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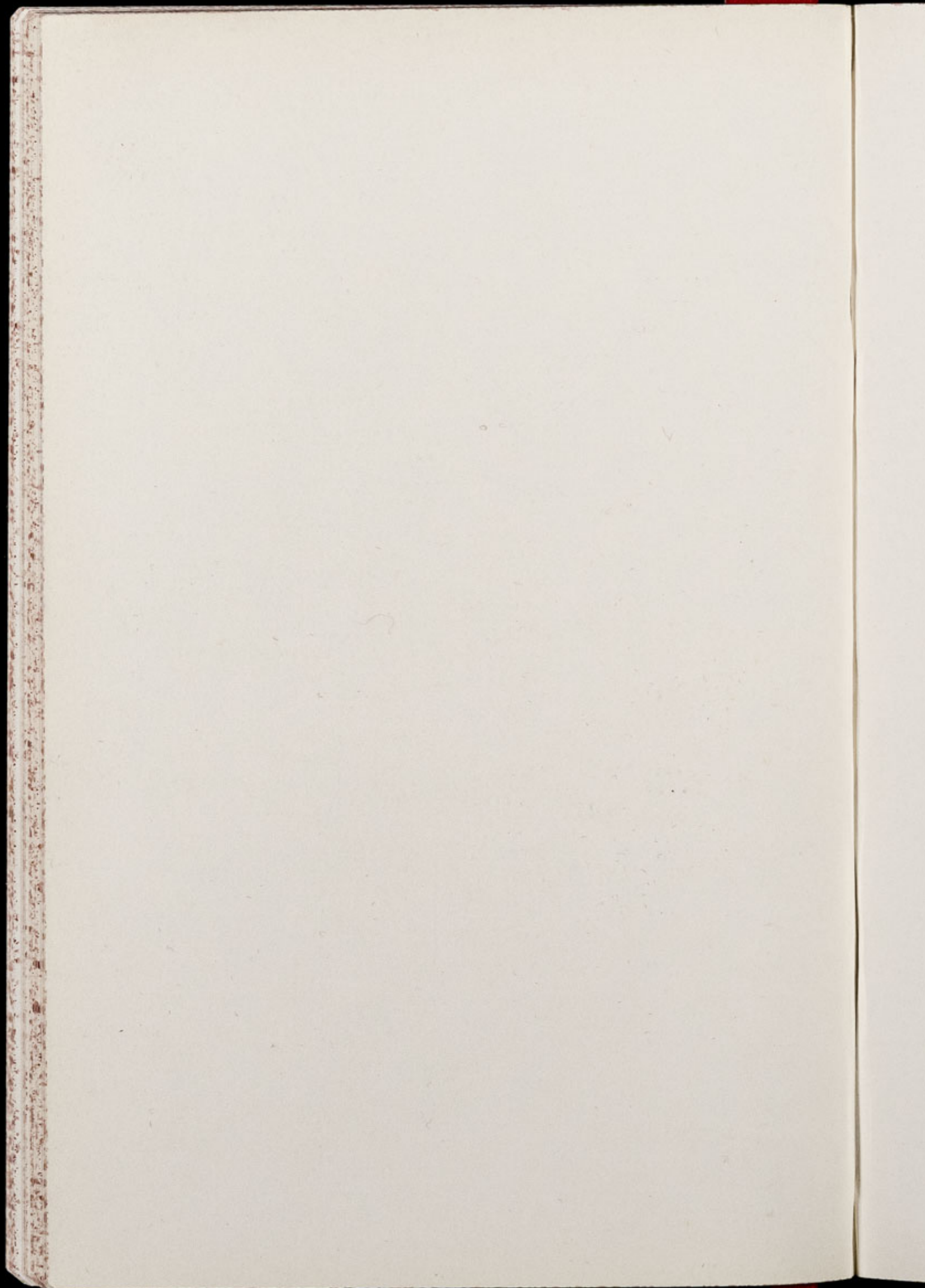
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

March, 1965

Price 1/-



Editorial

The beautiful spring weather towards the end of March and early April, encouraged record numbers of visitors to come to Chester Zoo. Party bookings for the summer season also show every indication of reaching a new high level — at the present time they are approximately twenty-five per cent up on last year.

Once again we have a wonderful show of daffodils covering the banks and islands of the canal system with their rich, yellow blooms. Elsewhere Polyanthus, Crocuses, Pansies, Forsythia and other flowering shrubs, combine to give a delightful spring display in the Gardens.

There has been a great deal of activity in the Zoo during February and March, but perhaps the happiest moment was the return of "Georgeous", our Roseate Cockatoo — see page three.

My apologies for a later than usual "Zoo News". An overdose of 'flu' germs kept me from the office for several weeks, thereby delaying the magazine.

Editor.

