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Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

July 1968

Price 1/-

The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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COVER: This month's cover photograph shows our Orang-utan 'Rajang' when four days old. For further details see page 14.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION SIXTEEN SHILLINGS POST PAID

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ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

The pair of Ring-tailed Lemurs which in the past have produced twins, have once again given birth to two youngsters this year. Anyone looking closely at the large cage which now contains several Lemurs, will be able to see the young ones clinging to the underside of the female, but after a week or two they will ride on her back. The Ring-tailed Lemur is the most common of the ten species of Lemur, all of which come from Madagascar. They are attractively marked animals and taking them on the whole, are fairly tame but individual specimens can be very nasty indeed and one has to be very careful when approaching them.

An Arabian Gazelle has been born and can be seen with its mother in one of the enclosures — No. 86 on the plan. Arabian Gazelles are very attractive animals and we are hoping that we shall be able to develop a nice herd of these little antelope, which are becoming rare in their wild state.

So far this year three Wapiti calves have been born; the Wapiti is a larger version of the Red Deer; they come from North America where they are referred to as Elk. We have been very successful in breeding Wapiti and young have been supplied to various Zoos throughout the country.

There are now three little Fallow Deer running about with the herd. This is very gratifying because for a few years we were without a male; however a male was introduced just over two years ago and now the herd is being built up once again.

Another birth in that area of the Zoo is a little Ankole calf. These cattle are unusual in appearance and create a great deal of interest on account of their huge curved horns. Although one would think they



ANKOLE CATTLE

J. Whitworth

are extremely ferocious, they are in fact very docile. They originate from East Africa and the Masai tribe keep many of these animals as they are considered a measure of wealth by the natives.

We are pleased to record the birth of a single Amur Leopard Cub, a species rarely exhibited in Zoological Gardens. In a future edition of 'Chester Zoo News' a photograph will be included but at the moment the youngster is too small to be disturbed. The Amur Leopard (*Panthera pardus orientalis*) is a fairly rare subspecies of the Common Leopard and has long fur and larger markings than the true leopard. It is found in areas on the Russian/China border where the temperature is very low during the winter months.

The Beavers are enclosed in an area surrounded by a wall with an inset concrete step protruding 6ft. into the enclosure to prevent them burrowing out. They are probably the most industrious animals in the Zoo and spend their time continually building dams and lodges. Whilst they were in their old enclosure they bred very well indeed but after being transferred to their new enclosure their breeding instincts seemed disturbed and only on the odd occasion over the years did we have any youngsters. The stock was more or less replaced two years ago and have now settled down; many young ones have been seen swimming about. These animals have to be watched constantly because during the night they will build a dam three or four feet high and from this they climb out over the wall. One Beaver did escape some weeks ago and went into the lake. Eventually however it returned of its own accord and precautions were taken to prevent a repetition of this incident. This pool is kept supplied with a constant flow of fresh water from the lake which passes through the Beaver enclosure and into the Coypu and various other enclosures. Young Beavers are born in the lodges and these structures are most interesting to see. They consist of a large chamber



BEAVER AT WORK

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

which is approached only from under the water and round this enclosure they build a series of bunks, as it were. Some are used for the purpose of breeding and rearing the young while others provide separate quarters for food.

About twelve months ago we purchased from Frankfurt Zoo a male and three female Blesbok but just as they were about to leave, one of the females gave birth to a young one and this was kept behind for a little while. The remaining Blesbok arrived safely at our Quarantine Station and whilst they were there the two other females produced babies. Their Quarantine period is now almost completed and soon we will be thinking of bringing them into the Zoo. The new arrival which was detained has now arrived at the Quarantine Station and it will be twelve months before it can join its companions.

AQUARIUM NOTES

Fish breeding has been well up to standard again this year. Among the many species which have bred are the Firemouth Cichlids which have youngsters at the time of writing; they have also laid some more eggs whilst still caring for the young. The Firemouth Cichlid (*Cichlasoma meeki*) is found in Guatemala and Yucatan and is considered to be one of the most beautiful of the Cichlids, a group of fish which contains some very brightly coloured species. The lower jaw and throat of this species is bright brick red, which gives rise to the name Firemouth.

