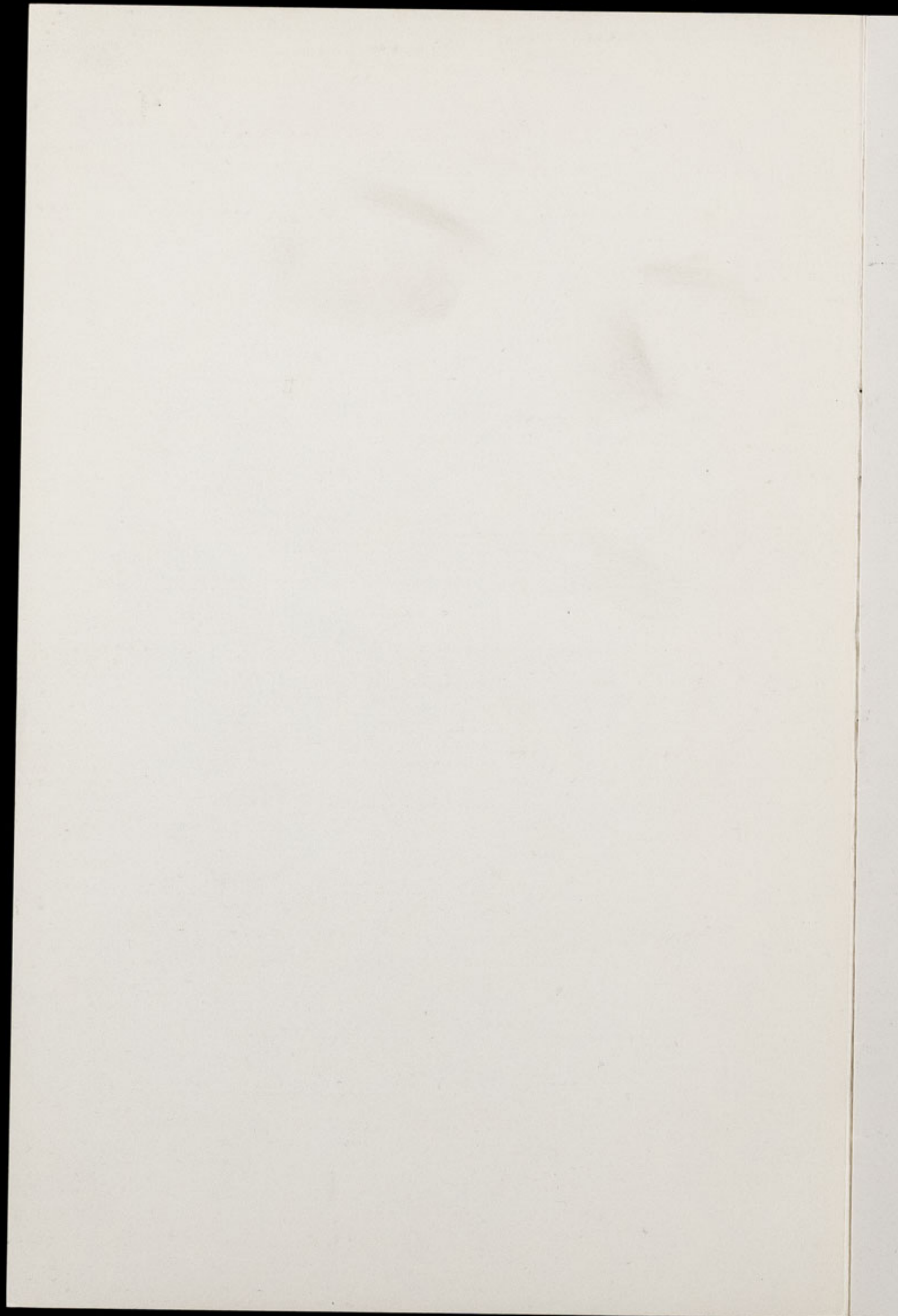


CHESTER ZOO NEWS
AND GUIDE

February 1974

Price 6p



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

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COVER: Hamadryas Baboons (Papio hamadryas) with baby born last year; see breeding list on page ten.

By Courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION — ONE POUND AND FIVE PENCE POSTAGE PAID

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ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

Since the last report the following mammal births have been recorded:

- 1 Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*)
- 1 Sierra Leone Striped Squirrel (*Fumisciurus pyrrhopus leonis*)
- 1 Eland (*Taurotragus oryx*)
- 1 Arabian Gazelle (*Gazella arabica*)

The mother of the latest baby Chimpanzee is a young female named Chi Chi which arrived at the zoo in 1968. Chi Chi's first baby was produced in June 1972 but it lived for only a day and consequently the young female had little opportunity to demonstrate her prowess as a mother. Since the birth of her second offspring, Chi Chi has pleased staff immensely by feeding and caring devotedly for the baby. It will be some weeks before Chi Chi is permitted to take the baby from the sleeping den into the inner Chimpanzee House enclosure where they can be seen by the public but if progress is maintained, it is hoped that eventually both Chimps will join another mother, Meg, and her baby, Lollipop, which was born in June of last year. Then at the commencement of the summer, the two females and babies will be given the freedom of one of the Chimpanzee islands. The latest baby has been sexed as a female, which is also good news, and her name is Hannah.

Amongst the new arrivals in this section is a handsome pair of Green Monkeys (*Cercopithecus sabaesus*). In the Monkey House, where the two specimens have been accommodated, there are several Vervet Monkeys (*Cercopithecus pygerythrus*) to which the Green Monkeys are closely related. This affinity between the two species is immediately apparent from the similarity of their general features and in the colours of their coats, which are basically yellowish

olive with lighter underparts. The Green Monkeys have a fairly widespread distribution in West Africa encompassing Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Ivory Coast and Ghana. In addition they have been introduced into St. Jago in the neighbouring Cape Verde Islands and into St. Kitts in the West Indies. Whilst Green Monkeys have not been exhibited at Chester for a few years, this species is by no means a newcomer to zoological collections and its breeding success rate has been good. In fact at one time it was one of the most commonly seen of the monkeys and many specimens entered this country via the ports, having been the pets of sailors. Our two monkeys have settled down in their new surroundings and it is hoped that before too long they will manage to breed.

A female Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) has also been received but this animal, together with two Nilgai destined for another zoo, is at present in quarantine at our premises in Birkenhead. As regulations demand that hoofed animals must spend a period of twelve months in quarantine, this female will not be joining the main herd of Nilgai at the zoo until the beginning of 1975.

BIRD NOTES

Pleasant as it is for visitors to walk around the grounds, the current spell of mild weather could mean disaster for some birds in the collection. The higher temperatures are encouraging some species to begin pairing far too early. In fact the Rothschild's Mynahs are already carrying nesting material to their box. A sudden fall in temperature now could cause the hens to become egg bound, a condition which can be fatal or at best an unpleasant experience for the birds. Naturally, the staff are maintaining a very close watch on all specimens which might be affected should winter arrive in earnest.

Recent additions to the bird collection have all been presentations to the Society. They are:

- 1 Red and Yellow Macaw (*Ara macao*)
- 1 Amazon Parrot (*Amazona sp.*)
- 1 Guinea Fowl (*Numida meleagris*)
- 1 White Pelican (*Pelicanus onocrotalus*)
- 3 Barnacle x Cackling Canada Geese
- 2 Red-crested x Common Pochard

A ZOO PATIENT

During the course of a year the veterinary staff at Chester Zoo are required to treat a wide range of patients, varying in size from tiny birds to elephants, and for a diversity of ailments. One of their recent patients was Rajang, a five and a half year old Orang-utan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) weighing sixty pounds. This animal was born at the zoo and for the past two years has shared a large enclosure in the Ape House, No. 19, with another six Orangs.

One afternoon Rajang was found with a fracture of the left leg, presumably as a result of a fall. He was immobilised and transported to the veterinary hospital for initial radiographic examination. This revealed a fracture of the left femur. The following morning Rajang was anaesthetised and a special stainless steel, intramedullary pin introduced into his femur. He made a good recovery from the operation and after spending a few days in the veterinary hospital, was returned to a separate cage in the Ape House.

It is now three weeks since the operation and his progress remains satisfactory. He is beginning to use his leg and if all goes well, it is hoped that the pin will be removed in approximately four to five weeks' time.

