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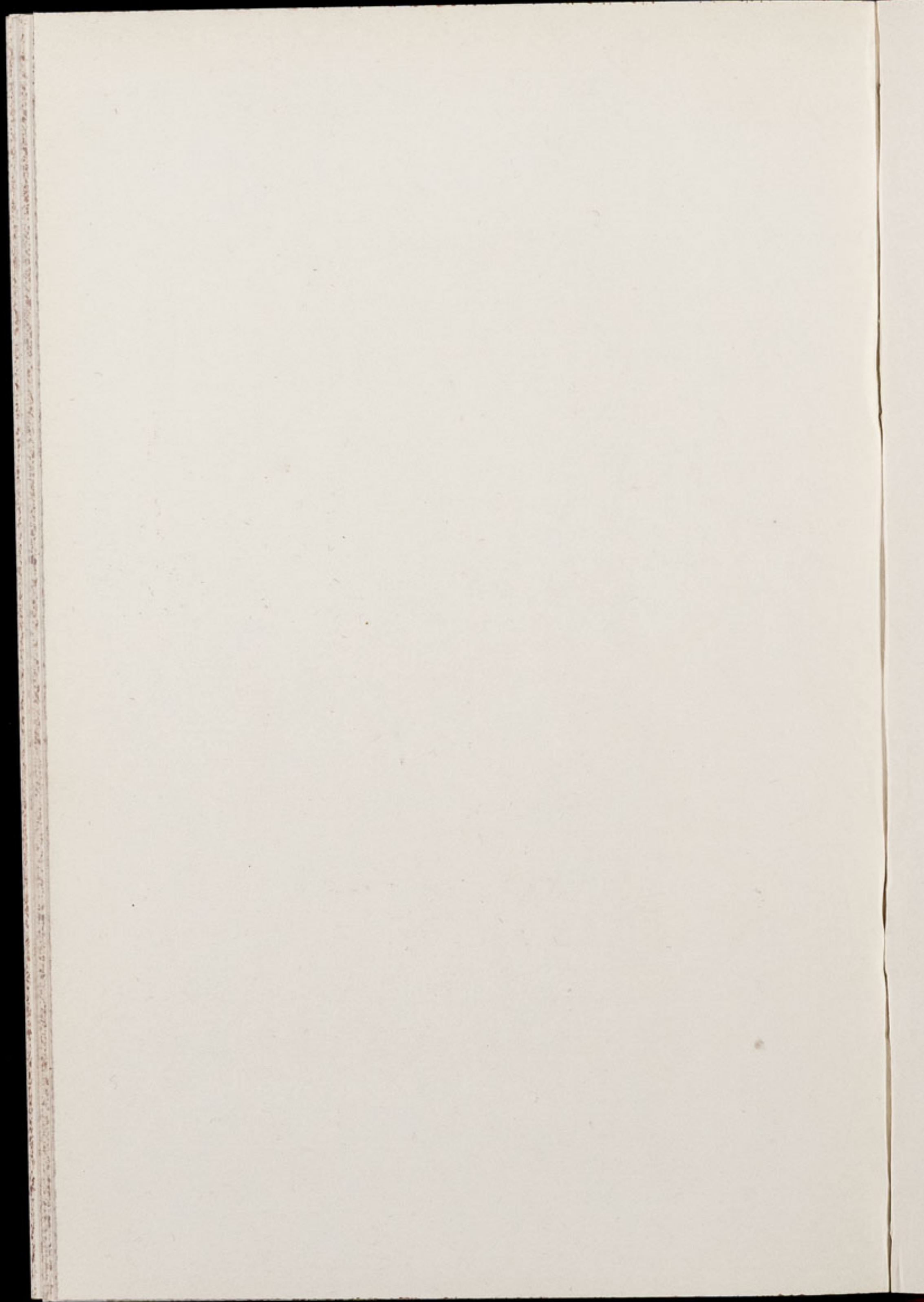
# **Chester Zoo News**

## **AND GUIDE**

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

September 1966

Price 1/-



## Editorial

*Chester Zoo News* has now completed its fourth year and we are pleased to say that circulation figures show an increase over previous years. Many readers of the magazine will not know that copies are sent all over the world, to Zoos in countries as far away as Australia, Japan and America.

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**COVER:** *This month's cover photograph shows our pair of Hyacinthine Macaws. For further information on these birds, see page sixteen.*

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### RECENT ARRIVALS

An Ocelot was received in an exchange deal and arrived on the same plane as the Black Cockatoos mentioned on page 10. Although not of this particular animal, the photograph on page 3 illustrates the beautifully marked fur of this species.

Ocelots are found in South America as far South as Equador and Northern Argentina and throughout Central America and in the U.S.A. in Arizona and Texas.

Although considered generally to be rather docile this does not seem to be the case with our Ocelots; they will not attack but always seem of rather a nervous disposition.

We already have one male Ocelot in the Cat House, but unfortunately the newcomer is also a male; we are now on the lookout for females.

We have received in exchange a fully grown male Cherry-crowned Mangabey for our adult female.

