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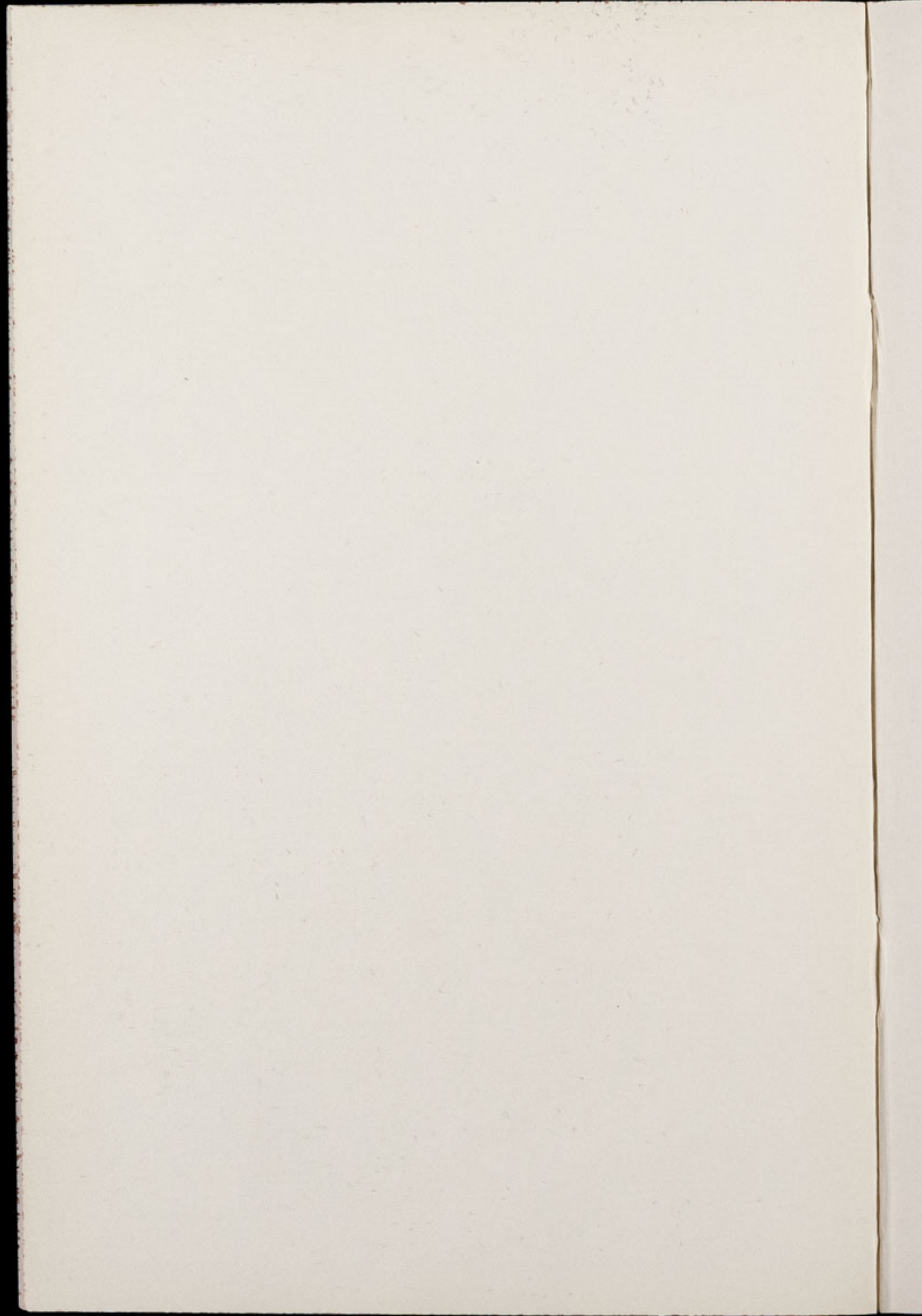
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

April 1967

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Editorial

Attendance figures over the Easter period were very satisfactory. On Bank Holiday Monday, visitors in excess of 28,000 passed through the turnstiles. Altogether during the Easter holiday over 71,000 people came to the Zoo.