TEMPERATE BIRD HOUSE

Work has now commenced on the reconstruction of the Temperate Bird House, No. 54. It has been decided that the area of the existing structure will be altered only marginally and that the work will proceed in such a manner as to make complete demolition of the building unnecessary. This will be achieved by constructing one wall at a time on the outside of the existing wall and then dismantling the latter from inside. The first side of the building to be modified is that adjacent to the Fountain Restaurant gardens and here sandstone columns will be interspaced alternately with decorative and glass panels. It will be some time before work on this building is completed but progress reports will be published periodically.

AQUARIUM NEWS

Only three new specimens have been acquired for the Aquarium since the last report and all are colourful, tropical marine species. Two belong to the Butterfly Fish family and the third is a marine Angel fish.

Chaetodon lunula is probably the most frequently exhibited of the three new species and like the other two, its home is in coral reefs. Basically its body is yellow with brownish diagonal stripes. A black band runs through the eye on either side of the head and over the crown, behind which is a band of white. Several broad blackish stripes run diagonally from the white band to the centre of the back. A vertical black stripe is also present near the tail. Raccoon Butterfly Fish is a name often used for this species.

The second of the Butterfly Fishes, *Chaetodon semilavatus*, is almost totally yellow, with orange-brown, vertical stripes and dark blue cheek patches.

The third specimen is an Asfur Angelfish, a species recognisable by its bluish black body, bright yellow caudal fin and the single, broad, vertical, yellow stripe on either side of the body, which does not quite extend to the ventral fin. There is a closely related but distinct species of Angelfish which is similar in appearance to the Asfur, except that this yellow stripe is unbroken. All the new exhibits have been released into the tropical marine tanks.

REPORT FOR 1973

Following the annual stocktaking in December, as usual we are publishing a summary of the animals bred in the previous year, together with a few statistics and comments which it is hoped will be of interest.

With regard to admission figures, the "million mark" was passed in October and the total number of visitors for the year was 1,012,404. Of these 199,218 paid the extra admission charge for the Tropical House and 243,054 for the Aquarium.

At 31st December 1973, the specimens in the collection (excluding fishes) were estimated to be:

Mammals	861 specimens in 148 species
Birds	1,785 specimens in 257 species
Reptiles and Amphibians	204 specimens in 92 species

The following species were bred in 1973:

	MAMMALS	No. Born	No. Reared	Sex M.	Sex F.
Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta aguti</i>	2	2		
Alpaca	<i>Lama pacos</i>	3	3	3	0
Ape, Barbary	<i>Macaca sylvana</i>	1	1	0	1
Ass, Asiatic Wild	<i>Equus hemionus onager</i> <i>x Equus hemionus kulan</i>	1	1	1	0

