

# CHEZ NOUS



CHESTER ZOO NEWS

WINTER 1983



# Editorial

The English Tourist Board Report on Zoos was published in July. It looked at zoos purely from the standpoint of their financial viability. While the report acknowledged that some zoos, including our own, have higher aims than solely to make money, it emphasised that without financial viability the means of attaining such higher aims would be lacking.

The report made several very important points about zoos, the way they attract visitors, and what they offer to visitors. In short, the report suggests that we could all do a lot better. It also confirmed through the market research commissioned during the course of the preparation of the report, that children under 12, their parents, grandparents, families and friends form the largest group coming to the zoo. This is not surprising, but it is reassuring to know.

What the report did not point out was that in the last 12 years there has been a drop of 20 per cent in the number of children under 12 now in this country, and therefore one presumes a drop of 20 per cent in the number of parents, grandparents, families and friends of under-12-year-olds.

Judging by the number of children in Cheshire Primary Schools, the number of children in the immediate environment of Chester Zoo has dropped by an even greater amount since the present county boundaries were set. Numbers now are 22 per cent less than in 1974.

Fortunately, it looks as if we are in for a period of relative increase in the number of young children, as the children of the 1960's baby boom become the parents of a smaller baby boom in the late 1980s.

The lesson to be learned is that our market has been quietly slipping away from us—not deserting us for elsewhere, but disappearing altogether. There is a lot more we need to know about our market and there is a lot more we can do to satisfy those people who are still coming in their hundreds of thousands. The Zoo is answering this challenge: we welcome David Quayle as our new Head of Marketing, and we are preparing for our Jubilee Year with a determination to prove that satisfied customers who want to come again and who tell their friends about us are our best ambassadors.



Courtesy of the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo

Young Elephant 'Jubilee' enjoying a bath

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### Editorial Team

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Dr M R Brambell	.....	<i>Zoo Director</i>
Bella Neate	.....	<i>Education Officer</i>
M F Coupe	.....	<i>Public Relations Officer</i>