In this month's magazine, a long article has been included on the problems involved in keeping Tortoises, due to the large number of enquiries received each week about these animals.

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COVER: This month's cover photograph shows our Rhino Iguana. For further details see page 10.

ARRIVALS

A very young Asiatic Palm Civet arrived at the Zoo during the past month. This animal had been left at the R.S.P.C.A. hospital at London Airport with a note attached saying "to be called for by Chester Zoo". We knew nothing whatsoever about this and can only assume it was left there by a person taking the chance that we would accept the animal.

The Civet is delightfully tame and measures about eighteen inches in length, being only a few months old on arrival.

This species of Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) is already represented by a pair of animals which arrived last Autumn and can be seen in the Mammal House. The newcomer has been accommodated in the Nocturnal House, where night and day are altered artificially, so Nocturnal animals can be viewed by members of the public during the daytime.

Asiatic Palm Civets are widely distributed from India and Southern China to the East Indies, Philippines, Borneo and Java. In Malaya they are known as Toddy Cats due to their fondness of the natives' liquor or toddy. Their actual diet consists of small mammals, birds eggs, fruit and berries.

A White-nosed Monkey was presented to the Zoo and has been accommodated at the rear of the Monkey House for the time being but will be exhibited in the near future. This Monkey is a native of the thick forest areas of West Africa where because of an arboreal way of life they have evolved a lithe form and long tail.

The White-nosed Monkey is a species of Guenon or Grimacing Monkey. There are a large number of Guenons distributed in Africa south of the Sahara Desert. The Moloney's Monkey



WHITE-NOSED GUENONS

Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

described in last month's *Zoo News* is another species of Guenon from Central Africa.

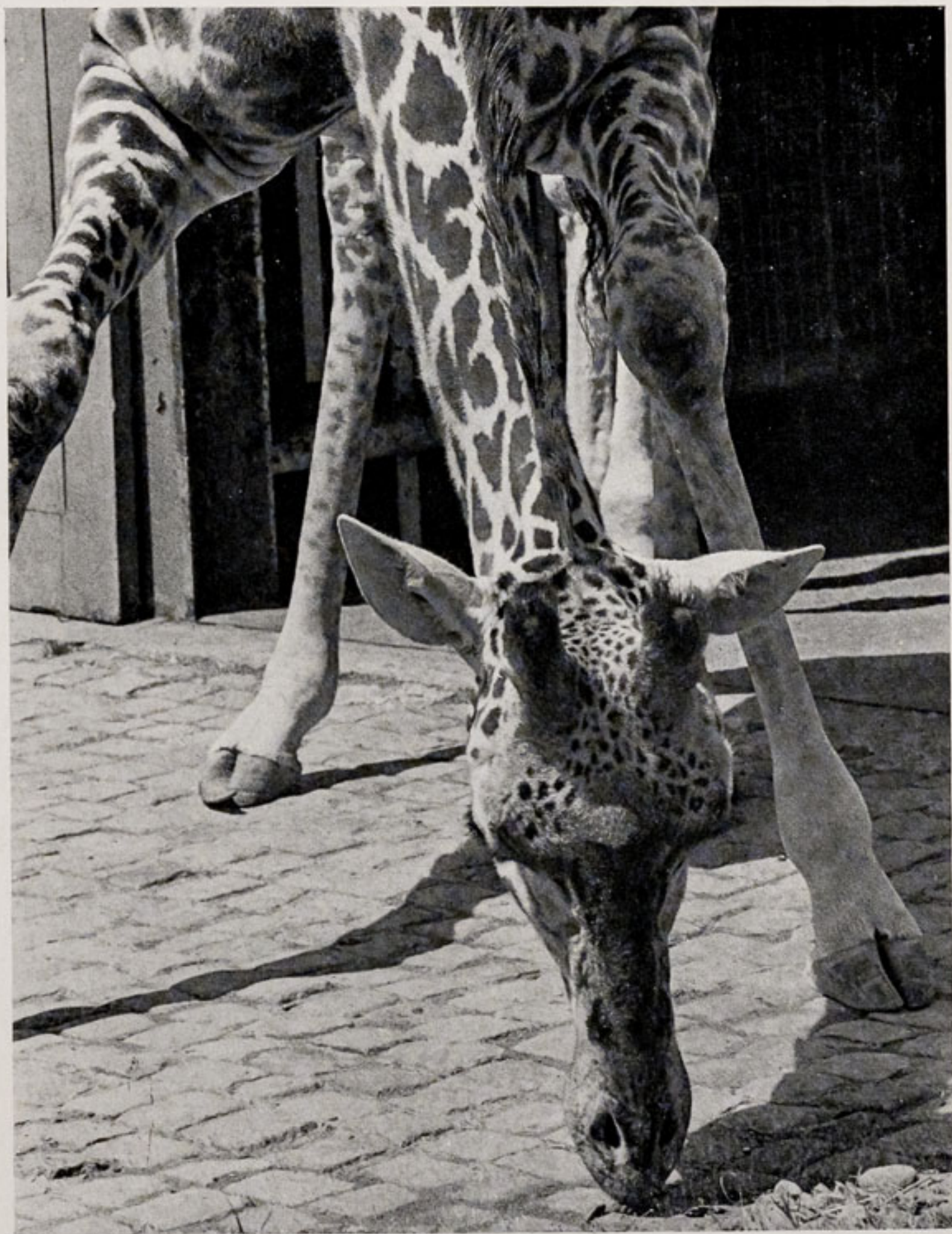
This species of White-nosed Monkey is rather difficult to identify due to its being only a young specimen. As far as we can tell it is a Schmidt's White-nosed Guenon (*Cercopithecus ascanius schmidti*), the same species as the pair which arrived in September, 1963 which can be seen with a Common White-nosed Monkey, in the photograph on page 3.