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COVER: *Chester Zoo's Elephant group is the subject of this month's Cover Picture. From left to right the elephants are "Judy", "Bubbles" (or at least his trunk), "Sheba" and "Barbar".*

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BANK OF DAFFODILS AT CHESTER ZOO

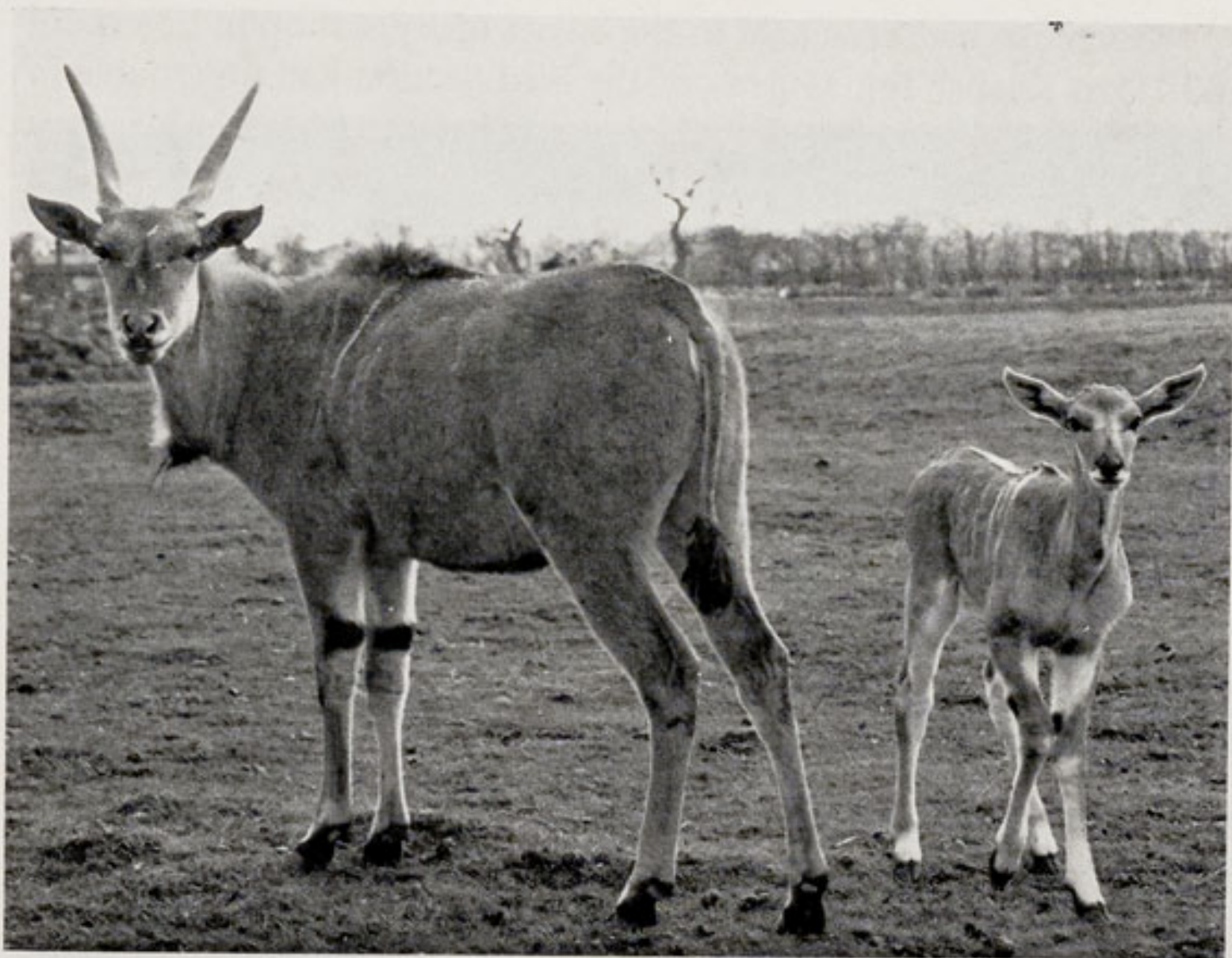
K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

ZOO BABIES

SMALL MAMMAL HOUSE: Six babies were born in the Small Mammal House during February and March. Twin Acouchys and twin Chinchillas arrived on the 2nd and 19th February respectively, followed by a baby Agouti on the 14th March and another Chinchilla on the 16th.

ELAND PADDOCK: 20th February, 4th March and 13th March were the birthdays of this year's Eland calves. Unfortunately the only male, born on 4th March, was not strong enough to suckle properly and although his Keepers did everything possible to rear the baby, he eventually died. The female calves are both sturdy youngsters and doing well.

MONKEY HOUSE: In the Monkey House the first baby of 1965 was born on 20th March. This was a little male Vervet Monkey — now known as "Timmy".



Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

THE FIRST ELAND CALF OF 1965 WITH HER MOTHER

BAGOT GOAT PADDOCK: Three Bagot Goat Kids were born during March — on the 22nd, 24th and 28th.

TROPICAL HOUSE: Latest hatchings in the Tropical House include two Green Singing Finches on the 10th March and a Blue-winged Siva on the 28th. The Singing Finches left the nest on the 23rd, but up to the time of writing the Siva has not yet followed suit.

HUSKY ENCLOSURE: Once again "Towser" and "Kimo", our pair of Huskies have had a large family— this time six puppies, four males and two females, born on the 22nd March. Already homes have been found for all the puppies.

