jointly decide what should be kept and where, from an effective "pool" of all the individuals held in the country.

There is one corollary to encouraging breeding in zoos. Animals born in zoos tend to be more healthy and are not subject to the predation which would be suffered in wild populations. Thus zoos have the potential of a population explosion. When four Russian Hamsters arrived at another zoo, they produced over 200 descendants in the first year! In the wild, on balance, only four would have survived the year to replace their short-lived parents.

It is not possible to judge perfectly breeding programmes to ensure that only as many young are born as are needed to keep the on-going stock viable. Inevitably, selection has to take place to replace the selection in nature. "Culling" is, in some quarters, regarded as a reprehensible thing. It is not if it is done kindly and with due consideration, and it is a direct consequence of the fact that animals have been born or hatched as part of a natural process. We try to keep our breeding programmes so that the surplus is minimal. We try to find suitable zoos for that surplus. If we cannot, we think that it is better to put the surplus animals to sleep here rather than let them go to unsuitable places. The question can then be asked, "Why breed stock?" The answer is that the parent animals are getting older all the time and, if breeding is inhibited for too long, there is ever greater difficulty in getting the animals to breed again before they die. There is an added problem in many species which breed in herds. In order to breed enough females to have a balanced herd, it is inevitable that a surplus of males will be produced as well. In the wild, the weaker males are pushed out in the competition to become dominant. Such unsuccessful wild animals would die of injuries or starvation, and this process is prevented in zoos. We are faced, therefore, with a tendency to be carrying more males than are needed to keep the breeding stock healthy and the genetic pool viable.

The simple answer of putting surpluses back in the wild is not a realistic possibility. The wild is under pressure. Those bits of it which are surviving already have their own populations of animals and cannot cope

with more. Also, there are more and more instances cropping up where the wild can no longer safely support species where only a few years ago it might have been abundant. The Black Rhinoceros in Africa is the most recent pressing example.

Pet owners do not like to see their pets wither away and die miserably; they take them to the vet to be put to sleep once they are convinced that the quality of life has gone. We try to do the same for our animals.

Sorry to have concentrated so much on the sombre side of things. Our business is zoology and zoology is a life science. It is simply that it is a fact of life that every life begun will one day end. Much as we would all like to pretend that death does not happen, it does—and we should understand that that is so, and come to terms with it.



Blue-eyed Cockatoo

John King



Black Rhino

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

In the following pages we concentrate on the development of the policy for Reptiles and how the rationalisation of the collection is leading to greater successes. We also illustrate, through both major articles, the way in which inter-zoo co-operation has proved mutually beneficial to all the collections concerned. Beneficial, that is, from a zoological point of view. At the same time, it is vital that we do not rationalise collections to such an extent that we fail to keep the animals which the visitor wants to come and see and learn about, for the zoo has a wider function than conservation. It also exists to educate and encourage interest in the animal world.

Reptile House News

Keith W Brown
Herpetologist

Winter is the time when we at the Reptile House take stock of the year's breeding successes and failures, and the general standard of the exhibits. We can then use this relatively quiet time of the year to improve exhibits, rebuild cage interiors, change lighting, re-plant cages, split up males and females and hibernate reptiles to prepare them for the new season and hopefully increased breeding successes.

This year is no exception, and Reptile House Staff will be busier than ever rebuilding cage interiors and reorganising exhibits to enable us to implement the New Reptile Species Policy which has been formulated to incorporate the Reptiles into the overall Animal Policy of the Zoo.

Without going into too great detail, the new policy will enable us to rationalise and to develop a more balanced Reptile collection with the aims of conservation, education and enjoyable interesting exhibits. Although the policy is a long-term project, its implementation should be noticeable immediately as we go away from the odd specimens and pairs of reptiles towards larger groups (where this is beneficial to the species concerned, some are actually better kept in pairs), and improved cage interiors with the emphasis being on natural habitats. The end result is to improve the quality of the Reptiles' environment, which we hope will lead to improved breeding.

Some of the species upon which we will be concentrating may at first seem low on the priorities of a conservation-minded project but, when studied closely, a very different picture emerges. Take for example the "Common" Iguana (*Iguana iguana*), a species which has been imported by the thousand for many years for the pet trade throughout the world. Every specimen which is exported from Central and South America has been wild caught and their ages range from only a few weeks old to six months old or more. Many die even before they have left the country of origin; more on the journey to the dealers; more at the pet shops and the stronger ones may last a few months longer. Only the specimens "lucky" enough to be acquired by a serious hobbyist have any chance of reaching adulthood, as they require a well-balanced diet, special lighting and adequate multivitamins and minerals to enable normal healthy growth. (This situation is very similar to that of the Tortoise trade prior to recent legislation). Their natural habitat is being destroyed at an alarming rate and they are also eaten as part of the staple diet of many people in Central and South America, where they are known as "Bamboo Chickens". It has also been proved that the majority of Iguanas offered for sale in the various market places for food are females which are carrying eggs. This is probably due to the fact that females in this state are much more lethargic, and therefore easier to catch. All these facts put enormous pressure on their numbers in the wild, and they are in serious decline. Even though vast numbers have been imported in the past, Iguanas have still proved to be extremely difficult to breed in an artificial environment. Our group have