A new arrival in the Bird Section was a Blue-crowned Conure, which joins the other two Conures in the Parrot House. As its name implies, the Blue-crowned Conure has a slate-blue coloured forehead, the rest of the body being green. These Conures come from Brazil and Venezuela; Conures are really South American Parrakeets, of which there are many species.

Six Black-headed or Nandaya Conures were also received in the Bird Section. These attractive birds are native to Paraguay. In common with most other Conures they are extremely noisy birds, giving vent to raucous chattering screams. The general colour of this species is bright green with a blackish crown, the thighs are reddish and there is a faint blue tinge on the upper breast.

GIRAFFES

A question often asked by many members of the public when looking at the Giraffes is, how do they reach to the ground? The photographs on pages 5 and 7 illustrate how much the fore-legs have to be bent. This movement is rather difficult for Giraffes as they are adapted for browsing in trees but in the wild state have to adopt such a stance when drinking from a water hole. Giraffes also have quite a struggle when actually sitting down as their long legs have to be folded underneath their bodies.



Dr. S. Szinai

GIRAFFE

The Giraffe is the tallest living mammal with a maximum height of 19 feet but a more average height is about 17 feet. A favourite trick question often asked is, how many neck vertebrae has the Giraffe? The answer is seven, the same as humans and most mammals, but of course they are elongated in the case of the Giraffe.

When first born the young Giraffe is an exact replica of the adult and even then is over five feet tall and weighs about 90 lbs. A fully grown Giraffe can weigh well over a ton and is a very strong animal having an extremely powerful kick with such long legs and sharp hooves.

For a long time Zoologists were puzzled by the two or more horns on the Giraffe's head as there seemed to be no reason for their presence. Further observations revealed that they are used in combat with other Giraffes especially with males who tend to be rather aggressive.

A popular belief is that Giraffes are completely voiceless — this is not true; to hear a Giraffe make any noise is quite a rare occurrence but our Zoo animals occasionally make a whistling sound.

There is only one species of Giraffe but a large number of sub-species have been described due to the wide variation in colour from one area to another. In the past, Giraffes have been classified by the number of horns and bumps on their heads but this method has been superseded as it is unreliable.