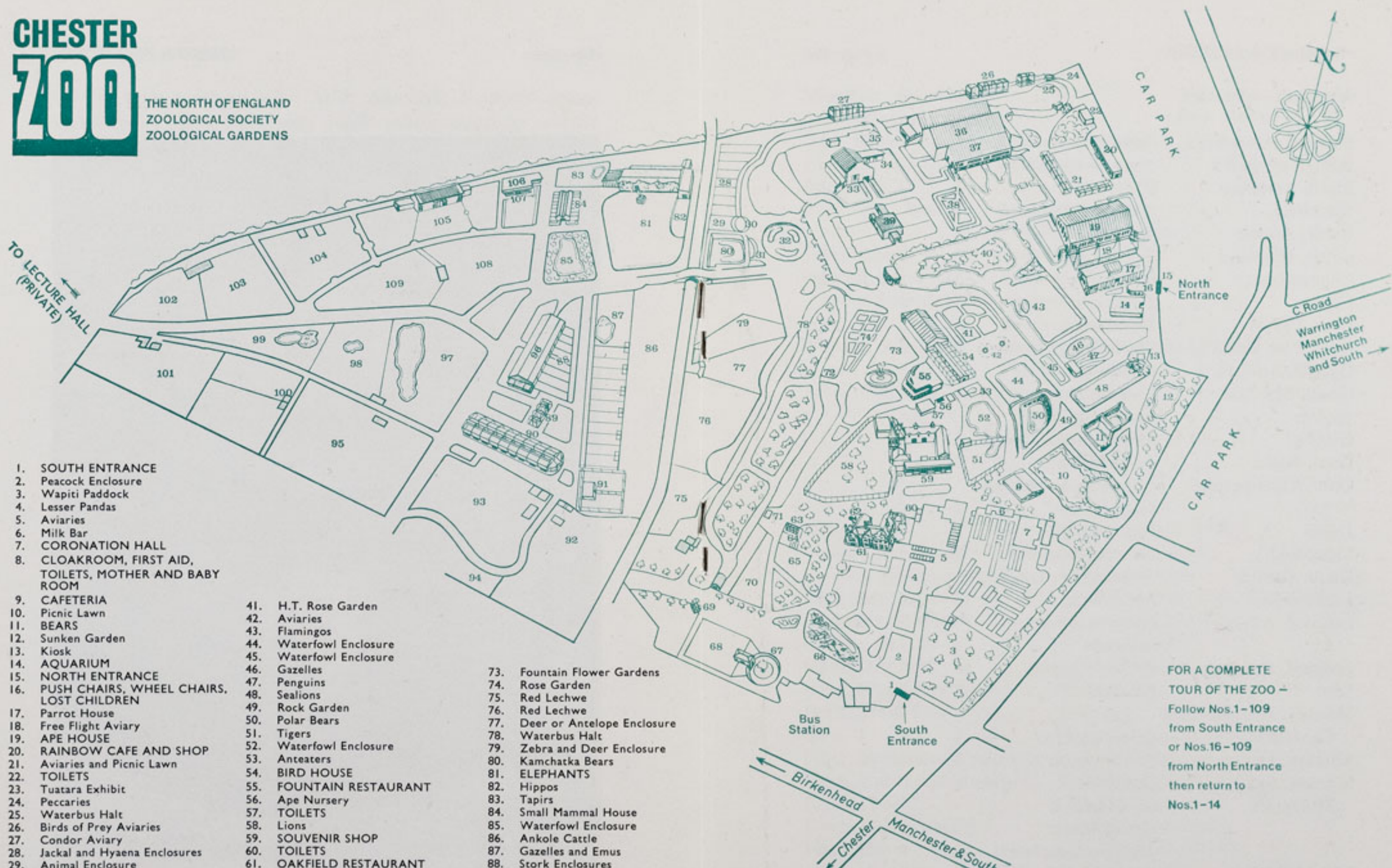


K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

WHITE-FRONTED CAPUCHIN MONKEY AND BABY (*Cebus albifrons*)

CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS



- 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 Hyena 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. CHIMPANZEEES
- 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. Gazelles
- 47. Penguins
- 48. Sealions
- 49. Rock Garden
- 50. Polar Bears
- 51. Tigers
- 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. Gazelles and Emus
- 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 and Llamas
- 96. MONKEY HOUSE
- 97. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 98. Wallabies and Waterfowl
- 99. Cranes and Waterfowl
- 100. Blackbuck

- 101. Alpacas
- 102. Bison Paddock
- 103. Pere David's Deer Paddock
- 104. Eland and Marmots
- 105. RHINO HOUSE
- 106. TOILETS
- 107. Mpila Snack Bar and Kiosk
- 108. Antelope Enclosure
- 109. Antelope Enclosure

Animals may be moved from time to time.

FOR A COMPLETE TOUR OF THE ZOO - Follow Nos.1-109 from South Entrance or Nos.16-109 from North Entrance then return to Nos.1-14