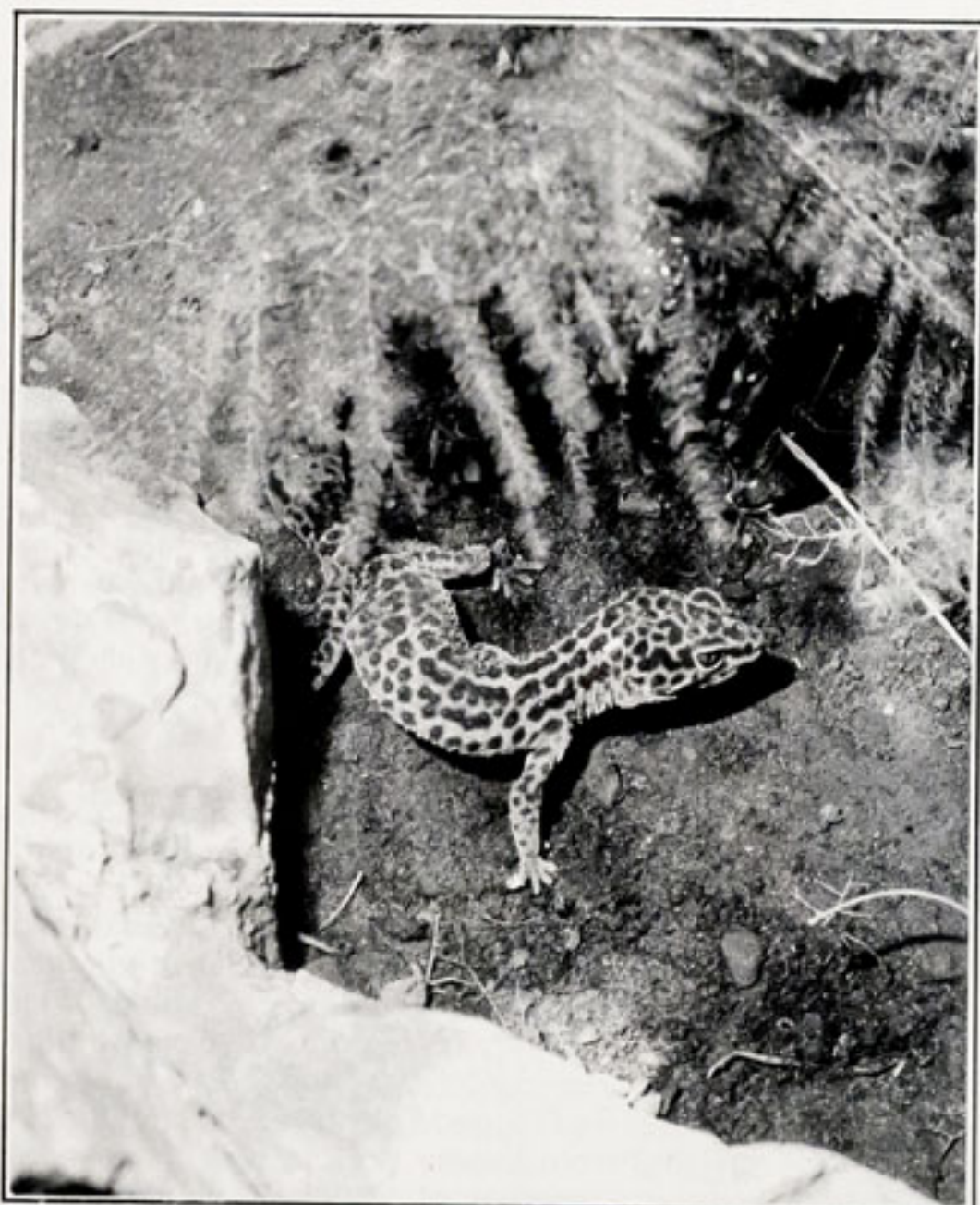


Common Iguana

been reared from babies which we purchased several years ago and have developed very well. This year we had our first eggs and, although infertile (as we expected, as the female is not yet fully adult), we are very pleased, as matings were frequent and the future looks promising. San Diego Zoo has set up a captive breeding programme for Iguanas in Belize this year, in a bid to stem the decline of this species in that country. So, even though this species is not listed in the Red Data Book, it is worthy of a concentrated effort in its conservation—a much better way of dealing with the situation before it becomes a tragedy. This is the approach we are taking—to be forward-looking and to be aware of all aspects of various reptile species and their environments.

We are constantly looking at new ways and different approaches to reptile husbandry, and this year we were pleased when one of our new approaches to breeding a temperate species of Lizard proved successful. In 1985, we purchased five juvenile Eyed Lizards (*Lacerta lepida*), a medium-sized Lizard from Spain. Throughout the summer, several matings took place and, later, two females looked quite heavy and seemed to be carrying eggs. The cage in which they are housed has three large digging areas, but all except one were too exposed. Pieces of cork bark were placed on the peat to encourage the females to dig and tunnel into the digging areas, which they did. Normally, we would dig up the eggs and remove them into one of our incubators, but we decided to leave these to their own devices. In 21st October 1986, baby Eyed Lizards began to emerge from the soil, and, by the end of the day, 14 had hatched without any problem, and could be seen basking under the spot-lamps. They were removed from the large cage where their parents were and placed in a small warm cage, with additional cover, on exhibit the same day, where they settled down very quickly and are doing extremely well. Although this method will not work for all species, it has given us yet another approach to our breeding techniques.

