



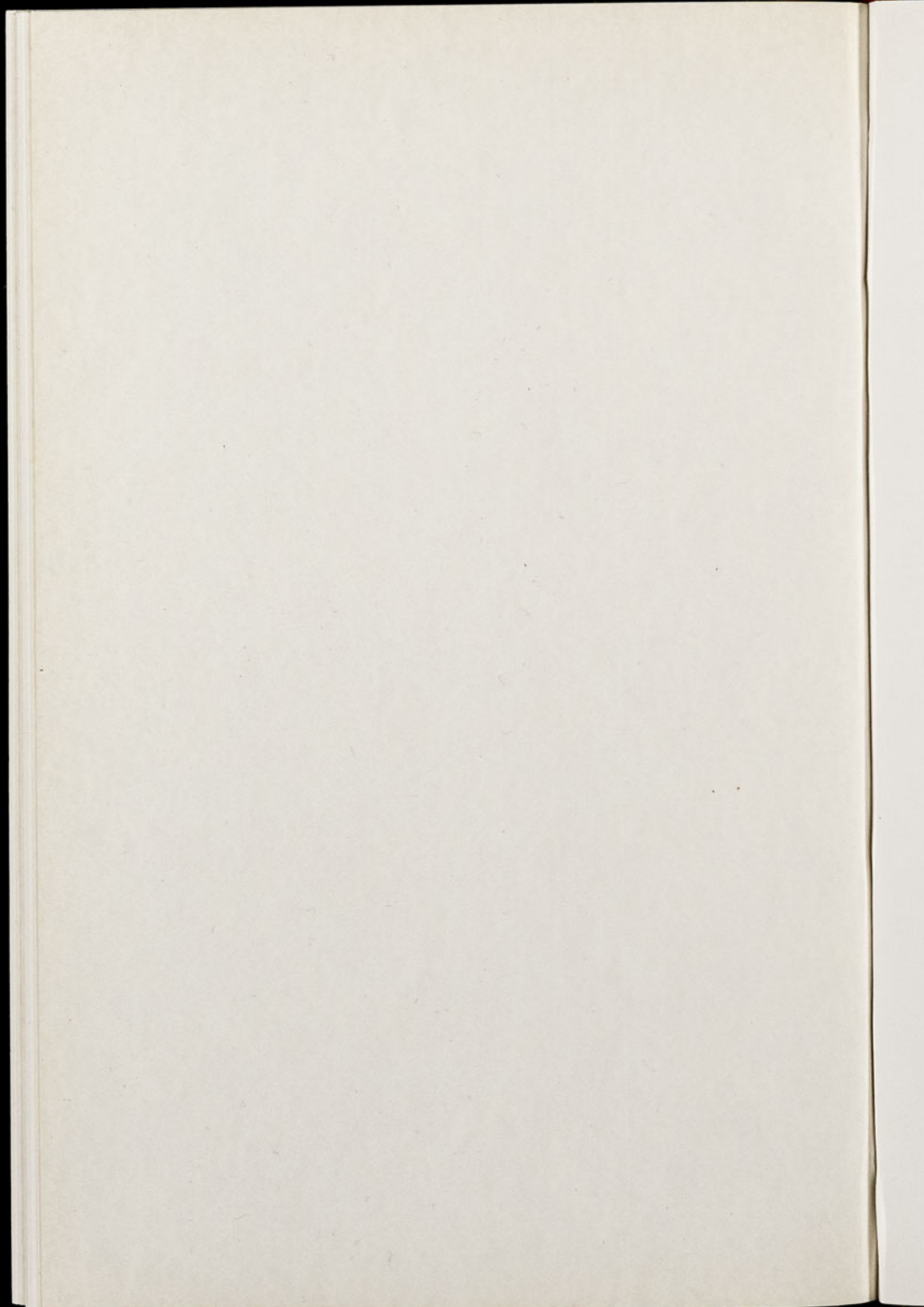
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

October 1975

Price 10p



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

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COVER

*Alpaca (Lama pacos) with Deborah and Alfie
two of our latest arrivals*

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

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GENERAL NOTES

Construction Work

In our September issue we reported that we were erecting a very strong enclosure in the Elephant Paddock so that when our bull-elephants are in "musth" they can be kept there, making it safe for the keepers. In order that the workmen could proceed safely an electrical fence was erected and this proved successful for the first week until "Nobby," one of our male elephants, decided to investigate further.