Another species of Cichlid, the Jewel, has spawned but at the time of writing no young have been hatched.

The Arowanas' tank was cleaned out recently and re-decorated and this entailed removing the fish from the tank. Subsequently they were returned to their own tank and fighting at once ensued despite the fact that they had been living in complete harmony for some time previously.

NEWS FROM VARIOUS SECTIONS

A number of Guinea Pigs have been placed in the Prairie Marmot enclosure opposite the Owl aviaries (No. 5 on the Plan). The Marmots spend most of their time underground and consequently a large majority of visitors thought that this small walled enclosure was empty. The Guinea Pigs provide an entertaining show, and are constantly on the move; due to their presence, the Marmots come above ground far more often.

'Thamooda', the Arabian Gazelle hand-reared last year by her keeper Pam Logan, is proving quite a handful. Although still very affectionate to Pam, she is developing a nasty habit of attacking other people. This is often a problem with hand-reared animals as they have no natural timidity of man. It is intended to move 'Thamooda' to one of the enclosure at the rear of the Monkey House, where the fencing is protected by a wide shrub border, thus preventing the animal from making attacks on passersby through the wire mesh. This can cause damage to the wire mesh and also to the animals horns.

The Pig-tailed Monkeys have been transferred from the Monkey House to one of the newly constructed outside enclosures at the far side of the Cat House. The Hamadryas Baboons have been transferred to the adjoining pen and both species have settled down well.

In last month's magazine, we mentioned the birth of two American Martens. We are pleased to be able to report that these youngsters are doing well and can be seen outside the breeding box at feeding time and also first thing in the morning.

The male Wapiti and two females born last year have been sold. The male's antlers were developing quite well with

GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

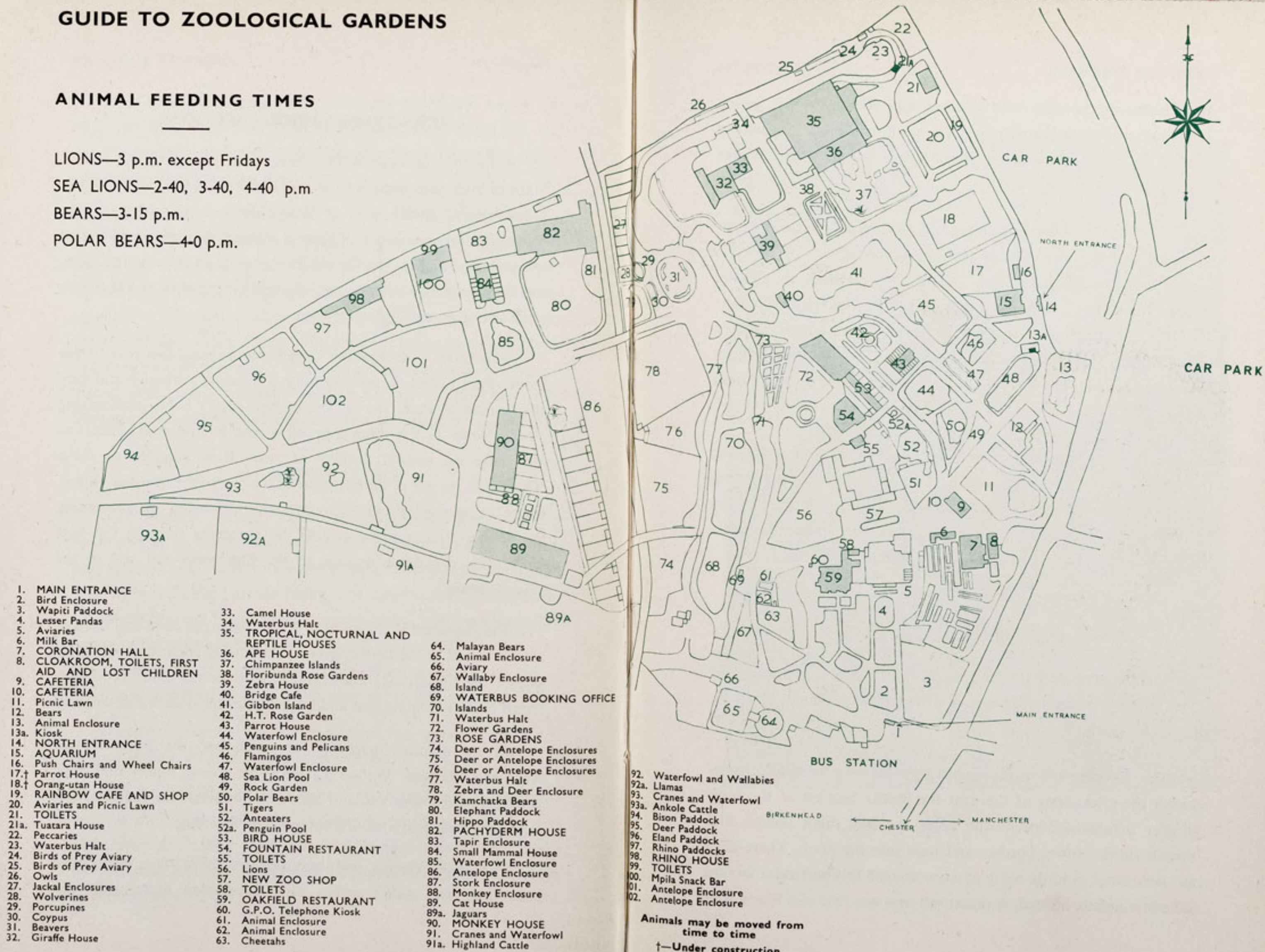
ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

