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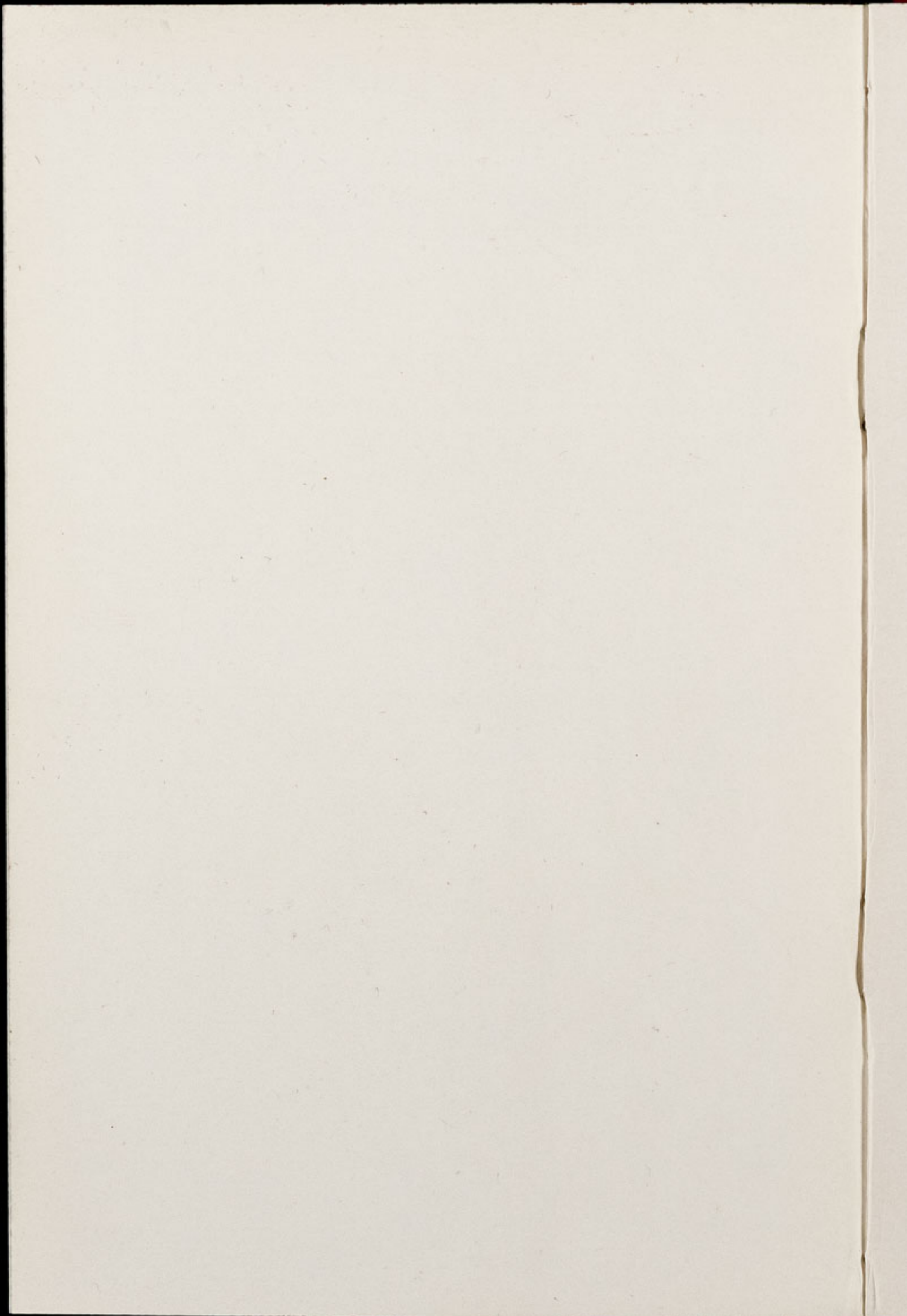
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

October 1966

Price 1/-



Editorial

We are pleased to be able to announce that our attendance has again passed the million mark — a day earlier this year than in 1965.

In this issue a long article has been included on Bushbabies as Pets, due to the large number of enquiries we receive about these animals.

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COVER: This month's cover photograph shows our African and four Indian Elephants.

From left to right: "Barbar" 33 year old female, "Jumbolino" 5 year old African Male, "Sheba" 10 year old female, "Judy" 10 year old female and "Nobby" 3½ year old male.