RETURN OF GORGEOUS

Readers will be delighted to learn that "Gorgeous", the Roseate Cockatoo stolen on the afternoon of Monday, 8th February, was brought back to the Zoo unharmed, on Thursday, 25th February.

Gorgeous had been sold to the owner of a pet shop in Liverpool and Head Keeper Jim Murray of the Bird Section had no trouble in identifying the little bird. For the journey back to Chester Gorgeous was placed in a box but soon chewed his way out and completed the journey whistling and dancing up and down on the back seat of Keeper Murray's car. Obviously he (the Cockatoo that is) enjoyed the ride!

Now that he is back in the compartment of the Parrot House he shares with a pair of Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Gorgeous is even livelier than ever and appears very happy to be home.

DIARY OF PRESENTATIONS AND PURCHASES

PRESENTATIONS:



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

AMERICAN BADGER

18th February — a female American Badger, presented by Calgary Zoo, Canada, arrived at Hawarden Airport. She was introduced to her new mate the following morning and the two animals took to one another immediately.

16th February — one Pagoda Mynah and one Mrs. Wilson's Tanager.

17th February — Greater Hill Mynah.

22nd February — two Senegal Bushbabies.

26th February — Monocled Cobra — *Naja naja kaouthia*.

The Monocled Cobra is a sub-

species of the Indian or Spectacled Cobra, of which we already have two specimens.

2nd March — two Greek Tortoises.

8th March — one Hen Non-pareil Bunting.

14th March — one Flying Squirrel.

28th March — two male Crab-eating Monkeys.



Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

SIBERIAN LYNX

PURCHASES:

19th February — Saddle-billed Stork.

26th February — two Purple-crested Touracos purchased and released in the Tropical House. Unfortunately they did not agree with the other Touracos already in the House and have now been caught up and rehoused in an aviary.

— Pair of Crested Screamers — see page thirteen.

— one male and two female Jungle Cats (*Felis chaus*) and a male Siberian Lynx (*Felis lynx wranglei*).

27th February — male South American Tapir.

2nd March — two Hawk-headed Caiques and two Peruvian or Scarlet Cocks of the Rock.

16th March — four Gentoo, two Humboldt's and two Rockhopper Penguins.

18th March — young seven-months old male Jaguar.



Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

BRINDLED GNU

GNUS FOR DUDLEY

A pair of young Brindled Gnus (or Wildebeeste), born at Chester Zoo during 1963, were taken to their new home in Dudley Zoo on the 26th of February.

RARE APES FOR CHESTER

Important newcomers to the collection on 11th March were three young Siamang Gibbons — *Symphalangus snyderi* — two males and a female. These animals are rarely seen in captivity and are on the list of 'protected animals', because of their decreasing numbers in the wild — they are natives of Sumatra.

Our three Siamangs were confiscated by the Customs and Excise Authorities, when an attempt was made to bring them into this country without the necessary documents. They were offered to Chester Zoo because it was thought that we could give them the first-class accommodation and care necessary to ensure their good health. Of course we were only too happy to accept the offer.

All three Gibbons had bad colds when they arrived and two were a little short of hair, particularly on their heads. However, after two weeks in the Zoo hospital they were well enough to be transferred to the air-conditioned Monkey House. When fully acclimatised they will be transferred to one of the large outdoor cages between the Monkey House and the new Cat accommodation.

ZEBRAS FOR MELBOURNE

On the 25th of March three of the Common Zebras (two females and a male) bred at Chester Zoo during 1963 and 1964, left for a new home in Melbourne Zoo, Australia. In exchange we will receive a collection of Australian wild life, including Kangaroos, Wallabies, Cockatoos and Reptiles.

The Zebras sailed on the "HARPALYCE" from Liverpool for Auckland, New Zealand, where they will be looked after by Auckland Zoo until they can continue their sea journey to Melbourne. The Zebras are being accompanied by Miss Nel van Kamer, a member of the staff of Melbourne Zoo.

