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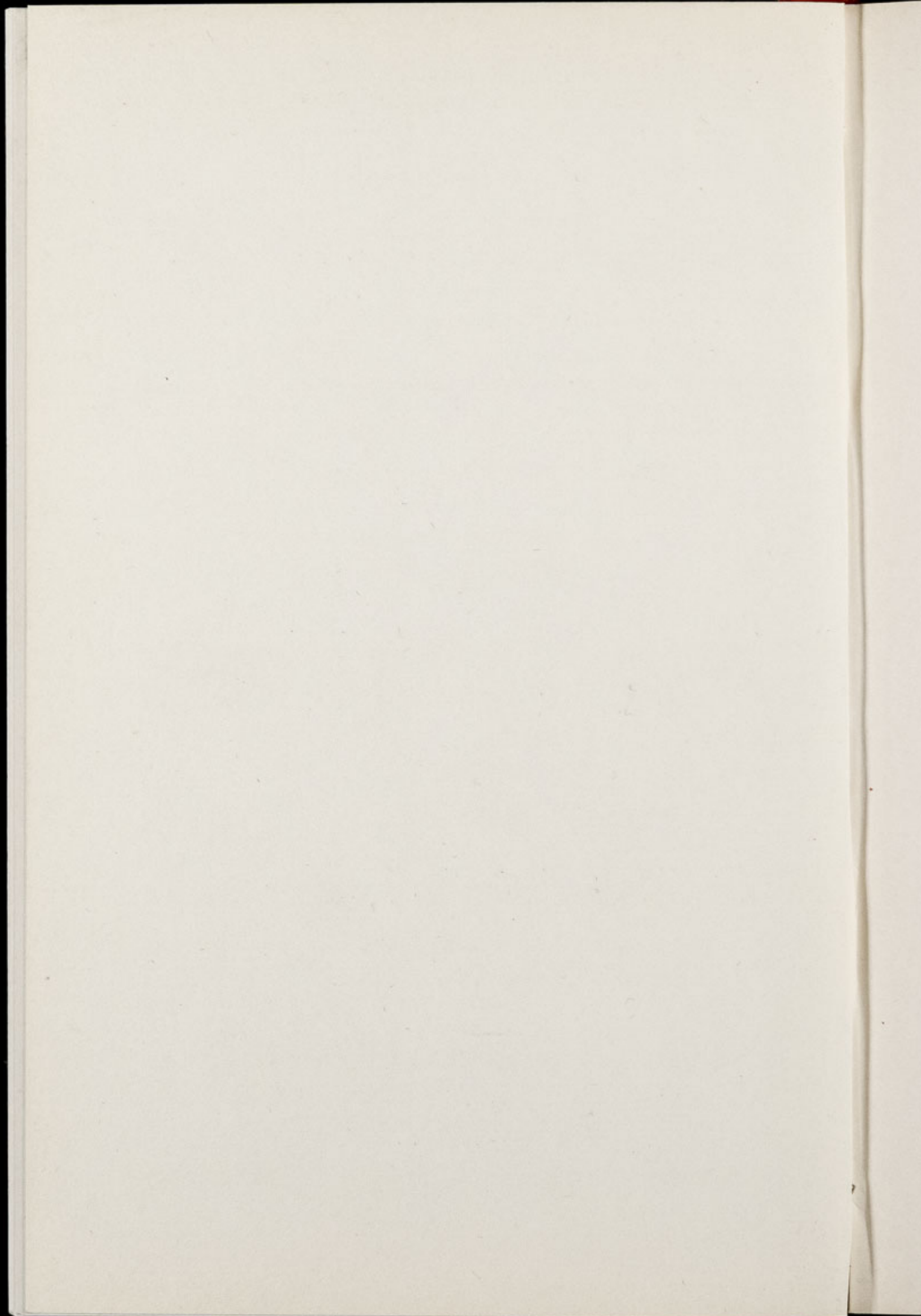
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

February 1975

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The North of England Zoological Society
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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COVER: Tiger cub Ranji with her mother; see page two.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION—ONE POUND AND FIFTEEN PENCE POSTAGE PAID
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COVER PHOTOGRAPH