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ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

Our second South American Tapir was born on the 23rd August and like its step brother we are pleased to say it is doing well. Head Keeper Norman Sutton can be seen attending to both the Mother and the young Tapir in the photograph on page three.

Both youngsters are males and are very attractive, but the elder is beginning to lose its bright spots. Eventually they will lose their white markings, assuming a uniform dark brown colour.

The latest birth in the Monkey House is a Pig-tailed Monkey. Although these Monkeys cannot be described as attractive animals, they are a great show, especially the males who grimace and show their large fangs to passing visitors.

The third Red Lechwe to be born during 1966 arrived on September 23rd; this brings our herd to nine.

A male Arabian Gazelle was presented to us and was taken to the Birkenhead quarantine station. This Gazelle had been the mascot at the R.A.F. Idris, Libya and a special licence had to be obtained to fly him into the country — normally these animals are brought by sea. Zoo staff collected this newcomer from the R.A.F. Station in Lyneham, Wiltshire, and took him straight to our quarantine station, where he will remain for the twelve months quarantine period. Of the seven Arabian Gazelles in the collection, only one is on show in the Zoo; all the others are still in quarantine. Several will finish their quarantine period during the next few months, after which they will be moved to the Zoo.

In last month's "*Chester Zoo News*", we mentioned that the Coatis in the Mammal House had produced young, but we did not know how many. After five weeks in the breeding box six young Coatis emerged and joined the rest of the group.

A half grown Giant Anteater was presented to us by our good friends Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Rubenstein, and was flown to Ringway Airport, Manchester. At first this animal was accom-



S. W. Jacobsen, Liverpool Daily Post

HEAD KEEPER NORMAN SUTTON WITH MOTHER AND YOUNG TAPIR

modated in the Camel House in one of the four heated enclosures opposite the main inside dens for the Camels. Recently he has been introduced to the other Anteaters, which have a paddock at the rear of the Monkey House.

A Polecat was presented and has been housed in the Nocturnal House, where he has settled well. The Polecat is distributed over a large area of the Palaearctic Region but was almost exterminated in this country at the beginning of the 20th Century. At the present time Polecats are found in parts of Wales, especially central areas and possibly in the Lake District, Devon and Cornwall. Polecats reported from other parts of the country are far more likely to be escaped Polecat-Ferrets.

Towards the end of August 1965 a stag Axis Deer was presented to the Zoo and due to quarantine laws had to remain in our quarantine station for a full twelve months, but has now been transferred to the zoo.

A Pair of Palm Civets arrived in an exchange from the Rangoon Zoo. Both animals are in excellent condition and are most attractive exhibits. In general colouration these animals are dusky-grey with dark greyish-brown markings, and although not over friendly with their keeper, they are not wild and have settled very well in their new home. They are accommodated in the Mammal House where they have an inside and an outside enclosure and seem fairly active during the day, despite obviously being used to a nocturnal way of life.

This species of Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) is also known as the Musang or Toddy Cat. They have a wide distribution area in Ceylon, India, Southern China, S.E. Asia, East Indies and the Philippines.

In the wild state these Civets are said to be nocturnal, spending a great deal of their time in trees. In some areas they are often found close to human habitation probably due to the abundance of rats and mice in the vicinity. They are not entirely carnivorous animals and in addition eat fruit and berries. This diet is copied closely when keeping Civets in captivity; in addition to meat and chickens our Civets also receive chopped fruit and some brown bread.

The name of Toddy Cat has been given to this species as they are extremely fond of Toddy or Palm Juice, which is collected by the natives in parts of India.

There have been several new arrivals in the Reptile section over the past month — a Russell's Viper being the only venomous newcomer. This Viper is very attractively marked and coloured, being pale brown with three rows of black rings, enclosing a reddish-brown colour. Some Toxicologists consider this species to be more dangerous than the Cobra due to the toxicity of the venom and the large amount produced. Russell's Vipers are often found close to human habitation in India and South East Asia where they prey on mice and rats; this is the reason why there are so many fatalities from this species, as bare footed natives can easily tread on one and be bitten.

Other new arrivals in the Reptile House include a Boa Constrictor, Greek Tortoise, Box Turtle and a Red-eared Terrapin.

CLOUDED LEOPARDS

The latest arrivals in the Cat House are a pair of very rare Clouded Leopards. The male is eighteen months old and the female is about eight months old; both are in very good condition. As can be seen in the photograph on page 7 the coat of the Clouded Leopard is beautifully marked.

