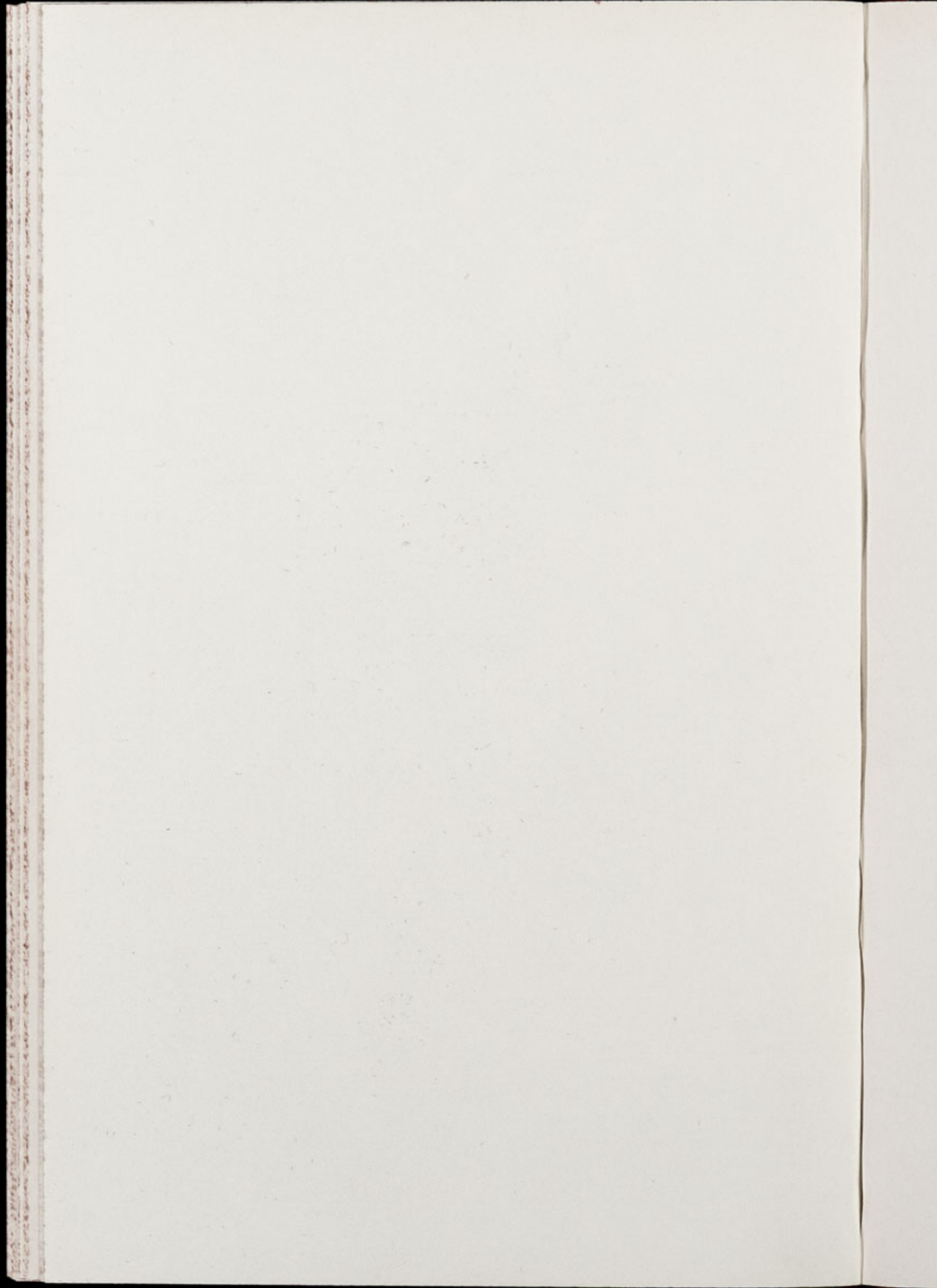




**CHESTER ZOO NEWS**  
**AND GUIDE**

October 1971

Price 6p



# The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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## CONTENTS:

<i>page two</i>	Arrivals and Births.
<i>page four</i>	"Keeper for A Day" Competition.
<i>page five</i>	Bird Notes.
<i>page eight/nine</i>	Zoo Plan.
<i>page ten</i>	Reptile Notes. Malayan Sun Bear Death.
<i>page eleven</i>	Barbary Ape Study.
<i>page twelve</i>	Moloney's Guenon and baby. Sugar Gliders.
<i>page sixteen</i>	Subscription Forms.