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

Mammals—continued

		No. Born	No. Reared	Sex M. F.
Baboon, Hamadryas	<i>Papio hamadryas</i>	1	1	0 . 1
Bear, Kamchatka	<i>Ursus arctos collaris</i>	1	—	
Bison, American	<i>Bos bison</i>	3	3	2 . 1
Blackbuck	<i>Antilope cervicapra</i>	1	—	
Cattle, Ankole	<i>Bos taurus</i>	1	—	
Cattle, Highland	<i>Bos taurus</i>	3	2	2 . 0
Chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes</i>	3	2	0 . 2
Coypu	<i>Myocastor coypus</i>	4	4	
Deer, Fallow	<i>Dama dama</i>	8	5	2 . 3
Deer, Père David's	<i>Elaphurus davidianus</i>	5	5	0 . 5
Gazelle, Arabian	<i>Gazella g. arabica</i>	5	5	
Genet, Blotched	<i>Genetta tigrina</i>	1	—	
Gerbils	<i>Various species</i>		205	
Giraffe	<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>	1	1	0 . 1
Goat, Bagot	<i>Capra hircus</i>	2	1	
Gnu, White-bearded	<i>Connochaetes taurinus</i>			
	<i>albojubatus</i>	3	2	0 . 2
Jaguar	<i>Panthera onca</i>	3	—	
Jaguarundi	<i>Felis yagouaroundi</i>	2	2	
Kudu, Greater	<i>Tragelaphus strepsiceros</i>	1	1	
Lechwe, Red	<i>Kobus leche</i>	12	6	2 . 4
Leopard, Amur	<i>Panthera pardus</i>			
	<i>orientalis</i>	4	—	
Leopard, Common	<i>Panthera pardus</i>	10	8	4 . 4
Lion	<i>Panthera leo</i>	8	7	4 . 3
Monkey, White-fronted				
Capuchin	<i>Cebus albifrons</i>	1	1	1 . 0
Monkey, De Brazza	<i>Cercopithecus neglectus</i>	1	1	0 . 1
Monkey, Sykes x Moloney's	<i>Cercopithecus albogularis</i> <i>albogularis x</i> <i>Cercopithecus</i>			
	<i>albogularis moloneyi</i>	1	1	1 . 0
Monkey, Talapoin	<i>Cercopithecus talapoin</i>	1	1	1 . 0
Monkey, Vervet	<i>Cercopithecus</i>			
	<i>pygerythrus</i>	1	1	1 . 0
Mouse, Spiny	<i>Acomys cahirinus</i>		149	
Nilgai	<i>Boselaphus</i>			
	<i>tragocamelus</i>	2	—	

Mammals — continued

		No.	No.	Sex	
		Born	Reared	M.	F.
Oryx, Beisa	<i>Oryx gazella beisa</i>	1	—		
Puma	<i>Felis concolor</i>	3	3	2	1
Rats, Nile	<i>Arvicanthis niloticus</i>		48		
Rhinoceros, Black	<i>Diceros bicornis</i>	1	1	0	1
Sealion	<i>Zalophus californianus</i>	1	—		
Sheep, Soay	<i>Ovis aries</i>	8	6		
Squirrel, Sierra	<i>Fumisciurus</i>				
Leone Striped	<i>pyrrhopus leonis</i>	1	1		
Tiger	<i>Panthera tigris</i>	3	—		
Wallaby, Bennett's	<i>Protemnodon rufogrisea</i>	23	22		
Wapiti	<i>Cervus canadensis</i>	4	2	0	2
Zebra, Common	<i>Equus burchelli granti</i>	1	1	0	1

BIRDS

		No.
		Reared
Budgerigar	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	138
Bunting, Red-headed	<i>Emberiza bruniceps</i>	1
Bunting, Yellow-breasted	<i>Emberiza aureola</i>	2
Cockatiels	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>	81
Cockatoo, Blue-eyed	<i>Kakatoe ophthalmica</i>	1
Conure, Nanday	<i>Nandayus nanday</i>	4
Dove, Diamond	<i>Geopelia cuneata</i>	3
Duck, Khaki Campbell	<i>Domestic</i>	4
Duck, White Call	<i>Domestic</i>	2
Emu	<i>Dromaius novae-hollandiae</i>	4
Finch, Bengalese	<i>Louchura striata</i>	10
Finch, Cut-throat	<i>Amandina fasciata</i>	5
Finch, Green	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	29
Finch, Green Singing	<i>Serinus mozambicus</i>	2
Finch, Zebra	<i>Taeniopygia castanotis</i>	5
Goose, Barnacle	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	1
Goose, Domestic		1
Goose, Snow	<i>Anser coerulescens</i>	1
Java Sparrow	<i>Padda oryzivora</i>	8
Lorikeet, Louisiade	<i>Trichoglossus haematod</i> <i>aberrans</i>	2