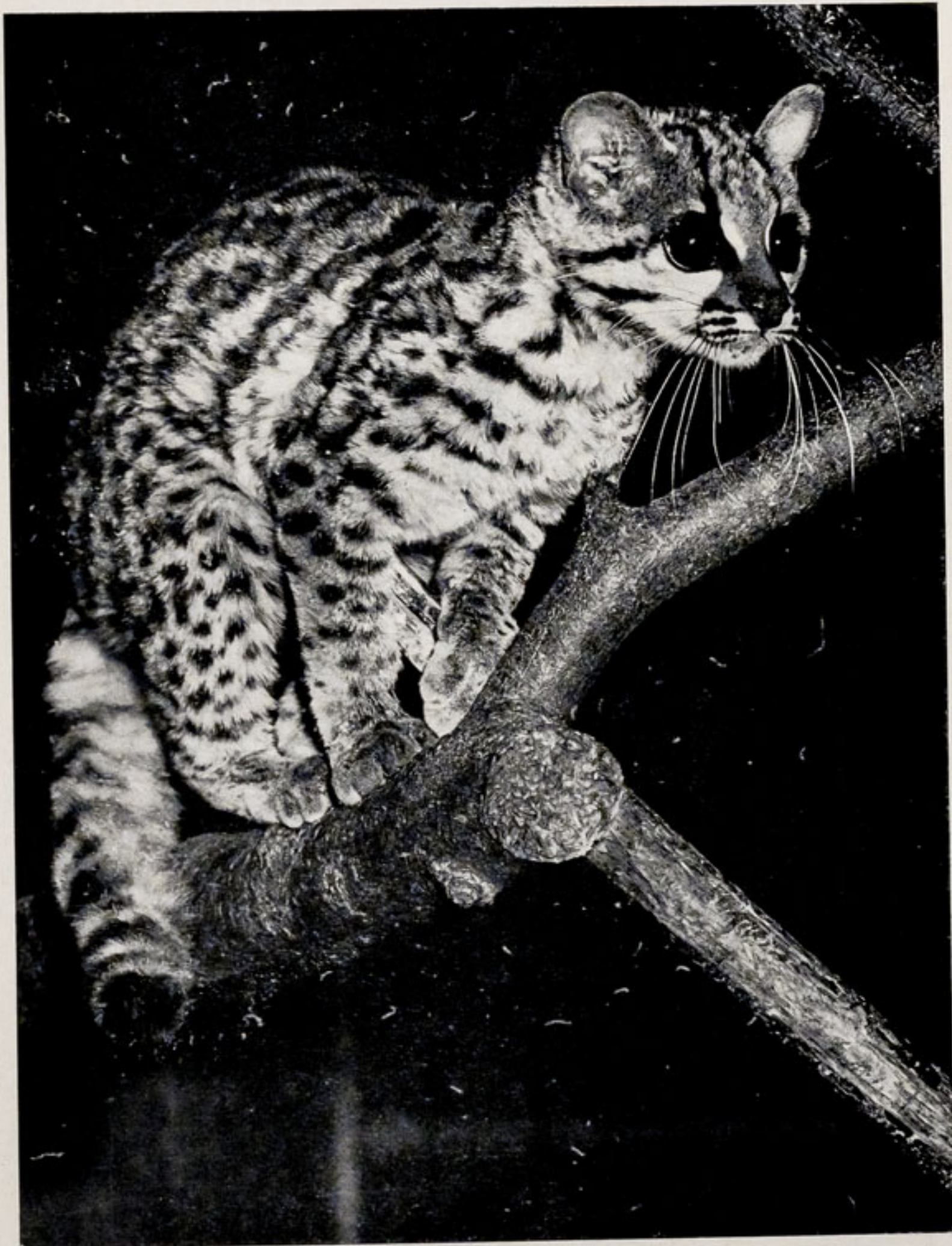
Last October we received a new male but we decided it would be so long before it would be old enough for our female that we accepted this new acquisition.

The two Mangabeys have been introduced and although fighting ensued for a while they have now settled down.

### BIRTHS

Two Red Lechwe were born during the past month and this brings our herd to eight. The Lechwe occupy a spacious wooded enclosure (No. 75 on the plan).

These Lechwe are the descendants of a pair which arrived at the Zoo in February 1958 and were the first animals to be quarantined at the then newly-opened quarantine station at Birkenhead. Unfortunately the original male has since died but several of his descendants have been exchanged with other Zoos; however, as far as we know, Chester is the only Zoo in this country with a herd of these animals. For some time the majority of young born were males, but last year females were born and although we have been unable to sex this years young, we are hopeful of again having females.



OCELOT

*E. Kirkland*

The Red Lechwe or Lechwe Waterbuck as it is often called was distributed in marshy areas of Northern South West Africa, South East Congo and Zambia. At a recent parliamentary meeting in Lusaka, Mr. Solomon Kalulu, Zambia's Minister of Lands and Natural Resources said that the Red Lechwe was becoming extinct due to poaching and are found on Zambia's Kafue Flats and nowhere else in the world. Mr. Kalulu said that in the last five years Red Lechwe numbers have been reduced from 54,000 to 24,000 and that steps would be taken to protect this species.

Lechwe are often seen standing knee deep in water cropping aquatic plants and are known to influence greatly the ecology of the area; their reduction in numbers has caused a shortage of fish in some rivers. The droppings from the thousands of Lechwe make a breeding ground for aquatic insects, etc., which provide food for other insects, small mammals, birds and fish.

The first Grant's Zebra of 1966 was born on August 4th and at least one other is expected soon. The Grant's Zebras share their enclosure (No. 78) with Fallow Deer, but the Zebras are moved to warmer quarters at the rear of the Giraffe House during the winter. Grant's Zebras are found in East Africa, where they congregate in huge herds often accompanying Gnu and Hartebeest. They are one of the favourite foods of Lions and are always very nervous and alert; quick movements frighten even our Zoo-bred animals.

Latest births in the Mammal House are Coatis—raccoon-like animals from the forests of Central and South America; we are not sure of the exact number as they are hidden in a box. However, normally four or five are produced in each litter. As can be seen in the photograph on Page five, Coatis have a long pointed snout and long tail. They thrive in Zoos and although this is the first litter bred this year, a large number have been bred in previous years.