Little seems to be known about these cats in the wild state and they are a rarity in Zoos. Of course they are not actual Leopards, but belong to a group known as purring cats. One little known fact is that the upper canine teeth of the Clouded Leopards are relatively more developed than in any other cat, giving a Sabre-toothed Tiger-look to this species.

A fully grown male Clouded Leopard can reach a length of over six feet including a three foot tail, but females are somewhat smaller, measuring about five feet inclusive of tail.

The Clouded Leopard has quite a large distribution area, being found in Sikkim, Bhutan, Assam, Burma, Siam, Malay Peninsular, Borneo, Sumatra, Formosa and parts of mainland China. Observers in these areas tell us that Clouded Leopards rarely attack livestock. Our two new arrivals are very shy, only venturing into their

outside glass-fronted enclosure after dark. Their Keeper has to return in the evening to clean out their heated inside quarters as it was felt that it would disturb the animals if they were moved outside during the day. We are sure that the Clouded Leopards will eventually gain enough confidence to venture out of doors during the daylight, but it must be remembered that a worthwhile zoo tries to keep and breed rarities, even if they are not so spectacular as the more common animals.

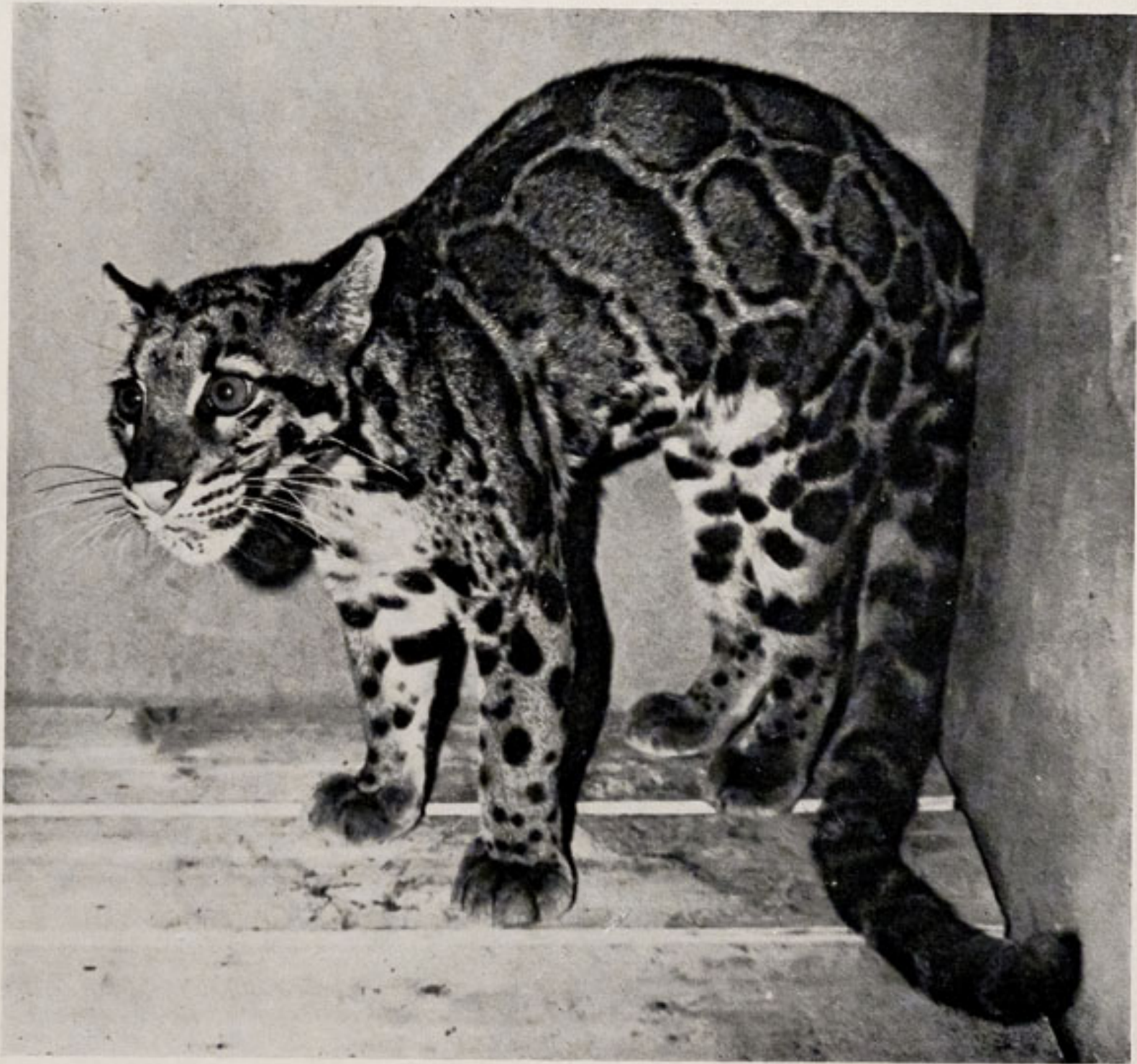
The Clouded Leopards at Chester Zoo are fed on a diet of lean meat fortified with vitamins and plenty of chickens. These chickens are bred at our own animal breeding unit, where a large number of mice, rats, rabbits and chickens are bred to feed the animals.

