



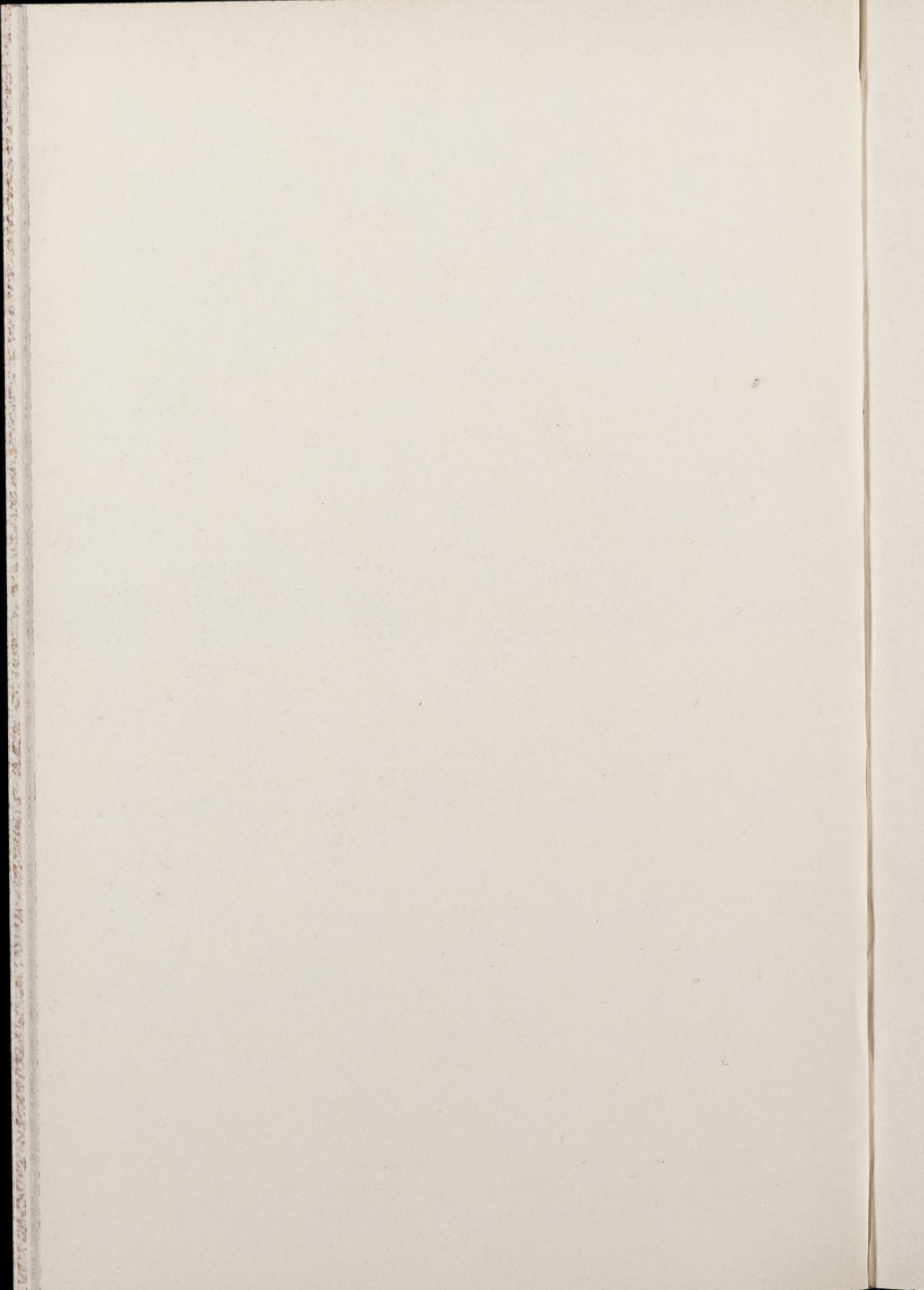
By Courtesy of J. Gwyn Jones, Esq.

Chester Zoo News

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

July, 1964

Price 1/-



Editorial

Approximately three hundred and fifty guests attended the opening of the Tropical House on Saturday, 13th June. In introducing County Alderman Miss G. M. Russell Allen, Mr. Mottershead said that Miss Allen had been one of the founder members of the North of England Zoological Society and it was therefore appropriate that she should open the Tropical House on this the Society's thirtieth anniversary. Miss Allen referred to the fact that the Society began with exactly £13 in the Bank and said that for Chester Zoo number thirteen could never be considered unlucky.

Telegrams of congratulations and good wishes were received from the Directors of Zoos throughout the world.

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COVER: Our Cover Picture this month shows one of Chester Zoo's Polar Bears dozing in the sunshine.

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Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

BABY PRAIRIE MARMOT AND MOTHER

ZOO BABIES

PRAIRIE MARMOTS: Three baby Prairie Marmots have been seen popping in and out of the holes in their enclosure, opposite the Owl Aviaries. All the babies were born during the month of June.

BAGOT GOAT: Another youngster was added to the Bagot Goat exhibit on the 9th of June.

HIGHLAND CATTLE: Our pair of Highland Cattle had their second calf — a little bull — on the 17th of June. The Highland Cattle are in the paddock opposite the Rainbow Shop.