## ILLUSTRATIONS:

<i>page three</i>	Alpaca and young.
<i>page seven</i>	Lesser Patagonian Conures and chicks.
<i>page thirteen</i>	Moloney's Guenon and baby.
<i>page fifteen</i>	Sugar Glider showing patagium.

*COVER: Sugar Glider peering from nest; see page twelve.*

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

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION — NINETY FIVE NEW PENCE POSTAGE PAID

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### ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

During the past month the following mammal births have been recorded:

- 1 White-bearded Gnu (*Connochaetes taurinus albojubatus*)
- 1 Red Lechwe (*Kobus leche*)
- 1 Arabian Gazelle (*Gazella arabica*)
- 1 Alpaca (*Lama pacos*)
- 5 Coatis (*Nasua nasua*)
- 7 Ground Squirrels (*Eutamias sibiricus*)
- 1 Sooty Mangabey (*Cercocebus torquatus atys*)

Our herds of ungulates continue to expand at a gratifying pace, the Gnu calf on exhibition in enclosure No. 93 being the fourth born this year, the Red Lechwe calf in No. 76 being the sixth and the Arabian Gazelle being the second. The Gazelles will shortly be taken off show to their winter quarters.

Standing about 2½ feet high, the brown woolly baby Alpaca is shown with its mother in the photograph on the right. Besides the baby we have four of this South American species, a male and three females, all of which can be seen in enclosure No. 100.

In the Small Mammal House the female Coati certainly has her paws full with five very lively mischievous offspring. These animals, which have a gestation period of about 11 weeks, breed very well at Chester and we can now boast a total of 17.

The Ground Squirrels are accommodated in the Nocturnal House while the baby Sooty Mangabey, the second born this year, may be seen with its mother, Jackie, in the Monkey House.

At the end of August two female reticulated Giraffes completed a stay of twelve months in quarantine at our Birkenhead premises and were transferred to the herd at the Zoo. Their introduction to the large outside paddock was effected gradually and they have integrated successfully with the resident Giraffes. Both new animals are about three years old and were acquired from zoos in Europe.



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

ALPACA AND YOUNG (*Lama pacos*)

### "KEEPER FOR A DAY" COMPETITION

The *Liverpool Daily Post and Echo* newspaper offered young people an opportunity to try their hands at looking after animals by organising a "Be a Keeper for A Day" competition. Competitors were required to identify a number of animals and from over 700 entries six winners, three girls and three boys, were selected. They were Margaret Sanford from Meols, Wirral, aged 10, Yvonne Roberts from Tregarth near Bangor, aged 9, Rosemary Hindley from Woolton, Liverpool, aged 9, Martyn Housden from Bebington, Wirral, aged 9, Dilwyn Watkins from Mold, aged 13, and David Rawsthorne from Crosby, Liverpool, aged 10.

It certainly was a novel competition, as there are few which award a day of work as a prize! However, at 10 a.m. on Friday, 17th September, six highly enthusiastic prize-winners reported for duty and were issued with keepers' hats. These were rather large for the ladies but nevertheless were worn with immense pride all day. Each of the young keepers chose a section on which he or she would most like to work. Margaret and Yvonne went to assist with the Giraffes and Zebras, Rosemary to the "Whipsnade" section which includes Wapiti, Gibbons and Foxes, Martyn to the Rhino section, Dilwyn to the Monkey House and David to a section of paddocks accommodating amongst other animals, Wallabies and Gazelles. On their various sections they spent a typical morning in the life of a keeper, helping to clean out and feed the animals. The keepers were also kept busy, answering a barrage of questions and explaining as much as possible about the animals in their charge.

