

# Chester Zoo News

## *AND GUIDE*

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

February 1976

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# The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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## COVER

*Common Hippopotamus "Myra" and her baby*

*By courtesy of M. Grundy, N.U.J.*

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### COVER PHOTOGRAPH

This month's Cover Photograph is that of Common Hippopotamus "Myra" (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) and her baby, a male, born January 5th, 1976.

This is the sixth offspring of "Myra" and "Gerino". We have been breeding from these two since 1963, "Myra" having come to us in 1961 and "Gerino" in 1963. All the offspring have been males and have been sold or exchanged, as fully grown males fight each other. The baby weighs about 75 lbs., but could weigh 4 tons when fully grown. A fight between two adult male hippos could be disastrous, and we might lose our breeding pair.

### ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

- 1 Moloney's Guenon (*Cercopithecus albogularis moloneyi*)
- 1 Common Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*)
- 1 Orang-utan (*Pongo pygmaeus*)
- 1 Blackbuck (*Antilope cervicapra*)
- 1 Pair Siberian Tigers (*Panthera tigris altaica*)

A pair of Siberian (or Amur) Tigers arrived recently and have been named "Chang" and "Lotus". They have settled into their new quarters very well, and we are hoping eventually to breed from them.

Siberian Tigers are the largest of all the cats, sometimes reaching a length of 13 feet. Fully grown they can weigh up to 650 lbs. The coat of the Siberian Tiger is a dull yellowish-orange in the winter, and only a slightly deeper orange colour in the summer. In the winter its coat is very long and thick; its tail is also thickly furred and is much more shaggy than in all the other races.

At one time this animal was widely distributed in the Soviet Union far east from Lake Baikal and the upper reaches of the Amur and Ussuri Rivers, south through Manchuria to Korea and the Liao-tung Peninsula. The number of these cats was considerably reduced when hunters killed large quantities of ungulates, especially the wild boar which is the tiger's principal source of winter food.

In 1914 there was a very cold winter with deep snow. This was disastrous for the tiger. Within two years the Siberian Tiger survived in a few places only, and then in quite small numbers. For hunters the resplendent long-haired coat of the *Panthera tigris altaica* is the most valued of all tiger-skins, and a use can be found for every part of the animal. Tiger-bone wine is highly valued by the Chinese as a medicinal cure for rheumatism.

In the U.S.S.R., tigers are under legal protection. A few immature specimens are taken by hunting and special licences are issued each year for the capture of cubs. Korea also protects the tiger. China does not, however, and any tigers straying over the border are likely to be shot.

The Sikhote-Alin National Park has played an important role in safeguarding the Siberian Tiger. However, reserves do not have a resident population as the tiger's migratory habit causes it to wander tremendous distances. Over the years the numbers of Siberian Tigers have been reduced through habitat destruction and hunting. Wild ungulates and the tiger have however gradually increased in numbers since the species have been safeguarded.

Tigers which are generally considered to be Siberian are those living in the rugged territory from the Sino-Korean border north through eastern Manchuria and far eastern U.S.S.R., above Vladivostock.

### BIRD NOTES

We have achieved a third breeding of the Weka Rail (*Gallirallus australis*). This species of Rail originates from New Zealand where its numbers are sadly reduced. The Weka Rail is slightly smaller than the domestic hen. In appearance it is a tawny-brown and black streaked bird, and its degenerate wings make it incapable of flight. The Weka Rail can run with great speed, but is most inquisitive and will venture very close to human habitations with a stealthy gait and an enquiring demeanour. In New Zealand the breeding season is an extended one, with the peak occurring in winter and early spring. Weka Rails have been known to nest four times in one year. Two to four eggs comprise the clutch, the nest

being concealed in thick scrub. The Weka that we have bred is the North Island (*greyi*) species which has more grey on the underparts and its legs are a brown rather than reddish colour.

The North Island Weka, once abundant everywhere, has now disappeared from most districts, largely due to the ravages of dogs, cats, stoats and weasels. It cannot now be heard around the camps but in other areas it is still a familiar bird, especially in the vicinity of mountain huts and week-end houses where it may be extremely tame. It is quite a tourist attraction in these districts. In the Gisborn area of North Island the birds have built up from very small numbers to high densities in the last fifty years, even feeding and breeding in suburban gardens. Wildlife Division activity has been directed to trapping Wekas, and releasing them into areas where they have become extinct in the hope of re-establishing them. In their natural habitat they may occur in tussock country above the tree-line, to 6,000 feet above sea level in heavy temperate rain forest, and in coastal swamps and scrubs.