BIRDS: There were a number of hatchings in the bird section in June, including Pennant, Ring-necked, Crimson-wing, Stanley Rosella and Golden-mantled Rosella Parrakeets and three Lesser Snow Goslings.

AMERICAN SKUNK: We reported the birth of baby skunks last month, but were uncertain as to the number. We now find that there is only one baby. A box was specially prepared for the mother but she ignored this, dug a hole under the box and had her baby there.

CARACAL LYNX: The Caracal Lynx twins born on the 16th of May were found to be male and female and the names chosen for them are "Nina" and "Frederick".

PUMAS: The Puma triplets born on the 28th of May are all females.

CHIMPANZEE: "Jeannie", the young Chimpanzee formerly in the Monkey House has been transferred to the Ape House. There she shares an enclosure with "Algie" and "Jane", two slightly larger Chimpanzees. Although smaller, Jeannie is definitely in charge of the trio and made this quite clear from the first.

HONOUR FOR MR. MOTTERSHEAD



D. A. Wright — Liverpool Post & Echo

The Degree of Master of Science (Honorary) was conferred on Mr. George S. Mottershead, Director-Secretary of Chester Zoo, at Manchester University on the 9th of July. In presenting Mr. Mottershead, Professor Oliver spoke of Chester Zoo's small beginnings and its high standing in the Zoo world today. The above photograph is of Mr. Mottershead showing the new Tropical House to his nine-months-old granddaughter, Miss Joy Williams. Joy was one of the youngest guests at the opening of the House on Saturday, 13th June.

DIARY OF PURCHASES AND PRESENTATIONS

3rd June — Miss Russell Allen presented a Californian Quail. This bird has chosen the highest spot in the Tropical House for his particular territory and spends most of the day trotting backwards and forwards along a narrow beam, almost forty feet above the ground.

5th June — Taccazi, Scarlet-chested and Yellow-winged Sunbirds were released in the Tropical House.

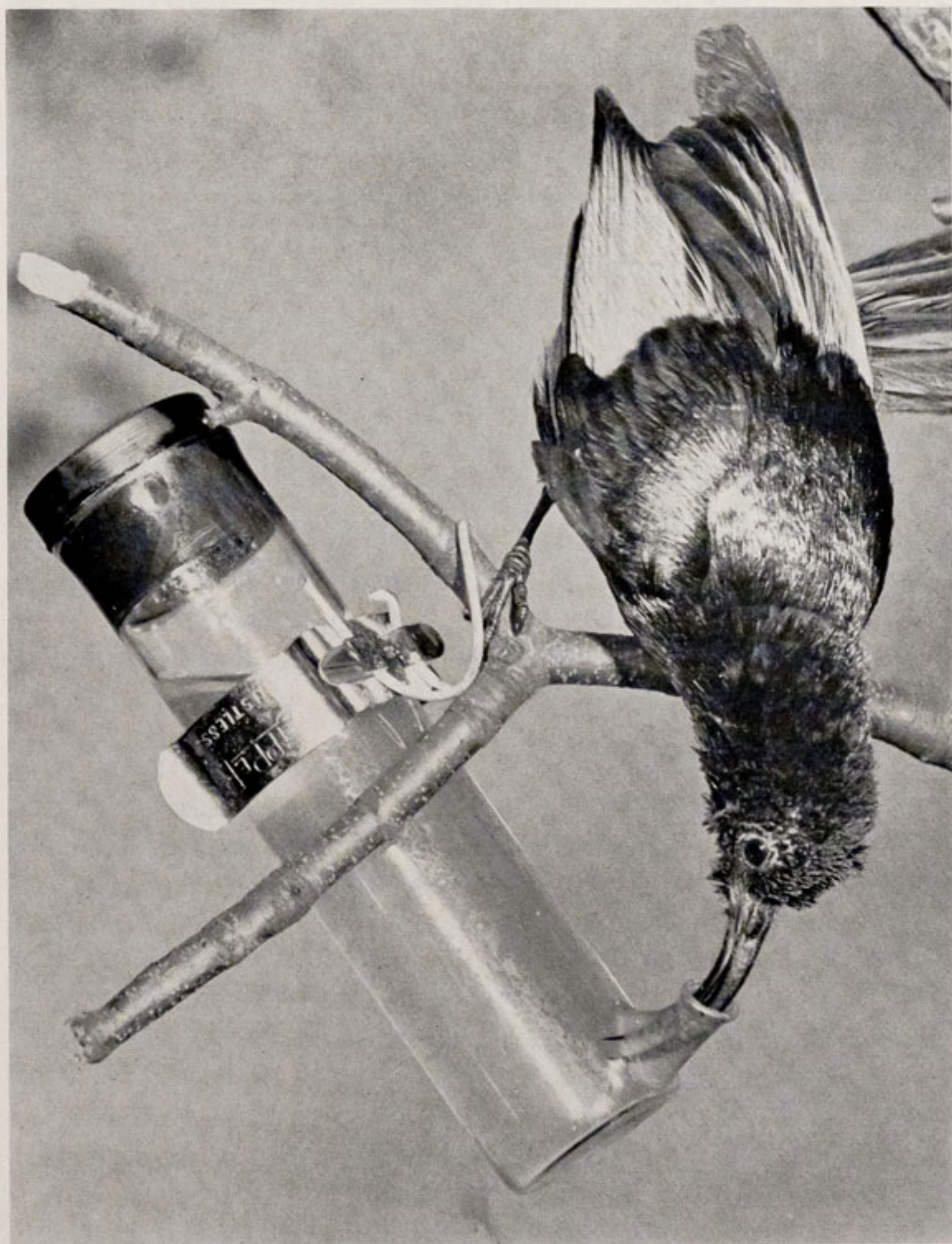
10th June — We received another collection of small birds destined for the Tropical House. The new arrivals included Purple-banded Sunbirds, Yellow-winged and Black-headed Sugarbirds, a pair of Indian Pittas and a pair of silver-throated Tanagers.