NEW LITERATURE ON ACCOMMODATION OF CAGE BIRDS

For some time now we have been concerned at the number of pet birds being housed in completely inadequate cages in which they have no room to exercise. We are pleased that the Avicultural Society have published a paper by Viscount Chaplin and C. J. O. Harrison, which sets out the minimum standard of Bird Cages relative to the size of the bird.

In this paper the authors recommend that a cage for a pair of birds should be at least $6\frac{1}{2}$ lengths long, 4 lengths high and 3 lengths deep, the length being that of the species concerned. Thus a cage for a pair of Budgerigars would be 52in. by 32in. by 24in., for a Canary or Greenfinch, 39in. by 24in. by 18in., and for a Waxbill, 26in. by 16in. by 12in. These of course are the minimum measurements for pairs of seed eating species and sizes for terrestrial and insectivorous species would be larger.

The sizes decided upon are based on the fact that in the authors' opinion the minimum length between the perches should be at least four times the total length of the bird. In addition there should be at least one length of the bird above and below the perch and just over one length between perch and cage end.



F. Woolham

MALE CLOUDED LEOPARD

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.

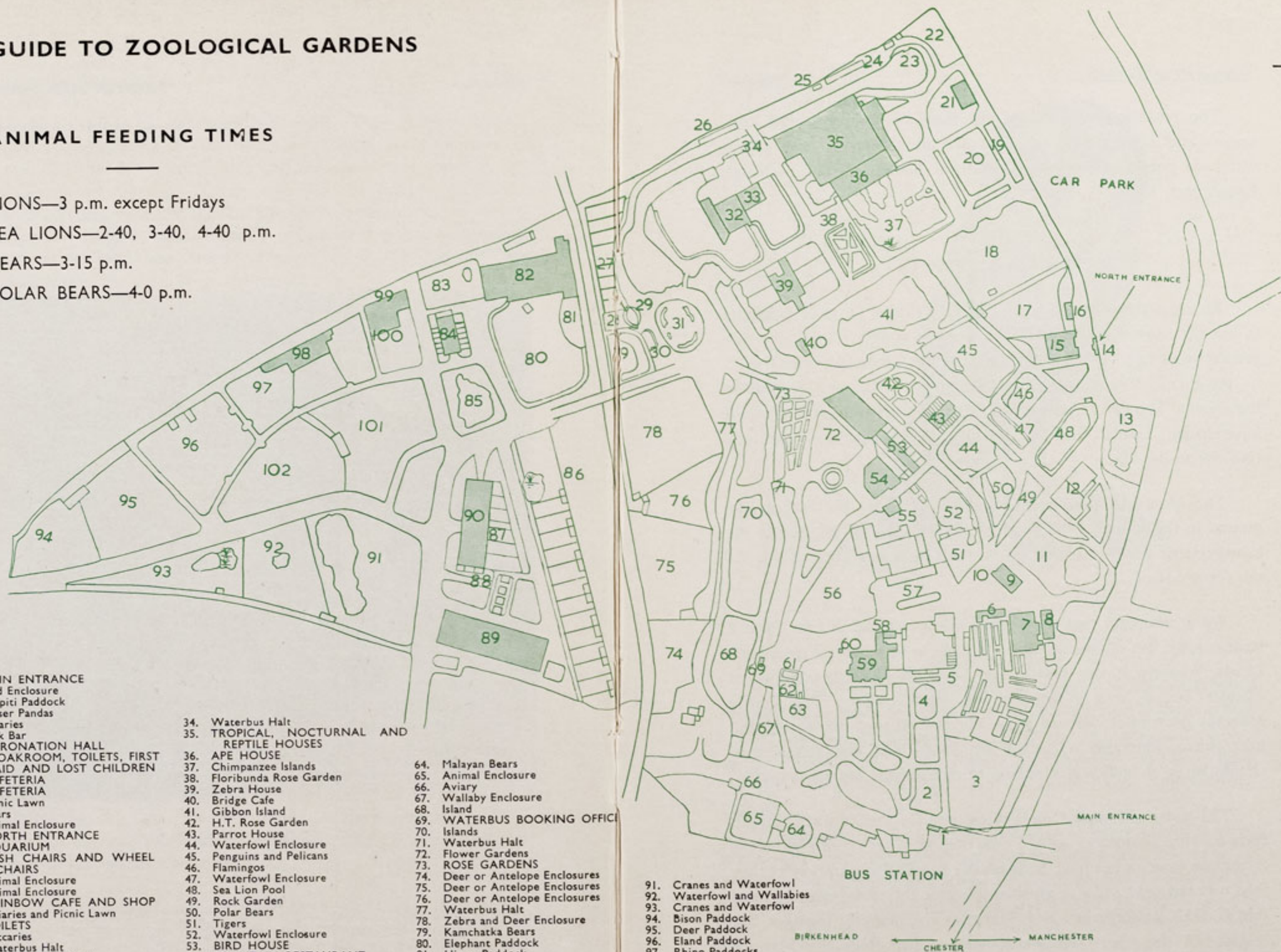
1. MAIN ENTRANCE
2. Bird Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Lesser Pandas
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS, FIRST AID AND LOST CHILDREN
9. CAFETERIA
10. CAFETERIA
11. Picnic Lawn
12. Bears
13. Animal Enclosure
14. NORTH ENTRANCE
15. AQUARIUM
16. PUSH CHAIRS AND WHEEL CHAIRS
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 provision of perches and their positioning, food containers and construction of cages are all covered in this paper, which is published by the Avicultural Society, Galley's Wood, Edenbridge, Kent.