Other breeding successes this year have included Tokay Geckos (*Gecko gecko*), Leopard Geckos (*Eublepharis macularius*), Indian Pythons (*Python molurus bivittatus*), Prehensile-tailed Skinks (*Corucia zebrata*), Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnakes (*Crotalus atrox*) and Northern Green Geckos (*Naultinus elegans*).



BREEDING SUCCESSSES IN 1986

Clockwise: Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnakes, Prehensile-tailed Skinks, Northern Green Gecko, Leopard Gecko and Eyed Lizards
(All photographs by John King)

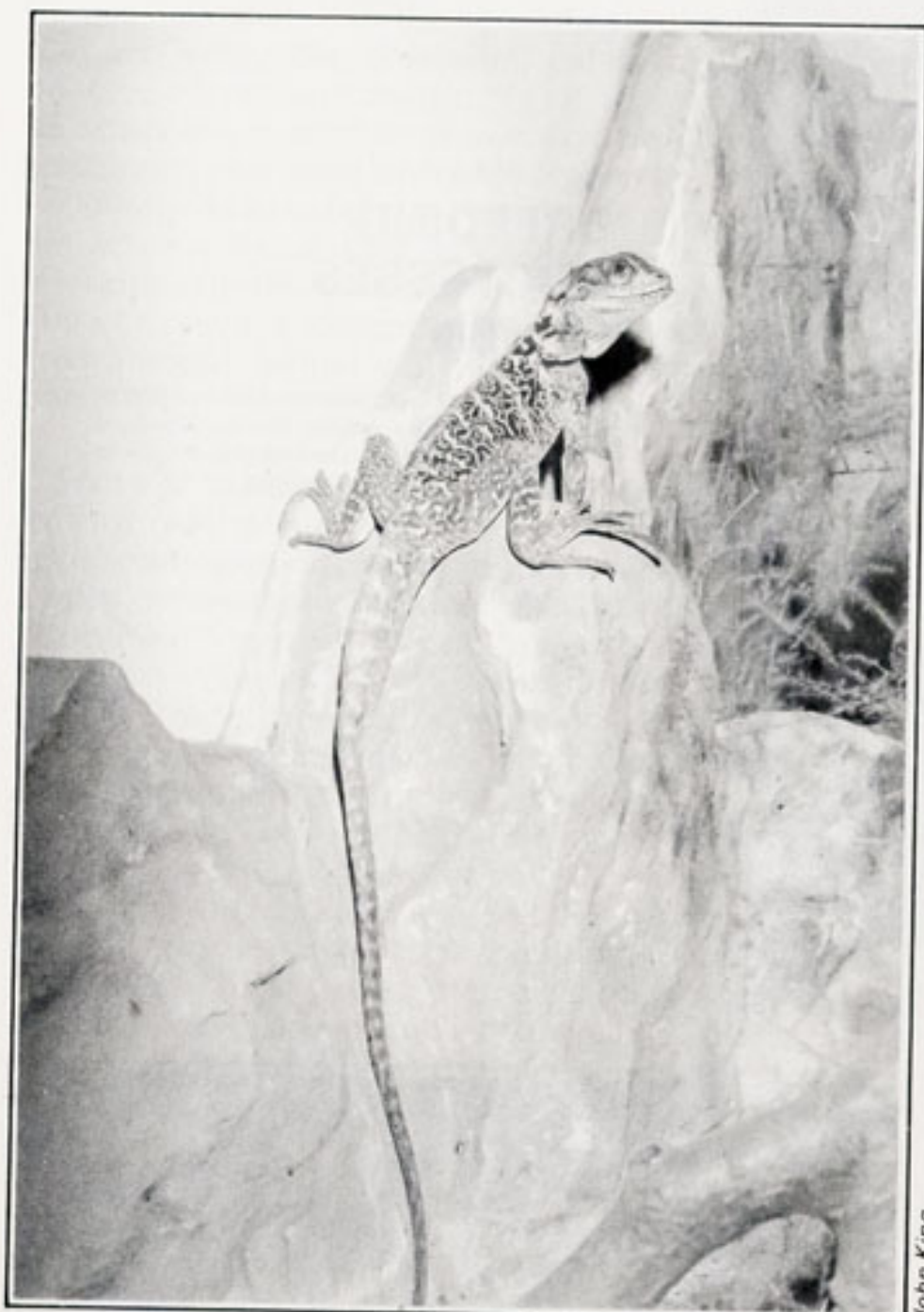


One of the greatest assets on the management side of the Reptile Section is our "off-show breeding area". This is the only place where we can split up males and females, rear youngsters which require special attention, and we also use it for the hibernation of Snakes and Frogs, and to acclimatise Reptiles which require special lighting or cooler conditions. The Northern Green Geckos spent their first six months in the off-show area before going out on display, and one female gave birth during this period. This species comes from New Zealand and requires a cooler environment, and when they arrived from Auckland Zoo they took over four weeks to settle down and feed properly. The off-show area provided an ideal environment for them, where they were not disturbed by people, and we had to try various types of lighting, plants and food before we found the right combination. To help them to keep cool now that they are on display, we have fitted an extractor fan into the cage roof to blow air in, and blocked off the heating ventilator. They have settled down well in their new home and we think that one of the females is carrying young again. The cage is well-planted and they may prove difficult to see, but if you look closely they can be seen climbing amongst the foliage.