A pair of North Island Weka Rails was received from Auckland Zoo in July 1971. These birds were subjected to a period of quarantine and acclimatisation, and afterwards liberated into a large mixed flight (196ft. x 60ft. x 20ft. high) called the Free Flight at the rear of the Ape House; this flight is heavily planted with trees and shrubs and it has two large pools. Their companions were Herons, Ibis, Egrets, Gallinules and Waders, and there was a single female Weka which has been in the collection since April 1964. Several days after introduction into the Free Flight, courtship was observed between the original female and the newly arrived male. The female was seen to beg and be fed by the male—a sign of courtship. For several days the male was observed feeding the female with earthworms which he dug up in the enclosure, and mealworms thrown on the ground by the keepers. Mating took place quite soon.

In this aviary is a small cave built out of sandstone which was used for the nest; this measures 3ft. 2in. x 2ft. x 2ft. 6in. The nest was built in a corner of the cave, and was composed of bits of grass, pieces of rushes, twigs, and a few odd feathers. It was lined with finer grasses and moss. From a window in the new Ape House kitchen one could observe the nest, and the birds could be watched



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

BROWN BEAR HYBRID

without disturbance from a distance of less than five feet. Both male and female brought nest material and both sat on the nest and shaped it—prodding with the bill or stamping with the feet. The male brought most of the material, whilst the female did the longest period of the sitting and shaping. As with nearly all birds, the nest had materials added to it whilst the birds were incubating, at least in the early stages.

With our pair of Weka Rails the first egg was laid within a few days of completion of the nest, three eggs being laid in a period of five days. Incubation appeared to commence with the laying of the first egg. One would assume that with Weka Rails being omnivorous there would not be any eggs left if incubation began only when the clutch was complete. Both birds took part in incubation. The changeover was done with the presentation of an earthworm, small twig or nest material. At times the bird sitting would be unwilling to leave the nest, and did so only by being shouldered and pushed off by its mate. Time spent away from the nest would be in feeding, preening or occasionally bathing. After bathing Wekas almost invariably fan out their wings, and shake their heads and bodies several times. They then spend a considerable time preening and drying their feathers by adopting a sunning posture. Now and then there would be vigorous flapping of the wings. Swimming was observed only once, when the male swam across the top pool. The body was held high out of the water, the head jerking rhythmically backwards and forwards and the short tail flicking up and down.

The incubation period was 26 days, and when the eggs were about to hatch, the bird turned them frequently. Two eggs hatched, and within four hours the chicks had left the nest and were hiding under vegetation several yards away. No feeding was observed at all and the parents appeared very nervous. Several times both male and female attacked and drove off Pond Herons, Glossy Ibis and Maned Geese from the vicinity of the chicks. The following day both chicks had vanished, possibly eaten by a pair of Common Herons or Nankeen Night Herons.

Within five days the female was sitting again on the same nest; incubation was 27 days from the laying of the first egg, three eggs being laid, as at the first time.

The chicks could be heard chirping in the eggs before and during hatching. No help at all was given by the parent bird in attendance. The chicks dried very quickly, eyes wide open and very alert. They were almost jet black in colour with a very slight trace of light grey. At first the chicks were brooded almost continuously. It appeared that the chicks were not fed very frequently for the first few days, and the brooding continued constantly for about six days. The sitting birds became very agitated if the chicks moved from under them. On the tenth day, however, it was noticed that the chicks were allowed to move around the outside of the nesting cave, even going up to ten feet away before the sitting bird called them back. On occasions a chick refused to return to the nest and it was carried by the nape of the neck by the brooding parent and then dropped into the nest area.

The chicks were fed from the bill of the parent who had in its beak earthworms, mealworms, maggots, etc. Small quantities of saliva were passed by the feeding adult along with the insect food. When the chicks are young they take regurgitated food from the beak of the parent.

In their natural habitat Weka Rails consume insects which they obtain both from the ground and among low foliage, and to a much smaller extent, berries and other fruits. Their diet is varied with an occasional small mammal and possibly a nestling bird. Weka Rails have been observed to catch and eat Green Geckos (*Naultinus elegans*) and Brown Skinks (*Lygosoma moco*), also a fascinating insect called the Large-headed Weta (*Hemideina megacephala*) which can be heard in most parts of New Zealand making a peculiar scraping sound by rubbing its hind legs against ridges on the sides of the body. The body of this remarkable insect grows to about 2 inches in length, and the antennae are up to 4 inches long.