Giraffes are found in Savannah areas of Africa south of the Sahara Desert. The various patternings break up the animals' outline and they are remarkably difficult to see especially when among tall trees.

At Chester Zoo we have the Reticulated and Masai Giraffe;



GIRAFFE

Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

SEA LIONS—2-40, 3-40, 4-40 p.m.

BEARS—3-15 p.m.

POLAR BEARS—4-0 p.m.



1. MAIN ENTRANCE

- 2. Bird Enclosure
- 3. Wapiti Paddock
- 4. Lesser Pandas
- 5. Aviaries
- 6. Milk Bar
- 7. CORONATION HALL
- 8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS, FIRST AID AND LOST CHILDREN
- 9. CAFETERIA
- 10. CAFETERIA
- 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. Jackal Enclosures
- 28. Wolverines
- 29. Porcupines
- 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. Animal Enclosures
- 63. Cheetahs

- 64. Malayan Bears
- 65. Animal Enclosure
- 66. Aviary
- 67. Wallaby Enclosure
- 68. 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

Animals may be moved from time to time.

the one photographed is a Masai. The Reticulated has bolder, more reddish-brown markings. Five adults and one juvenile Giraffe can be seen at the Zoo. They have centrally heated inside quarters and a spacious outside enclosure. Until about four years ago this enclosure was surrounded by a high link mesh fence, but in order to improve its appearance it was decided to construct a moat and remove the fencing altogether. This has worked admirably and visitors are able to obtain an unimpaired view of the Giraffes. The moat required is not very wide; on the public walk side there is a low wall and on the Giraffe's side a slight mound to prevent them slipping accidentally into the water.

NOTES ON COVER PHOTOGRAPH

A Rhinoceros Iguana is depicted on this month's cover. This species derives its name from the conical horn-like protruberances on the snout; this and the dark-brownish colouration gives a rather prehistoric appearance. In fact, Rhinoceros Iguanas are used in horror films where they are enlarged to assume gigantic proportions on the screen.

Rhinoceros Iguanas (*Metopoceros cornutus*) are found in Haiti and Puerto Rico where they feed on small animals and a variety of fruits and berries. Large specimens are about three feet long; being well built and powerful they are able to inflict a vicious bite if handled. However in captivity, the Rhinoceros Iguana often becomes tame, accepting food from its keeper's fingers.

TORTOISES

The end of March and beginning of April is the time when we receive a large number of enquiries concerning Tortoises coming out of hibernation. These animals often emerge with eyes, nose and



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

TWO TORTOISES IN THE TROPICAL HOUSE — TO THE LEFT IS THE RARE GIANT TORTOISE

mouth covered in dry mucous, which has to be removed by giving the Tortoise a bath in warm water. A small quantity of water is sufficient, just enough to cover the legs of the Tortoise. It can often be left to bathe and remove the mucous by itself but some individuals require washing gently with a clean cloth or some cotton wool. After this bath, the Tortoise should be kept in the warm until it is thoroughly dry.

When the Tortoise has taken a little food it can be placed outside but it is advisable to bring it indoors at night or in cold weather whenever there is any likelihood of frost. The Tortoise is a cold-blooded animal and will not feed or digest its food properly when the temperature is too low.

They can be allowed the run of the garden provided there is a Tortoise-proof fence to stop them wandering away. Probably the best method is to fence off part of the garden with low wire mesh, preferably where there are both shaded and unshaded situations. The Tortoise should be provided with a box or shelter into which it can retire to escape excessive heat or rain. Feeding is quite simple; various greenfoods such as dandelion, plantain, grass and lettuce are eaten readily as are tomatoes and various fruits. A shallow dish of water should be made available at all times.