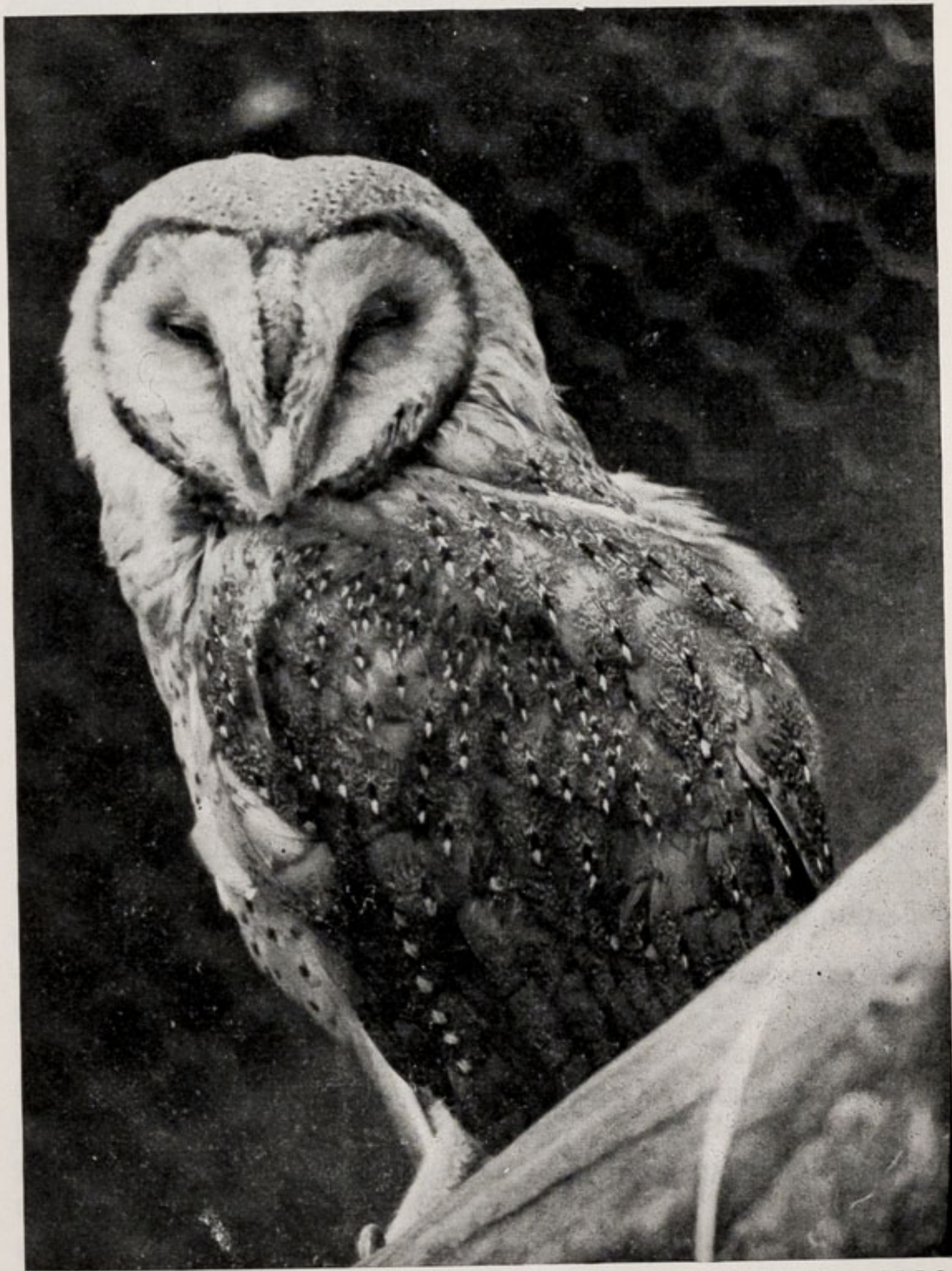
The subject of this month's cover photograph is the Tiger cub born at Chester Zoo last September. Keepers have now ascertained that the cub is a female and have named her Ranji. Since our last report Ranji and her mother have been allowed into the outer enclosure (No. 91) where they have been on exhibition to visitors for the first time. Watching this robust young Tiger at play with her mother, it may be difficult to imagine that the adult female destroyed her earlier litters at birth. Now she has gained maternal experience we are hoping that in future her cubs will be reared successfully.