13th June — A further Taccazi Sunbird was released in the Tropical House. Three British Adders, caught near Abersoch in North Wales, were the gift of Mr. J. Whitworth.

26th June — A consignment of Reptiles from Accra in Ghana was collected from Manchester Airport by Zoo Staff. The consignment included a Black and White Cobra, a Black-necked or Spitting Cobra four African Beauty Snakes, an African Egg-eating Snake and a Herald Snake, three Nile Monitor Lizards and twelve Igama Lizards.

27th June — Zoo Staff paid a second visit to Manchester Airport to collect a number of interesting new exhibits for the bird section — these were White-cheeked Touracos, Go-away Birds and three Quetzals. Quetzals live in the mountainous forests of Central and South America and are the national birds of Guatemala. At one time the Quetzal was worshipped by the Aztecs and Mayas of South America as the "god of the Air" and the long tail plumes of the male bird were treasured for ceremonial use. The birds were captured and released again after the tail feathers had been plucked.

30th June — Once again we wish to thank Major and Mrs. C. R. Rubenstein of Surinam for their generous presentation of a collection of birds, mammals and reptiles. The new arrivals from South America were a pair of Pacas, one Capuchin and three Squirrel Monkeys, seven Marine Toads, two baby Common Iguanas, a



J. Gwyn Jones

YELLOW-WINGED SUNBIRD FEEDING

Brazilian Tortoise, a Black-pointed Teguxin, three pairs of South American Lined Finches and a young Dusky Parrot. Pacas have not previously been exhibited at Chester. These animals are members of the rodent family, found along the banks of dense marshes in Central and South America. Their colouring is reddish brown on the back and yellow on the belly. Pacas also have three or four long white stripes on each side of the body.

PLANTING OF THE NEW TROPICAL HOUSE

To continue with the description of the planting in this house — in our last issue we had reached the half way stage and we now move to the largest bed in the house, already named "the jungle" by the gardening staff. In this bed have been planted tall growing subjects, most of which will reach the apex of the house in a few years. Included in this collection are *Tristania conferta*, *Sideroxylon inerme*, *Dombeya cayeuxii*, *Calestemons* (the bottle brush trees) in variety, *Phyllanthus rosea*, *Dizigotheca elegantissima*, *Datura suaveolens* (the trumpet flower of which we have several fine examples in the Elephant and Monkey Houses) and large specimen plants of the tropical Hibiscus in a variety of colours. These lovely shrubs are already established and flowering freely.

In "the jungle" there are also *Stenocarpus sinuatus*, *Malvaviscus conzatti* and *arboreus*, *Luculia pinceana*, *Albizia fulbrissii*, *Polyscias guilfoylis*, *Persea Americana*, *Musa paradisiaca* (another Banana which grows to thirty feet), *Clerodendron Bakerii*, *Punica granatum* (Pomegranate), *Myoporum laetum*, *Rondeletia odorata*, Avocado Pear, *Dracaena draco* (the Dragon Tree from the Galapagos Islands), Oleanders in variety, *Sanchezia nobilis variegata*, *Brunfelsia laurifolia*, *Cycus circinalis* (Sago Palm) and varieties of *Acalypha*—all of these underplanted with *Canna* lilies.

Alongside the raised walk to the top of the house is a wide trough in which is a large collection of the smaller growing and trailing tropical plants, including the following — *Pilea grandis*, *microphylla* and *cardierii*, *Asplenium bulbifrum*, *Asparagus plumosus* and *sprengerii*, *Columnea Banksii*, *Crotons*, *Tradescantias* in variety, *Begonia rex*, *Piper ornatum*, *Jacobineas*, *Aechyanthus speciosus*, *Plectranthus oertindahlii*, *Vinca rosea* and *alba*, *Setcreasea*, *Medinilla magnifica*, *Maranta*, *Calatheas* in variety, *Peperomias*, etc.



Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

HEAD GARDENER, MR. PHILIP W. GALLUP, ADJUSTING THE BROMELIADS REFERRED TO IN LAST MONTHS ARTICLE.

Also planted in this trough are various climbers to be trained up the concrete pillars and on over the public walk. These include *Stephanotis floribunda*, *Passifloras*, varieties of *Bougainvillea*, *Dipladenia coliviensis* and *sanderii*, *Manettia inflata*, *Clytostoma callistegioides*, *Rhodochiton atrosanguineum*, *Cissus discolor*, *Clerodendron Thompsonii* and *Allamanda Hendersonii*.

We have a staged group at the entrance to the house, in which will be shown tropical plants not suitable for permanent planting. At the time of writing it includes *Anthuriums*, *Caladiums*, *Gloriosas*, *Dendrobiums*, etc. It is in this group that our collection of *Orchids* will be shown when in flower.