False Water Cobra

John King



Sail-fin Lizard

John King

Another species which will be developing is the Sail-tailed or Sail-fin Lizard (*Hydrosaurus amboinensis*). This is quite a large island species which is also declining. *Hydrosaurus amboinensis* and other species of *Hydrosaurus* are found on islands around the Philippines and the tip of New Guinea. On some of the islands, the natives eat *Hydrosaurus*, or "Soa-Soa" as they are known, and their habitat is rapidly vanishing, leading to

an inevitable decrease in numbers. To date, no conservation measures have been taken for this group of Lizards, even though one species, *Hydrosaurus pustulatus* is denoted by the Red Data Book as vulnerable. At present we have four juvenile specimens in our collection, one of which was presented, along with three other young specimens, by Rotterdam Zoo in 1985. Unfortunately, due to various reasons, three of the original four animals died, but we were fortunate enough to be able to obtain three more juveniles, which have settled down and get on fine with the remaining Rotterdam animal. It is too early to be able to determine the sexes of our group, as information received from Rotterdam indicates that *Hydrosaurus amboinensis* is a very slow-growing Lizard and have to reach adult size before the sex becomes apparent. Nevertheless, we are extremely pleased with the way our group is behaving and hope that it will be the basis of a future breeding success.

Other species which we have already begun developing are Sungazers (*Cordylus giganteus*), Plumed Basilisks (*Basiliscus plumifrons*), Black and Gold Tegus (*Tupinambis teguexin*), Jamaican Boas (*Epicrates subflavus*), Madagascan Tree Boas (*Sanzinia madagascarensis*), Red-tailed Racers (*Elaphe oxycephala*), False Water Cobras (*Hydrodynastes gigus*), Texas Indigo Snakes (*Drymarchon corias erebennus*). We should be having a group of Red-legged Tortoises (*Geochelone carbonaria*) arriving from Jersey Zoo very soon, to enable us to exhibit a species of tropical Tortoise in the Reptile enclosures.

I trust that this article has given some insight into how the Reptile exhibit is hoping to feature in the overall aspect of the Zoo. We at the Reptile House are constantly trying to improve our husbandry techniques and exhibition quality to make our Reptile exhibits not only educational and conservalational, but interesting and enjoyable for the visitors.