RECENT ARRIVALS

There are no births or hatchings to report this month but several new specimens have been acquired.

An African Barn Owl (*Tyto alba affinis*) is the latest addition to the bird collection. Apparently this specimen flew on board a ship returning from Africa and on arrival in this country the bird was presented to Chester Zoo. It has been accommodated with several of the closely related European Barn Owls (*Tyto alba alba*) in one of the group of aviaries marked No. 5 on the zoo plan. The African race of Barn Owl is very similar to the European form except that it is a little darker and displays a lightly spotted breast. It is distributed over most of Africa south of the Sahara. The new Barn Owl is shown in the illustration on the right.

Whilst on the subject of owls, a new row of aviaries for these birds is now nearing completion. An old walled enclosure and the Quaker Parakeet aviary have been demolished to make way for the new aviaries which are situated on the opposite side of the pathway to the existing owl accommodation. In appearance the new flights will be in keeping with other aviaries completed recently in this



AFRICAN BARN OWL (*Tyto alba affinis*)

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

area. The latter aviaries, which have been described in earlier issues of the Zoo News, can be seen in the photograph on page five. As before, the long flight in the foreground houses a mixed collection of Finches, Weavers, Whydahs, etc. In the row of aviaries which is visible behind the long flight, we plan to exhibit various Lorikeets.

The remaining arrivals this month have been in the reptile section. Two juvenile Boomslangs (*Dispholidus typus*) and two Green Mambas (*Dendraspis augusticeps*) have already been placed on show. We were especially pleased to receive the Boomslangs, as one is an example of the green phase of this species which has not been exhibited at Chester before. The Boomslangs have been introduced into the Puff Adder vivarium. The Green Mambas are not new to the collection but both are good specimens.

A young Horned Viper (*Bitis caudalis*) was another arrival and this snake is now sharing a vivarium with a Cerastes Viper. The Horned Viper is a native of South Africa. It has a fairly stout body but few individuals reach more than fifteen inches in length. Above each eye the Viper displays a short, horn-like projection of skin. Horned Vipers occur in various colour phases and the specimen we have acquired is a most attractive reddish shade.