In the wild state Coatis roam in small bands of females and young and are only joined by the Coatimundi who is the male, for a short mating period. The pregnant females isolate themselves just before the birth in a tree nest and remain there for five weeks before joining the other Coatis with the young.



*J. Whitworth*

COATI

Their food in the wild state consists of fruit, insects, small birds, lizards, etc.; at the Zoo we feed a mixture of various chopped fruits and some meat.

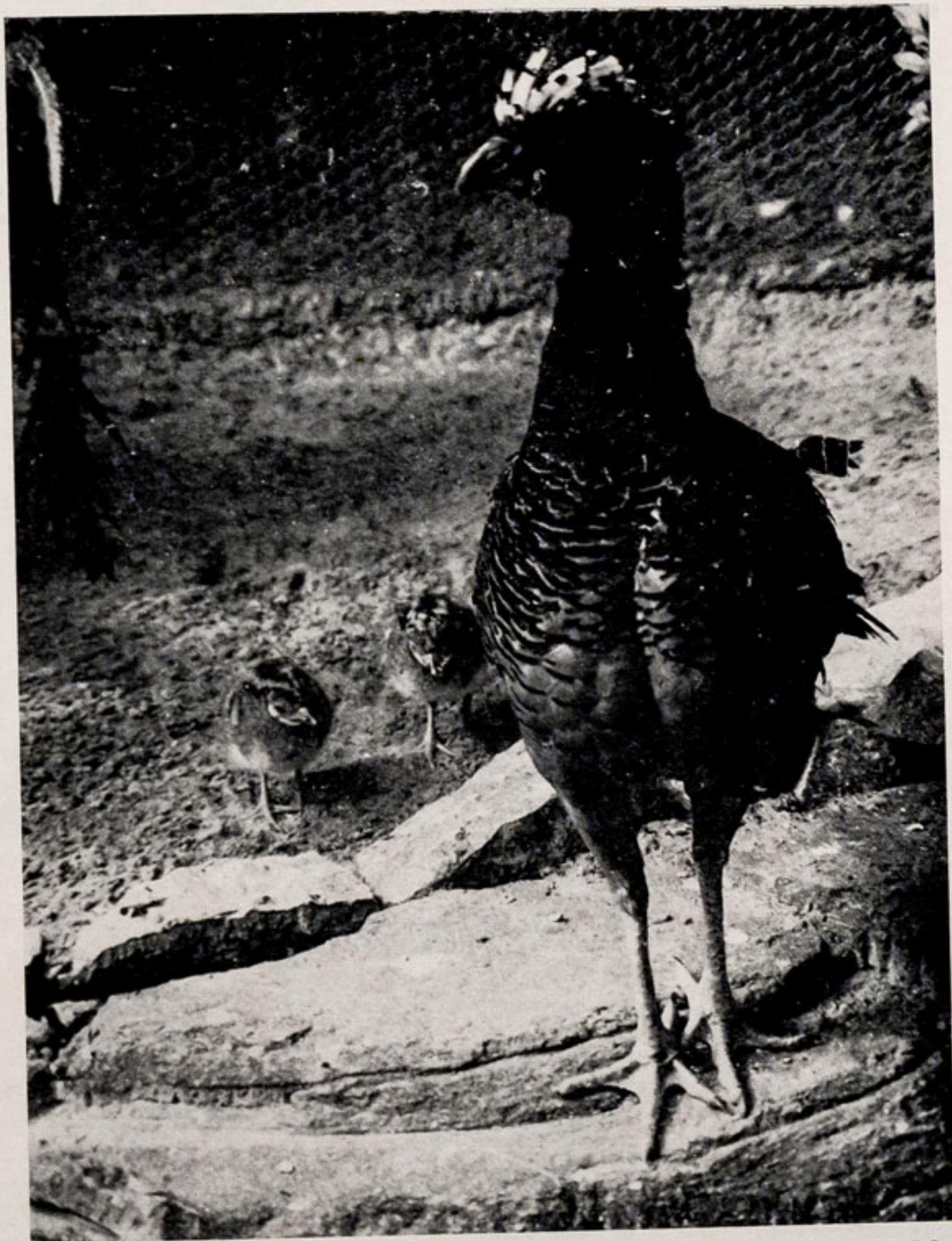
A female Barbary Ape was born in the Ape enclosure between the Monkey House and Cat House. These Apes breed every year at the Zoo but the young are sometimes stolen from their Mother by other females.

Barbary Apes belong to the group of Monkeys known as Macaques and are the only species of Macaque to be found outside Asia. There is a small colony on the Rock of Gibraltar and they are also distributed in the forests of North Africa. Several theories have been put forward as to how the Apes arrived on the Rock; one is that there is an underground tunnel from the network of caves on the Rock to North Africa. A more scientific, though now generally disregarded theory is that they are a relic of a European Population. The theory most generally believed is that they were introduced at some time although there appears to be no proof of this.

An interesting birth in the Monkey House is a Rhesus X Rhesus X Pig-tailed Macaque youngster. Both parents, the male Rhesus and the female Rhesus X Pig-tail arrived during October 1965. It is still too early to see any resemblance to either species and the youngster is hidden from public gaze most of the time by the Mother.

### CRESTED CURASSOWS

As can be seen in the photograph on Page seven, the Curassows have hatched two chicks. As far as we know this is the first time this species has been bred in this country. This is not the first time the birds have laid since their arrival during October 1961. During 1965 they laid two eggs on the floor of their aviary but showed no signs of sitting and the eggs were devoured by other birds. This year their first clutch of eggs was put in an incubator but proved to be infertile; the second clutch was laid on the rockwork above the waterfall in the Temperate Bird House and stolen by children. The third clutch was laid in a far safer position, on a three foot square platform fifteen feet high in the Temperate Bird House.