PRAIRIE MARMOTS

Recent arrivals were a colony of eight Prairie Dogs or Marmots (*Cynomys ludocivianus*). We have kept Marmots in the Zoo for several years in a walled enclosure opposite the owl aviaries (No. 5 on the Plan). It was decided not to introduce the new arrivals to the original Marmots as space was rather limited and fighting would have ensued. Instead they were liberated in the large Eland paddock (No. 96 on the Plan).

The Marmots have been busy digging their burrows in the mound in the centre of the paddock, where they can be seen in the characteristic position reared up on their hind legs keeping a lookout for predators.

We are hopeful that these eight will breed and in time form a large colony, but of course, they will have to face natural predators. Stoats, Weasels, Foxes, Hawks and Owls are all fairly common at Chester Zoo as it is surrounded by open country. The Prairie Marmot hibernates deep in these burrows during the winter and may prove vulnerable to attack by Stoats but once established should breed in sufficient numbers to compensate for any losses.

The name of Prairie Dog is often used for these animals due to their barking alarm cry. At one time they were very common on the American Prairies but have been greatly reduced in numbers as they feed on crops and cause a considerable amount of damage. A local tale is that Rattlesnakes and Marmots live happily together but this is not the case. The Rattlesnake in fact finds the Marmot burrow an ideal hibernating place during the winter but will feed on Marmot whenever possible.



M. F. Coupe

BARN OWL

BIRD NOTES

A collection of Hummingbirds was purchased for the Tropical House, where they were released within the confines of the building.

The following six species arrived on the 20th August — Violet-eared, Blue-shirted Page, Blue-fronted Flying Dolphin, Blue-throated Amazilia, Rufous-tailed Amazilia and Royal Wood Nymph.

A new type of feeding bottle holder is being used for these birds. The nectar bottle is suspended in such a way that only the Hummingbirds, which feed whilst hovering, are able to drink nectar from the bottle. This enables the Hummingbirds to feed at any time; previously we found that when the Sunbirds were feeding from the bottles, the Hummingbirds could not get near. Although Sunbirds, especially smaller species, can feed whilst hovering they much prefer to be perched.

New arrivals in the Owl aviaries (No. 5 on the Plan) are a young Tawny Owl, the most common species of Owl found in this country — and two Barn Owls. Barn Owls have declined in numbers over the past few years, almost certainly due to the use of toxic agricultural chemicals.