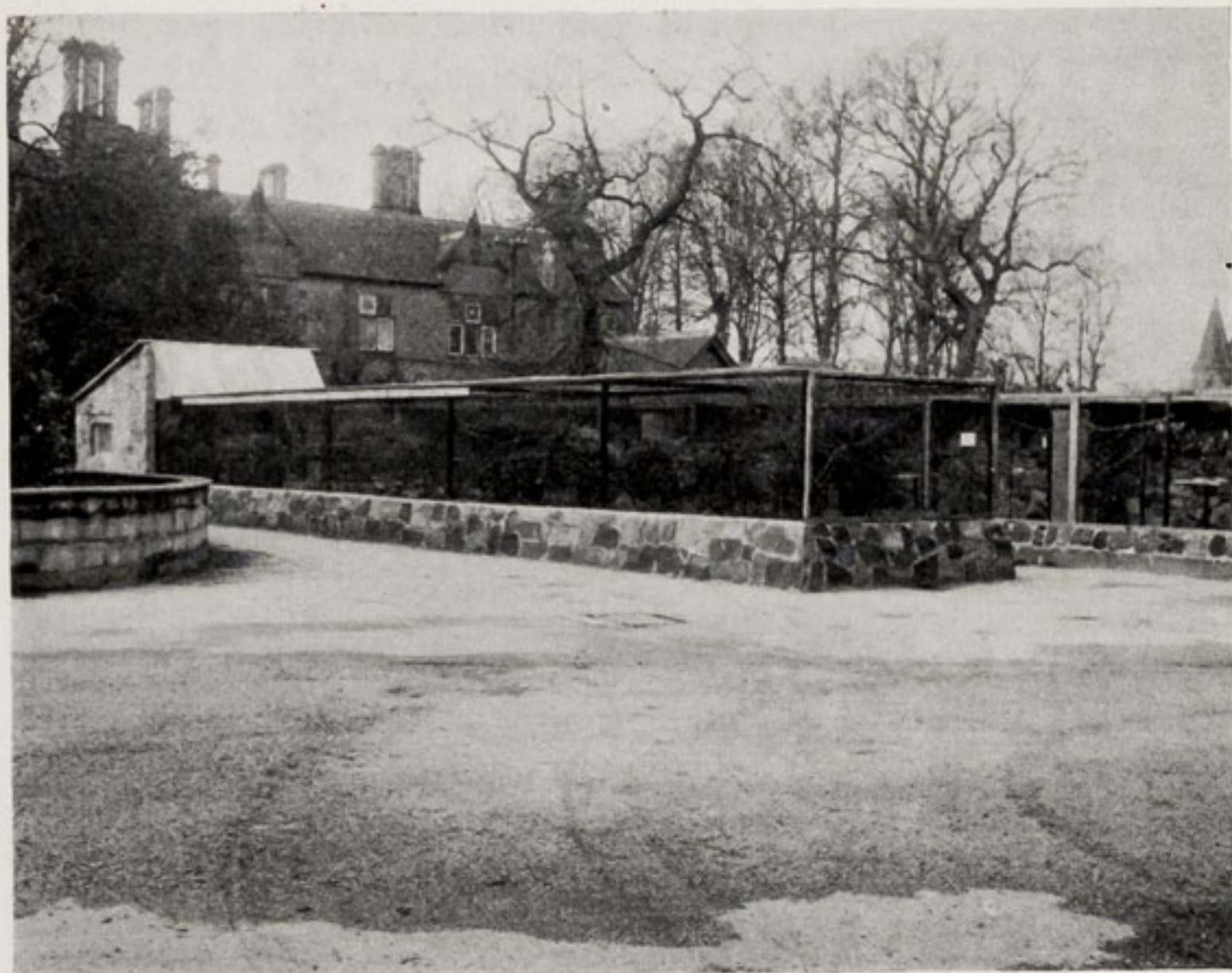
BREEDING RESULTS FOR 1974

At the end of the year stocktaking was carried out as usual in all the various animal departments. At 31st December, 1974 the collection (excluding fish) was estimated to comprise:

Mammals	842 specimens of 143 species
Birds	1,911 specimens of 285 species
Reptiles and Amphibians	215 specimens of 90 species

The following specimens were bred during the year:

	MAMMALS	No. Born	No. Reared	Sex M.F
Alpaca	<i>Lama pacos</i>	3	2	1.1
Baboon, Hamadryas	<i>Papio hamadryas</i>	3	1	1.0
Bear, hybrid	<i>Ursus arctos spp.</i>	2	2	1.1
Binturong	<i>Arctictis binturong</i>	1	—	(1.0)



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

NEW AVIARIES

Mammals—continued

		No. Born	No. Reared	Sex M.F
Bison, American	<i>Bos bison</i>	1	1	1.0
Blackbuck	<i>Antilope cervicapra</i>	3	2	2.0
Cattle, Highland	<i>Bos taurus</i>	4	4	1.3
Chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes</i>	2	1	1.0
Chinchilla	<i>Chinchilla laniger</i>	3	3	
Deer, Fallow	<i>Dama dama</i>	9	3	
Deer, Pere David's	<i>Elaphurus davidianus</i>	1	1	
Eland	<i>Taurotragus oryx</i>	1	—	
Elephant, Indian	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	1	—	(1.0)
Gazelle, Arabian	<i>Gazella arabica</i>	5	2	1.1
Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	1	—	
Gnu, White-bearded	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i> <i>albojubatus</i>	2	1	1.0
Goat, Bagot	<i>Capra hircus</i>	1	—	
Hippopotamus, Common	<i>Hippopotamus</i> <i>amphibius</i>	1	1	1.0