Lunch was at 1 p.m. followed by a short trip around the Zoo before posing for press photographs and a chance to meet the young female Wallaby named Josephine which was hand-reared by our veterinary surgeon. After more photographs in front of the Elephant paddock, the six young keepers returned to their appropriate sections until it was time for tea with their parents in the Fountain Restaurant. In the evening, despite a hard day's work, they managed to show their parents around the Zoo. Their unanimous decision about their day as keepers — they enjoyed it thoroughly!

**BIRD NOTES**

We are very pleased to report that our Sun-bitterns (*Eurypyga helias*) have reared a chick. The parent birds arrived at the Zoo in November 1969 and were accommodated in the Tropical House in one of the spacious lower aviaries which had been designed specially to provide congenial surroundings for breeding. It was furnished with plants, rockwork and a shallow pool which, if required, could be fed by running water.

In February this year the first egg was laid in an artificial nest situated fairly close to the public passage, though screened with vegetation; unfortunately it was found smashed a few days later. Subsequently another nest was constructed at the back of the aviary on top of a mound of rocks measuring between two and three feet high. In the natural state these birds nest usually in trees or bushes, rarely on the ground. The Sun-bitterns lined the artificial nest with small water plants and mosses and shortly afterwards the hen laid a second egg. Approximately 26 days later she was observed sitting higher on the nest and we deduced that the chick had been hatched, though of course no one was permitted to approach the immediate area. Several days later the chick could be seen clearly beneath the adult. Mealworms, small fish and frogs were provided and the parents took turns in brooding and feeding.

In appearance the chick was very much like a plover and covered in down. Between three and four weeks old it made its first excursions from the nest, returning when tired and at night. As its independence increased, the chick began to explore the aviary and to feed itself, although the parents continued to proffer food as well. Its growth has been rapid and already it is difficult to distinguish the chick from the parents unless they are standing together.

It is believed to be only the second time that the species has been bred in Great Britain. The first breeding was at London Zoo in