When he found that the soles of his feet were not affected by the electrical fence he promptly stood on it. This of course earthed the fence and he was then able to break it with his trunk and walk through into the enclosure. He then proceeded to pull down all the scaffolding and tried to eat one of the ladders. He also took a great deal of delight in trampling one of the wheelbarrows until flat, and then proceeded to pull off part of the roof of the new construction. The keeper enticed him away with food and locked him back in the Pachyderm House.

As a result of this incident it was decided to erect the electric fence as high as possible from the ground and to hang wires from the fence every six inches, thus forming a curtain with no horizontal wires for "Nobby" to put his foot on. Unfortunately, we observed that when the wind blew, the curtain of wires moved about so that he found himself under the curtain before he actually touched it; this idea of the electrical curtain did not prove very successful on windy days. We have therefore been obliged to put a temporary horizontal rail across the opening to help keep him away. Of course, all this has meant that progress on the new construction has been slowed right down.

At the side of the Elephant Paddock where the Hippos are, there is a low dividing wall on which "Nobby" has been fond of walking and which he found gave him access to the new construction. We decided to put a set of rollers on top of the wall; he will play with the rollers but won't walk over them as he will not move anywhere unless he is sure of his footing. This intelligent animal had found another way of access to the area being used by the workmen.

The temporary curtain and railing will be taken down quite soon, as work on the enclosure is almost finished. When the time comes for one of our male elephants to be put into this new enclosure we shall see whether the animal can actually be contained there. No doubt we shall have more to report in the next issue.

Exchange of stock between zoos

Readers will be interested to hear of the increase in the exchange of mammals and birds between zoos everywhere. There are of course very few mammals which are acquired from the wild these days, as most of them have now become quite rare and are either on reservations or in zoos. Zoos throughout the world are having good results as the interchange of stock helps to improve the various species.

An exchange which will be of interest is a pair of Crimson-bellied Conures which has been presented to Mr. Mottershead, the Director-Secretary, by Mr. D. van Dam, Director of Rotterdam Zoological Gardens. These birds are described under 'Bird Notes' on page 14. We have received from Rotterdam a female Red Bird of Paradise, originating from Western Papuan Islands, and are arranging to take over to Rotterdam a female Wilson's Bird of Paradise which originates from the Western Papuan Islands of Waigen and Batanta. We shall also take several birds bred here which are surplus to our requirements.

Catering facilities

In October each year we close down some of our catering establishments for the winter months. The Oakfield Restaurant will remain open. The Fountain Restaurant, Mpila Snack Bar and Cafeteria will open as required.

ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

We are pleased to report that the following mammals have been bred in the zoo:

- 2 Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*)
- 2 Alpacas (*Lama pacos*)
- 1 Hamadryas Baboon (*Papio hamadryas*)
- 2 Common Leopard Cubs (*Panthera pardus*)

Puma cubs (*Felis concolor*) have also been born but as we are not able to go near the mother we do not yet know how many there are. These, along with the Common Leopard Cubs, will not be on show for some weeks.

The two Alpacas appear to be thriving, and at this period they stay by the sides of their respective mothers. One is white and brown, and the other brown. We have named them Deborah and Alfie. These two additions bring our stock to thirteen.

Alpacas originate from South America, where they are valued for their wool. White specimens are the most prized, the common colours being brown and black. These animals have a shaggy wool coat and a bulky appearance, but they are in fact smaller and therefore weigh less than the Llama (*Lama glama*). They have been domesticated for over 2,000 years and no longer survive as wild creatures.

Most of the wool of the Alpacas is used by the Indians, and it is reported that there are about two million Alpacas in Peru. The wool is light and warm, and very useful for the type of clothing needed in South America. Alpacas can resist snow and rain because of their thick woolly coats, and they live quite happily at altitudes of 12,000ft. and over. It is also recorded that the Alpaca is sheared biennially, being fleeced only three or four times during its lifetime, yielding a mere 6lbs. of wool on each occasion.