<i>Mammals—continued</i>		No. Born	No. Reared	Sex M.F
Jaguar	<i>Panthera onca</i>	3	3	
Kangaroo, Red	<i>Megaleia rufa</i>	1	1	1.0
Kudu, Greater	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	1	1	
Lechwe, Red	<i>Kobus leche</i>	6	2	1.1
Lemur, Ring-tailed	<i>Lemur catta</i>	2	2	1.1
Leopard, Amur	<i>Panthera pardus orientalis</i>	1	—	
Leopard, Common	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	2	—	
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	6	5	4.1
Llama	<i>Lama glama</i>	1	—	
Monkey, De Brazza	<i>Cercopithecus neglectus</i>	1	1	0.1
Monkey, Capuchin	<i>Cebus albifrons</i>	1	1	1.0
Monkey, Green	<i>Cercopithecus sabaesus</i>	1	1	1.0
Monkey, Mona	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	1	1	0.1
Monkey, Talapoin	<i>Cercopithecus talapoin</i>	1	1	1.0
Monkey, Vervet	<i>Cercopithecus pygerythrus</i>	1	1	1.0
Orang utan	<i>Pongo pygmaeus</i>	1	1	0.1
Prairie Marmot	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>		123 (approx)	
Puma	<i>Felis concolor</i>	4	4	
Sheep, Soay	<i>Ovis aries</i>	9	9	4.5
Squirrel, Grey	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	3	3	2.1
Squirrel, Sierra Leone	<i>Fumisciurus pyrrhopus</i>	8	8	
Striped	<i>leonis</i>			
Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	1	1	0.1
Viscacha	<i>Lagostomus maximus</i>	2	2	1.1
Wallaby, Bennett's	<i>Protemnodon rufogrisea</i>	19	10	
Wapiti	<i>Cervus canadensis</i>	2	2	1.1

In 1974 the most important breeding in the mammal section was the male Indian Elephant calf. It was a tremendous disappointment that this baby died shortly after birth as to the best of our knowledge, this was the first Elephant conceived and produced in a British zoo.

Other important breedings were the female Orang utan, the Ring-tailed Lemur twins and the female Tiger cub. At the time of writing all these young animals are thriving. Worth special mention also are the births of the Blackbuck, the Red Kangaroo and the Jaguars.

We were sorry to lose the baby Binturong, especially as this was the first produced at Chester Zoo. It was rejected by its mother at birth and was removed immediately from the breeding den. Every effort was made to hand rear the baby but it lived for only a week.