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

HEN CURASSOW WITH CHICKS

# 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.

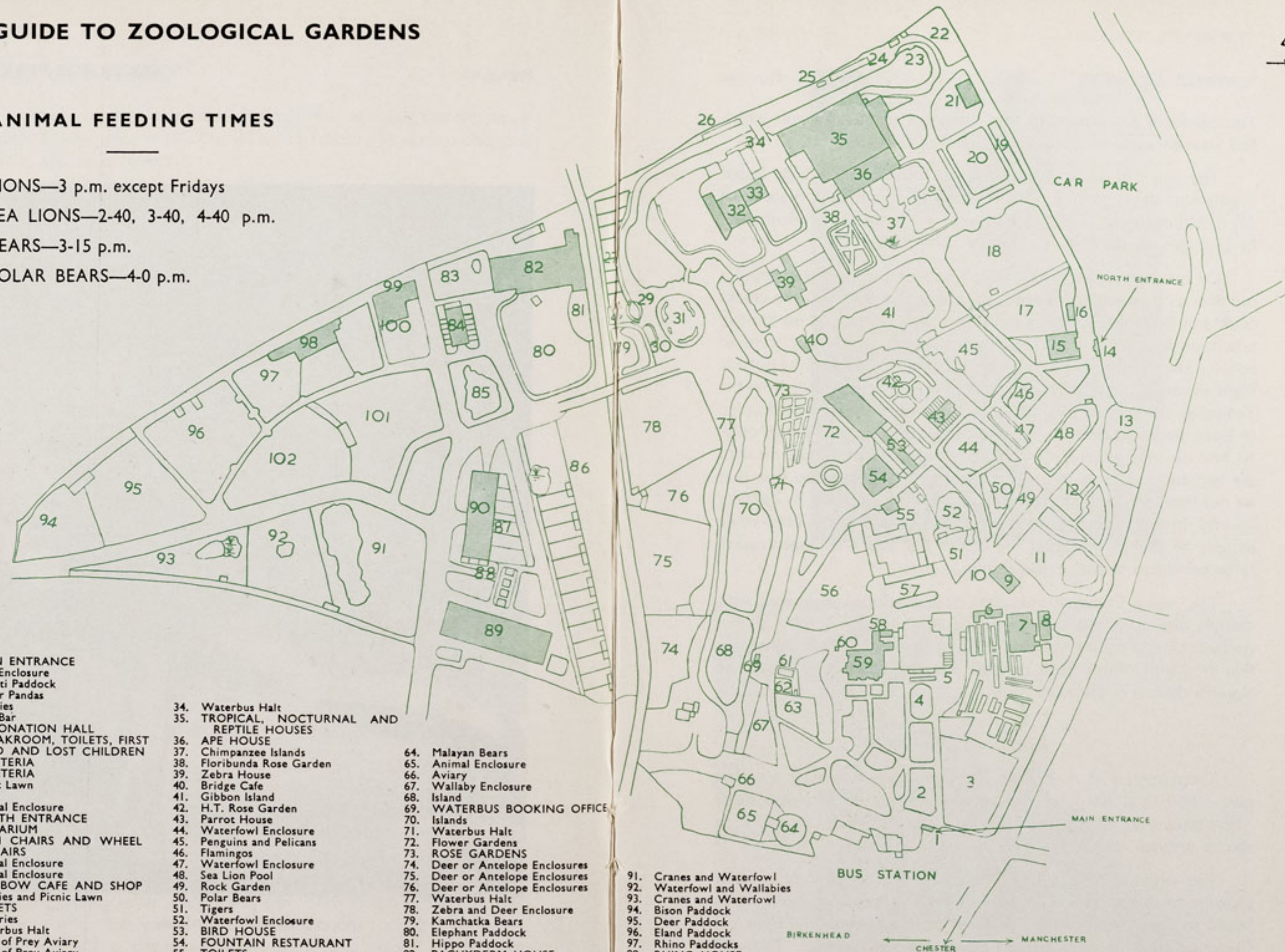
1. MAIN ENTRANCE
2. Bird Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Lesser Pandas
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS, FIRST AID AND LOST CHILDREN
9. CAFETERIA
10. CAFETERIA
11. Picnic Lawn
12. Bears
13. Animal Enclosure
14. NORTH ENTRANCE
15. AQUARIUM
16. PUSH CHAIRS AND WHEEL CHAIRS
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.



This platform was erected for the Victoria Crowned Pigeons which had showed signs of going to nest earlier this year.

The hen Curassow carried out the incubation, which lasted twenty-nine days, coming off the nest to feed and drink twice most days. Although the cock Curassow did not assist in the incubation he kept close to the nest at all times.