Editorial Note

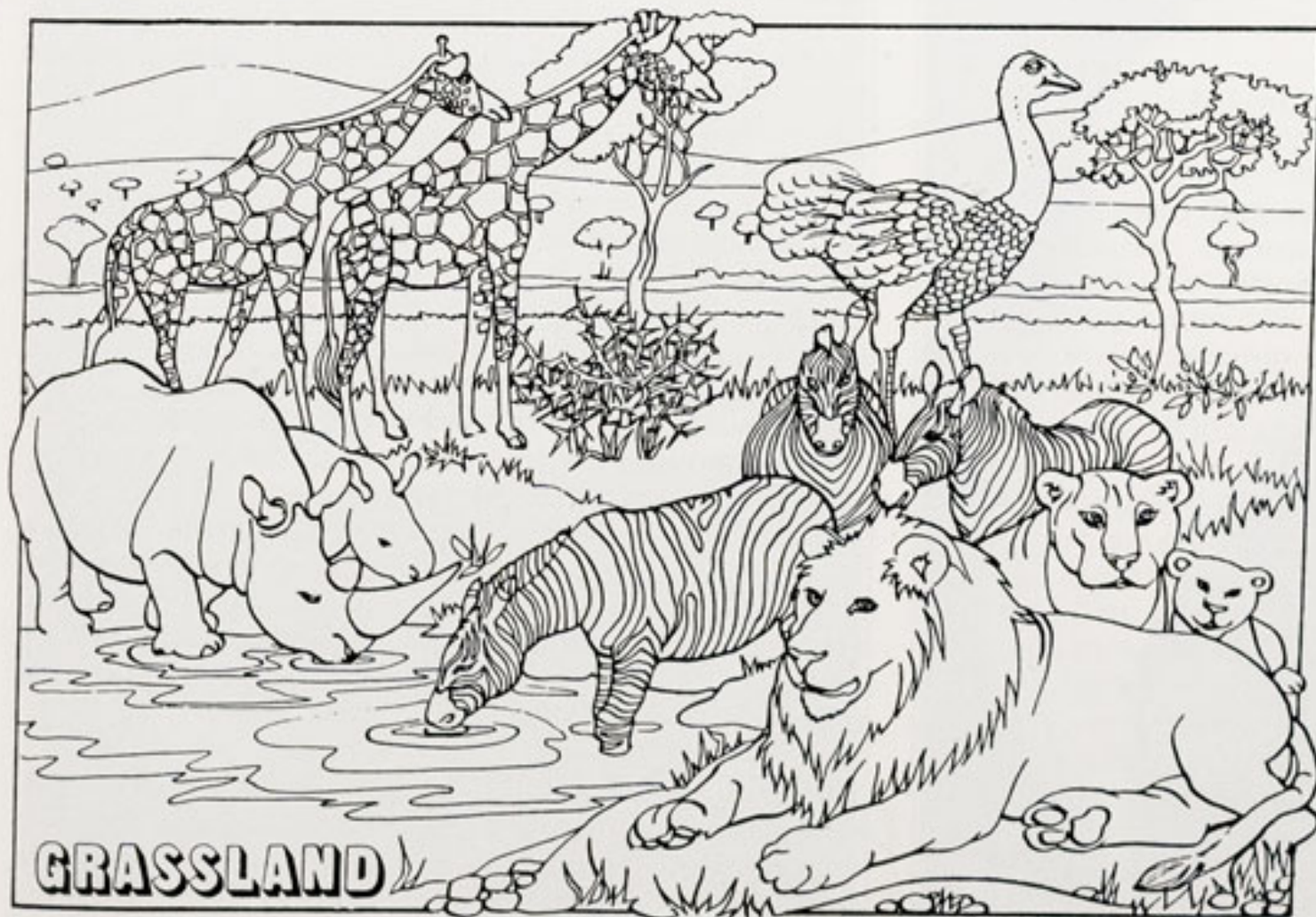
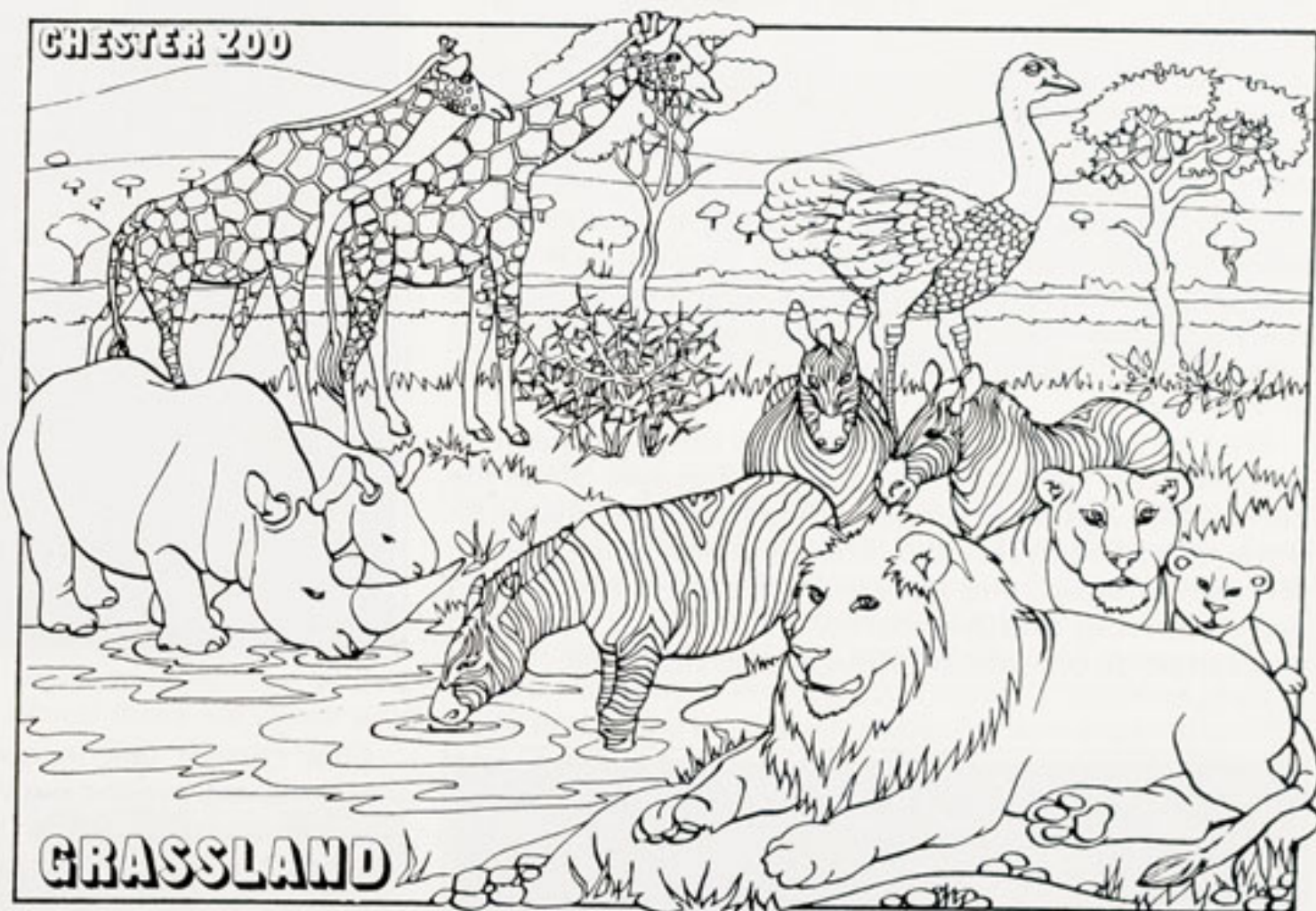
Since this article went to print, early in December 1986, we have heard that the I.U.C.N. Red Data Book transferred *Hydrosaurus amboinensis* off the "Vulnerable" list and on to the "Endangered" species list. We wish the Reptile Department well with their hopes to breed the Sail-fin Lizard in due course.

JUN NEWS



Something not too taxing for you to enjoy over the Christmas "hols" this time—a "Spot the Difference" competition. You should be able to find 24 differences

between these two drawings, and the first person who manages to write them down and send them to me wins a prize.