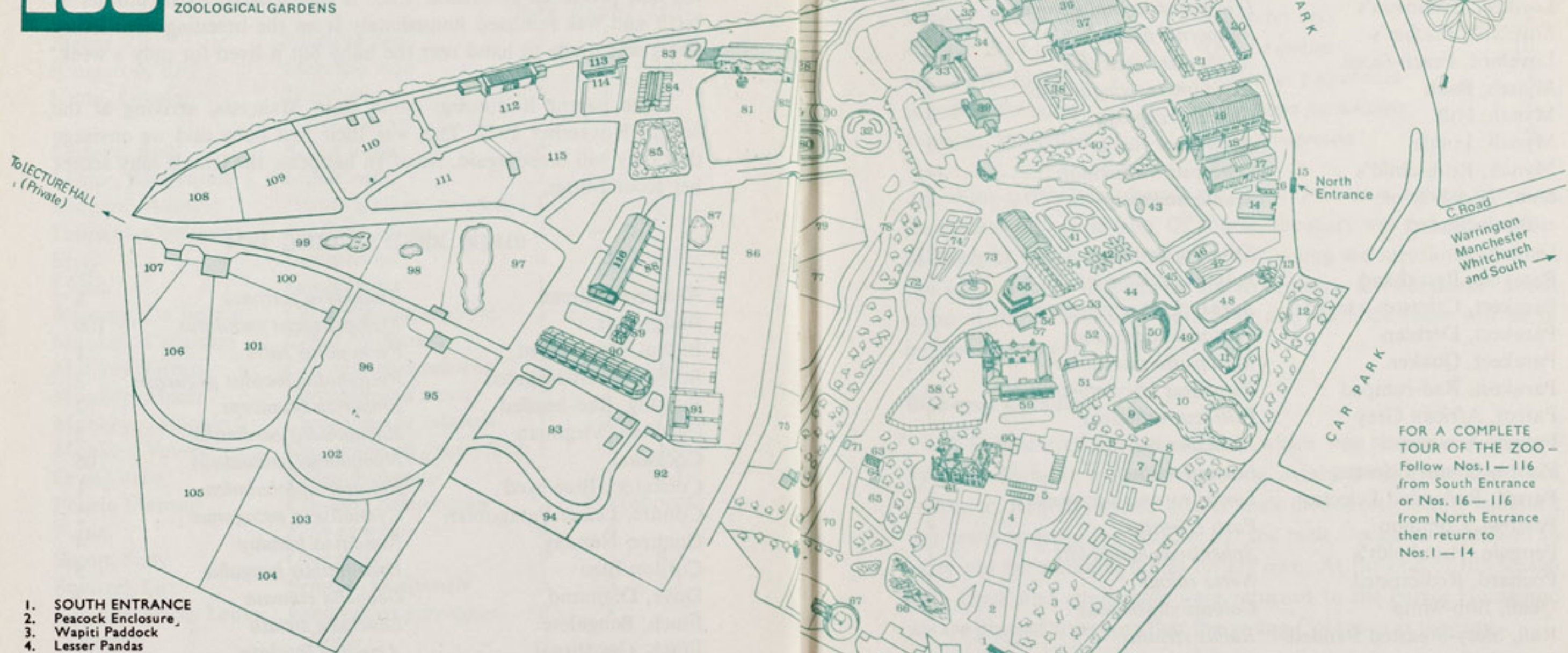
The parent Binturongs came from Malaysia, arriving at the zoo in November 1972. This was their first baby and we envisage that they will breed again. As often happens, the female may accept her second litter.

BIRDS BRED DURING 1974

		No.
Avadavat, Green	<i>Amandava formosa</i>	1
Budgerigar	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	100
Bulbul, Red-vented	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	1
Bulbul, Red-whiskered	<i>Pycnonotus jocosus peguensis</i>	2
Bunting, Red-headed	<i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>	2
Cardinal, Virginian	<i>Richmondea cardinalis</i>	2
Cockatiel	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	106
Cockatoo, Blue-eyed	<i>Kakatoe ophthalmica</i>	1
Conure, Lesser Patagonian	<i>Cyanoliseus patagonus</i>	2
Conure, Nanday	<i>Nandayus nanday</i>	4
Cordon Bleu	<i>Uraeginthus bengalus</i>	5
Dove, Diamond	<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	3
Finch, Bengalese	<i>Lonchura striata</i>	10
Finch, Cut-throat	<i>Amadina fasciata</i>	11
Finch, Green	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	10
Finch, Green Singing	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>	2
Finch, Zebra	<i>Taeniopygia castanotis</i>	15
Goose, Bar-headed	<i>Anser indicus</i>	2
Goose, Barnacle	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	1
Goose, Canada	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	2
Goose, Chinese (domestic)	<i>Anser cygnoides</i>	4
Goose, Lesser Snow	<i>Anser c. coerulescens</i>	1
Hoopoe, Thailand	<i>Upupa epops longirostris</i>	2
Ibis, Sacred	<i>Threskiornis aethiopicus</i>	3
Java Sparrow	<i>Padda oryzivora</i>	13
Laughing Thrush, Red-headed	<i>Trochalopteron erythrocephalum</i>	1
Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted	<i>Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus</i>	2

CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS



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

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. CHIMPANZEES
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 OFFICE AND KIOSK
72. Waterbus Halt
73. Fountain Flower Gardens
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

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

Animals may be moved from time to time.