A beautiful pair of Red-billed Toucans (*Rhamphastos tucanus*) were presented to us by Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Rubenstein and arrived on the same plane as the Anteater and Boa Constrictor, mentioned in this edition of the "Chester Zoo News". These Toucans have been accommodated in one of the aviaries at the lower level in the Tropical House.

The Red-billed is a medium sized Toucan and as its name implies has a mainly red-coloured beak. As can be seen in the photograph the Toucan's beak looks completely out of proportion to its body.

Toucans are found in the tropical forests of Central and South America; the Red-billed is distributed in South Venezuela, the Guianas and Northern Brazil.

ADVICE ON PET BUSHBABIES

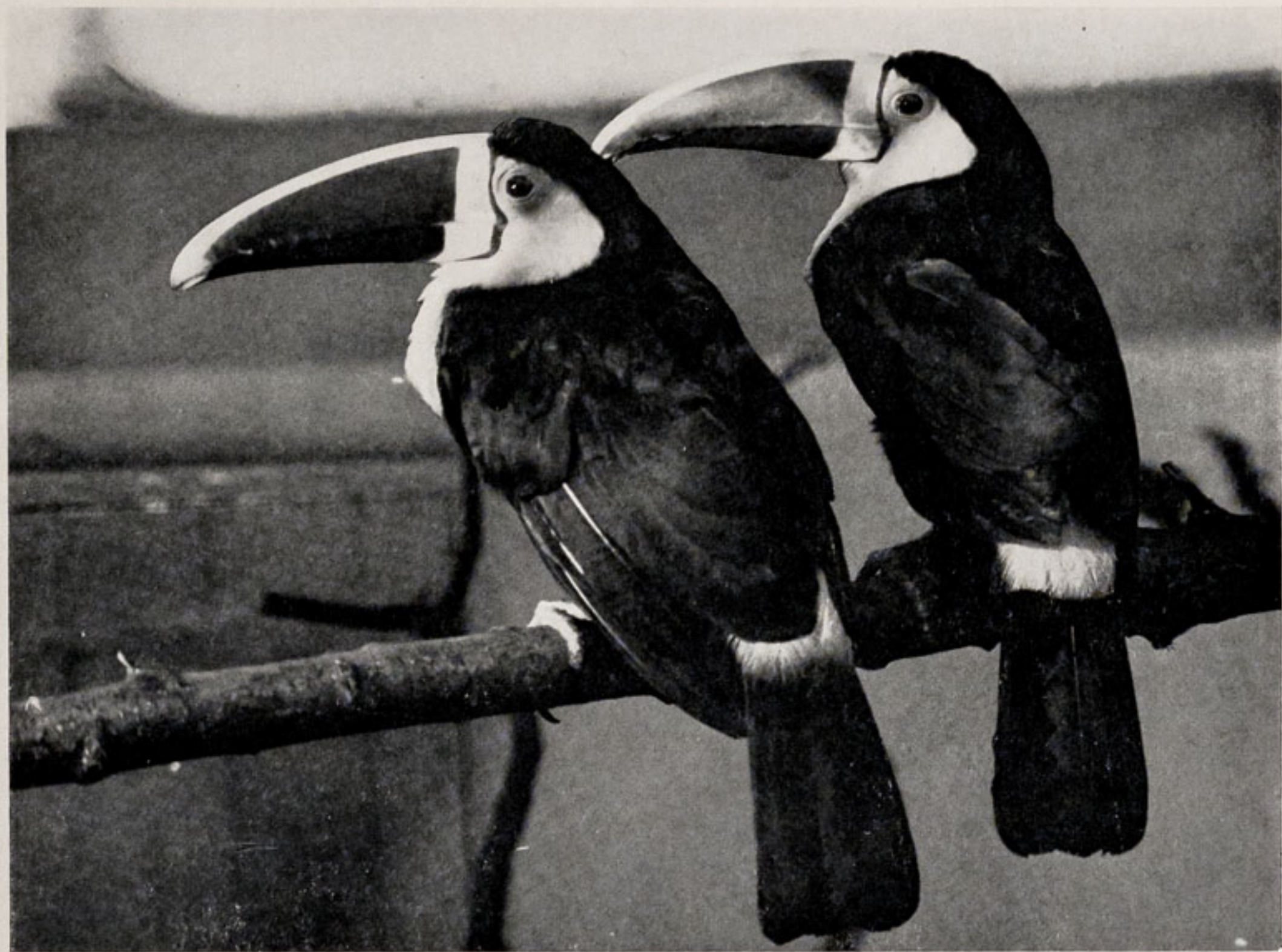
The Bushbaby is probably the best known of the exotic pets kept in this country. Although this name has often been applied to any soft furred animal, the true Bushbaby comes only from Africa.