Exchanges with Rotterdam Zoo

Peter James
Assistant Curator of Birds

The days when Zoo Directors and Curators could not be talked into parting company with any of their exhibits to other zoological collections is, I am glad to say, a thing of the past. The emphasis now is on inter-zoo co-operation, achieved in the U.K. in recent years through the Joint Management of Species Group. A recent meeting of this group in the U.K. was attended by Mr. Van Dam, Rotterdam Zoo's Director, and Mr. Daman, Director of Antwerp Zoo, with a view to reporting to a meeting of several European Zoo Directors shortly, in an attempt to get a similar system off the ground in Europe. If this is successfully set up in Europe, the idea will be to circulate minutes of the meetings of both groups to keep everyone informed of progress made.

That is not to say that up until now there has been no co-operation between the U.K. and Europe. Since the early '70s, Chester Zoo has maintained close links with Rotterdam Zoo in Holland. Chester's previous Director, Mr. Mottershead, and Mr Van Dam always had a good understanding and friendship, a link which has been supported by our present Director, Dr. Brambell.



Red-sided Eclectus Parrot

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



Blue-eyed Cockatoo

John King

One cannot talk in commercial terms of the birds which have travelled over the North Sea to Holland from Chester and those which have made the return journey. The first birds I can recall going to Holland were a Red Bird of Paradise, a Sickle-billed Bird of Paradise and Mrs. Wilson's Bird of Paradise. These were sent to Rotterdam to make up pairs over there, as these were surplus to our own requirements. Around the same time, in 1971, we also sent a female Lawes Bird of Paradise to East Berlin in exchange for the female Sumatran Orang-utan "Ramona", which is still at Chester, having just given birth to her fourth offspring.

On Mr. Mottershead reaching his 80th birthday, Rotterdam Zoo very kindly presented him with two pairs of the very beautiful Crimson-bellied Conures. These were housed in the Round Aviaries on the site of the old Parrot House and, although it took them a long time to settle down, they did eventually breed here and increased our total to seven birds. Losses over the following two-year period reduced our population to just three birds and, on one of my many trips to Rotterdam as a guest of their Curator of Birds, Mr. Han Assink, we decided to take our three birds over to Rotterdam to mix with their four remaining specimens. By October this year, the group had increased to 13 Crimson-bellied Conures and, if the increase continues at the present rate, we will have the opportunity of exhibiting these delightful little birds at Chester once again.

An extremely successful move occurred in the late '70s, when Chester sent its last male Red-tailed Black Cockatoo to Rotterdam. These very spectacular Australian birds have now bred at Rotterdam, making it (as far as we know) the first breeding of this species in Europe. It is

interesting too to note that perhaps one of the rarest species we hold at Chester has been shared with Rotterdam. In 1983 we sent a pair of Blue-eyed Cockatoos to Rotterdam and were delighted to hear that a chick was successfully fledged the following year. This was another "first" breeding in Europe, and the youngster turned out to be a female, so, in 1985, we sent over an unrelated male to pair with her. Hopefully, this will be a good foundation for success with this extremely rare species in Europe.

Staying with parrot-like species, we have just sent two male Scaly-breasted Lorrikeets to pair with two Rotterdam females. Early next year, we plan to send Crowned Plovers, Blacksmith's Plovers and two female Andean Condors, both of these bred here at Chester in 1986.

Over the years, Chester too has received what the Bird Staff describe as some avian gems from Rotterdam. These include two male Red-crowned Cranes in 1985. These superb-looking birds were bred at Rotterdam and we are awaiting the Studbook Keeper allocating us some females with which to pair them. Similarly, we have just received (in fact it is due out of quarantine around the time that this is being written) a male White-naped Crane, which we will seek to pair up as soon as possible. Additions to our collection from Rotterdam also include two pairs of Stone Curlew, who have yet to breed at Chester, and five Pallas' Sandgrouse. These interesting birds arrived when they were still quite young and, on reaching full adult plumage, turned out to be four males and a female! However, not to be deterred, we have since hatched six chicks (artificially hatched and reared in the Bird Rearing Area), of which three survived, and



Pallas' Sandgrouse

John King

we were able to send a pair to Paignton Zoo recently. Two pairs of Hooded Parrakeets (housed in the central aviary of the Parrot House at the moment) were received in 1984, but these have yet to breed; and two Red-sided Eclectus Parrots have been brought over to pair with two of the three we have bred at Chester in the last two years. Two White Woodpeckers were presented to us in 1982 and these were such a popular and exciting exhibit that, when the male died in 1984, Rotterdam very kindly were able to send us a replacement in 1985. These can be seen in one of the aviaries on the upper landing of the Tropical House, and we hope that they will breed for us in the future—at the moment these two birds seem more interested in the wooden framework of the aviary than in the natural logs which have been produced for them! Both the White Woodpeckers and the Pallas' Sandgrouse are the only ones exhibited in this country, apart from the pair of Sandgrouse just sent to Paignton.

On my most recent trip over to Rotterdam in October/November 1986, I also brought back two pairs of Musk Lorrikeets. Although these are a relatively plentiful species in the wild, they are very rare in aviculture. Their wild distribution covers Eastern and South Eastern Australia and widely through Tasmania. Our two pairs, which will be housed in the Parrot House when they complete their quarantine, are the only ones in the U.K., and I believe that the last time they were seen in England was during the 1930s, at London Zoo.