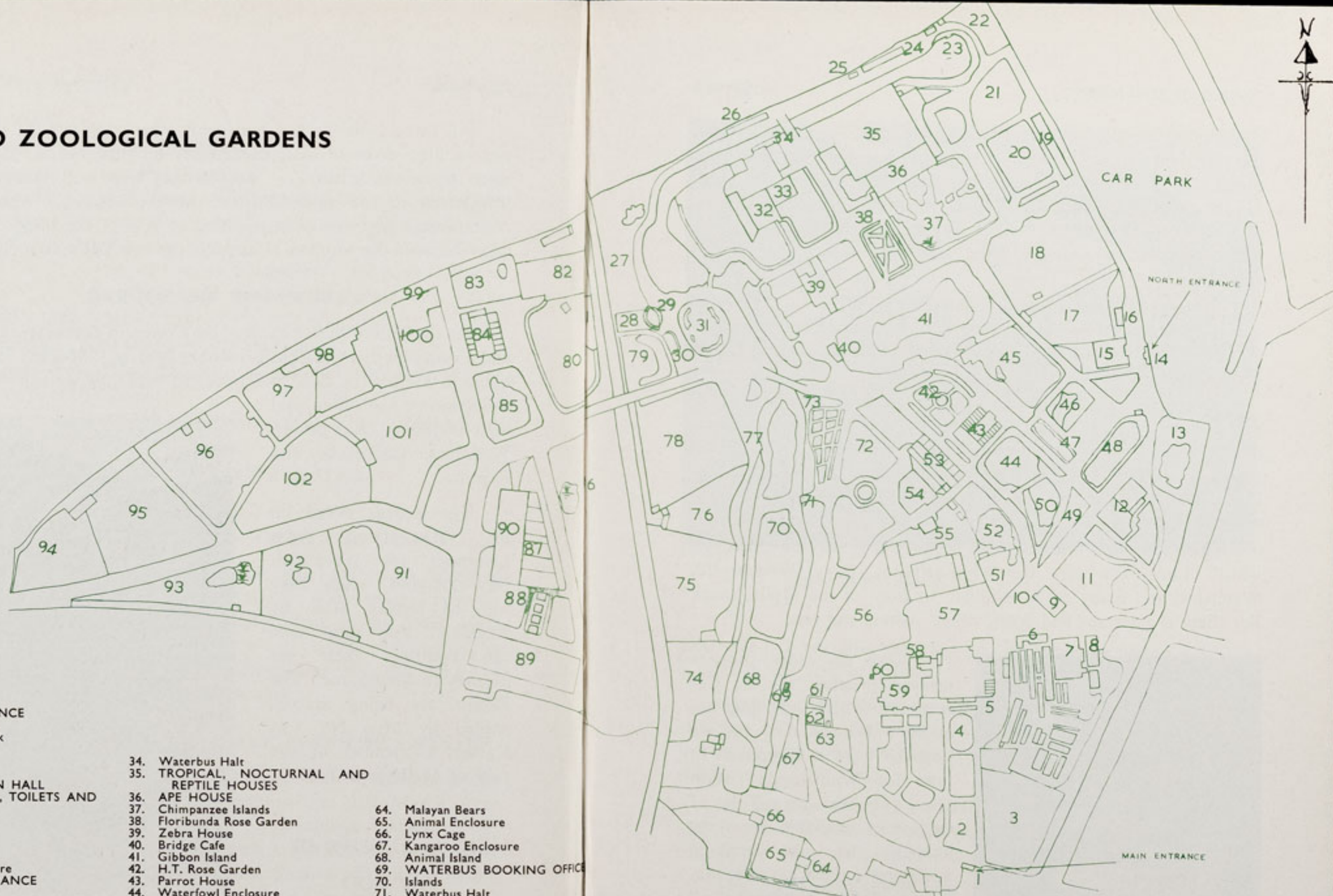


GENERAL NEWS OF THE ZOO

With the arrival of another spring there has been a distinct quickening of the Zoo's rhythm as we shake off the slower pace of winter and prepare for the new season. Apart from the work involved in providing new animal accommodation, public utilities have to be inspected, decorated and brought back into operation — in readiness for the crowds of visitors building up from Easter onwards.

COMMON ZEBRAS *"Daily Mirror"*

GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS



1. MAIN ENTRANCE
2. Bird Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Lesser Pandas
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS AND FIRST AID
9. CAFETERIA
10. ZOO SHOP
11. Picnic Lawn
12. Bears
13. Animal Enclosure
14. NORTH ENTRANCE
15. AQUARIUM
16. PUSH CHAIRS AND WHEEL CHAIRS
17. Animal Enclosure
18. Animal Enclosure
19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP
20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
21. †TOILETS
22. Peccaries
23. Waterbus Halt
24. Birds of Prey Aviary
25. Birds of Prey Aviary
26. Owls
27. †Animal Enclosure
28. Wolverines
29. Racoons
30. Coypus
31. Beavers
32. Giraffe House
33. Camel House

34. Waterbus Halt
35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES
36. APE HOUSE
37. Chimpanzee Islands
38. Floribunda Rose Garden
39. Zebra House
40. Bridge Cafe
41. Gibbon Island
42. H.T. Rose Garden
43. Parrot House
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Penguins and Pelicans
46. Flamingos
47. Waterfowl Enclosure
48. Sea Lion Pool
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Tigers
52. Waterfowl Enclosure
53. BIRD HOUSE
54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT
55. TOILETS
56. Lions
57. †NEW ZOO SHOP
58. TOILETS
59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT
60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk
61. Animal Enclosure
62. Jackals
63. Cheetahs
64. Malayan Bears
65. Animal Enclosure
66. Lynx Cage
67. Kangaroo Enclosure
68. Animal Island
69. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE
70. Islands
71. Waterbus Halt
72. Flower Gardens
73. ROSE GARDENS
74. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
75. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
76. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
77. Waterbus Halt
78. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
79. Kamchatka Bears
80. Elephant Paddock
81. Hippo Paddock
82. PACHYDERM HOUSE
83. Tapir Paddock
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Ankole Cattle
87. Stork Enclosures
88. Monkey Enclosures
89. †Cat House
90. MONKEY HOUSE

91. Cranes and Waterfowl
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

†—Under Construction.