The name Bushbaby originates because these animals always look young and are found in "Bush" countryside in Africa, south of the Sahara.

A more correct name for these animals is Galago, originating from their Latin name. There are four species — Galago alleni, Galgo crassicaudatus, Galago demidovi, Galago senegalensis and many sub-species. In addition, there are two species of Needle-clawed Bushbaby (*Euoticus*) but they are rarely imported into this country.

The largest species is the Bushy-tailed (*Galago crassicaudatus*) which has a body length of about fifteen inches and a tail slightly longer. The Senegal (*Galago senegalensis*) and Allen's (*Galago alleni*) are both about half the size of the Bushy-tailed and the Demidoff's is very small indeed, having a body length of about four inches and a tail about five inches long.

The Bushbaby looks very appealing; its large eyes, beautifully



RED-BILLED TOUCANS

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

soft fur, long tail, delicate hands and large almost transparent ears make it one of the most sought-after pets.

Senegal Bushbabies are the most widely distributed and most commonly imported species. Their fur is a pale grey above and a dull pale yellow below and their long tail is usually a little darker coloured.

These animals are not always as tame as one might imagine by their looks and they have very sharp teeth. A Bushbaby bite can turn nasty as the teeth are so sharp and pointed that very often they do not draw blood. This has the effect of almost injecting any infection from the Bushbaby's teeth. Some Bushbabies become very tame, but very few enjoy being stroked or handled in any way. However, many will enjoy jumping around the room in the evening and can be lured back to the cage with the aid of a few mealworms.

In the wild state Bushbabies are entirely Nocturnal and even when kept in captivity seldom become very active during the day. In fact, if disturbed too often during the day they will suffer in health and it is for this reason that at Chester Zoo these animals are housed in the Nocturnal House, where night and day are altered artificially. They are suitable as pets for people away from home during the day and are often kept in flats where domestic animals prove to be a nuisance. One rather nasty habit they have is to urinate on their hands to enable them to obtain a better grip when climbing or jumping.

The diet of Bushbabies in captivity has to be balanced carefully. Many people have been told by pet shop owners to feed their Bushbabies on Mealworms, Chocolate or anything they like. Of course this is totally wrong as these animals will gorge themselves on this type of food, but this will in time prove fatal.

In the wild state, Bushbabies feed mainly on insects, fruit and berries; in captivity their diet should consist of small pieces of ripe fruit, banana, pear, apple, etc., but be very careful with orange as this will cause stomach upsets. A little carrot and lettuce, brown bread or biscuit, Saval dog biscuit No. 2 can be given and is very nourishing. The addition of a few sunflower seeds and peanuts is also recommended. Mealworms should also be fed but be careful not to feed too many — as a rough guide, about ten per day should be adequate. Grasshoppers, Moths, etc., will also be eaten readily by all Bushbabies and can provide valuable food. Many authorities