In our Free Flight the birds hunt for insects amongst the long grass and low shrubs. Each day we release locusts of various sizes and allow the Wekas to hunt them naturally. Digging for earthworms appears to be their favourite occupation and this is done very efficiently. Usually the male searches for food in the ground and the head is swung from side to side with the bill pointed in the direction of movement. The male is followed by the female who does

To LECTURE HALL  
(Private)

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. Sunken Garden
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. Condor 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. CHIMPANZEEES
38. Floribunda Rose Garden
39. Mammal House
40. Gibbon Island
41. H.T. Rose Garden
42. Aviaries
43. Flamingos
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Waterfowl Enclosure
46. Waterfowl Enclosure
47. Penguins
48. Sealions
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Cat Enclosure
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. 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 OFF AND KIOSK
72. Waterbus Halt
73. Fountain Flower Garden
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. Emus and Cranes
88. Stork Enclosures
89. Baboon Pens
90. Cat House
91. Lions and Tigers

92. Antelope and Ostrich
  93. Antelope Enclosure
  94. Antelope Enclosure
  95. Zebras
  96. Llamas
  97. Waterfowl Enclosure
  98. Wallabies and Waterfowl
  99. Waterfowl Enclosure
  100. Blackbuck
  101. Wallabies
  102. Animal Paddock
  103. Animal Paddock
  104. Animal Paddock
- } under construction

105. Proposed New Bear Enclosures
106. Arabian Gazelles
107. Animal Paddock
108. Bison
109. Pere David's Deer Paddock
110. Prairie Marmots, Alpacas
111. Antelope Enclosure
112. RHINOS
113. TOILETS
114. Mpila Snack Bar
115. Antelope Enclosure
116. MONKEY HOUSE

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—116  
from South Entrance  
or Nos. 16—116  
from North Entrance  
then return to  
Nos.1—14

CAR PARK

CAR PARK

CAR PARK



C. Road

Warrington  
Manchester  
Whitchurch  
and South

Bus  
Station

South  
Entrance

Birkenhead

Chester

Manchester & South

the actual worm catching. She passes worms to the chicks who wait a few feet away from all the activity.

The Weka Rail has a range of calls, many of which are loud and strident.

\* \* \*

Birds which have been received in exchange are listed below:

- 5 Pairs and 2 Male Mandarins (*Aix galericulata*)
- 3 Male and 6 Female Bahama Pintails (*Anas b. rubrirostris*)
- 1 Male and 2 Female Chiloë Wigeon (*Anas sibilatrix*)
- 2 Pairs Laysan Teal (*Anas p. laysanensis*)
- 2 Pairs and 2 Male Tufted Ducks (*Aythya fuligula*)
- 1 Female Ring Teal (*Anas leucophrys*)

We have pleasure in reporting the following birds which have been presented to us:

- 2 Male Carolina Ducks (*Aix sponsa*)
- 1 Pair Silver Pheasants (*Gennaeus nycthemerus*)

### BREEDING RESULTS FOR 1975

Stocktaking has been carried out as usual in the various departments, and at December 31st, 1975 the collection of mammals, birds and reptiles was estimated to consist of:

Mammals	829 specimens of 135 species
Birds	2,114 specimens of 292 species
Reptiles and Amphibians	200 specimens of 84 species.

The following specimens were bred during the year:

	MAMMALS		Sex M.F
	No. Born	No. Reared	
Alpaca ( <i>Lama pacos</i> )	3	2	1.1
Bears Hybrid	2	2	1.1
Bison ( <i>Bos bison</i> )	2	2	1.1
Blackbuck ( <i>Antilope cervicapra</i> )	2	1	1.0