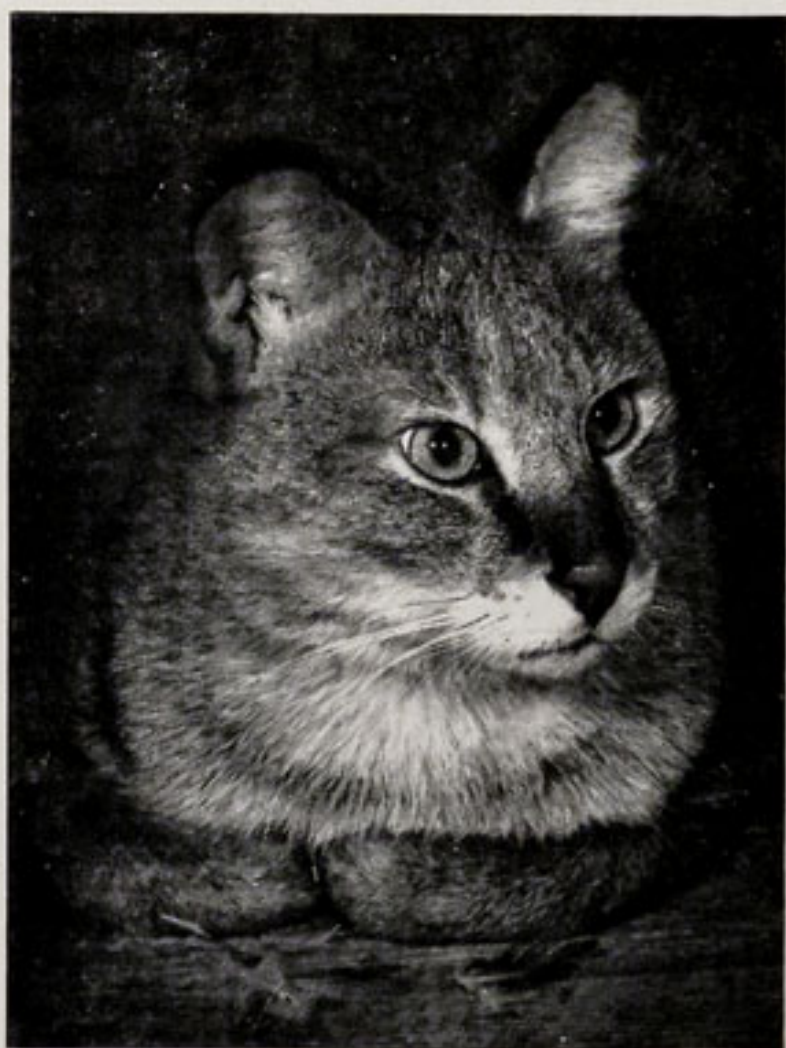
Animals may be moved from time to time.

During the autumn we built a new cafeteria, situated between the Small Mammal House and Rhino House and this has been called the "Mpila Snack Bar". Mpila is the Zulu name for the tourist camp in the Umfolozi Game Reserve in Africa. Since our pair of White Rhinos came from this Reserve we thought Mpila would be most appropriate, when searching for a name for our new Snack Bar.

The new building is ideally situated for those visitors who want a drink or snack on their tour of the Zoo, but do not want to return to one of the main Cafes. Salads, sandwiches and hot or cold drinks form the basis of the menu.

Adjoining the new Cafeteria is an ice cream kiosk, also a kiosk selling postcards and films. We hope this will end the frustration felt by visitors when they reach this part of the Zoo, wish to photograph the animals and find they are out of film and the Zoo shop is half a mile away! In close proximity to the Cafeteria is the new range of toilets

The Cafeteria is fitted with particularly large windows, through which visitors can view the White Rhinos, Oryx, Wildebeeste, Waterfowl and many other exhibits. In front of the Mpila Snack Bar there is a terrace and lawn, where visitors can rest.



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

JUNGLE CAT

Work on other projects delayed progress on the Cat accommodation, but things are under way again now and we hope to have it completed in time for Whitsuntide. With the greater number of enclosures available for these animals, we are making additions to our Cat collection. As recorded under "Purchases" on page six, recent arrivals include a male and two female Jungle Cats, a male Siberian Lynx (for which we are expecting a mate) and a young male Jaguar. The Jaguar is the first ever to be exhibited at Chester



Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

WHITE RHINO PRETENDING TO BE A BULLDOZER

Zoo. He is a beautiful specimen and we hope that he too will have a mate in the very near future.

Another development during the winter months was the construction of a new staff canteen, to cater for the needs of our ever increasing staff. We are happy to say that the canteen is now in daily use.

We are now awaiting the arrival of a pair of Black Leopards and a pair of rare Amur Leopards. These latter animals are found only in the Amur river region, along the Chinese-Russian border.

The Tropical House is continuing to give pleasure to many hundreds of visitors, and has stood up very well to its first winter. One or two weak spots in the roof revealed themselves during a strong gale, but these were strengthened before any damage could be done.

When a pair of Scarlet Cocks of the Rock came into our possession recently, we thought we would try them in the Tropical House but, like the Orange Cocks of the Rock mentioned in a

previous "Zoo News", they did not take to the tropical atmosphere and had to be moved to the Bird House. We will not, of course, try to introduce these colourful birds again.