SENEGAL BUSHBABIES

Daily Herald

Page Fifteen

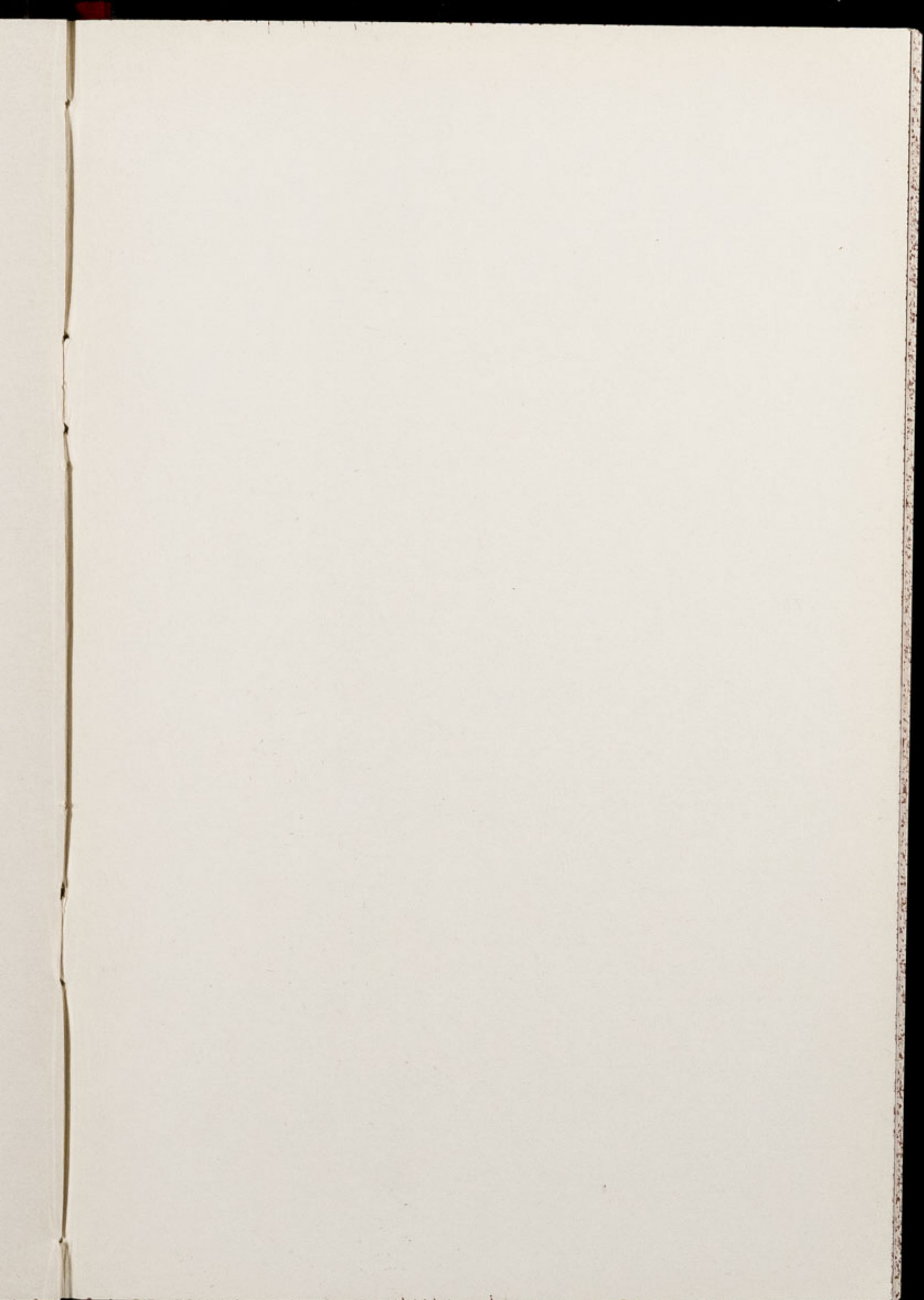
"CHESTER ZOO NEWS"

also recommend the addition of vitamins to the diet and this can easily be accomplished by adding a few drops of Abidec to the food or by giving the animal a piece of mineral block to chew. The type used for budgerigars is the easiest to buy. Either water or milk can be given to drink, and this needs changing every day.

The best container for both food and water is a small porcelain dish — the type bought at the grocers containing salmon spread is ideal, but any small dish will do. This diet seems rather complicated at a glance, but do remember not to give too much of any one item — a balanced mixture is far better.

As for housing a Bushbaby, this is not too difficult. If the animal is given the run of the room during the evening the accommodation can be quite small, but we would not recommend keeping one in a cage smaller than 2ft. long, 1ft. 6in. high and 1ft. deep. The best construction is of solid sides, roof, top and back with a wire mesh front and sliding tray bottom, similar to a bird breeding cage but with more height. When keeping a Bushbaby which cannot be let out, a far larger cage is required as these animals need a considerable amount of exercise. The cage should be provided with a sleeping box and a natural branch positioned from low one side to high up on the other side. The best covering for the sliding tray floor is sawdust which can be removed easily; blotting paper can be used if desired but never seems as satisfactory. Normal room temperature is adequate for Bushbabies but as with most other animals they are susceptible to draughts and care should be taken with the siting of the cage.

The taming of Bushbabies is quite easily accomplished with the use of food but of course some are more tame than others right from the start. In the normal way the Bushbaby is frightened and must be given time to settle into the new home. The Bushbaby will gradually become more friendly towards the person who is feeding him and should be encouraged to take food from the fingers. From there the animal can be taught to climb on one's shoulder by enticing him there with tasty food such as a mealworm. The Bushbaby will then become more tame but care should be taken to avoid sudden movements and to keep the animal away from small caged birds as they will be attacked. The way to make sure the Bushbaby returns to the cage is to lure him there with a few mealworms, but he will be difficult to capture if fed just prior to letting out.



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