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
- 13a. Kiosk
14. NORTH ENTRANCE
15. AQUARIUM
16. Push Chairs and Wheel Chairs
17. Parrot House
18. Orang-utan House
19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP
20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
21. TOILETS
- 21a. Tuatara House
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 Gardens
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. Anteaters
- 52a. Penguin Pool
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 Enclosure
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 Enclosure
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Antelope Enclosure
87. Stork Enclosure
88. Monkey Enclosure
89. Cat House
- 89a. Jaguars
90. MONKEY HOUSE
91. Cranes and Waterfowl
- 91a. Highland Cattle

92. Waterfowl and Wallabies
- 92a. Llamas
93. Cranes and Waterfowl
- 93a. Ankole Cattle
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
 †—Under construction.

three points on the right hand side but only one on the left, giving him a rather lop-sided appearance. The adult male has a magnificent pair of antlers and now has eighteen points, the most he has ever had.

'Tammy' the Chimpanzee reared in the Curator's home and now accommodated in the Monkey House was moved in with our two young male Orangs 'Barry' and 'David'. Unfortunately the Orangs proved too robust for him and they had to be separated. We hope to introduce them again in the near future as a young Chimp is much happier if provided with a companion. The Orangs are about the same age as 'Tammy' who is now 14 months, so all should agree next time.

In the Cat House, the Jungle Kitten bred recently is just starting to venture into the outside section of its enclosure and is proving quite an attraction to members of the public. The pair of Cheetahs have finished their quarantine period and are due to be transferred to the Cheetah enclosure, opposite the Oakfield Restaurant.

BIRD NOTES

Maintenance staff are busy replacing the poles supporting the fence which surrounds the Crane and Waterfowl paddocks (Nos. 91, 92 and 93 on the Plan).

The Temperate Bird House has been closed a number of times during the afternoons of the past few weeks because of the large number of schoolchildren who enter the free flight section and trample on the flower borders and walk into the pools. There have also been cases of birds being pursued around this particular section and consequently injured. A rather sad case was that of a Wood Rail



'BARRY'

ORANG-UTANS

'DAVID'

Gary Talbot

which broke a leg and had to be destroyed. We do apologise for any inconvenience caused to members of the public but we have to protect our livestock. This house is now opened all through the day.