This concludes the description of the planting of the Tropical House and covers most of the plants introduced so far. We shall add to this collection as various worthwhile plants come to hand.

GIFT TO CHESTER ZOO

We wish to express our gratitude to Mr. A. E. Smith of Caldy, a Patron of the North of England Zoological Society. At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Society Mr. Smith presented the Zoo with a cheque for £1,000 towards the cost of replacing those elephants lost during the outbreak of anthrax in mid-March. During the meeting Members recorded their appreciation of the donations received from friends everywhere.

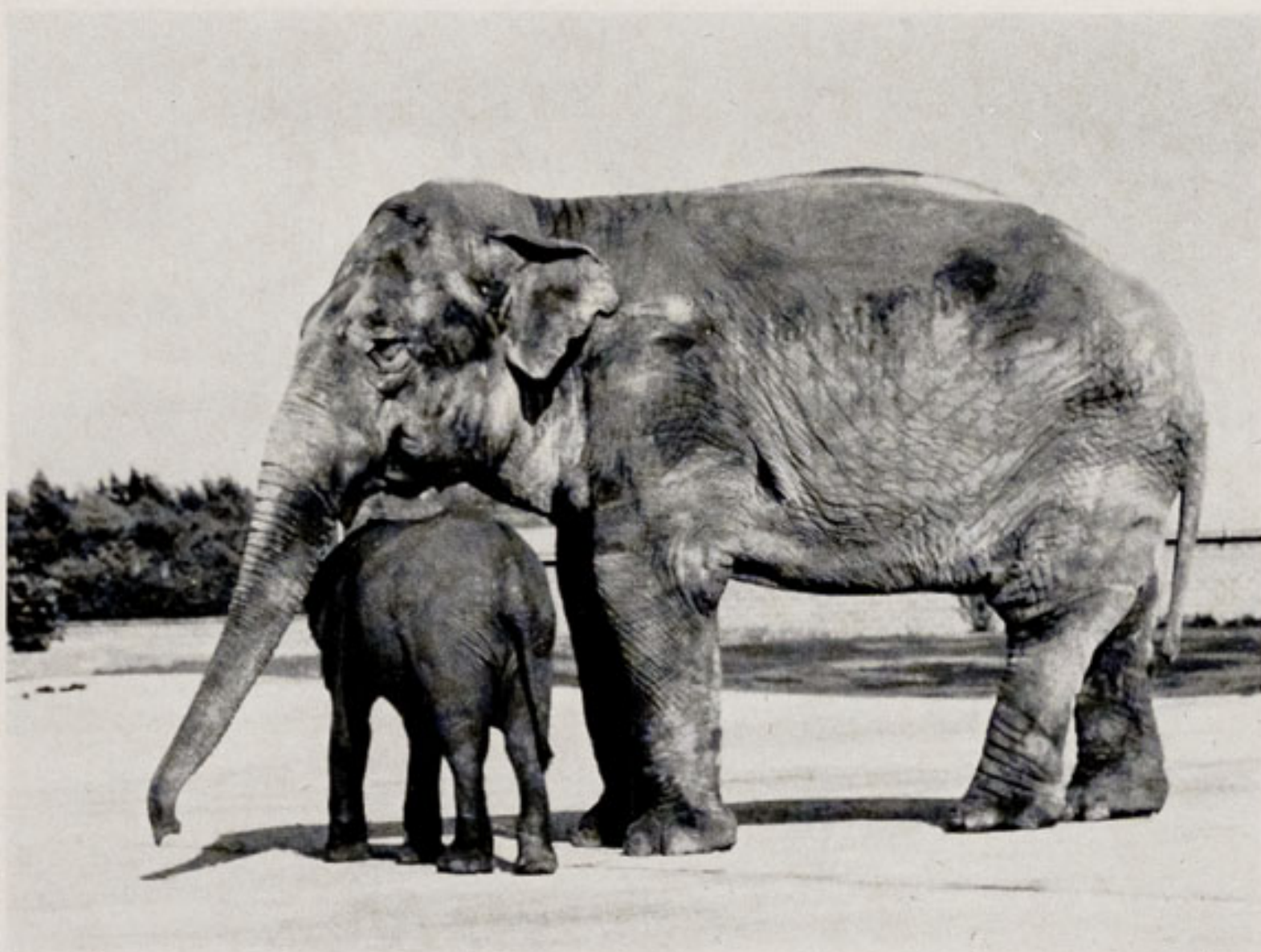
ABOVE "Barbar" usually ignores the babies but in this picture
RIGHT she stands protectively over Gina, who is completely dwarfed by her companion's impressive bulk.

BELOW The picture opposite was taken very soon after Gina
RIGHT arrived on the 14th of May. Obviously she did not enjoy being photographed as she only raises her ears when annoyed.