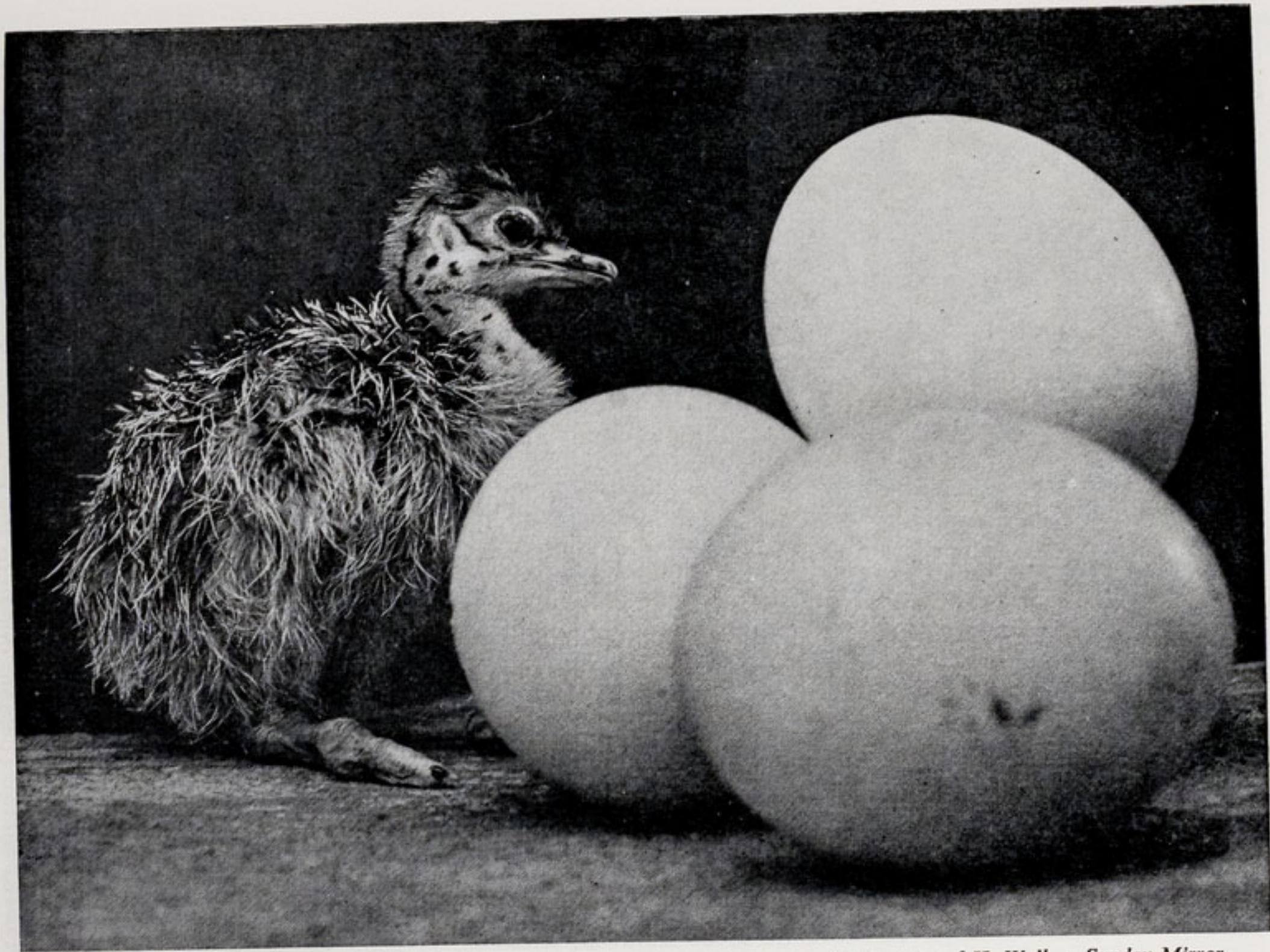
## Mammals—continued

	No. Born	No. Reared	Sex M.F
Cattle Highland ( <i>Bos taurus</i> )	2	2	1.1
Chimpanzee ( <i>Pan troglodytes</i> )	3	2	1.1
Chinchilla ( <i>Chinchilla laniger</i> )	1	1	1.0
Deer Fallow ( <i>Dama dama</i> )	7	3	1.2
Deer Pere David's ( <i>Elaphurus davidianus</i> )	5	3	2.1
Gazelle Arabian ( <i>Gazella arabica</i> )	5	4	2.2
Giraffe ( <i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i> )	1	—	
Bagot Goat ( <i>Capra hircus</i> )	1	1	1.0
Jaguar ( <i>Panthera onca</i> )	3	3	
Kangaroo Red ( <i>Megaleia rufa</i> )	1	1	1.0
Lechwe Red ( <i>Kobus leche</i> )	4	4	1.3
Lemur Ring-tailed ( <i>Lemur catta</i> )	2	1	1.0
Leopard, Common ( <i>Panthera pardus</i> )	6	4	1.3
Lions ( <i>Panthera leo</i> )	7	2	1.1
Monkey Baboon Hamadryas ( <i>Papio hamadryas</i> )	2	—	
Monkey Talapoin ( <i>Cercopithecus talapoin</i> )	1	1	
Monkey Vervet ( <i>Cercopithecus pygerythrus</i> )	1	1	1.0
Nilgai ( <i>Boselaphus tragocamelus</i> )	1	—	
Prairie Marmot ( <i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i> )	15	15	
Pumas ( <i>Felis concolor</i> )	3	3	1.2
Sheep Soay ( <i>Ovis aries</i> )	7	7	
Squirrels Sierra Leone Striped ( <i>Fumisciurus pyrrhopus leonis</i> )	2	2	1.1
Wallabies Bennett's ( <i>Wallabia rufogrisea</i> )	21	20	
Wapiti ( <i>Cervus canadensis</i> )	3	—	
Wildebeeste (White-bearded Gnu) ( <i>Connochaetes taurinus albojubatus</i> )	2	1	1.0
Zebras Common ( <i>Equus burchelli granti</i> )	3	3	3.0
Zebras Grevy's ( <i>Equus grevyi</i> )	1	—	

## BIRDS BRED DURING 1975

	No.
Avadavat Green ( <i>Amandava formosa</i> )	1
Avadavat Red ( <i>Amandava amandava</i> )	4
Budgerigars ( <i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i> )	29
Bulbul Red-vented ( <i>Pycnonotus cafer</i> )	2
Bulbul Red-whiskered ( <i>Pycnonotus jocosus peguensis</i> )	2

<i>Birds—continued</i>	No.
Cockatiels ( <i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i> )	53