* * *

Our collection of Hamadryas Baboons has now reached a total of seven, including two males. A youngster was born about two months ago and was put in the Monkey House for safety as Hamadryas Baboons are very aggressive. However, it did not survive, and we left the latest youngster reported above with its family. It appeared to be doing very well despite some quite rough treatment from the group, but eventually it was killed. The Curator is of the opinion that the present group is sufficient for the territory in which it is contained, as in the wild when a young animal, usually a male, becomes self-sufficient, there is a dispersal of numbers and it moves away from that group.



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

ONE OF OUR SPLENDID MALE HAMADRYAS BABOONS (*Papio hamadryas*)

The Sacred, or Hamadryas Baboon originates from the hillsides of North-east Africa and Arabia. It inhabits the rocky hillsides of Eastern Sudan, Abyssinia and South-western Arabia. This baboon was one of the animals regarded as sacred by the ancient Egyptians.

In their natural habitat baboons live in large numbers of up to one hundred, feeding on juicy stems and roots, insects and honey, often living near to human settlements. These animals can be seen in Enclosure No. 89 which comprises the Baboon Pens.

* * *

The following mammals have been acquired:

- 1.0 Common or White-eared Marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*)
- 0.2 Giant Anteaters (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*)

We are pleased to have a Common or White-eared Marmoset which will make up a pair as we already have a female. These animals originate from the Amazonian Region of South America. They are tiny monkeys and their fur has a grey-marble appearance. The ears have white tufts, the tail is prehensile and is ringed grey-black; the face is bare, being crimson or pink. They make shrill, twittering noises, move quickly and jerkily, and their gait is crouching and scurrying. The hands and feet are long and narrow, the digits being equipped with claws. These animals feed on insects, small birds, fruits, shoots and other plant food. They live in small family groups, giving birth to two or three young at a time. The gestation period is 144 days. Our marmosets can be seen in the Monkey House.

The two female Giant Anteaters which we have acquired are on deposit from Bristol Zoo in the hope that they will breed from our male. These animals originate from Central and South America, their distribution being Guatemala to northern Argentina where they live in grasslands and open forests, occasionally venturing into dense forest regions.

The Giant Anteater is one of the most unusual of mammals in appearance. Its overall length is about 6ft. and it has a tapering tubular snout and a long, bushy tail. The body in general is a grey-



By courtesy of M. Grundy, N.U.J.

TWO OF OUR GIANT ANTEATERS (*Myrmecophaga tridactyla*) BEING FED BY ONE OF THE KEEPEERS

CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

To LECTURE HALL
(Private)



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.



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

brown colour with the exception of the hindquarters which are darker. There is a bold wedge-shaped pattern on the throat and shoulders which is black outlined with white; these markings tend to break up the general body shape.

This animal walks on the knuckles of its hands, thus keeping the four strong claws of the fore limbs sharp. It uses its claws in defence, and also for ripping open the strong walls of the nests of termites, or white ants, on which it feeds in its natural habitat. The anteater has a long viscous tongue with which it is able to transfer insects upon which it feeds, to the toothless, long tapering mouth. In captivity, however, it is given a special diet usually consisting of raw meat, milk and raw eggs.

The new arrivals have been put in Enclosure No. 53 with our male Giant Anteater and, although these animals do not breed easily, we are hoping to increase our stock. See photograph on page 7.