In direct contrast to the Cocks of the Rock, our Touracos could not be happier. They are in wonderful condition and obviously enjoy life in their semi-tropical home. A pair of Go-away Birds (members of the Touraco family) which were introduced into the House in June of last year, are now nesting and we hope that there will be youngsters in the near future.



CYMBIDIUM

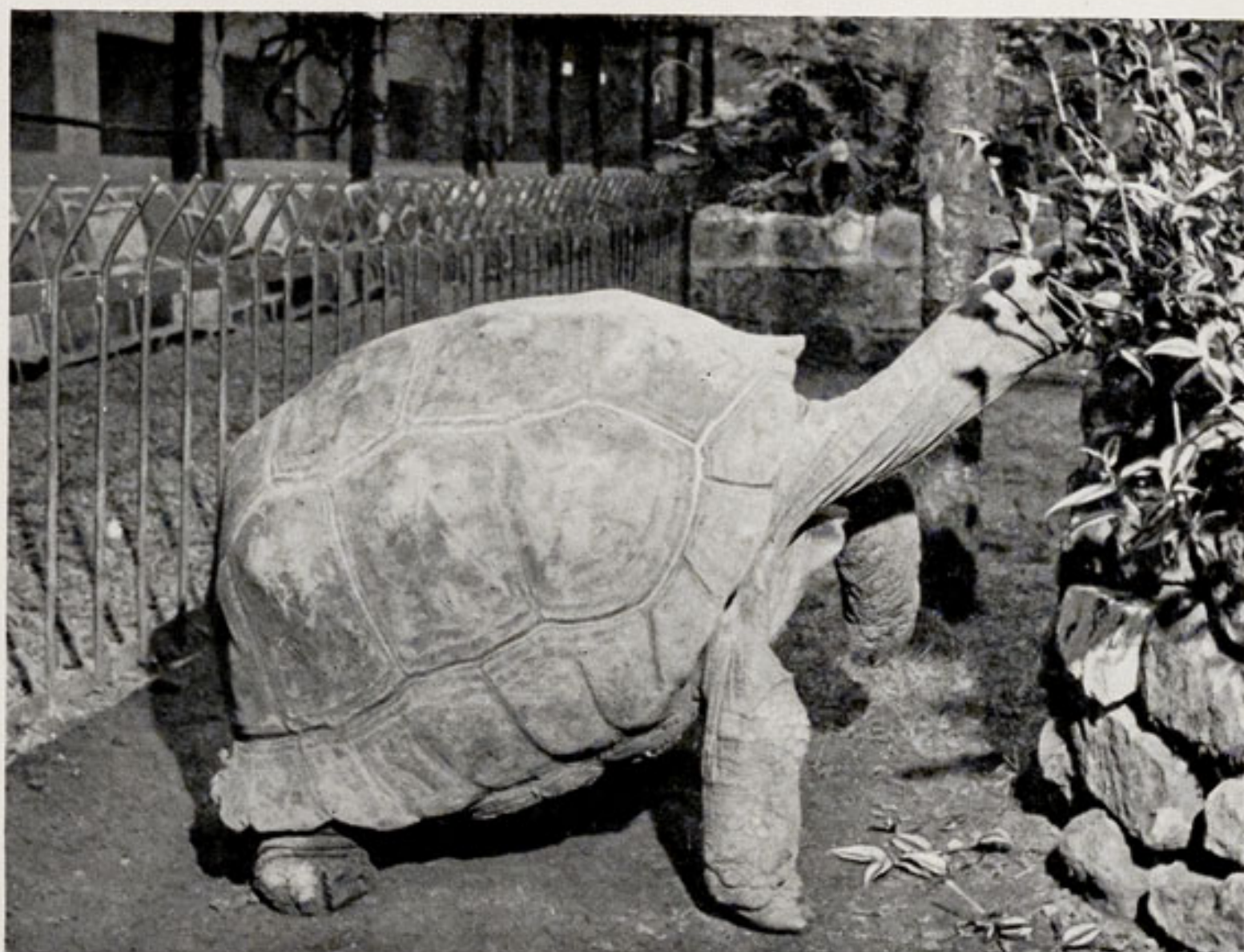
J. L. Owen

During the last few weeks visitors have been impressed by the colourful display of Orchids in the Tropical House. Of course these are not permanently planted but are brought into the House when in bloom.

A new range of enclosures has been built beyond the Kamchatka Bear Pits, to accommodate our Hyaenas and Husky dogs — which have already been transferred to their new homes. The Jackals, Arctic and Kama Foxes will join them shortly. A more permanent roadway, leading from these new enclosures past the Birds of Prey Aviaries to the Peccary Paddock, is being laid at the present time.

Work has just begun on a further range of new enclosures for some of the smaller antelopes, such as Duikers, Waterbuck, Sitatungas and Bushbuck. At present many of these animals are occupying enclosures intended for Storks and Cranes and these quarters are now urgently required for the birds for which they were constructed.