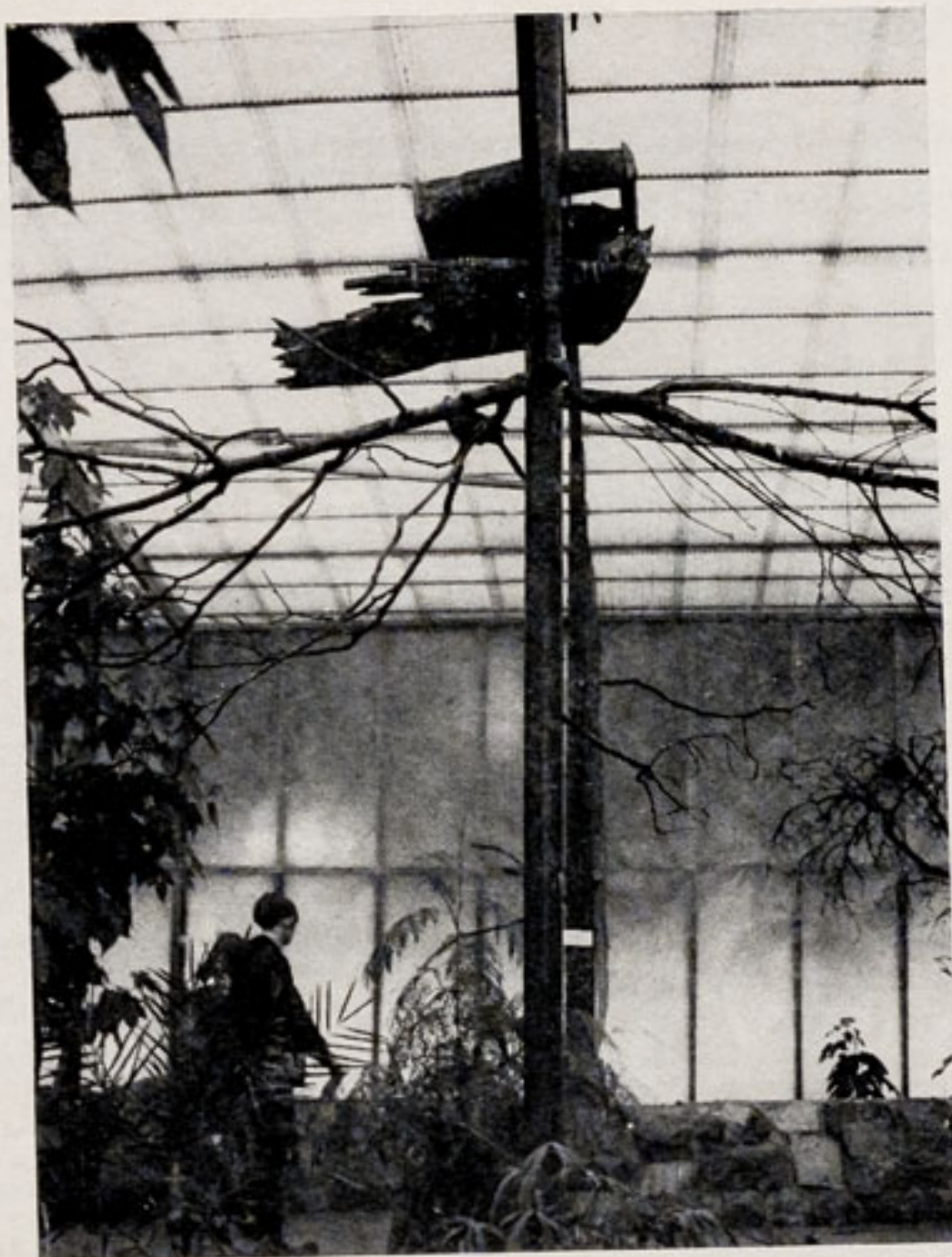
On the 7th August the two eggs were hatched but this posed a problem as they were on a platform fifteen feet high and the chicks could not fly. Keepers kept a full time watch on the nest on Sunday afternoon but it was decided to move the chicks as they were so active. The hen and two chicks were transferred to the long outside flight aviary in the Bird House. In the normal way all birds from the Temperate Bird House can fly into this aviary but it was decided to leave the bob-hole open, so allowing access to small species only. At first we were undecided whether to put the cock Curassow with the hen and chicks or not. In the end he made so much fuss that we put them all together and he showed his appreciation by dancing up and down. A careful watch was kept on him for a little while in case he started attacking the chicks but this was unnecessary as he proved to be the perfect father.

The young Curassows are very well developed compared with similar species at the same age and are thriving despite almost continuous rain during the first week of their lives. It is noticeable that they will follow both parents, keeping either underneath or close to the tail of the adult bird.