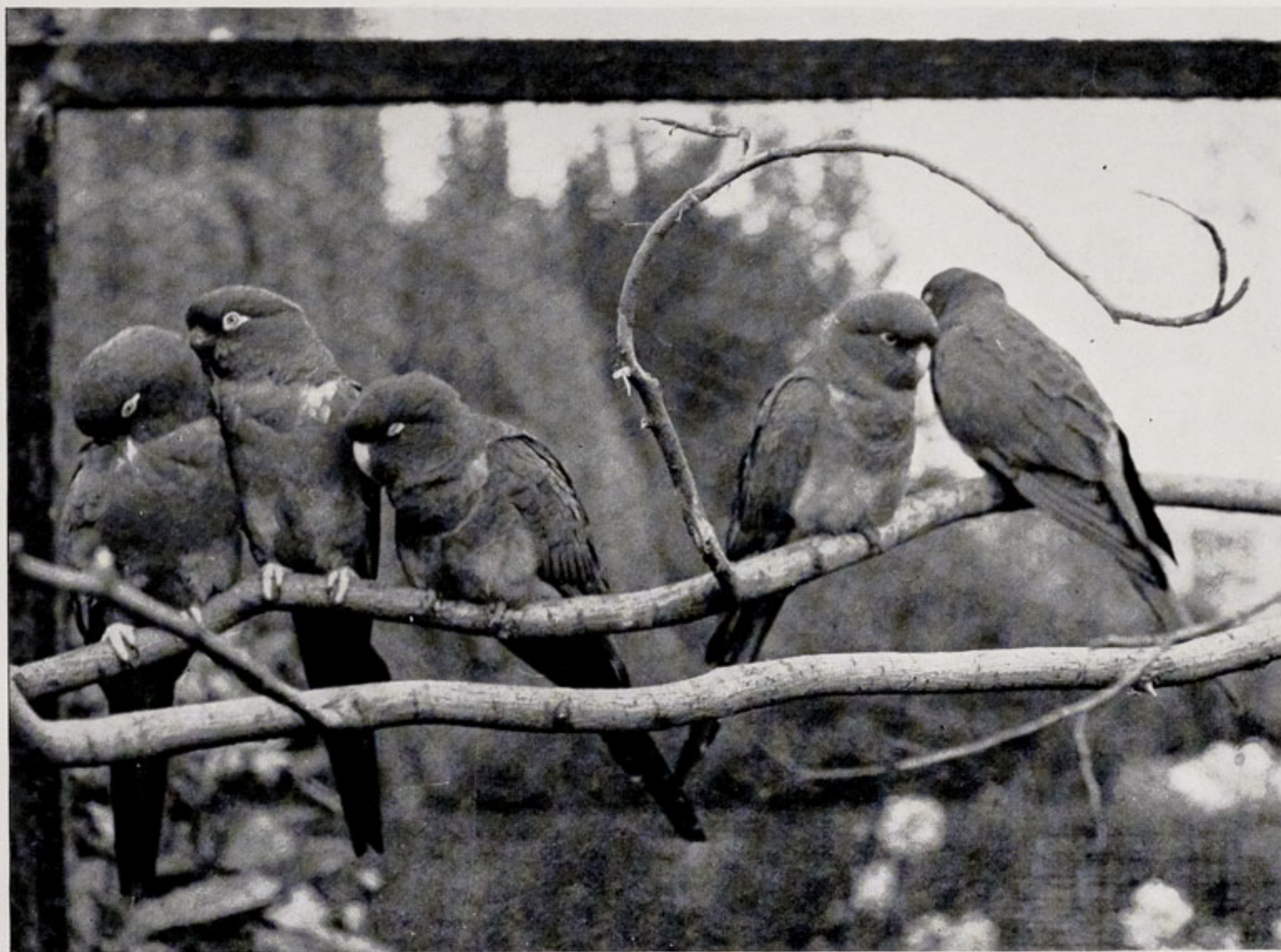
1865 when a pair of Sun-bitterns twice nested and reared a chick successfully. Incidentally, a pair at Dublin Zoo hatched a chick just a few weeks before our birds. Their first egg was also smashed.

Sun-bitterns are native to Central and South America where they frequent lakes and streams in forested areas. In the courtship display the birds spread their wings above their heads revealing vivid reddish-orange markings which resemble rays of the sun and from which the name is derived. When standing in one place Sun-bitterns usually swing their bodies slowly and rhythmically from side to side, while their legs remain motionless. This action is important when the birds are fishing as it enables them to scan a wide area around them without disturbing the fish. Visitors can observe this interesting habit for themselves as the Sun-bitterns often "fish" in their shallow pool. The chick makes the same movement.

Another very interesting breeding is that of three Lesser Patagonian Conures (*Cyanoliseus patagonus*) seen in the photograph on the right. The chicks can be recognised easily as they have cream-coloured bills in comparison with those of the adults which are black. We had just one pair of this South American species which arrived at the Zoo in 1967. All are on exhibition in the Parrakeet Aviaries, No. 42.

At the latest count 47 Cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) have been reared this year. However, as there are chicks still in the nestboxes, the final total may be considerably higher. All the chicks are healthy specimens and before next year's breeding season begins our large colony of Cockatiels will be transferred to one of the Rainbow Aviaries. Last year we bred 27 of this species.

The Rhea chick hatched in August has almost doubled in size and can now be seen by visitors on suitable days in the Anteater Enclosure, No. 53.