**Front Page Photograph**—Argentinian Horned Frog

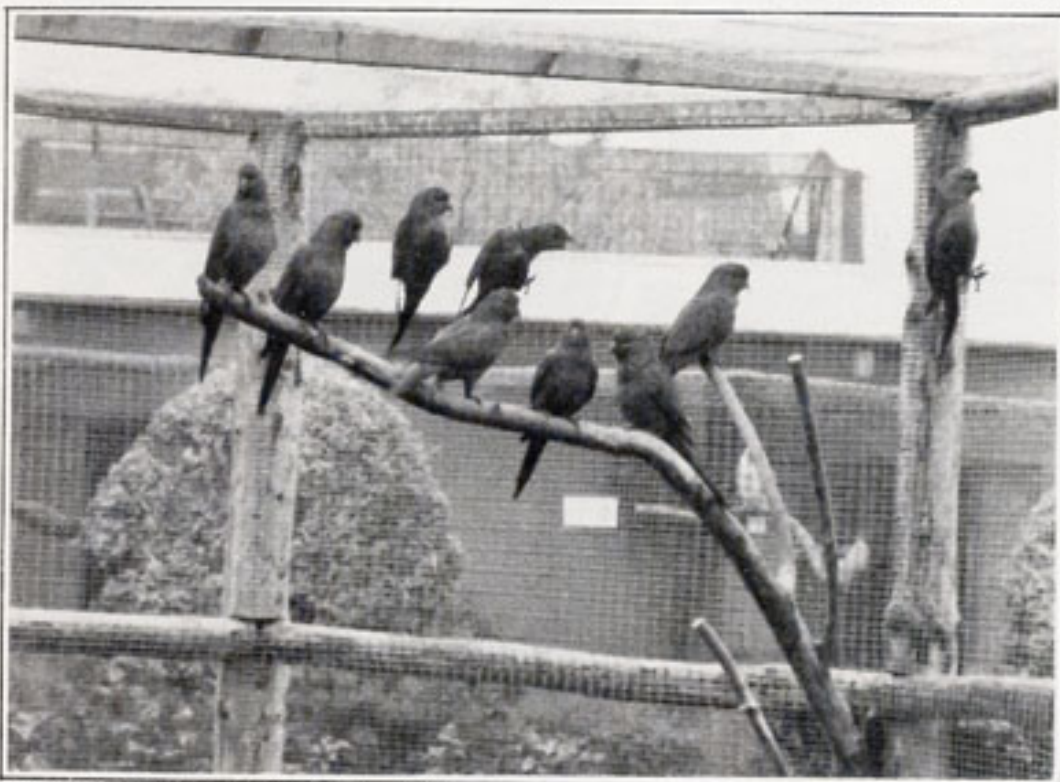
*K. W. Green*

# Slender-billed Parrakeets

(*Enicognathus leptorhynchus*)

A native of the coastal areas of Chile, this species is easily recognised with its unmistakable long, narrow bill, which is slightly curved and which distinguishes it from all other parrakeets. Most of the plumage is dark green, with a faint dusky edging on the feathers. There is a band of maroon across the forehead and lores, extending beyond the eyes, and there is also a patch of maroon on the abdomen. The tail is maroon with a greenish tip. The primaries are bluish green and the overall length of the bird is about 16 inches. Comparing the young birds we have bred at Chester with our adults, the only difference we can see is that the upper mandible is shorter on the youngsters and the bare skin surrounding the eye is white instead of grey.

This is a species which has seldom been kept in captivity outside the natural range of the birds; however,



Slender-billed youngsters in their new aviary

there is evidence that the species were bred as long ago as 1913 by a Dutch aviculturist. This particular gentleman obtained his birds when he was visiting Chile in 1911. After this early success, no further breedings were reported until after commercial importation occurred in the mid-1970s.

Our first pair were obtained from a dealer in the London area in June 1978 for what was—in those days—a lot of money. On their arrival at Chester, they were housed in the Bird House aviaries, being given inside and outside accommodation. Our first attempt to breed this species started in earnest in 1979, when we supplied the birds with a natural hollow log, extending from the aviary floor to the roof, with a natural hole about one-third from the top, which was filled with peat on top of wood-chippings to a depth of six inches below the hole. This was the box they selected, as opposed to the conventional man-made nest box which was also offered to them. Both birds spent a lot of time in and around the nesting box, but no breeding occurred, although, at the end of the breeding year, eggs were found in the log.

Another importation of these birds occurred in 1980 through the same source as our original pair, and it was

decided to purchase another pair in case anything happened to one of our existing pair. On arrival at Chester, they were put into the aviary which had been made ready for them in the Oakfield block of aviaries and, as these birds arrived in August, there was no need to supply any nesting material.

Early the following year, a natural log was given to the birds but, this time, it was decided to place this in a horizontal position, giving them a type of tunnel-effect nest box. This was an instant success and that year our new pair of birds produced three youngsters (four were hatched, but one did not survive). The three youngsters left the nest in mid-August and, as far as we know, this was the first breeding of this species in the United Kingdom, and from it we learned that incubation time for this species appears to be 26–27 days from the laying of the last egg.

During 1981, no Slender-billed Parrakeets were bred. We had the three youngsters of the previous year surgically sexed by the team from London Zoo, and they turned out to be two males and one female. We sold one of the males to Miss Rosemary Low, a distinguished parrot-collector, and the other pair we kept at Chester.

This year we are happy to report that the young male sent to Miss Low to make up her pair has now sired two youngsters, and a report appeared in the weekly newspaper for bird-keepers called *'Cage and Aviary Birds'* on her success with this species. However, this year even better news from the Zoo: the pair purchased in 1978 and those purchased in 1980 hatched and reared five and six youngsters respectively!

Constant observation was kept on the youngsters by the Keeper, and records kept of their progress. It was surprising how soon the adult birds and the young ones came to accept the daily observation of their development. Enormous amounts of food were consumed by the feeding adults, and the young birds always seemed to have full crops. Feeding was carried out by both parents and, even with six youngsters in the nest, there did not appear to be much calling when they were hungry.