### BIRD NOTES

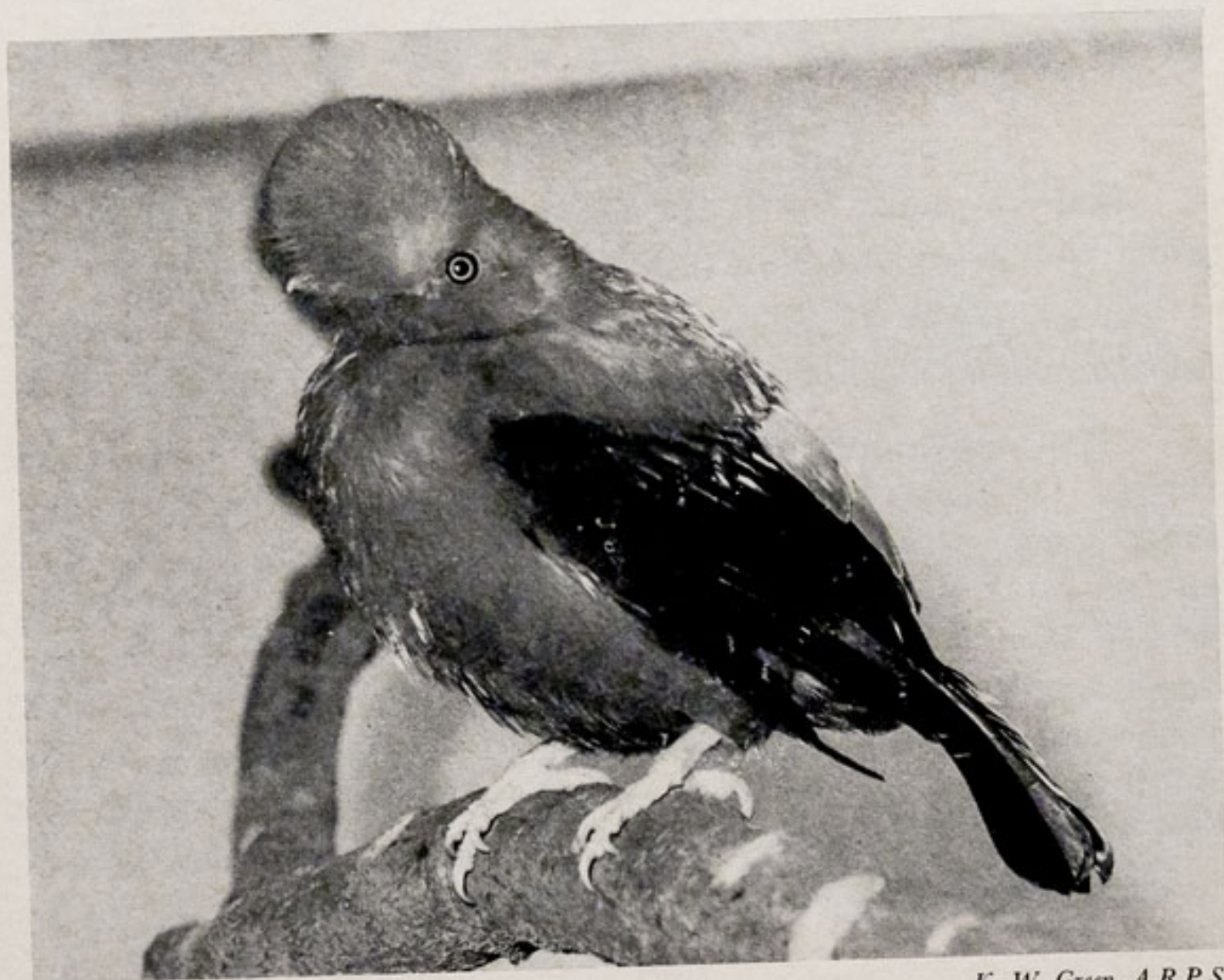
Three species of Australian Black Cockatoos arrived over the past month and have been accommodated in the Parrot House. These birds were all received in an exchange deal and a pair of each species arrived.

The original Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo showed evident pleasure at the arrival of the newcomers and has since been transferred to their aviary. This species is often known as the Funereal Cockatoo from its Latin name *Calyptorhynchus funereus*. They are found in parts of Eastern, South Australia, Tasmania and several adjacent islands.



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

CURASSOW NESTING SITE



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

SCARLET COCK-OF-THE-ROCK

The White-tailed Black Cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus baudini*) are very similar to the Yellow-tailed but have head and tail markings in white with a yellowish tinge. This species was named after Nicolas Baudin, who led a scientific expedition to Australia in 1802-1803. They are distributed in South Western Australia.

Sir Joseph Banks, the famous botanist, gave rise to the name of Banksian Cockatoo for the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksi*). This species is the most spectacular of the three and comes from Northern and Central Eastern areas of Australia, sometimes extending to Southern areas.

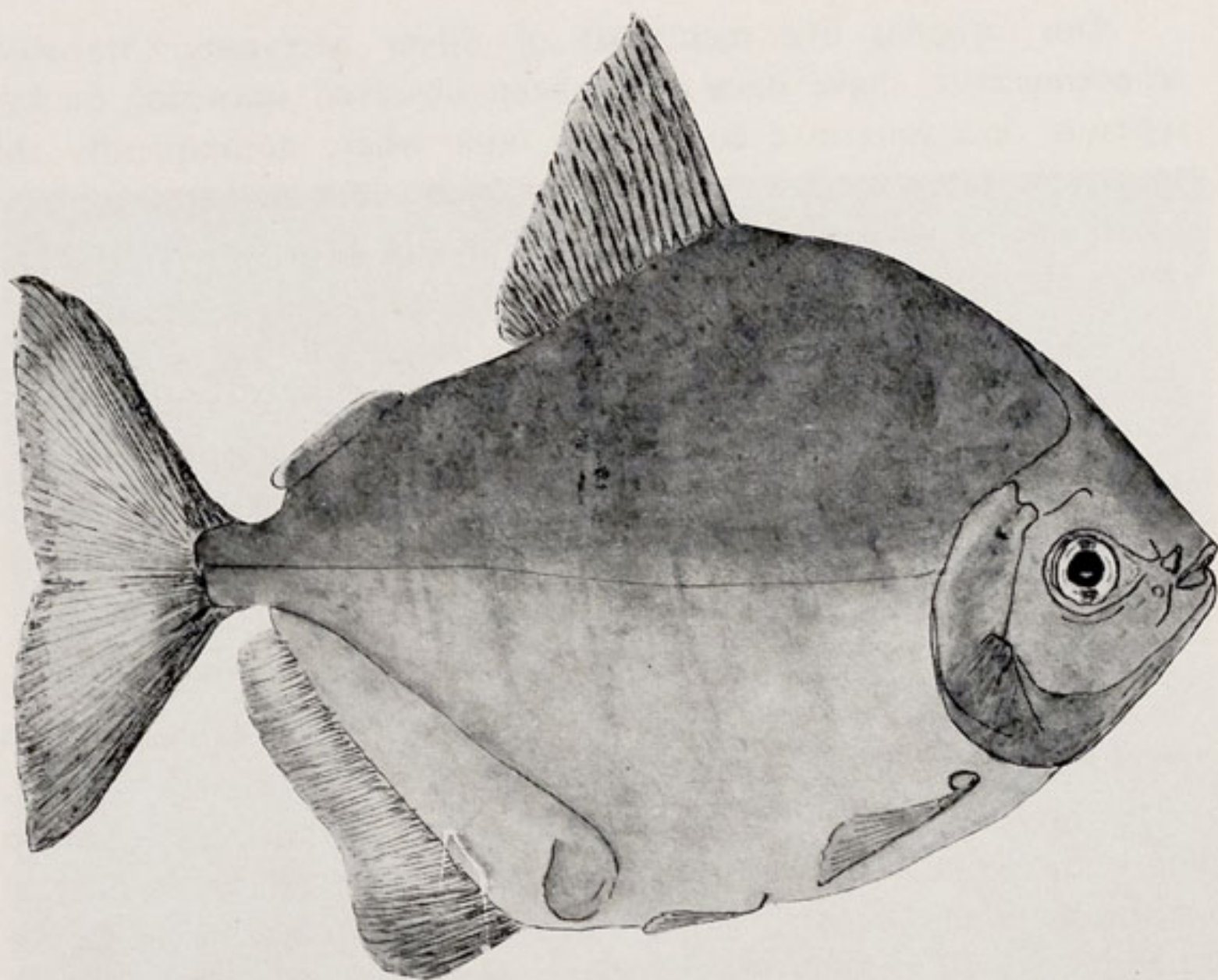
New to the Tropical House are a pair of Scarlet Cocks-of-the-Rock (*Rupicola peruviana sanguinolenta*). They have been placed in one of the heavily planted aviaries at the highest level in the Tropical House. This species is found in South America in the Guianas and Brazil. The cock bird is a bright scarlet colour with dark wings and tail but the hen has more subdued colouration. The most characteristic feature of the Cocks-of-the-Rock is the strange disc-like crest which extends from the top of the head to the tip of the bill. Very little is known about these birds in the wild state, but it is stated that groups of up to a score of males and females gather in a forest clearing, and one male at a time goes through a series of hopping antics to display before the females.