Each year as we build and develop we think we are nearing the end of our task, but the Zoo is like a snowball which grows bigger as it moves along. The quicker it moves the faster we have to work to keep up with it. Of course we all know that a coat of paint on one wall makes the next wall look dilapidated and so it is at the Zoo. We



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

GIANT TORTOISE ENJOYING A SNACK IN THE TROPICAL HOUSE

build new enclosures then realise how worn some of the others look. It is a continual battle with the atmosphere in this district to keep wire and metal looking in good condition. Wire which should last fifteen to twenty years now needs replacing in a matter of four or five years — and so our work is never done.

CRESTED SCREAMERS

A pair of Crested Screammers (*Chauna torquata*) arrived at the Zoo on February 26th and, due to the cold weather, were housed temporarily in the Zoo hospital. The picture on page fifteen was taken whilst they were still in the hospital, but they are now on exhibition in the large Macaw flight of the Parrot House.

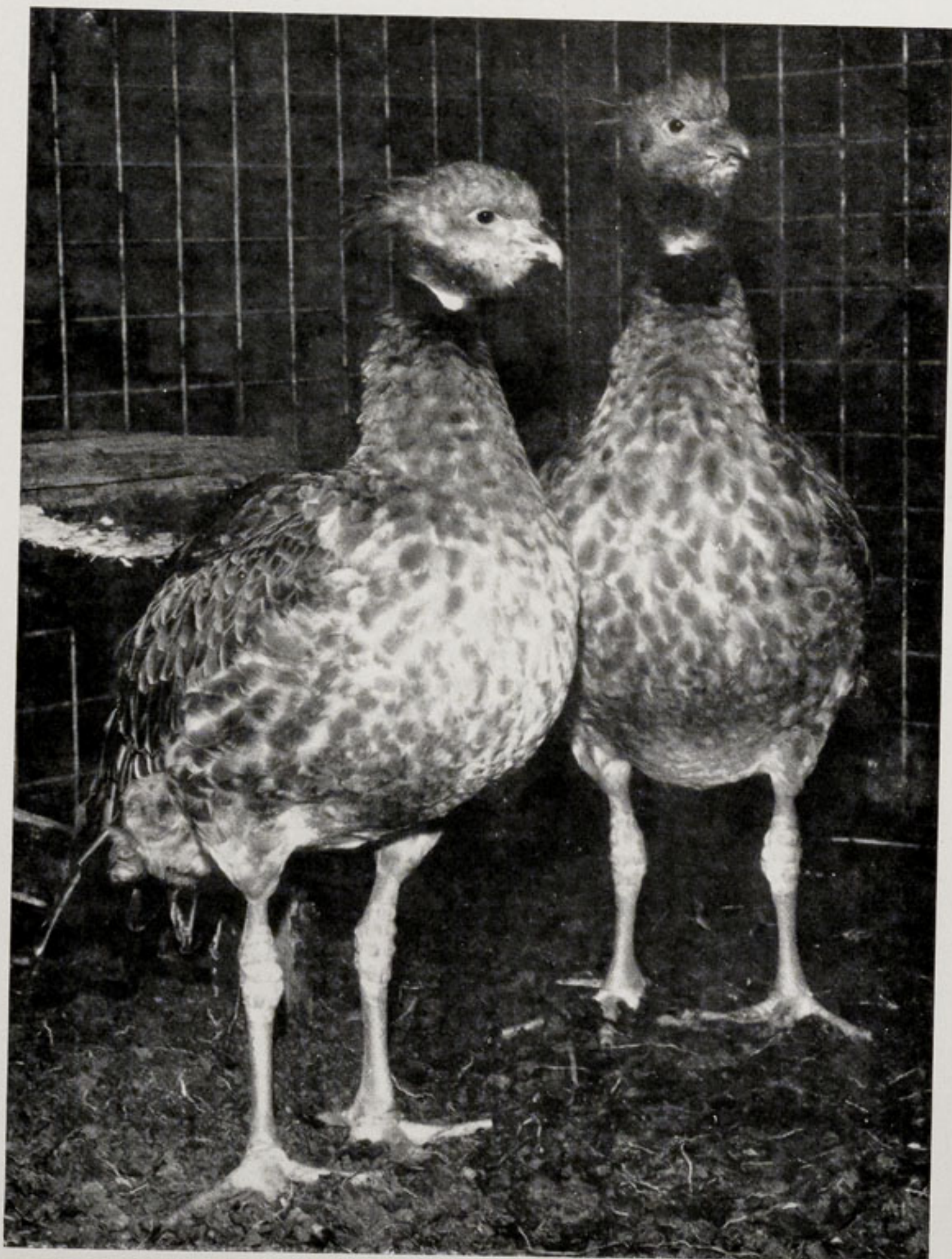
Screamers are Turkey-sized birds and are included in the anseriformes order, which also contains the ducks, geese and swans. They can swim well but there is only a slight trace of webbing on the feet — unlike all other anseriformes, which have fully webbed feet. In common with those of the Ostriches, Penguins and Colies, the feathers of Screamers grow continuously over the body without bare spaces between tracts.