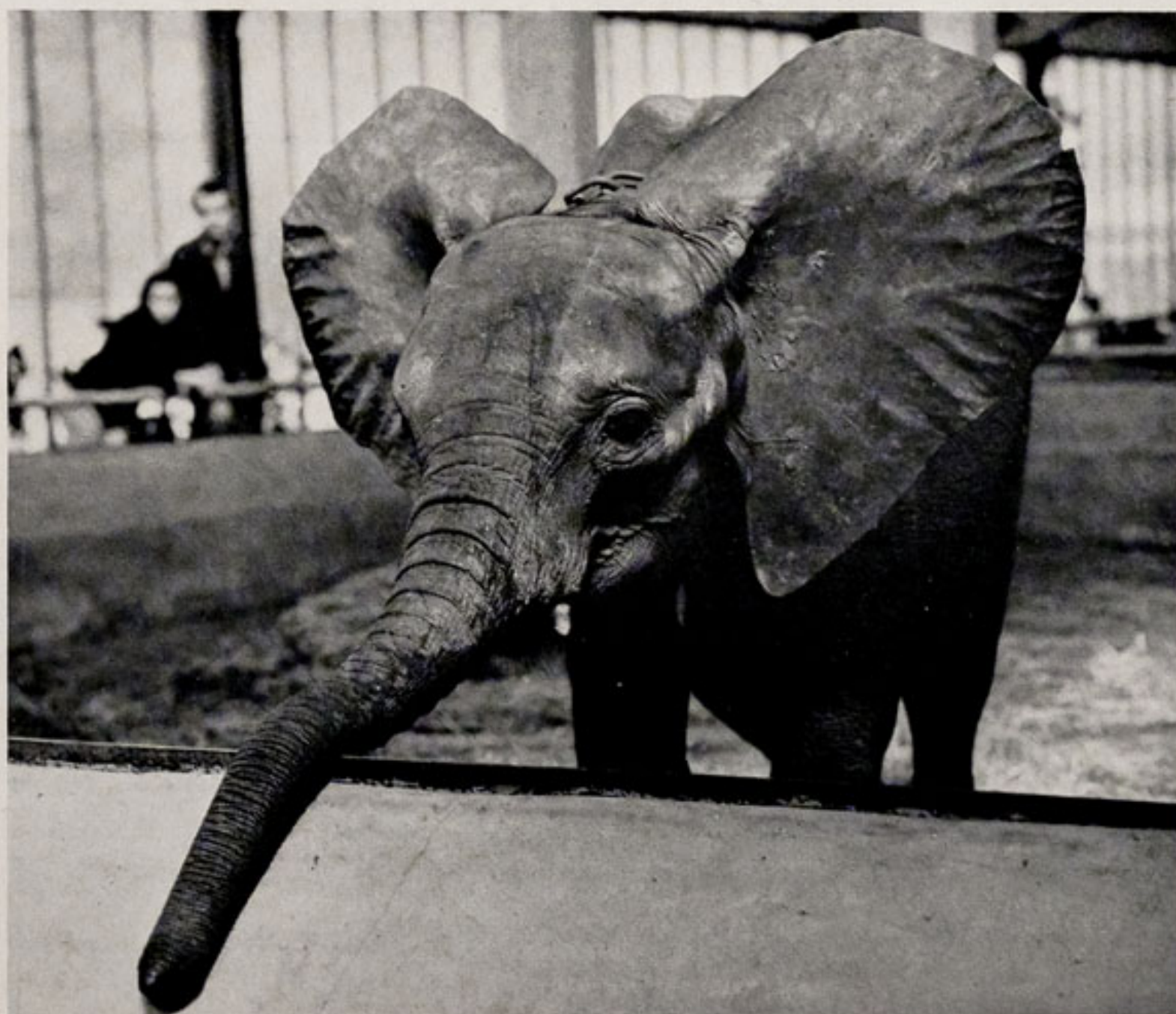
JUMBOLINO

We are looking forward to the arrival on 8th August of "Jumbolino", a young African bull elephant. Jumbolino was found abandoned in the Luangwa Valley of Rhodesia in September 1963, and cared for by Lt. Col. and Mrs. R. A. Critchley of the Wild Life Conservation Society of Northern Rhodesia on their ranch near Lusaka.

The baby elephant is two years old, weighs approximately eight hundred pounds and is quite tame. His measurements taken on 1st April, 1964 were — height to withers — 52 inches, length of trunk 33 inches, point of forehead to base of tail — 71 inches. Jumbolino will be flown to London Airport on 8th August and brought up to Chester by road. (Photo page ten.)