The Rheas which can be seen in the paddocks at the back of the Monkey House have laid four eggs. Two of these were being incubated by the male but unfortunately he broke them; the other two eggs are at present in the Zoo's incubator. Male Cassowaries, Emus and Rheas always take charge of the incubation of eggs and the rearing of the young.

The four Great Eagle Owl chicks are growing rapidly and are now almost the same size as the adult birds. They still have a large amount of down, but their feathers are growing very well.

The Rockhopper Penguins have settled well in their new enclosure in the Otter and Penguin House. The Penguins have been seen swimming under water in the specially designed glass fronted viewing tanks. When they leave the tank they develop sufficient speed to jump from the water and land upright on the bank, just as they do in the wild state when they jump from the sea on to a rocky foreshore.

Hatchings have been well up to standard again this year. The Geese have done particularly well, with 4 Barnacle, 2 Emperor, 4 Bar-headed and 1 Canada Goose. Nine Bob-White Quail and 3 Silver Pheasants have been hatched in the incubator and as a temporary measure have been accommodated in one of the outside Bird House aviaries.

A pair of Red-billed Pintails (*Anas erythrorhyncha*) which are indigenous to Africa and Madagascar have been presented. This species has not been exhibited at the Zoo before and the two ducks



GREAT EAGLE OWL CHICK

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

have been accommodated on the Small Mammal House Pond. A pair of Mandarin Ducks presented at the same time can also be seen on this pool.

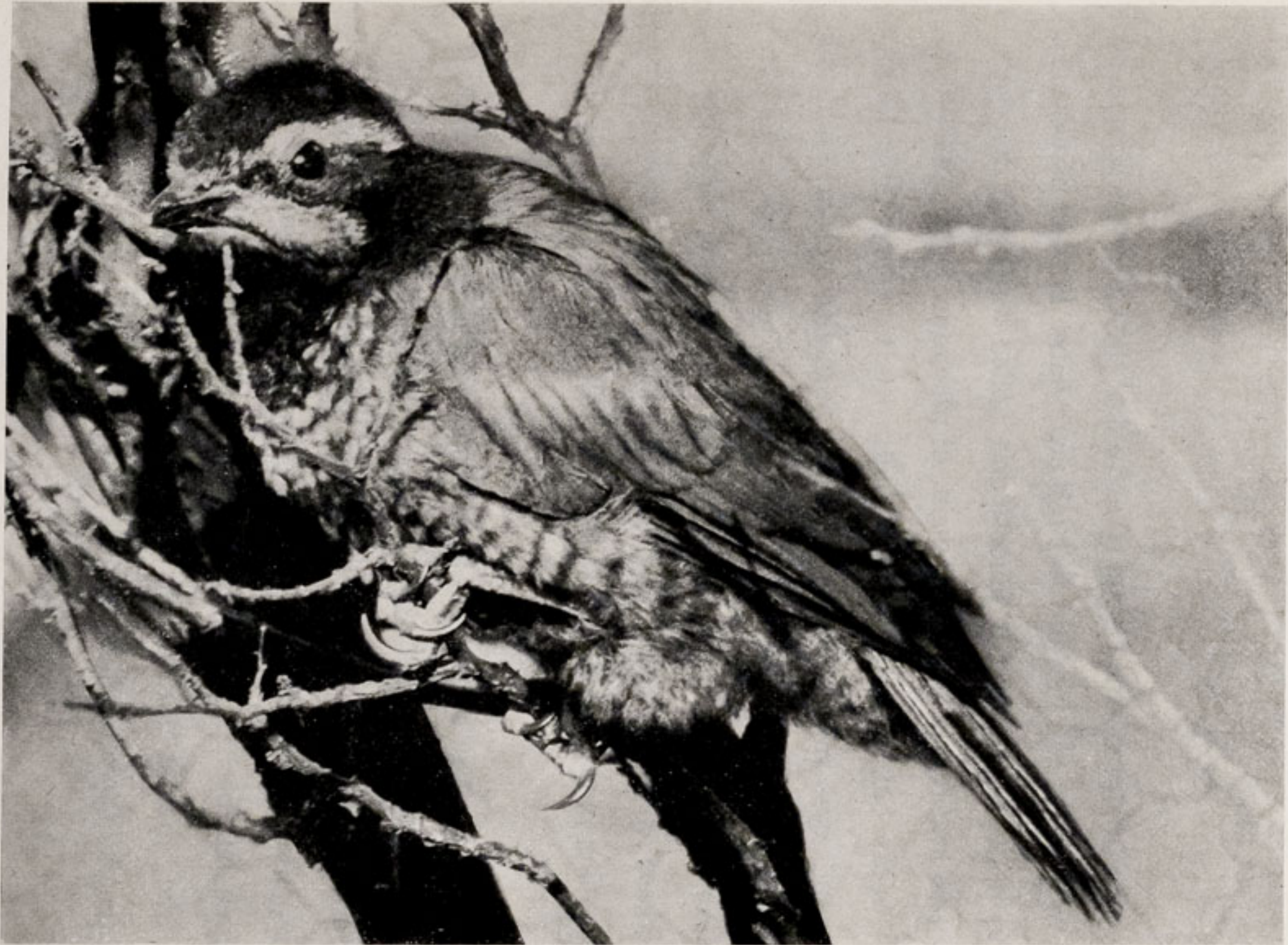
A Sulphur-breasted Toucan (*Rhamphastos sulphuratus*) has been housed in one of the aviaries at the top of the ramp in our Tropical House.