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

LESSER PATAGONIAN CONURES AND CHICKS (*Cyanoliseus patagonus*)

# CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND  
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

1. SOUTH ENTRANCE
2. Peacock Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Lesser Pandas
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, FIRST AID, TOILETS, MOTHER and BABY ROOM
9. CAFETERIA
10. Picnic Lawn
11. Bears
12. Animal Enclosure
13. Kiosk
14. AQUARIUM
15. NORTH ENTRANCE
16. PUSH CHAIRS, WHEEL CHAIRS, LOST CHILDREN
17. Parrot House
18. Free Flight Aviary
19. APE HOUSE
20. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP
21. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
22. TOILETS
23. Tuatara Exhibit
24. Peccaries
25. Waterbus Halt
26. Birds of Prey Aviaries
27. Owl Aviary
28. Jackal and Hyaena Enclosures
29. Animal Enclosure
30. Porcupine Enclosure
31. Coypus
32. Beavers
33. Giraffe House
34. Camel House
35. Waterbus Halt
36. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES
37. CHIMPANZEES
38. Floribunda Rose Garden
39. Zebra House
40. Gibbon Island

41. H.T. Rose Garden
42. Aviaries
43. Flamingos
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Waterfowl Enclosure
46. Capybara and Waterfowl
47. Penguins
48. Sealions
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Tigers
52. Waterfowl Enclosure
53. Anteaters
54. BIRD HOUSE
55. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT
56. Ape Nursery
57. TOILETS
58. Lions
59. SOUVENIR SHOP
60. TOILETS
61. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT
62. G.P.O. Telephone
63. Gibbon Pen
64. Animal Enclosure
65. Cheetahs
66. Ornamental Rock Garden
67. Malayan Bears
68. Animal Enclosure
69. Aviary
70. Wallabies
71. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE AND KIOSK
72. Waterbus Halt

73. Fountain Flower Gardens
74. Rose Garden
75. Red Lechwe
76. Red Lechwe
77. Deer or Antelope Enclosure
78. Waterbus Halt
79. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
80. Kamchatka Bears
81. ELEPHANTS
82. Hippos
83. Tapirs
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Ankole Cattle
87. Gazelle Paddocks
88. Storks and Ostriches
89. Baboon Pens
90. Cat House
91. Lions and Tigers
92. Antelope Enclosure
93. Antelope Enclosure
94. Antelope Enclosure
95. Highland Cattle
96. MONKEY HOUSE
97. Waterfowl Enclosure
98. Wallabies and Waterfowl
99. Cranes and Waterfowl
100. Llamas and Alpacas

101. Zebroids
102. Bison Paddock
103. Pere David's Deer Paddock
104. Eland and Marmots
105. RHINO HOUSE
106. TOILETS
107. Mpila Snack-bar and Kiosk
108. Antelope Enclosure
109. Antelope Enclosure

Animals may be moved from time to time.

## ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES:

LIONS—3 pm except Fridays  
BEARS—3-15 pm  
POLAR BEARS—4 pm  
SEA LIONS 3 times daily—  
2-40 pm, 3-40 pm, 4-40 pm

FOR A COMPLETE  
TOUR OF THE ZOO —  
Follow Nos.1-109  
from South Entrance  
or Nos.16-109  
from North Entrance  
then return to  
Nos.1-14



Among our latest acquisitions are two Rufous Tree Pies, two Diamond Doves, four Jungle Mynahs, four Bank Mynahs, four Black-necked Crowned Cranes, a Fairy Bluebird, a Lesser Thick-billed Green Pigeon and a Rose-coloured Starling.

Most of these birds are on exhibition in the aviaries adjoining the Temperate Bird House with the exception of the Diamond Doves which are in the Oakfield Aviaries, the Cranes in enclosure No. 99 and the Rufous Tree Pies in one of the lower aviaries in the Tropical House.

### REPTILE NOTES

A third Leopard Gecko (*Eublepharis macularis*) has hatched and is on exhibition in a small glass tank at the front of the Gecko vivarium with the two other young mentioned in last month's "Zoo News". A fourth egg was lost. Some years ago this species was bred in the collection but the young died as a result of rickets. To help prevent a similar occurrence an ultra violet light has been installed above the nursery tank. The first Leopard Geckos hatched have grown considerably and are feeding well on young locusts. An interesting feature to note is the difference in their markings, though when adult they will all acquire the characteristic spotted patterning.