### AQUARIUM NEWS

Many new fish have been added to both the Tropical Fresh-water and Saltwater sections.

Undoubtedly, the most colourful and eye catching are a small collection of marine fish, which arrived at the beginning of the month.

Neon Gobies (*Elacatinus oceanops*), and Black and White Striped Damsels (*Dascyllus aruanus*) are exhibited together in a large tank, whilst pairs of Tomato Clown Fish (*Amphiprion ephippium*) and Common Clown Fish (*Amphiprion percula*) are housed separately. Also on show is a colourful, but as yet, very small Scorpion Fish (*Pterois miles*), which spends most of its time lurking amongst the natural rock back of the tank, looking for food. It is intended eventually to house all of these fish, with the exception of *Pterois miles*, in one large tank, where the mixture of brilliant colours will create a very pleasing effect.



SILVER METYNNIS

M. D. Murphy

In the Freshwater section, over thirty six fish have been added in recent weeks, including nine species entirely new to the Aquarium, these being:—

Bony Lipped Barb	( <i>Osteochilus hasselti</i> )
Lined Leporinus	( <i>Leporinus striatus</i> )
Spotted Metynnis	( <i>Metynnis species</i> )
	( <i>Oxygaster bacaila</i> )
Platinum Tetra	( <i>Gephyrocharax atracaudatus</i> )
an unidentified Silver Barb	( <i>Curimatus argenteus</i> )
	( <i>Curimatus Species</i> )
Flying Fox	( <i>Epalzeorhynchus kallopterus</i> )

The first five of these species were very kindly presented by two members of an Aquarist Society.

Another Electric Eel (*Electrophorus electricus*), has been purchased since the sad demise of one of our large pair, which had been reared from inch-long youngsters to four foot monsters. The new specimen is almost two foot long and is proving to be just as much of a glutton as the larger one.

Our original five inch pair of Silver Metynnis (*Metynnis schreitmulleri*), have once again been observed spawning on five separate occasions in a community tank where consequently the eggs were eaten as fast as they were laid. It has therefore been decided to separate the pair from the other fish, and attempt to spawn them in a smaller tank, where the eggs will be undisturbed.

This pair first spawned on the 4th January, 1964, after being placed in a new and larger tank. Several attempts were made to hatch the eggs which proved to be infertile and eventually developed fungus. Since this time the adults diet has been improved and the amount increased, so we are hoping that we may be more successful next time.