I have just talked about the bird exchanges of recent years. From what I have said, I hope that it is obvious that the mutual gain, aviculturally, of such close ties with Rotterdam are huge. However, the goodwill involved dealing with such a fine European collection should certainly not be under-estimated. All our staff, myself especially, would like to thank the staff at Rotterdam Zoo for always making us feel so very welcome during our visits and for treating us to such generous hospitality. Both the Mammal (we always try to combine our trips over to the Continent, as we use the Quarantine Vehicle anyway), Reptile and Bird Sections extend their appreciation.



Red-crowned Crane

John King

Members' Meetings

PROGRAMME FOR 1987

Saturday, 17th January, 2.30 p.m., Lecture Hall
Alan Kingsbury—*Tanzania Safari, with a Video Camera*

Saturday, 14th February, 1987, 2.30 p.m., Lecture Hall
Valerie McFarland—wildlife in Alaska

Saturday, 14th March, 1987, 2.30 p.m., Lecture Hall
Pat Wisniewski—*Amphibians in Perspective*

Saturday, 11th April, 1987
12.30 p.m.—*Members' Buffet Lunch*. Details of ticket prices available at a later date from the Membership Office.

2.30 p.m.—*Chester Zoo: A Review*, Dr. M. R. Brambell, Director.

Saturday, 16th May, 1987 (Provisional Date)
Annual General Meeting. Members will be notified of the definite date, time and place of the A.G.M. in the Notice of Meeting.

Members are reminded that a charge of 50 pence per meeting will be made at the door to offset expenses for bringing speakers and towards defraying costs of maintaining the meeting rooms. (It may be necessary on some occasions to increase this charge to £1).

Tea and biscuits will be available at meetings at no extra cost.

Junior Members' Field Trips and Meetings 1986-1987

Following the Junior Members' Conference in February 1986, the following programme of events arranged for this year has been made with the requests of the present Juniors in mind:—

CONTACT SESSION

Saturday, 24th January 1987

All **over eight-year-olds** are invited to come along to meet some of the Zoo's residents. We do not have many animals at Chester Zoo which you can actually "handle", but those who are willing to say "Hello" will be available on this day, such as Tarantulas, Snakes, Chicks, Locusts and some others too.

Please assemble **outside the Oakfield at 2.30 p.m.**

CONDUCTED TOUR OF THE ZOO AND ANNUAL JUNIOR MEMBERS' CONFERENCE
Saturday, 21st February 1987

This is an important day for Junior Members, when you have the opportunity to put forward your ideas and views about the Zoo and about what you would like to do within the Club. During the morning, we will be showing you around the Zoo, which will give you plenty

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Due 1st January, 1987

Please note that membership subscriptions have now risen to £15 per member per annum, as approved by Members at the Annual General Meeting held in May this year. We have also introduced a joint husband/wife membership—i.e. where *both* husband and wife are members, a joint membership fee of £27 will be charged, but only one notification of meetings, copy of magazine, Annual Report, etc., will be sent. If one partner is already a Life Member, the other may join as a Joint Member at £12.00

If you pay by Banker's Order, I would be grateful if you would notify your bank of these changes AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Associate and Junior Memberships will remain at £5 per member.

Members' Concessionary Tickets 1987

These will remain at £1.50 each to Life/Annual Members and £2.50 each to Associate Members. (Junior Members are not entitled to purchase concessionary tickets). **Please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope when applying for these tickets by post.**

Maureen Allsopp (Mrs.)
Membership Secretary

of time to think up lots of questions to put to the Zoo's staff. Following a picnic lunch, we will continue the day in the Zoo's lecture hall, with some slides. More details about the conference will be available nearer the time. **Everyone welcome.**

Meet outside the **Oakfield at 10.00 a.m.**, will end around 4.00 p.m.

TRACKS AND SIGNS

Saturday, 21st March 1987

Owing to popular demand, we have decided to repeat this trip again this year. We will be going around the Zoo looking for footprints of both exotic and native residents, and then will take plaster casts. We have to hope for rather muddy weather for this event! **Over eights** invited.

Meet outside the **Oakfield at 11.00 a.m.**, finishing around 4.00 p.m.

FOSSIL-HUNTING EXPEDITION

Saturday, 18th April 1987

We will be visiting Moneyash Quarry in Derbyshire in search of fossils. This is a disused quarry set in the hills, and we were lucky to find many different kinds of fossils on our last trip. **Over tens** invited.

The bus will leave the **Staff Car Park at 9.30 a.m.**, returning around 5.00 p.m.

AINSDALE NATURE RESERVE **Saturday, 23rd May 1987**

This is an unusual chance to be shown around this important nature reserve by one of the Wardens. The Reserve is near Southport and has some species only found in this one area of the country. We will be keeping an eye open for toads and lizards, as well as the many rare plants which live among the sand-dunes in this area. It will be a strenuous day's walking. **Over tens** invited.

The bus will leave the **Staff Car Park at 9.30 a.m.**, returning around 5.00 p.m.

DAY HELPING A KEEPER **Saturday, 20th June 1987**

Groups will be sent to various sections in the Zoo to help Keepers and see what their jobs can involve. Unfortunately, we have to limit this event to **over 12-year-olds**. Old clothes and "wellies" essential.

Please meet **outside the Oakfield at 11.00 a.m.**; ends around 4.00 p.m.

We may try to arrange a tour of the Zoo for younger Juniors on this day—keep an eye on *Chez Nous* for further details.