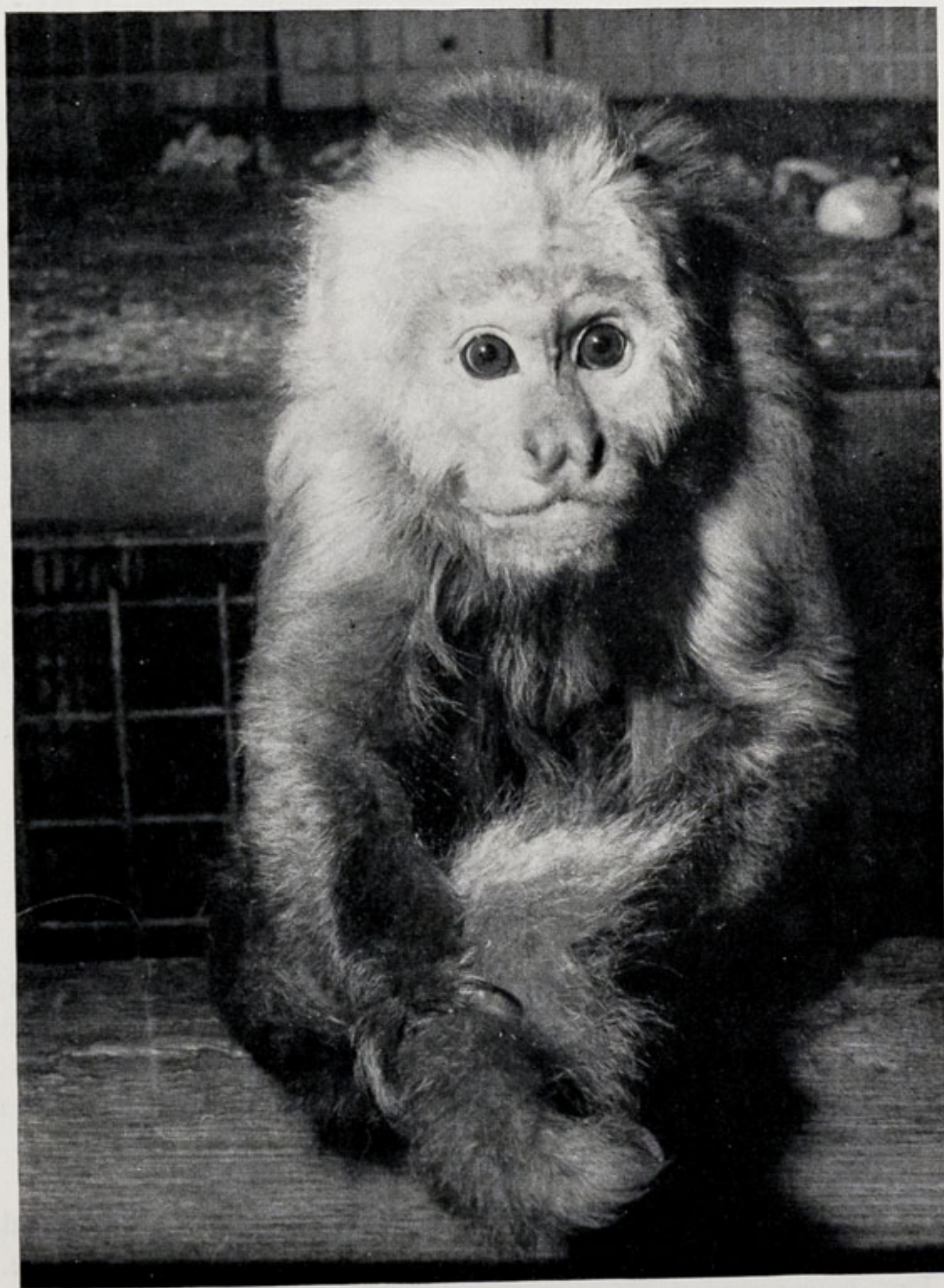
Mammals presented to us recently are:

- 1.0 Capuchin Monkey (*Cebus albifrons*)
- 1.0 Spotted Hyena (*Hyaena crocuta*)

The Capuchin Monkey is the White-fronted Capuchin of the "untufted" group. These animals originate from Central and South America, living in the tops of all types of tropical forest trees, descending only to drink or to raid plantations in certain areas. In their natural habitat their diet is fruit and insects; they do not eat leaves. In captivity, however, they will eat almost anything. See photograph on page 11.

* * *

The male Spotted Hyena has been presented to us. This animal originates from Africa, south of the equator. It is about 31½ in. tall at the shoulder and weighs from 110 to 165 lb. The fur of the *Hyaena crocuta* is a whitish-grey or yellowish colour, and it is spotted on the flanks and thighs. Its striped tail has a black tip. The forelegs of the hyena are longer than its hindlegs, so that its back



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

CAPUCHIN MONKEY (*Cebus albifrons*)

slopes down towards the tail. It has a short head with unusually powerful teeth created for breaking the thickest of bones. It can exert immense pressure with its jaws by means of special masticatory muscles.