A Common Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) has been liberated in our Temperate Bird House and has settled down well.

As mentioned in the June issue of 'Chester Zoo News' we bred a Superb Bird of Paradise (*Lophorina superba feminina*) for the first time in captivity so far as is known. In the photograph on page 15 the youngster can be seen when 37 days old, 19 days after leaving the nest. We are pleased to report that this young Bird of Paradise is thriving and we are very hopeful of rearing it to maturity.

ORANG-UTAN 'RAJANG'

On the 14th June, a male youngster was born to 'Josephine' the Orang-utan who had been at the Zoo since September 1959. Unfortunately she would not take any notice of the baby and in fact appeared rather frightened of it. We estimate that she gave birth to the youngster, christened 'Rajang', between 4 a.m. and 5 a.m. During the late afternoon it was decided to separate the baby from the mother and when this was accomplished the placental chord was removed. 'Rajang' was then transported to the Curator's home where both Mr. and Mrs. Timmis are hand-rearing him. It is only



SUPERB BIRD OF PARADISE

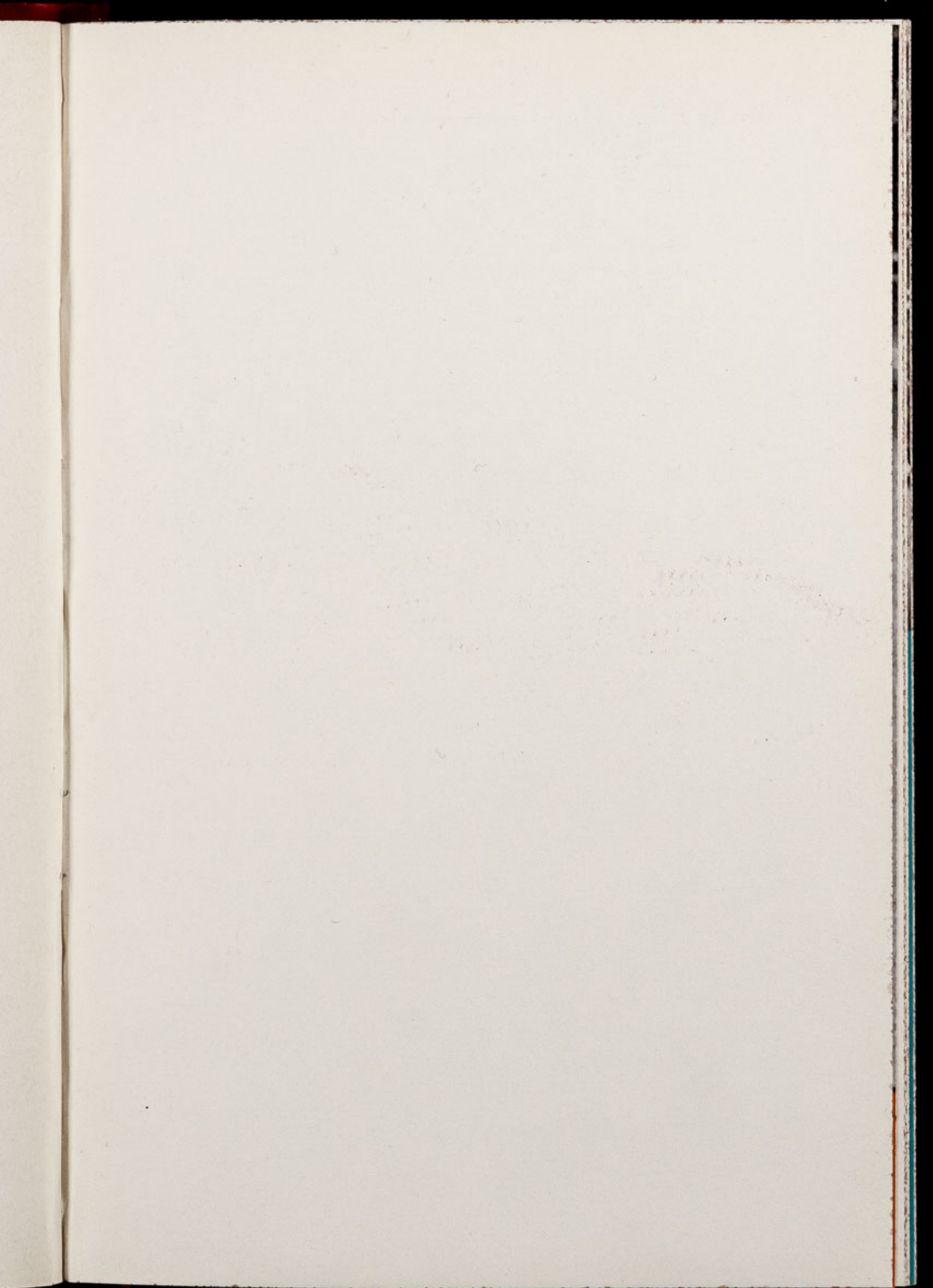
Gary Talbot

recently that the Timmis household was deprived of another orphan when 'Tammy' the Chimpanzee was returned to the Zoo when one year old.

The first task when 'Rajang' arrived at the Curator's home was to wash and clean him just like a human baby. For the first twenty four hours he was fed on glucose and boiled water and then went on two hourly feeds, day and night, of premature baby milk. When $2\frac{1}{2}$ weeks old, the feeds were lengthened to every three hours. Rajang's eyes were open when he was born although he could not focus, but at four weeks he could recognise anyone close to him. During the first four weeks hair growth was noticed, there was an increase in weight from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $6\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. and there was considerable alteration in the facial expression.

When taken away from their mothers all the Anthropoid Apes need to cling to something substantial. 'Rajang' has been given a bundle of woollens and clings firmly to these all the time. If he happens to lose hold, he gives voice to loud screams of distress, which has been the case in the early hours of several mornings. At the moment 'Rajang' is completely toothless but there is some evidence of two teeth starting to come through.

In the cover photograph 'Rajang' is only four days old and it is hoped to include photographs of him in subsequent editions of 'Chester Zoo News' to illustrate his progress.



Printed in England by
G. R. Griffith Ltd.
Castle Printing Works
Chester