The entire group of 11 youngsters can now be seen in the new aviary, which was built at the back of the Aquarium. As it tends to be a bird which lives in a colony, it was decided that they would be better all put together, so the youngsters were moved, leaving the parents in the Oakfield Aviaries, which obviously suit their needs admirably.

These parrakeets have a very varied diet, which includes parrakeet mix, soaked seed, boiled maize, fresh corn-on-the-cob, lettuce, fruit, tomatoes, grated carrot, egg food and a vitamin supplement called *'Vionate'* sprinkled on the food.

The shape of the bill of these birds indicated that it was used for digging for food, and this theory has certainly been proved at Chester, as the birds can be seen on the ground, digging for roots and bulbs, and occasionally holes of four to six inches deep have been dug to get at bulbs. The elongated beak is also used for extracting the nuts from the *Aracaria* pines, on which they like to feed.

# Frogs

Frogs, along with toads, belong to the order ANURA or SALIENTA, "The Tail-less Amphibians". This order has the largest distribution of all amphibians, with species on every continent except Antarctica.

The only true frogs belong to the genus RANA, which is also the largest. The terms frog and toad are loosely applied to different species, and classification of species of both families can be complex. Before we continue with the frog family, I would like to try to illustrate how confusing this classification can be.

There are no hard and fast rules to distinguish a frog from a toad, but, basically, a true toad, of the genus BUFO, has a blunt head, a dry, warty, squat body, short legs for hopping or walking, and two parotoid glands situated on the neck, shoulders, or—in some species—behind the eyes. The warts on the body and the parotoid glands are capable of secreting a sticky whitish poison, which is capable of paralysing or causing death in some animals that may try to eat them, although some animals seem to have an immunity to this poison, and do eat toads without any ill-effects. A good example of one such animal is the Hog-nosed Snake (*Heterodon platyrhinos*), a medium-sized, harmless North American snake, which feeds exclusively on toads or frogs. A true frog, of the genus RANA, has a pointed head, slim body, long hind legs for leaping, and smooth moist skin. This may seem straightforward enough so far, but now an example of confusing classification: the Horned Frog (*Ceratophrys ornata*), from Argentina, has a blunt head, short legs, a squat body and a skin which could be called dry and warty—yet it is a frog. The Tomato Frog (*Dyscophus antongilli*), from Madagascar, has a slightly pointed head, short legs, squat body and smooth skin, and is actually a toad! Before total confusion sets in, let us proceed with the frogs...

Frogs come from a variety of habitats and in different colours, shapes and sizes, from the large Bullfrogs, adult length being up to 25 cm, to the tiny Poison-arrow Frog, adult length being up to 2.5 cm. Food consists of insects for the smaller species, but some of the larger species like the Bullfrogs and Horned Frogs take small animals such as mice, voles or small nestling birds. Everyone is probably familiar with seeing frogspawn and tadpoles in ponds during the spring and early summer in this country, but some of the tropical species have unique places to deposit their spawn. All frogs have to go through a tadpole stage before metamorphosis into the adult form, and, for this to take place, water or some other form of moisture is required.

The Gliding Frog (*Rhacophorus reinwarditi*), of South-East Asia is a medium-sized frog, which has a large webbed area on all four feet, which it spreads out when leaping from tree to tree, to enable it to glide distances of up to 60 feet or more. During the breeding season, an adult pair will move to the lower branches of a tree, usually over a pool, and make a nest site amongst the leaves. With the male on the female's back, she starts to lay eggs and, at the same time, passes large amounts of albumen (a substance like egg-white). The male beats the albumen into a foamy mass, which quickly forms a crust, but the inside remains liquid, into which the eggs are deposited. Inside the crust, the tadpoles develop

until the rain liquifies the crust and they drop into the pool below.