The best time to purchase a Tortoise is in late Spring or early summer, so that the animal has time to adapt itself to our climate. Never choose a Tortoise with a damaged shell or any deformities — damage sometimes occurs during transit from North Africa or Southern areas of Europe. Sometimes freshly imported specimens will require bathing if their eyes or mouth have become sealed during transportation. If difficulty is experienced in starting a newly imported Tortoise to feed, the most likely remedy is to increase the temperature; as they are cold-blooded animals they are active

only when there is sufficient heat but the amount of temperature required varies among individuals. If a newly imported Tortoise will not feed it should be kept at a temperature of about 80°F. and offered some succulent food; if there is nothing drastically wrong, it should start feeding within a few days. It will then have to be acclimatized slowly. Some newly imported Tortoises are infected with blood-sucking 'ticks'. These ticks should never be pulled straight out but painted with paraffin, so that they relinquish their hold, removed with tweezers and burnt. After the removal of the tick it is advisable to dab the affected parts with a little diluted Dettol-soaked cotton wool.

Hibernation is often considered a great difficulty when keeping Tortoises. At the Zoo we consider it better to keep them inside at a high temperature throughout the winter, However, for people without the facilities for keeping these creatures active all winter the following notes on hibernation should prove useful. If left outside, the Tortoise will bury itself in soft ground or leaves and hibernate but it is unlikely to survive, especially when there are severe frosts which penetrate the ground. In October or November, the Tortoise will show signs of wanting to hibernate by becoming sluggish, going off its food and attempting to dig into the soft ground or piles of leaves. The animal should be placed in a dry straw or leaf filled box provided with ventilation holes. This box should be stored in a cool but frost-free situation; a garage, outhouse or cellar is ideal.

Tortoises frequently lay eggs which are infertile but sometimes mate and produce fertile eggs in captivity and more often a freshly imported specimen will lay fertile eggs. Any eggs which are thought to be fertile should be placed in a dry earth or sand filled box about two inches from the surface. In a temperature of 80-85°F. the incubation period is in the region of ten weeks and considerably

longer at a lower or fluctuating temperature. If the eggs do hatch, the young Tortoises should be offered a drink; normally they will not feed immediately but can be offered a little finely chopped lettuce, etc.

Questions are often asked about the sexing of Tortoises. This is not too easy but as a general guide, the lower shell or plastron in the male is concave and in the female is flat.

One myth concerning the Tortoise is that its age can be told by counting the rings on the shell. In fact, several rings can grow in a year and the rate of growth depends largely on food and conditions.

The shell of the Tortoise should never be covered in varnish or paint, but can be cleaned, lightly oiled and polished if desired. Another reprehensible policy is to tether the Tortoise by boring a hole in the shell and attaching a line. The line does not allow the animal sufficient movement and if of an acceptable length will tangle very easily, even if provided with a swivel.

PROGRESS REPORT ON CARACAL LYNX AND JACKAL

In the April 1966 edition of "*Chester Zoo News*", a picture was included of Keeper J. Sumner feeding a Caracal Lynx from a syringe fitted with a rubber end. This Lynx and a Jackal were both deserted by their Mothers when a few hours old and subsequently had to be hand reared. The Jackal proved very hardy and did not give a moments trouble but the Lynx was rather more difficult to rear and at one stage it only just survived after catching some mysterious infection. However, she has now grown into a fine strong Lynx and can be seen with keeper John Sumner in the photograph on page 15. Both the Lynx and Jackal are still very tame but the Jackal a more