Cockatoo Blue-eyed ( <i>Kakatoe ophthalmica</i> )	1
Conure Lesser Patagonian ( <i>Cyanoliseus patagonus</i> )	4
Conure Nanday ( <i>Nandayus nanday</i> )	2
Conure Sun ( <i>Aratinga solstitialis</i> )	3
Coot ( <i>Fulica atra</i> )	3
Cordon Bleu ( <i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i> )	4
Doves Barbary ( <i>Streptopelia risoria</i> )	2
Doves Diamond ( <i>Geopelia cuneata</i> )	7
Doves Laughing ( <i>Stigmatopelia senegalensis</i> )	3
Doves Chinese Turtle ( <i>Streptopelia chinensis chinensis</i> )	4
Duck Carolina ( <i>Aix sponsa</i> )	1
Duck Gadwall ( <i>Anas strepera strepera</i> )	2
Duck Shelduck ( <i>Tanorda tanorda</i> )	6
Duck Teal Cinnamon ( <i>Anas cyanoptera</i> )	1
Duck Teal Laysan ( <i>Anas platyrhynchos laysanensis</i> )	1
Duck Wigeon ( <i>Anas penelope</i> )	2
Emus ( <i>Dromaius novae-hollandiae</i> )	3
Finch Bengalese ( <i>Lonchura striata</i> )	18
Finch Cut-throat ( <i>Amadina fasciata</i> )	13
Finch Green ( <i>Chloris chloris</i> )	8
Finch Green Singing ( <i>Serinus mozambicus</i> )	2
Finch Zebra ( <i>Taeniopygia castanotis</i> )	19
Geese Canada ( <i>Branta canadensis</i> )	10
Geese Lesser Snow ( <i>Anser c. coerulescens</i> )	2
Ibis Sacred ( <i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i> )	4
Jay Mexican Green ( <i>Xanthoura yncas</i> )	1
Java Sparrows ( <i>Padda oryzivora</i> )	9
Kookaburra ( <i>Dacelo gigas</i> )	2
Laughing Thrush Red-headed ( <i>Trochalopteron erythrocephalum</i> )	2
Lorikeet Scaly-breasted ( <i>Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus</i> )	2
Lorikeet Swainson's ( <i>Trichoglossus moluccanus</i> )	3
Lovebird Fischer's ( <i>Agapornis fischeri</i> )	4
Lovebird Peach-faced ( <i>Agapornis roseicollis</i> )	10
Mannikin Bronze-winged ( <i>Spermestes cucullatus</i> )	2
Mynah Bank ( <i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i> )	1
Mynah Hill ( <i>Gracula religiosa</i> )	1
Mynah Jungle ( <i>Aethiopsar fuscus</i> )	5