In their natural state Hyenas hunt for food after sunset in small packs consisting of the two parents and their young, feeding mainly on the remains of dead animals. They do however hunt live prey, usually the young of other animals, and sometimes they attack domestic stock.

Nature has specially designed the Hyena to purify an area by consuming all carrion, as in high temperatures millions of flies would spread disease if carrion were left.

BIRD NOTES

Since our last issue the following birds have been bred in the zoo:

- 1 Mexican Green Jay (*Xanthoura yncas*)
- 1 Bank Mynah (*Acridotheres ginginianus*)
- 2 Red-headed Laughing Thrushes (*Trochalopteron erythrocephalum*)

Red-headed Laughing Thrushes originate from south-east Asia, their general distribution being The Himalayas from South East Kashmir through Nepal and Sikkim to the most eastern Assam hills; from there down through the Shan States and Burmese Hills into Tenasserim.

These birds are uncrested, their plumage being olive-brown and reddish-yellow, with a chestnut-coloured head and blackish face. They have roundish black spots on the sides of the neck and upper back, black crescent-shaped markings and white speckling on the throat and breast. There is some golden-yellow on the wings and tail. The Red-headed Laughing Thrushes are forest birds, and exist in flocks or 'sisterhoods' in thick undergrowth on the hillsides.

These are shy birds, dwelling in oak, pine and silver fir forests and well-wooded hillsides between an elevation of about 6,000 and 10,000ft. in the summer. In the winter they descend to 4,000ft. or less. They keep mostly to the ground and tangled undergrowth in forest, and are to be found in thickets of ringal bamboo covering the steep hillsides here and there. Red-headed Laughing Thrushes are great concealers, scuttling away on the slightest alarm, seldom permitting themselves to be seen. One rarely sees them on the wing, since they always prefer to creep away through the undergrowth instead of leaving cover and flying.

The nesting season extends from about April to August, but the principal months for hatchings are June and July. The nest is a deep cup of dead leaves kept together with fern fronds and grass, sparingly lined with fine grass and roots. It is usually to be found low down in bushes or small trees generally between four and twenty feet from the ground, in oak, silver fir and rhododendron forest. The normal clutch consists of three eggs, sometimes only two, which are a soft blue-green colour, boldly blotched and streaked with deep brown or black.

* * *

The following birds have arrived in the collection:

- 2.2 Saffron Finches (*Sicalis flaveola*)
- 3.3 Spice Birds (*Munia punctulata*)
- 6.6 Red-eared Waxbills (*Estrilda troglodytes*)
- 3.3 Red Bishops (*Euplectes orix*)
- 6.6 Silverbills (*Euodice malabarica cantans*)
- 4.4 Tri-coloured Nuns (*Munia malacca*)
- 3.3 Bronzewing Mannikins (*Spermestes cucullatus*)
- 3.3 Orange-cheeked Waxbills (*Estrilda melpoda*)
- 1.1 Pintailed Whydahs (*Vidua macroura*)
- 3.3 Tiger Finches (*Amandava amandava*)
- 3.3 Java Sparrows (*Padda oryzivora*)
- 0.1 Red Bird of Paradise (*Paradisaea rubra*)
- 1.1 Peach-fronted Conures (*Aratinga aurea*)
- 1.1 Tropical Mockingbirds (*Mimus gilvus*)

* * *

The birds listed below are those which have been presented to us:

- 1.1 Crimson-bellied Conures (*Pyrrhura rhodogaster*)
- 1 Yellow-headed Amazon (*Amazona ochrocephala*)
- 1 Bleeding-heart Pigeon (*Gallicolumba criniger*)

The general plumage colour of the Crimson-bellied Conures is blue to yellow to green, the bend of the wing, the lesser underwing coverts, lower breast and abdomen being crimson. The tail is a brownish-red basally marked with green and tipped with blue. Immature birds are a rather nondescript colour.