<i>Birds—continued</i>		<i>No.</i>
Lorikeet, Swainson's	<i>Trichoglossus moluccanus</i>	2
Lovebird, Fischer's	<i>Agapornis fischeri</i>	19
Lovebird, Peach-faced	<i>Agapornis roseicollis</i>	13
Mynah, Bank	<i>Acridotheres ginginianus</i>	4
Mynah, Hill	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	2
Mynah, Jungle	<i>Aethiopsar fuscus</i>	3
Mynah, Rothschild's	<i>Leucopsar rothschildi</i>	(4)
Nun, Tricolour or Black-headed	<i>Munia malacca</i>	2
Ostrich	<i>Struthio camelus</i>	(2)
Parakeet, Barraband	<i>Polytelis swainsoni</i>	2
Parakeet, Crimson-winged	<i>Aprosmictus erythropterus</i>	1
Parakeet, Derbyan	<i>Psittacula derbyana</i>	2
Parakeet, Quaker	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	8
Parakeet, Red-rumped	<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i>	10
Parrot, African Grey	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>	2
Parrot, Amazon	<i>Amazona sp.</i>	3
Parrot, Grand Eclectus	<i>Lorius roratus</i>	1
Parrot, Red-sided Eclectus	<i>Lorius roratus pectoralis</i>	2
Peafowl, Common	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	8
Penguin, Humboldt's	<i>Spheniscus humboldti</i>	1
Pochard, Red-crested	<i>Netta rufina</i>	3
Quail, Bob-white	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	8
Rail, Slaty-breasted Banded	<i>Rallus striatus</i>	2
Rail, Weka	<i>Gallirallus australis greyi</i>	4
Starling, Blue-eared Glossy	<i>Lamprotornis chalybaeus</i>	1
Starling, Jerdon's	<i>Sturnus burmanicus</i>	5
Starling, Violet-backed or Amethyst	<i>Cinnyricinclus leucogaster</i>	1
Swan, Mute	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	2
Teal, Laysan	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> <i>laysanensis</i>	3
Waxbill, Golden-breasted	<i>Estrilda subflava</i>	2
Waxbill, Orange-cheeked	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>	2
Waxbill, Red-eared	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>	2
Waxbill, Sundervall's	<i>Estrilda rhodopyga</i>	2
Weaver, Little Masked	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>	1
Weaver, Napoleon	<i>Euplectes afra</i>	4

<i>Birds—continued</i>		<i>No.</i>
Weaver, Red Bishop	<i>Euplectes orix</i>	1
Weaver, Red-billed	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	10
White-eye, Indian	<i>Zosterops palpebrosa</i>	3
Whydah, Paradise	<i>Steganura paradisaea</i>	3
Whydah, Pin-tailed	<i>Vidua macroura</i>	2

With sixty-seven species reared, 1974 was a record breeding year in our bird collection. Of course, the story was not all successes and species which failed to rear their young are mentioned later in this issue. Firstly though, we are recording a few comments about some of the birds which were bred and we hope these will be of interest to readers.

Blue-eyed Cockatoo:

The Blue-eyed Cockatoo chick which was reared was hatched by a pair living in a special breeding aviary away from the main collection. Regrettably, the adult female died shortly before her chick was ready to leave the nestbox but the male Cockatoo continued to carry out the parental duties on his own. At the end of the season both chick and adult male were returned to the Parrot House and we are pleased to report that the young Cockatoo is thriving.

In late August, a second Blue-eyed Cockatoo was hatched by a pair in the Parrot House. Unfortunately this youngster died at a few weeks old following a period of torrential rain. This particular adult pair reared their first chick successfully in 1973. From all indications they were progressing satisfactorily with their second until shortly before its death and it seems probable that the young Cockatoo was lost as a result of the bad weather conditions.

Lesser Patagonian Conures:

The Lesser Patagonian Conure is becoming increasingly rare throughout its range in South America and it is essential that zoos and bird gardens channel their efforts into breeding and consequently

building up the captive stocks of these birds. The Lesser Patagonian Conures had bred at Chester Zoo only once before, in 1971, and we were therefore delighted when they went to nest for a second time last year. We now have a group of eight birds.