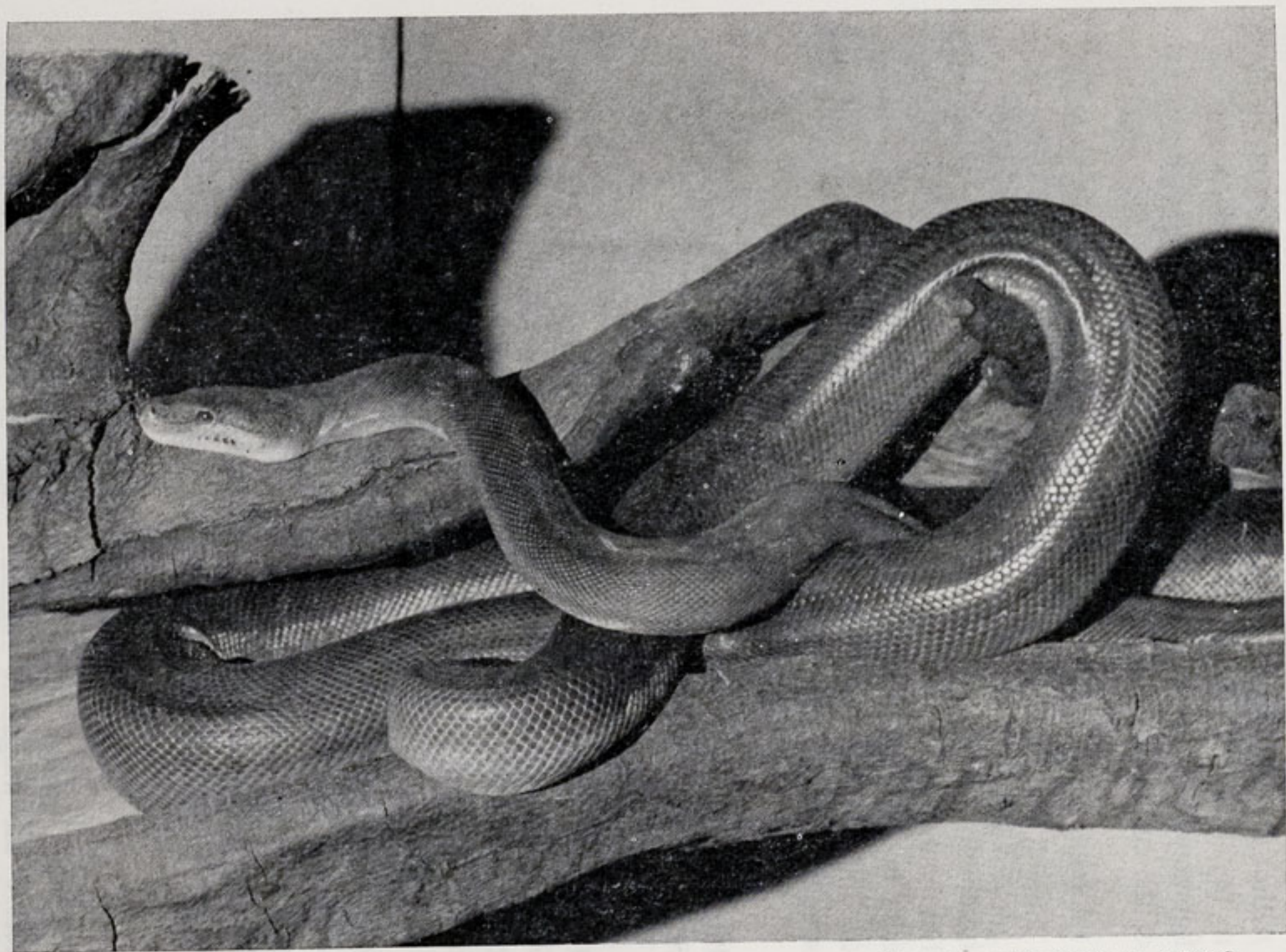


*By courtesy of H. Walker, Sunday Mirror*  
OSTRICH CHICK (*Struthio camelus*) AWAITING THE NEW ARRIVALS