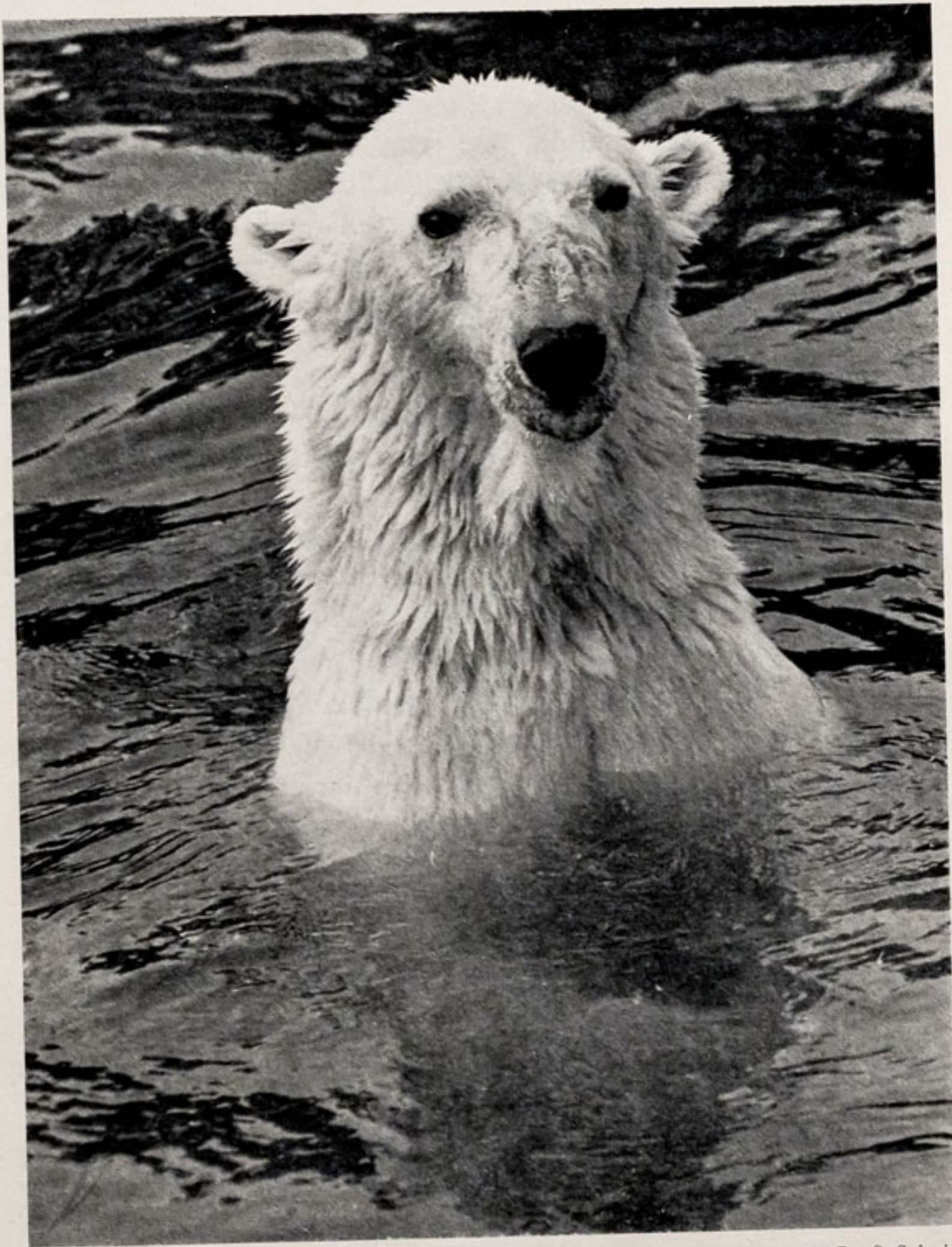
### POLAR BEARS

With the advent of some warm weather, visitors often ask how the temperature affects the various animals and most often mention the Polar Bears when referring to animals from a cold climate. Although they hail from Arctic regions Polar Bears do not seem to enjoy cold weather and appear happy lying in the sun during normal British summer weather. No doubt if the temperature were to rise much above 70°F they would suffer some discomfort but this does not happen too often and they have a very large pool in which they can cool off. During the winter the Zoo Polar Bears are loath to enter the water and gradually become more dirty coloured as the winter progresses but as soon as warmer weather arrives they spend a great deal of time bathing.

The large Polar Bear enclosure was built in memory of Miss Catherine Jane Tomkyns-Grafton, whose generous legacy made possible many improvements at Chester Zoo during past years.

Four Polar Bears, one male and three females, occupy this enclosure, which is No. 50 on the plan. The male is called "Rubble" and is almost sixteen years old; two of the females, "Rack" and "Ruin" are nineteen years old and these three all came from continental zoos. The fourth Polar Bear, "Mottie" was born at Chester Zoo during December, 1959.

The Polar Bear is distributed over the Arctic regions as far south as there are ice flows and are sometimes found a good distance from land on some of the larger ice flows. Normally in the wild state the Polar Bear feeds on seals which are stalked across the ice or ambushed when they come up through the ice to breathe. In addition fish, sea birds, reindeer and carrion, etc., are eaten



*Dr. S. Szinai*

POLAR BEAR

readily. During the Arctic summer they eat small quantities of moss and lichen, but are otherwise entirely carnivorous. On occasions they have been known to attack human beings but normally only on the provocation of extreme hunger. At the Zoo, the Polar Bears are fed a diet of raw fatty meat and fish.

Polar Bears live a very solitary life and wander over great distances in search of food, the sexes only coming together for mating during mid-summer. In the wild state the young are born during March and April in a den constructed by the female in the snow. When kept in Zoos the young are born from November to the end of January. From one to four youngsters have been recorded but the normal number is two. In captivity when breeding Polar Bears, some form of under-floor heating is required in the den where the female retires to give birth. The reason for this is that in the wild state the den is very small indeed and the Mother generates enough heat from her body to keep the youngsters warm.

One adaptation Polar Bears have to Arctic life, which visitors to a zoo seldom seem to notice, is the fur on the walking part of the feet. This has two main advantages in that it enables the Bear to get a grip on the ice and also acts as an insulator against the cold.

### HYACINTHINE MACAWS

This month's cover photograph shows our pair of Hyacinthine Macaws. These birds arrived at the Zoo during January 1964 and are now in beautiful condition. As their name implies they are a hyacinth blue colour and are considered by many authorities to be the largest members of the Parrot family.

Hyacinthine Macaws are found in thick forested areas of Brazil, south of the river Amazon. They spend a great deal of time in the trees, their flight rarely being prolonged or rapid. Their food in the wild state consists mainly of Palm Kernels, Nuts and various fruits, which are plentiful in this environment.

As with all the other Macaws, this species is very noisy, giving vent to loud raucous screams. They can be taught to talk, but our Hyacinthines, unlike most of our other Macaws, will not say a word.

At Chester Zoo, these Macaws occupy an enclosure on the Polar Bear side of the Parrot House. They have both an inside and outside aviary, but are generally considered a very hardy species, requiring very little heat even in the winter. Our Parrot House is provided with a small oil-fired hot air heater which keeps out the extreme cold.



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