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



Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby



The Northern News — Ndola

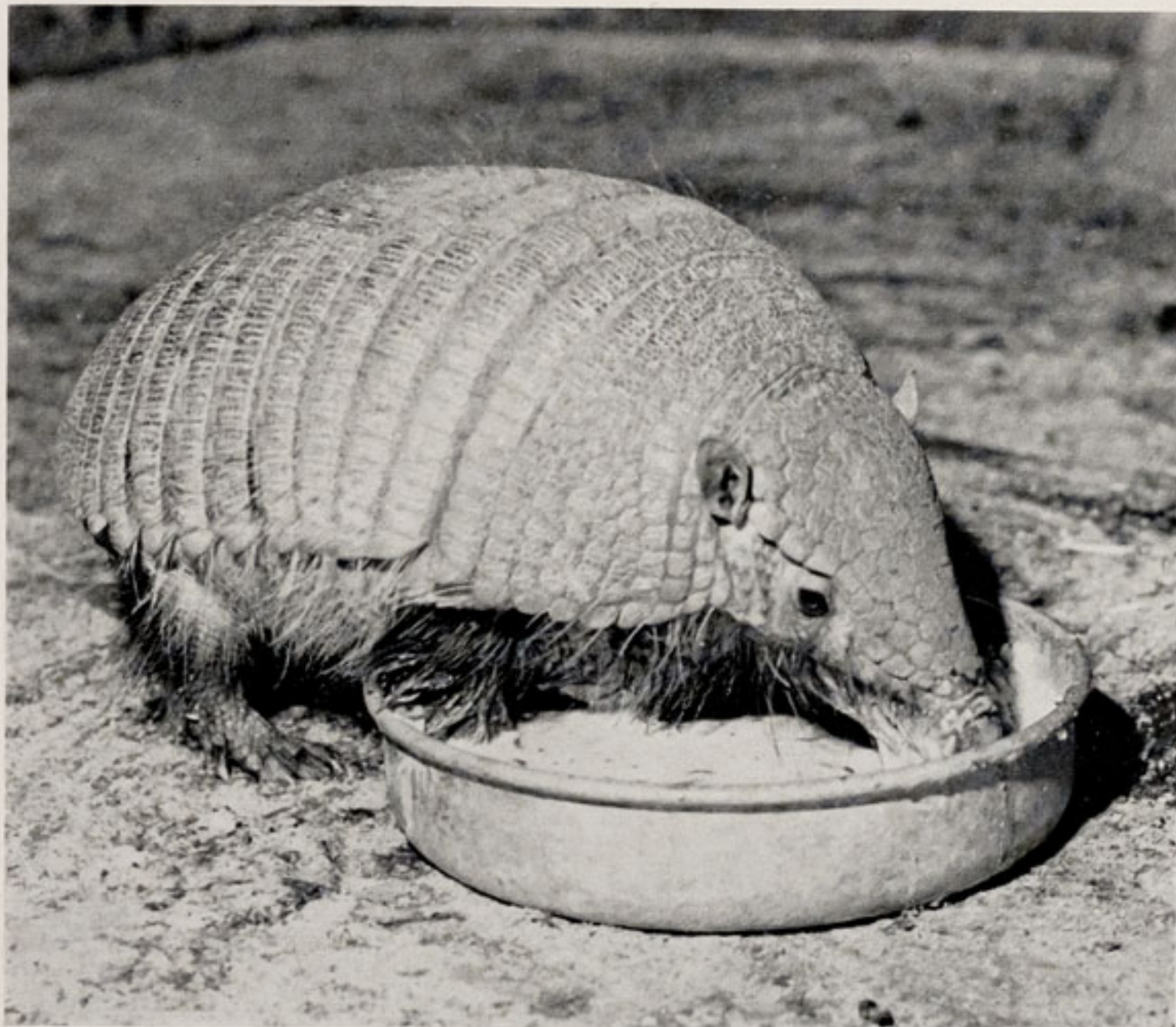
MRS. CRITCHLEY AND JUMBOLINO

SPIDER MONKEYS

The four Variegated Spider Monkeys which were purchased on the 27th of May have been transferred from the Zoo hospital, where they were undergoing a routine check-up, to the Monkey House. Being a foursome the obvious of names for the Monkeys were "John", "Paul", "George" and Ringo".

ARMADILLOS

One unscheduled incident occurred prior to the opening of the new Tropical House. "Pinky" and "Perky," the six-banded Armadillos sharing an enclosure with the small Tortoises, decided to tunnel their way out. Needless to say they were quickly recaptured and returned to a compartment in the Nocturnal House.



Cheshire Observer

ARMADILLO ENJOYING A DRINK AND A PADDLE AT THE SAME TIME

CROWNED DUIKER

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Duly presented their pet Crowned Duiker — "Zoe" — to the Zoo in June. Zoe is a beautiful little animal and is settling down very well in our Birkenhead Quarantine Station. Zoe will spend twelve months in quarantine before coming to Chester.

VISITING ZOO DIRECTORS

Two visitors we were especially glad to see at Chester Zoo during late June and early July were Mr. Bob Bean, Director Emeritus of the Chicago Zoological Park and Mr. Tom Baines, Director of Calgary Zoological Gardens.

FATHER TAKES OVER

Until recently one of our hen Pheasants was quite happily incubating seven eggs in the Parrakeet Aviary opposite the Chimpanzee Islands. For some unknown reason the cock bird then became "broody", turned his mate off the nest and obviously intends to hatch the eggs himself. Needless to say this is a rare occurrence in the Common Pheasant world.

TOURACOS

Of the many free-flying birds in the new Tropical House, perhaps the most spectacular are the Touracos or Plantain Eaters, as they are commonly called. We exhibit four species, three with predominant green colouration — the Hartlaub's (*Tauraco hartlaubi*) and White-cheeked (*Tauraco leucotis*) of East Africa and the Senegal (*Tauraco persa*) of West Africa, also one species with violet colour predominating — the Violet Touraco (*Muspohaga violacea*) of West Africa, which is usually referred to as a Plantain Eater.

The green and red colours of Touracos, unlike those of most other birds, are produced by true pigments, which are soluble in water. If a red Touraco feather is dangled in a glass of water it will change the water to a pink colour. In museum specimens this red colour darkens with age, due to the oxidation of the copper in the pigment.

In common with the Owls and the Osprey, the Touracos are able to direct the outer toe either backwards or forwards. This gives them the advantage of being able to grip a thin branch very firmly.

Touracos are found exclusively in Africa south of the Sahara and are at home in thickly forested areas. Their diet consists to a large extent of fruit, especially plantains, but this is supplemented by some insects. In captivity we replace the insect part of the diet by giving them soft bill food and have developed our own method of feeding fruit to this type of bird. The fruit, such as apple, pear, banana, and orange, is cut in half and skewered onto a tree branch, thus enabling the birds to peck off the requisite amount and to follow their natural habit of searching for food.