### MALAYAN SUN BEAR DEATH

We are always sorry when an animal dies at the Zoo but the occasion is particularly sad when an old resident passes on. Turvy, the male Malayan Sun Bear has been a familiar sight to regular visitors for many years; since 1953 in fact, when he arrived with his mate, Topsy. On his death recently, he was over 20 years old.

### BARBARY APE STUDY

A student from Bristol University has spent three weeks at Chester Zoo studying behaviour in our group of Barbary Apes (*Macaca sylvana*) for a thesis towards his degree in zoology. Originally he intended to study a wild group of Barbary Apes in Morocco, but on arrival there found that the troop he hoped to observe had moved out of the district to avoid human activities. With limited time and resources, he decided to return to England and study a captive group.

Armed with a clipboard, charts and pen, he spent every day perched on top of the Barbary Apes' indoor quarters, where he had a good view of their spacious enclosure. Besides gaining an insight into the behaviour of the group as a whole, the student paid particular attention to the activities of the baby Barbary Ape born in July. Even in the short time available for study he made some interesting observations about relationships within the group.

We have eight Barbary Apes, comprising a male and seven females including the recent baby. Eventually the student could identify each Ape by sight although at first he found difficulty in distinguishing the younger females. One rather unusual aspect of behaviour reported in this species, which he had hoped to be able to observe in Morocco, involved a subordinate male employing an infant as a buffer by presenting it to a dominant male. Unfortunately, as we have only one male, this was not possible with our group. However, the student did ascertain that our male has a considerable amount of contact with the baby.

The male, named Sailor, was born en route to the Zoo in 1955 while all the females have been bred here. At the present time Trixie, the eldest, is the only breeding female. The level of aggression is noticeably lower in Barbary Apes than in other Macaques though a hierarchy is evident amongst our females, Trixie being the most dominant. The younger females are extremely interested in the infant

but their attempts to carry it are quickly thwarted by Trixie. Only the male is allowed to pick up the baby, although if Trixie is holding it herself she will permit the others to approach and touch it.

The one year old Barbary Ape has a little more freedom with the infant, possibly as Trixie was nursing her until a few weeks before the latest youngster was born. The most nervous member of the group is Squeaker, the second eldest female, which was abandoned shortly after birth, hand-reared and later re-introduced to the enclosure.

During his three weeks of study the student noticed a marked increase in the independence of the baby. Its play is exploratory involving climbing and investigating various objects in the enclosure. At mealtimes it sits with Trixie and is taking some solid food.

### GUENON BABY

The photograph on the right shows the baby born to the female Moloney's Guenon and male Sykes Monkey. It is growing into a fine healthy animal and has now been sexed as a male.

### SUGAR GLIDERS

The native wildlife of Australia consists of about 390 reptile, 230 mammal and some 700 bird species. The Sugar Glider (*Petaurus breviceps*) with its various geographical races is probably among the most numerous of Australian mammals, but because of their nocturnal habits these animals are seldom seen.

Sugar Gliders along with other gliding phalangers, so called because they belong to the Phalangeridae family, are one of the most agile groups of tree dwellers in Australia. Some of them, including the Sugar Gliders, are characterised by a flap of skin between the front and hind legs called a patagium which, when stretched, enables them to glide through the air in the manner of a paper aeroplane.