These birds keep up a continuous chatter whilst hovering about in treetops, but at the same time they are very watchful so that when they sense danger or are approached they sit motionless in the trees. Despite their bright plumage it is difficult to detect them amidst the foliage.

Crimson-bellied Conures originate from Central America, the general distribution being Northern Brazil, south of the Amazon River, between the Madeira and Tapajos Rivers, east along the Jamauchin River, and south to Northern Mato Grosso.

* * *

Yellow-headed Amazons are popular as pets because they are "talkers". In their natural habitat they feed on fruits, seeds, nuts, berries, and blossoms. They bite off the whole fruit, holding it in one foot and removing the seeds with the lower mandible. They are a hazard to corn crops.

Their call is a reiterated screeching "kurr-owk", and they also have a variety of metallic shrieks and whilstling notes. Nesting is between February and May, and the nest is a hollow in a live tree on small chips and pieces of rotten wood.

The general plumage colour of the adult bird is yellow and red, the bill being horn-coloured tinged with grey towards the base of the upper mandible. Immature birds are green except for a patch of yellow on the forehead; the bend of the wing is green, the carpal

edge being a yellowish-green. Yellow-headed Amazons originate from Central America.

REPTILE NEWS

Since our last report in September we have been presented with a 10ft. Common Boa Constrictor (*Constrictor constrictor*). We now have three large females and a large male, and are hoping to breed from them. The Common Boa Constrictor originates from South America. Two Common Iguanas (*Iguana iguana*) have also been presented to us.

We reported in our August issue seven hatchings of Leopard Geckos (*Eublepharis macularis*) and, in the September issue, another five hatchings. Since that period another one has hatched, and our stock, including the adults, is now seventeen.

Three Soloman Island Prehensile-tailed Skinks (*Corucia zeb-rata*) were born on about the 8th September, and two were born on the 15th September. Four of these Skinks are still alive, and we hope for more births. It is believed this species has been bred only once or twice in captivity. We have had Skinks in the Vivarium for about three years, and this is the first time we have bred from them. There are nine adult Skinks on show.

AQUARIUM NEWS

Two young Pacus (*Colossoma species*) have been presented to us and they have now joined the original ones in the Aquarium. The small Pacus are about 12in. long and the large ones 16-18in. Considering their size they are fairly peaceful fishes. They are fresh water tropical, originating from South America. In the wild they are reputed to feed on fruits (soft fruit fallen from trees) and plant life, but in captivity they feed on a mixture of lettuce, dog biscuits and minced meat.

We have recently been presented with a Giant Gourami (*Osphronenus gourami*) which is a fresh water tropical fish, and this has

joined four others in the same tank as the Pacus. It is about 14in. long, the largest we have being about 2ft. long. In the wild they eat mostly vegetable matter, but in the Aquarium they have the same diet as the Pacus. They are fairly aggressive and would eat smaller fishes than themselves. Their distribution is throughout the Great Sunda Islands.

We have a male Convict Cichlid (*Cichlasoma nigrofasciatum*) which has also been presented to us. It is a fresh water tropical fish. The new male is of the 'wild colour' variation, and we are hoping to cross this one with one of our Albino Cichlids (*Cichlasoma nigrofasciatum*) in order to get more of the 'wild colour' phase. We have quite a number of white specimens as they breed well in the Aquarium. Convict Cichlids are very aggressive, and they are not to be trusted with other specimens of fishes smaller than themselves. They grow to 6in. long. Their distribution is Guatamala, Salvador, Costa Rica and Panama.

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 shops. An annual subscription (12 issues) costs £2.00, postage paid, which can either be handed over the counter at the shops or posted with the completed form to the Director-Secretary, Chester Zoo, Chester.

"DAILY MIRROR" PETS CLUB

The 1976 National Pets Club Diary is now available. Written by David Kerr, Manager of the Club, this beautifully bound diary contains more than 40 pages of useful information about pets and other animals, including: First aid for pets, calling the vet, cleaning oiled birds, useful addresses. The diary is *available only* direct from the *Daily Mirror*. To order a copy you should send your remittance of 60p to the *Daily Mirror*, Diary Offer, Box 206, London NW99 4XA. The Diary is sent post free.

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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