Birds—continued

		<i>No. Reared</i>
Lorikeet, Swainson's	<i>Trichoglossus moluccanus</i>	2
Lovebird, Fischer's	<i>Agapornis fischeri</i>	10
Mynah, Jungle	<i>Aethiopsar fuscus</i>	5
Mynah, Rothschild's	<i>Leucopsar rothschildi</i>	2
Parakeet, Barraband	<i>Polytelis swainsoni</i>	3
Parakeet, Quaker	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	6
Parakeet, Red-rumped	<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i>	8
Parrot, Grand Eclectus	<i>Lorius roratus</i>	2
Rail, Slaty-breasted	<i>Rallus striatus</i>	4
Rail, Weka	<i>Gallirallus australis greyi</i>	3
Rhea, Common	<i>Rhea americana</i>	2
Starling, Jerdon's	<i>Sturnus burmanicus</i>	9
Waxbill, Orange-cheeked	<i>Estrilda melpoda</i>	2
Waxbill, Red-eared	<i>Estrilda troglodytes</i>	3
Waxbill, Sundervall's	<i>Estrilda rhodopyga</i>	2
Weaver, Little Masked	<i>Ploceus luteolus</i>	2
Weaver, Red-billed	<i>Quelea quelea</i>	5

REPTILES

		<i>No. Reared</i>
Hybrid Ratsnakes	<i>Elaphe obsoleta spp.</i>	4

It is pleasing to record that the breeding of the Slaty-breasted Rail (*Rallus striatus*) has been confirmed as a "first" in this country. All four chicks from the clutch are growing strongly and at the moment are in the process of acquiring adult colouration. The photograph on the opposite page was taken in November when they were almost three months old but still displaying juvenile plumage. Visitors will be able to locate the Slaty-breasted Rails in the group of aviaries marked No. 54 on the zoo plan.

Worthy of special mention also is the breeding of the Blue-eyed Cockatoo (*Kakatoe ophthalmica*), a probable second achievement in the British Isles.



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

YOUNG SLATY-BREASTED RAIL (*Rallus striatus*)

There were disappointments in the bird breeding as well. A pair of Red-rumped Green Woodpeckers (*Picus erythropygius nigrigensis*) hatched two chicks in a nest in an upright hollow log. The photograph on the right shows both handsome adult birds near the entrance to this nest. Unfortunately the chicks were thrown to the ground, one being nine days old when it was found and the other about two weeks. As far as we know, in this country at least, this is the first time Red-rumped Green Woodpeckers have attempted to breed. The species has a distribution in Burma and Thailand and this particular pair was obtained in July 1971.

The Woodpeckers are accommodated in one of the aviaries already mentioned, No. 54, and a short distance away in the same group is a pair of Variegated Laughing Thrushes (*Trochaloptera variegatum*), natives of northern India. These birds arrived in November 1972 and at the start of last season it was evident they would go to nest. They succeeded in hatching three chicks which progressed well until a night of torrential rain in early summer. Unprotected from the elements, the nest was washed away, with the consequent loss of all the chicks. The Thrushes did not attempt to nest again last year but we are hoping they will have better luck in 1974.

Another first breeding might have been achieved with the Rufous Tree Pies (*Dendrocitta vagabunda*). This pair hatched a clutch of five eggs. Three chicks disappeared at an early stage but the remaining two seemed healthy and there were great hopes that they would be reared. It was with some dismay therefore that staff found the chicks dead on the ground at a fortnight old. The incident coincided with the Easter weekend and we feel sure that the sudden appearance of thousands of people after the relative solitude of the winter was just too much for the parent birds.

Finally, there was tremendous disappointment that the Red-tailed Black Cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus magnificus*) failed once more to rear their young. At the beginning of the season the pair



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

PAIR OF RED-RUMPED GREEN WOODPECKERS (*Picus erythrogygius nigrigensis*)

was transferred to the quiet aviary off show from the public where they have built nests for the past three years. Two eggs were laid but only one hatched and this chick died in the nest at the age of approximately one and a half weeks. Later in the year, after the Cockatoos had been returned to their aviary in the Parrot House, the nest was examined and the unhatched egg found to contain a dried chick.

It is somewhat heartening that after three years of failures, the Blue-eyed Cockatoos managed eventually to rear a fine, healthy, chick and we are hoping that this will prove the case with the pair of Red-tailed Black Cockatoos.

OBITUARY

It is with much regret that we have to record the death of Mr. Alan Corbet Johnson on Friday, 25th January 1974. Mr. Johnson became a Member of the Society in 1936 and was elected to the Council of the Zoo in 1946, in which capacity he served continuously until the time of his death. Mr. Johnson was a generous donor to the zoo, particularly of animals, which included our large Orang-utan, Paul. We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow and his three daughters.

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 £1.05, 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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