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

MOLONEY'S GUENON AND BABY (*Cercopithecus a. albogularis* x *Cercopithecus a. moloneyi*)

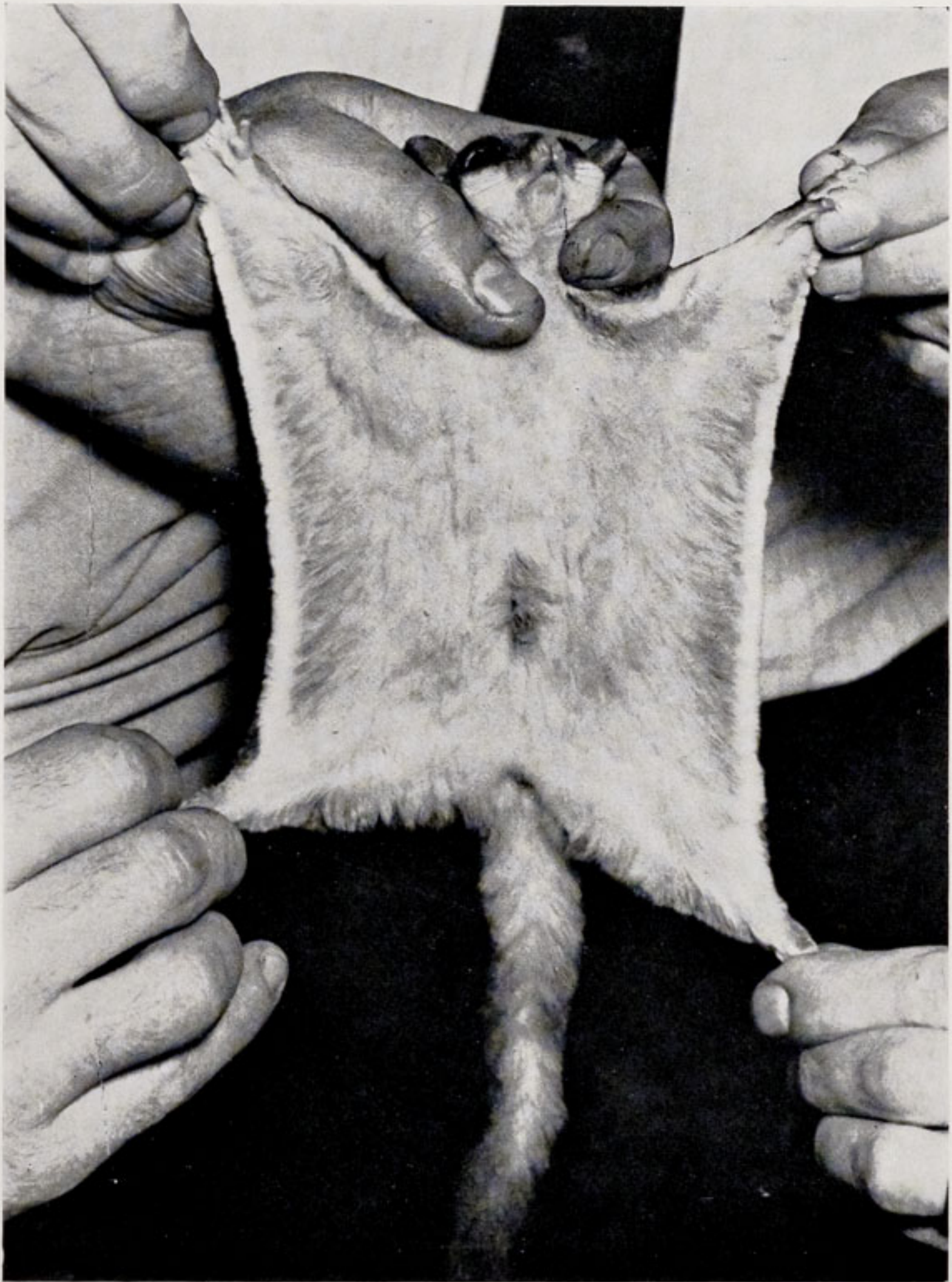
They cannot fly in the true sense, i.e., gain altitude, but only move downwards in a long plane. However, this ability, like that of the Flying Squirrels of the northern hemisphere, is invaluable for travelling from one tree to another without descending to the ground.

They measure 16 inches from head to tail and the well-developed patagia stretching from wrist to ankle enable them to make 50 or 60 yard downward glides from tree to tree, though naturally the length of the glide depends on the height at which the Sugar Glider commences its descent. On reaching its tree of destination it performs a stall landing, so that it always comes to rest head uppermost. It then wraps its tail around the bole and ascends in a spiral in preparation for another leap.