The new Tropical House is proving to be ideal for Touracos, the tropical humidity and temperature having been carefully reproduced to correspond as closely as possible to that of an Equatorial Rain Forest. The Touracos also have a large area in which to exercise — this is of considerable importance to the well-being of the species.



HARTLAUB'S TOURACO

J. Gwyn Jones

AQUARIUM NEWS

Among the many varieties of fish added to the Collection in the past month are a number which we have been hoping to obtain for some time. Perhaps the most interesting belong to a species of Reed Fish — *Calamoichthys calabaricus*. These snake-like fish belong to the same family as the Bichirs and, like the Bichirs, must be able to reach the surface of the water periodically, to draw in gulps of air. If prevented from doing this they would eventually drown.

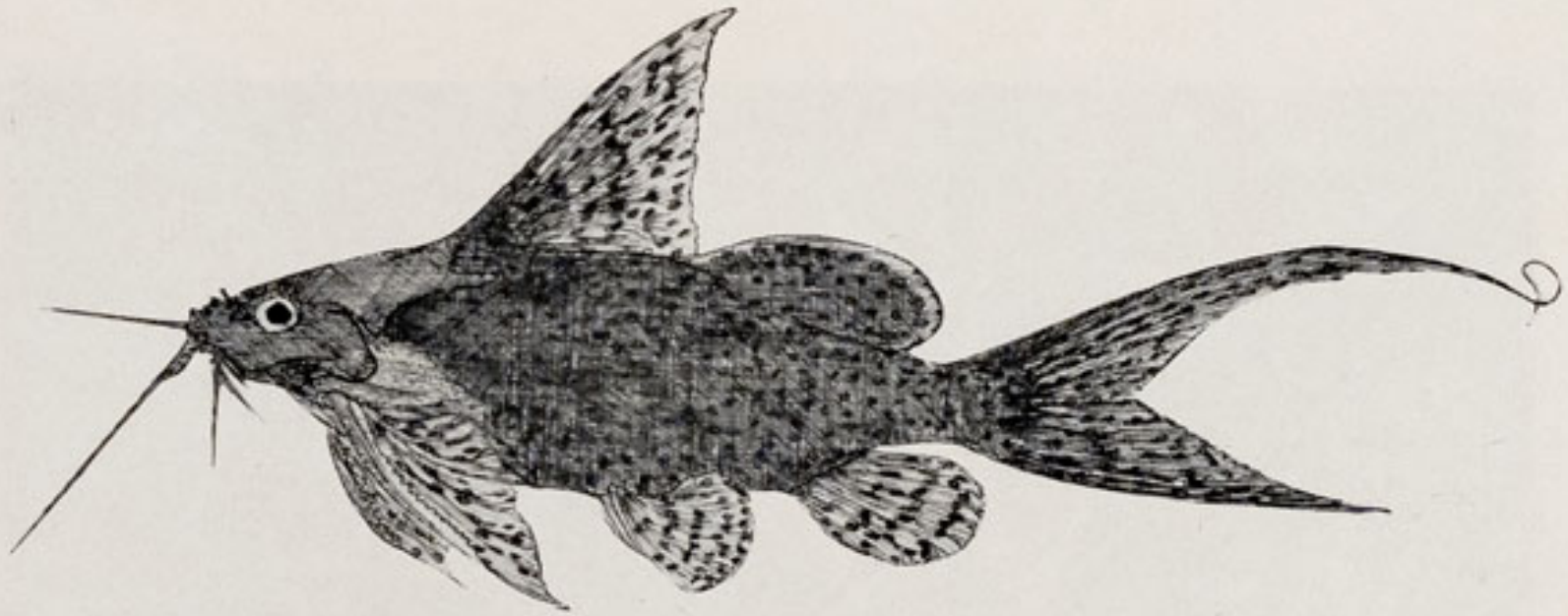
Our fourteen new Reed Fish are approximately twelve inches long and should eventually grow to about two feet. They are a dark brown on the dorsal surface of the body and only show their bright rust-coloured underside on their rapid ascent for air. We are feeding the Reed Fish on day-old mice and strips of meat. When they are fully grown we hope that their rather drab brown colour will be replaced by greens and yellows.

This month we also received another Upside-Down Catfish — *Synodontis* (Species), which means that we now have six of these unusual fish. Members of this particular family are inclined to doze off in their tanks and whilst in this comatose state will lie in all sorts of peculiar positions — even going over on their backs. As a result anxious visitors are constantly coming to tell us that our Catfish are dead. The illustration on the opposite page shows an Upside Down Catfish the right way up.

We are very pleased to report the birth of some twenty-five Sea Horses on the 7th of July. All the youngsters were on show with their parents for the first few days, but the majority have now been moved into a smaller tank where we hope they will start feeding. Live food which we hope will prove suitable for the babies is being prepared in the Aquarium and we hope to collect other varieties of live food from the North Wales Coast.

For the first few days the egg sacks are still attached to the baby Sea Horses and whilst these are being absorbed they do not require feeding. Once this stage is passed they feed voraciously on minute organisms in the water. In this country not a great deal is known about rearing young Sea Horses, so we will probably meet some interesting problems.