Sacred Ibis:

The breeding of three Sacred Ibis was pleasing and also rather unexpected. The adult birds did not arrive at the zoo until comparatively late in the season and we assumed that the upset of transportation would prevent them from nesting in 1974. However they settled down quickly in the large flight aviary, No. 18, and within a week or so a pair had commenced displaying. We placed nesting platforms among the taller shrubs and provided ample nesting material in the form of twigs. The first chick left the nest in June and was followed several weeks later by another two.

Red-headed Laughing Thrush:

The single chick was the result of three years' nesting attempts by this pair of Laughing Thrushes. During the two previous seasons the young had been lost in the nest, in 1973 as a consequence of the nest being flooded by a heavy downpour. At the beginning of the 1974 breeding season, the area of wire netting above the nest site was covered with plastic sheeting to prevent a similar catastrophe.

In the course of a discussion with Dr. Colin Harrison of the British Museum, it had been suggested to the Curator that we offered a different type of nesting material to the Laughing Thrushes. These birds belong to the Babbler family, the members of which fashion tightly woven nests from long lengths of vine-like material. Accordingly last year we provided the Red-headed Laughing Thrushes with coarse lengths of lucerne and various grasses. The fibrous roots of certain plants were also offered and the Laughing Thrushes accepted this material readily, constructing a substantially stronger nest than in either of the previous seasons. Approximately two weeks after the chick was fledged, a second clutch was laid but this

failed to hatch. We believe we may have achieved a first breeding in the British Isles of the Red-headed Laughing Thrush.

Parakeets:

Amongst the Parakeets reared, the Derbian are worth special mention as nowadays these birds are becoming rare in captivity. They originate from mainland China and in recent years few wild specimens have been available for collections. We are pleased to relate that the Derbian Parakeets at Chester have maintained a respectable breeding record, producing young during four out of the past six seasons.

We should mention at this point that we had a tremendous disappointment with the Splendid Parakeets (*Neophema splendida*). They nested twice and produced a total of seven young but owing to a series of complications, none were reared. We hope this pair will be more successful in 1975.

Slaty-breasted Banded Rails:

Our first breeding of this species occurred in 1973 when four chicks left the nest. Last year the pair of Slaty-breasted Banded Rails produced two chicks in their first clutch and both were reared to maturity. Shortly afterwards the adult pair went to nest again, this time laying three eggs. Unfortunately these chicks perished the day after hatching, the victims of the same period of bad weather which claimed the young Blue-eyed Cockatoo. It was then fairly late in the season and the adult pair did not attempt a third nesting.

North Island Weka Rails:

The Weka Rails bred for the fourth successive year and are now into their third generation at Chester Zoo. We were delighted to receive a request for information about the breeding of these birds from a research team based at the Paris Museum. This team is engaged in ornithological studies on Macquarie Island in the

The pair of Great Indian Hornbills (*Buceros bicornis*) did not reach the laying stage but they made a concerted effort to build their elaborate nest. Both are comparatively young specimens and we are hopeful that this year they will progress at least to the incubation of a clutch.

Probably the most disappointing and frustrating failures were experienced with the Rothschild's Mynahs and the Ostriches. In both cases the young were reared satisfactorily for a considerable time. In fact the Rothschild's chicks had left the nest and were almost independent when they succumbed to a parasitic infection.

Ostrich chicks are notoriously difficult to rear in this country. Just as we believed we had overcome the obstacles, the two chicks stopped feeding suddenly and collapsed and died within days of each other.

REPTILES BRED DURING 1974

		<i>No.</i>
		<i>Reared</i>
Bahaman Boas	<i>Epicrates striatus</i>	12
Hybrid Ratsnakes	<i>Elaphe obsoleta</i> spp.	10
Leopard Geckos	<i>Eublepharis macularis</i>	2

SUBSCRIPTION FORMS

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 shop. An annual subscription (12 issues) costs £1.15, postage paid, which can either be handed over the counter at the shop 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.

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

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