Sugar Gliders are marsupials — mammals whose young are born at an early stage and complete their development attached to teats in their mothers' pouches ('marsupium' in Latin). In the photograph of a female Sugar Glider on the right, which illustrates the extent of the patagium, the marsupial pouch is clearly visible on her ventral surface. Usually females have two young although we have a record of one of our females producing three, only two of which were reared. The gestation period is about three weeks. Young Sugar Gliders grow very quickly and in four months resemble their parents.

The Sugar Glider has fine fur which protects it from cold and damp. In the wild these animals are very fond of the sweet sap of certain trees and where there is sap oozing from a tree they will remain hanging head downwards on the trunk, feeding for periods of up to an hour. During the day the Sugar Glider shelters in a hole in a eucalyptus tree curled up in its nest of eucalyptus leaves.

It has been discovered that this species has scent glands in its forehead, chest and anus, each capable of emitting a different odour and members of the same family group are able to recognise each other by their common scent. Attempts to introduce a new animal to a



K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.  
SUGAR GLIDER (*Petaurus breviceps papuanus*) SHOWING PATAGIUM

group are likely to lead to the death of the newcomer. When we make an introduction, usually we put the new animals into a cage inside the Sugar Glider display, so that over a period of time the group can touch and smell it and eventually will accept it.

Although Sugar Gliders bear a very close resemblance to their nearest relatives among the marsupial gliders, actually they are predators, devouring huge quantities of insects and have even been known to kill mice. Consequently they have insectivores' teeth, whereas the teeth of other gliders resemble those of the vegetarian species.

Captive specimens do not normally emerge from their nestboxes until it is almost dark, when they come out to feed. We offer our Sugar Gliders a diet of apples, carrots, brown bread, bird seed, hard boiled egg, mealworms and honey; also they are very fond of the leaves of the hibiscus.

We are exhibiting a race of Sugar Glider from New Guinea (*Petaurus breviceps papuanus*) which is slightly smaller than those found in Australia. Our particular animals were collected from the island of New Britain and the group of seven may be seen in the Nocturnal House. They have bred twice, in 1967 when there was a single youngster and in 1968 when two were reared.

### SUBSCRIPTION FORMS

New readers of the "*Chester Zoo News*" who would like to receive the magazine regularly may be interested to know that subscription forms are on display in the souvenir shops. An annual subscription (12 issues) costs 95p postage paid, which can either be handed over the counter or posted with the completed form to The Director-Secretary, Chester Zoo, Chester.

The following notice is displayed on several boards in the grounds

Please comply with it at all times.

### FEEDING OF ANIMALS AND BIRDS

**IT IS AN OFFENCE** for any member of the public to offer food of any description to any Animal or Bird in Chester Zoo.

This regulation is made for the sake of the health of the Animals and Birds. Since the NO FEEDING rule was introduced, the number of deaths has dropped appreciably and sickness, due to wrong feeding has been virtually eliminated.

What you may be offering to an animal may only be a sweet or an inoffensive piece of bread, but it can mean a death sentence for the animal. For example, a cough drop, which may relieve your cough, can cause instant death to many Animals and Birds in the Zoo.

You must not lose sight of the fact that you are only one of over a million visitors who visit the Zoo annually. If for instance an elephant had one bun from only one tenth of a day's visitors during the summer, it would eat between three and four thousand. You can guess the result.

We realise what a temptation it is for visitors, particularly children, to feed our Animals and Birds and this is why we invite members of the public to be present at the official feeding times.

This is a polite warning to you, asking you not to feed the animals. If you ignore it, the Keepers are authorised to ask you to leave the Gardens.

**If you really love Animals and Birds, you will appreciate the wisdom of the ruling — No Feeding by members of the public.**

**PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP OUR COLLECTION OF ANIMALS NOT ONLY ALIVE BUT IN FIRST CLASS CONDITION.**

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