Other successful breedings in the Aquarium include Jack Dempseys and Zebra Cichlids.



M. D. Murphy

UPSIDE DOWN CATFISH

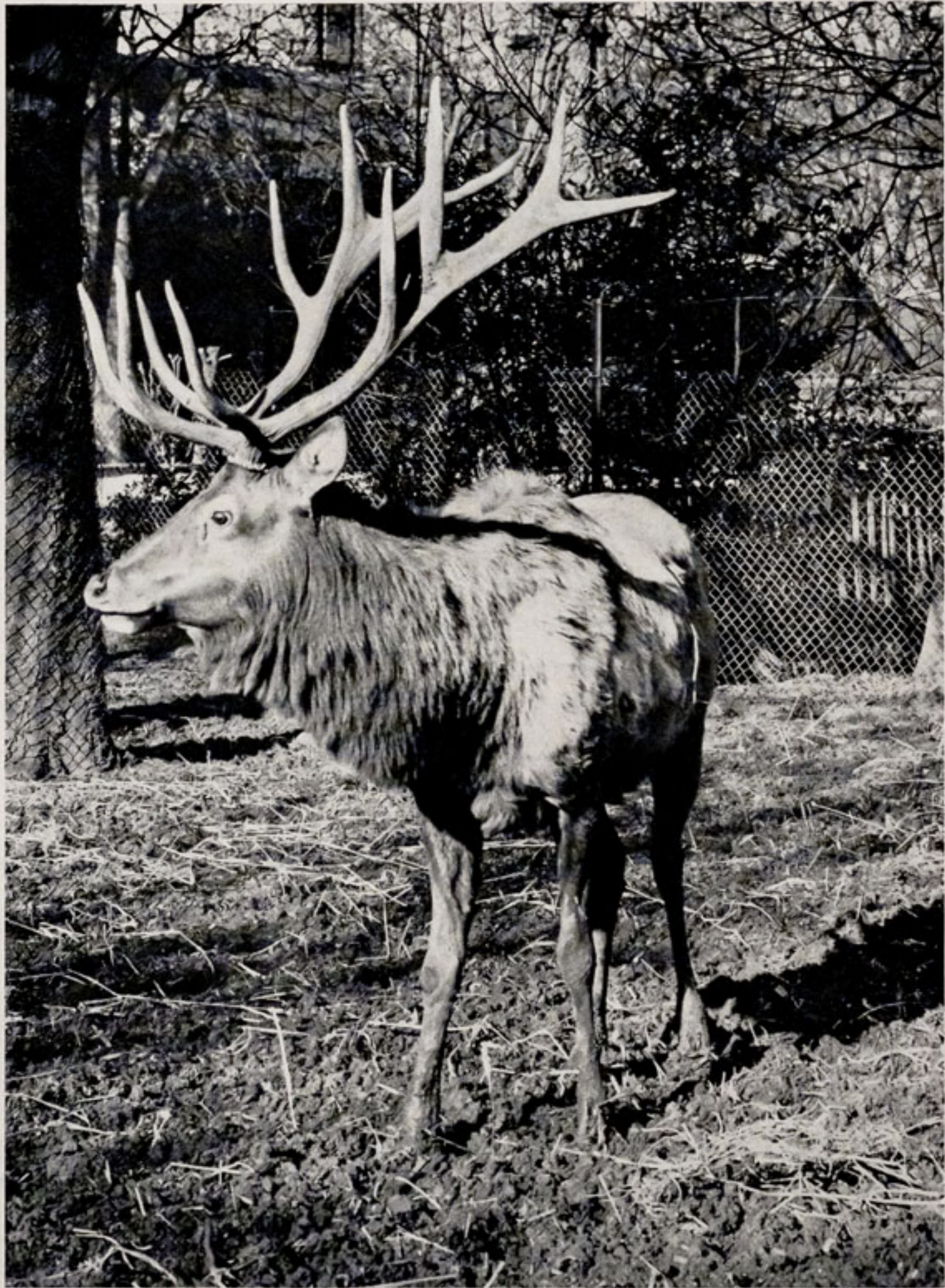
CREAK

One of the friendliest animals in the collection is "Creak", the Sitatunga — *Tragelaphus spekei*. His rather unusual name derives from the peculiar noise he makes when greeting friends and not from his water loving habits. Creak was presented to the Zoo in November 1960 and before coming to Chester, spent twelve months at our Birkenhead Quarantine Station.

Sitatungas live in the swamp areas of Central and East Africa and their diet consists of twigs and aquatic plants. When disturbed, instead of attempting to run, they will often submerge themselves until only their nostrils are above the water, hoping that they will be passed unnoticed.

The coat of the Sitatunga is rather rough to the touch and reddish brown in colouring, with white markings. Male Sitatungas stand up to three and a half feet in height at the shoulder and have slightly twisted horns — between eighteen inches and two feet long. The female of the species does not have horns.

Sitatungas are not particularly common in captivity. Our specimen shares a paddock with Crested Cranes and waterfowl and is usually to be seen in or around the large pond in his enclosure. Even in the winter Creak spends a great deal of time in the water, often breaking the ice to have his morning swim in frosty weather.



E. Kirkland, F.R.P.S.

The male Wapiti, above, became a father again on the 17th of July, when one of his four wives had a female calf—"Anne."



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