As a means of defence Screamers have two curved spurs on the front edge of each wing. These are most effective weapons. Each spur is sharply pointed and the ones at the front measure anything from one to two inches.

A unique feature of Screamers is their lack of the uncinata processes, small bony straps which strengthen the rib cage and which are present in all birds except the long extinct Archaeopteryx. Almost all the bones of the Screamer are hollow, even the end of the spine and the tip of the digits of both wings and toes — in fact pneumaticity is developed to a higher degree in the Screamer than in any other bird.

Crested Screamers are found on the South American pampas in South Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay — where they feed on succulent grasses and seeds. The native name for them is "chajá" which derives from their oft repeated cry.

The shallow, untidy nest of sticks, rushes and reeds is usually constructed in marshy localities. The eggs are white, tinged with buff or pale green — the usual number in each clutch being from four to six. Both sexes take a share in the incubation of the eggs, which lasts forty-two to forty-four days. The young are clad in buff coloured down and resemble goslings in the way in which they follow their parents.

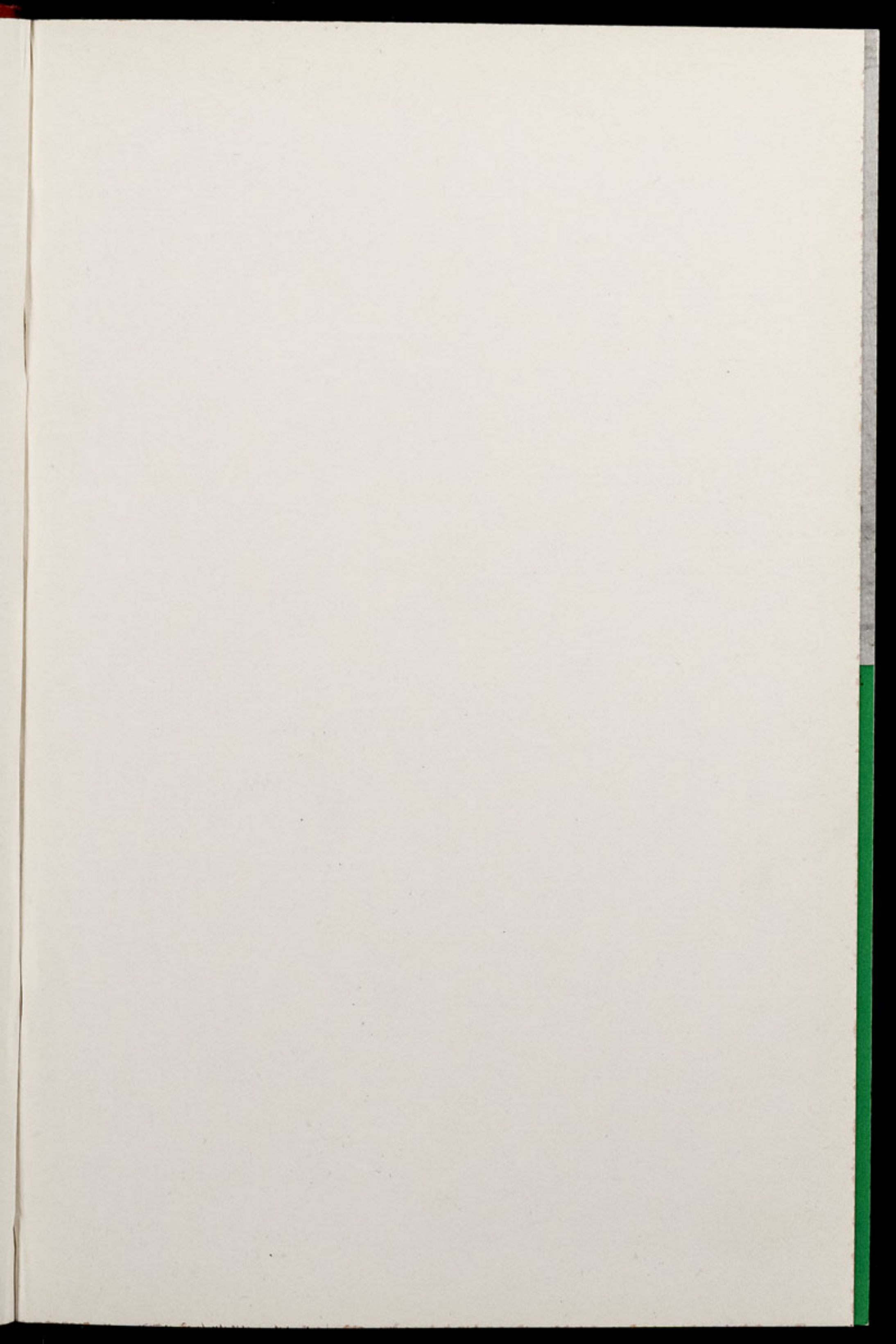


CRESTED SCREAMERS

Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

There are only two other species of Screamer, apart from the Crested. The Derbyan or Black-necked (*Chauna chavaria*) is found in Northern Columbia and Venezuela and the Horned (*Anhima cornuta*) is found in northern areas of South America. This latter species has a peculiar six-inch long frontal spike curving forward from the forehead.





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