SPONSORED WALK ALONG THE **SANDSTONE TRAIL** **Saturday, 25th July 1987**

Rather than a bazaar, this year we have decided to have an eight-mile sponsored walk along a very scenic part of the Sandstone Trail in Cheshire. All those **over eights** who think they can manage the hilly walk are welcome to join us. We will probably split into a few groups. Ideas about what to raise money for will be welcome at the Conference in February.

The bus will leave the **Staff Car Park at 9.30 a.m.**, returning around 4.00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE

For those trips which involve either a bus or provision of food, a charge will have to be made in order for us to cover basic costs. This will be collected on the day, and will vary according to the distance to be travelled/food provided.

Bookings must be made for ALL events. Please ring me at the Zoo not more than two weeks before an event if you would like to attend. Places may be limited.

*This list is provisional and, in exceptional circumstances, we may have to alter the dates and times of some of the trips, so please keep an eye on the listing in *Chez Nous* to keep up-to-date.*

Penny Rudd (Mrs.)
Junior Members' Club

Craft and **Photographic Club**

Spring Programme

26th February, 1987: "Why Knot?" A demonstration of knots to make serviette rings, and macrame to make a key ring, by Mr. D. Thompson and Mrs. L. Kini.

30th March, 1987: *Getting the Most out of Your Camera*, a talk by Miss Jean Dixon. Also an announcement of a future photographic competition.

27th April, 1987: The Annual General Meeting and Slide Show.

All meetings of the Club are held at Oakfield House, at 8.00 p.m. Entrance is through the Time Office. Further details of meeting or about the club may be obtained from the Club Secretary, Mrs. L. Kini, on Chester 380425.



THE NORTH WEST GROUP OF THE

Fauna & Flora **Preservation Society**

F.F.P.S.
North West

Spring Programme

AN EVENING OF MADAGASCAN WILDLIFE

Friday, 9th January, 1987

Biologist John Pollock: *A Conservation Strategy for Madagascar*. A film will also be shown.

AN EVENING OF ELEPHANTS

Friday, 20th February, 1987

Zoologist Ian Redmond: *Underground Elephants*. A film will also be shown.

A light buffet with wine is served at all meetings. These are held at Chester Zoo's Lecture Hall (follow signs from the Staff Entrance).

Meetings start at 7.30 p.m. (doors open at 7.00 p.m.).

Tickets £3.50 at the door or in advance from Chester Zoo.

Proceeds to the Mountain Gorilla Project.

Arrivals and Births

2.0.1	Blackbuck (<i>Antelope cervicapra</i>)	Birth	0.0.6	Caribbean Flamingo (<i>Phoenicopterus ruber ruber</i>)	From Whipsnade
1.0	Brazilian Tapir (<i>Tapirus terrestris</i>)	Received from Haigh Hall	0.3	Ruddy Ducks (<i>Oxyjura jamaicensis</i>)	Received from T. Lay
0.1	Nilgai (<i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i>)	Birth	2.0	Marbled Teal (<i>Anas angustirostris</i>)	Received from T. Lay
0.0.1	Collard Peccary (<i>Tavassu tajacu</i>)	Birth	0.1	Chestnut-breasted Teal (<i>Anas castanea</i>)	Received from T. Lay
0.1	Sumatran Orang Utan (<i>Pongo pygmaeus abelii</i>)	Birth	0.0.13	Eyed Lizard (<i>Lacerta lepida</i>)	Hatched
0.1	Brown-eared Pheasant (<i>Crossoptilon mantchurium</i>)	Exchange	1.1	False Water Cobra (<i>Hydronastes gigas</i>)	On deposit
0.0.7	Zebra Finch (<i>Poephila guttata</i>)	Hatched	0.0.1	Green Iguana (<i>Iguana iguana</i>)	Presented
3.0	Hooded Merganser (<i>Mergus cucullatus</i>)	Received from S. Glazebrook	0.0.1	Madagascan Tree Boa (<i>Sanzinia madagascariensis</i>)	Received
1.0	White-naped Crane (<i>Grus vipio</i>)	Received from Rotterdam	0.0.3	Sail-fin Lizard (<i>Hydrosaurus amboinensis</i>)	Received
1.1	Southern Stone Curlew (<i>Burhinus magnirostris</i>)	Received from Rotterdam	0.0.1	Golden Tegu (<i>Gupiambis nigropunctatus</i>)	Presented
1.1	Red-sided Eclectus Parrot (<i>Eclectus roratus polychloros</i>)	Received from Rotterdam	0.0.7	Feather-fin Rainbow Fish (<i>Iratherina wemeri</i>)	Bred
0.0.1	Red-breasted Goose (<i>Branta ruficollis</i>)	From W. Harrison	0.0.7	Rainbow Fish (<i>Melanotaeria boesnani</i>)	Bred
0.0.1	Diamond Dove (<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>)	Hatched	0.0.7	Cummingham's Barb (<i>Barbus cumingi</i>)	Bred
			0.0.4	Stingray (<i>Potamtrygon sp</i>)	Bred



Blitzen meets the postman

One arrival with a surprise in store was a Chester City postman, who came to the Zoo to donate a real Victorian post-box—no longer allowed to receive letters but, hopefully, will accept some donations to the Zoo. At the same time, the Post Office launched their Christmas stamps for this year, and Blitzen the Reindeer was on hand to provide the Christmas atmosphere. The postman—used to handling awkward parcels—handled this bundle of fun very well!