<i>Birds—continued</i>	No.
Nun Tri-coloured ( <i>Munia malacca</i> )	2
Ostrich ( <i>Struthio camelus</i> )	2
Parrakeet Barraband ( <i>Polytelis swainsoni</i> )	2
Parrakeet Derbyan ( <i>Psittacula derbyana</i> )	1
Parrakeet Plum-headed ( <i>Psittucala cyanocephala</i> )	2
Parrakeet Quaker ( <i>Miopsitta monachus</i> )	6
Parrakeet Red-rumped ( <i>Psephotus haematonotus</i> )	7
Parrakeet Ring-necked ( <i>Psittacula krameri</i> )	5
Parrot African Grey ( <i>Psittacus erithacus</i> )	2
Parrot Eclectus Grand ( <i>Lorius roratus</i> )	1
Parrot Eclectus Red-sided ( <i>Lorius roratus pectoralis</i> )	1
Peacock Common ( <i>Pavo cristatus</i> )	6
Rails Slaty-breasted ( <i>Rallus striatus</i> )	6
Rails Weka ( <i>Gallirallus australis greyi</i> )	1
Sibia Black-headed ( <i>Leioptila capistrata</i> )	1
Silverbills ( <i>Euodice malabarica cantans</i> )	2
Spicebirds ( <i>Munia punctulata</i> )	2
Starling Glossy ( <i>Lamprocolius nitens</i> )	3
Starlings Blue-eared Glossy ( <i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i> )	2
Starlings Jerdon's ( <i>Sturnus burmanicus</i> )	5
Waxbill Golden-breasted ( <i>Estrilda subflava</i> )	1
Waxbill Red-eared ( <i>Estrilda troglodytes</i> )	8
Waxbill Red-rumped ( <i>Estrilda rhodopyga</i> )	2
Weaver Little-masked ( <i>Ploceus luteolus</i> )	1
Weaver Napoleon ( <i>Euplectes afra</i> )	1
Weaver Red Bishop ( <i>Euplectes orix</i> )	1
Whydah Paradise ( <i>Steganura paradisaea</i> )	1
Whydah Pin-tailed ( <i>Vidua macroura</i> )	1
Whydah Red-collared ( <i>Coliuspasser ardens</i> )	1

## REPTILES BRED DURING 1975

	No.
Gecko, Leopard ( <i>Eublepharis macularis</i> )	12
Hybrid Snake ( <i>Elaphe obsoleta quadrivittata</i> x <i>Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta</i> )	3
Pythons, African ( <i>Python sebae</i> )	7
Skink, Solomon Island ( <i>Corucia zebrata</i> )	5
Water Dragons, Thailand ( <i>Physignathus cocincinus</i> )	5



OLIVE PYTHON (*Lias olivaceus*)

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

With regard to admissions to the Zoo during 1975, these amounted to 921,045. Of these 225,349 paid the extra admission charge to visit the Tropical House and 219,455 for the Aquarium. Although admissions to the Zoo were less than in 1974, visitors to the Tropical House were higher by 26,131. We feel that these figures are quite good considering the present economical state of the country.

### REPTILE NEWS

We have bred a Tockay Gecko (*Gecko gecko*). One egg has hatched after 96 days, and this is the second of this species which has been bred at Chester Zoo. In the wild these Geckos lay their eggs in pairs on leaves or inside dead logs. Here the eggs are laid on the rockwork in the vivarium. They adhere to the wall and stay there until they hatch out.

Our Thailand Water Dragons (*Physignathus cocincinus*) have laid thirteen eggs. The incubation period is approximately 62 days, and we are anxiously awaiting the hatchings.

The photograph shown on page fifteen is that of our Olive Python (*Lias olivaceus*) which was presented to us in 1972 by Perth Zoo, Australia. It was 8/9ft. long when it first came to us and it is now 12ft. long. As far as we know this is the only Olive Python in existence in the British Isles.

Readers might be interested to learn that the International Zoo Yearbook Volume 16 will be published in May. The hardbound volume is priced at £12.00 and the paperback at £9.00. Orders can be sent direct to: Publications Department (IZY), The Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY, England, or to any bookseller.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

New readers of the CHESTER ZOO NEWS who would like to receive the magazine regularly may be interested to know that subscription forms can be obtained from the souvenir shops. An annual subscription (12 issues) costs £2.00, postage paid, which can either be handed over the counter at the shops 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.**

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

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