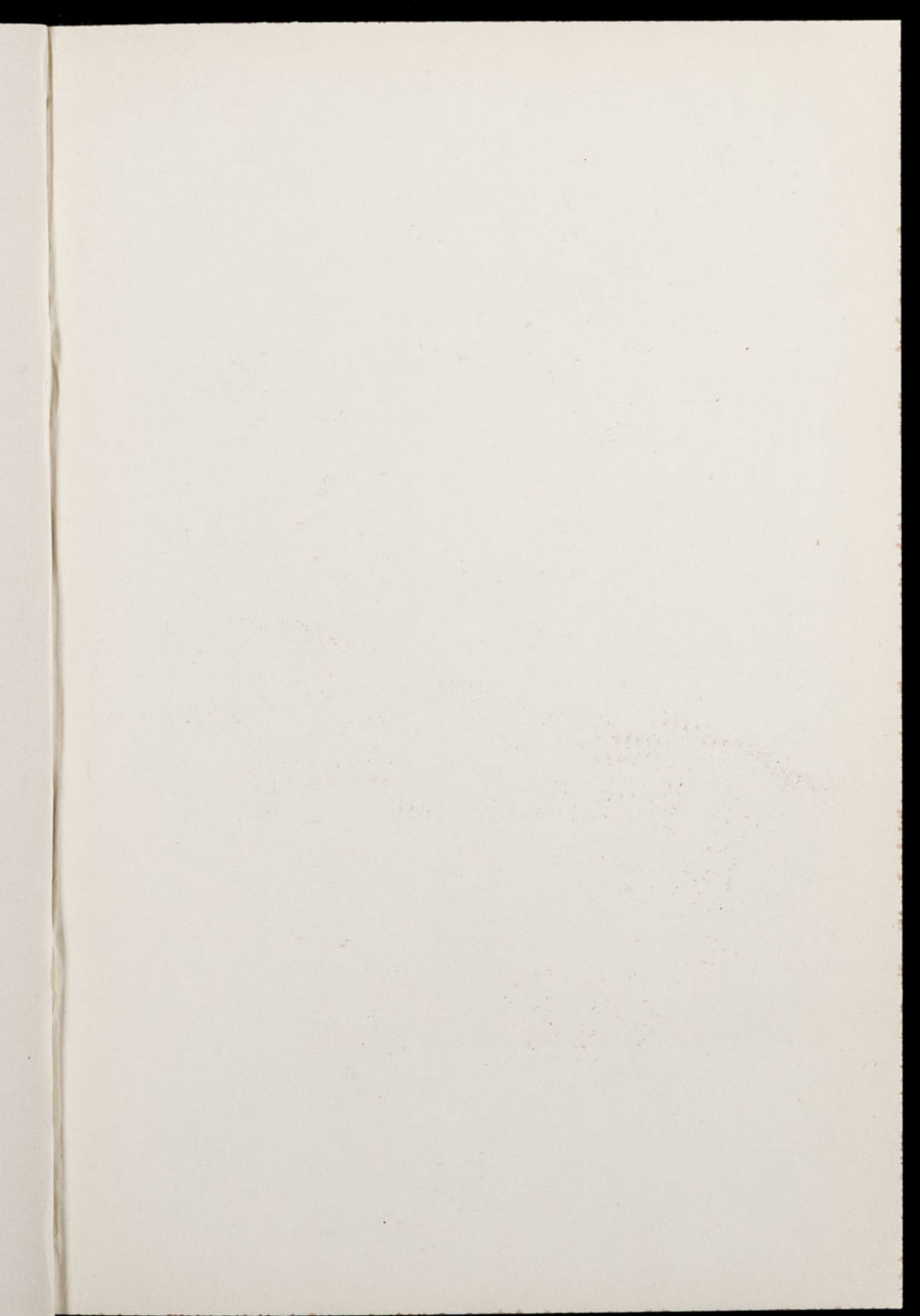
J. Walker, Daily Mirror

KEEPER J. SUMNER WITH CARACAL LYNX

nervous animal, will not trust strangers and is frightened by sudden movements. The Lynx is just the opposite; it is friendly with everyone and has not the slightest intention of biting or scratching but is now a powerful animal and care must be taken as a playful tap can produce a nasty scratch.

The Lynx and the Jackal are accommodated in the same enclosure in the Cat House and show no animosity towards each other. In the wild state, although both species are found in Africa and Asia, they would not associate with each other. The Caracal Lynx belongs to the Cat family whereas the Jackal is a dog but it would be untrue to say they would fight like a domestic cat and dog. The Jackal is essentially a scavenger often feeding from a Lion's kill when it has departed, but will also eat small birds and mammals which come its way. The Caracal Lynx is not a scavenger but preys on small mammals and birds and it is said to jump several feet into the air in order to capture a bird. This method of attack would most likely be used with ground-living birds such as Francolins and Guinea fowl which suddenly take to the air when frightened.





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