In South America, there are species of tree frog called the Marsupial Frogs (*Gastrotheca mertensi*) and others, where the eggs are placed in pouches on the females, where they remain until the froglet stage before emerging. Darwins Frog (*Rhinoderma darwinii*) of Chile and Argentina is another fascinating species. It is a tiny frog, with adults reaching 2.5 cm, and it has a pointed head with a small proboscis at the tip of its snout. After the females have laid their eggs, the males guard them; just as they start to hatch, the male picks up the tadpoles with his tongue and slides them through slits in his enlarged vocal sacs, where they stay until they emerge as froglets.



Poison-arrow Frogs

There are so many of these beautiful and fascinating animals, but some have become so specialised in their development that it is extremely difficult to create suitable conditions in a captive environment. At the moment, our frog exhibits are few, but we are building up groups which we will be able to exhibit and, hopefully, breed in the future. At present on display there is a trio—two males and a female—of Horned Frogs (*Ceratophrys ornata*) and a mixed selection of Tree Frogs, including the Asian Tree Frog (*Rhacophorus species*), the Cuban Tree Frog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*) and the European Tree Frog (*Hyla arborea*). We have a group of Poison-arrow Frogs (*Dendrobates histrionicus*) and a group of Australian Green Tree Frogs (*Litoraea caerulea*), which are off-show and which we hope to exhibit when suitable accommodation can be set up for them.

## The Argentine Horned Frog

The Horned Frogs which are on exhibit were captive bred in the United States of America last year, and they metamorphosed into frogs in the first week of October 1982. When they arrived at the Zoo, they were about the size of a 10p piece. Each one was kept in its own container on a medium of damp tissue, which had to be changed two or three times a day, as they were being fed on new-born mice and then rats every other day. If they had been allowed to sit in their own excretions for even a

short period of time, they would have absorbed the urine into their bodies via the skin, and died. They are now just over 12 months old, and feeding on adult mice, and the female is approximately 13 cm long. In their natural habitat, this species goes through a period of aestivation until required to fertilise the eggs. They spend weeks buried in soil and leaf litter in a state of inactivity during the dry season, until the rains begin. To help prevent dehydration, they form a 'skin' which completely envelopes them. It is after this period of aestivation when mating occurs. This method has been perfected at one institution, where they can breed frogs with certain colour highlights to obtain the best specimens.

### Poison-arrow Frogs

There are a number of species of Poison-arrow Frogs found throughout Central and South America. They are small, brightly-coloured frogs which can secrete an extremely toxic poison through their skin, called batrachotoxin, which is the most toxic of all animal venoms or poisons, and is 250 times more toxic than strychnine. These frogs get their common name from the Indians, who use the poison to tip their darts or arrows. To

other. The female then cleans an area of bromeliad leaf whilst the ritual is taking place, and lays the eggs. The male then fertilises the eggs and guards them until the tadpoles hatch. After the tadpoles hatch, the male transports them into the cup of bromeliad, where they remain until they metamorphose, which takes place after 8-12 weeks.

Our group were all wild-caught specimens and they seem to have settled in well and are all feeding. Owing to their small size, they will be difficult to exhibit well, but we hope to have a purpose-built cage for them, where the frogs will feel secure and the public will have the opportunity to see these beautiful creatures.

### Australian Green Tree Frogs

Our group of Australian Green Tree Frogs were captive-bred and we purchased them in November 1982 as tadpoles in the early stages of metamorphosis. This is a difficult species to maintain in captivity, as it has strict requirements for both temperature and humidity. This particular group is coming along well, and they take



J. Whitworth

Australian Tree Frog

collect the poison, they pierce the frog with a stick and hold it over some heat; the poison that is secreted by the frog is collected and used on their darts, etc. One frog can produce enough poison for 30 or more darts. The poison is only secreted when the frog is alarmed or distressed. The species which we have is *Dendrobates histrionicus*, a beautiful black and red frog.

Food consists of newly-hatched crickets, fruit flies and pharoas ants, which are found in unlimited supply in the Reptile Section. Unless bromeliads are provided, the frogs will not breed. Unlike most species of frogs, Poison-arrow Frogs do not go through amplexus, where the male rides on the female's back and fertilises the eggs when they are laid. Instead, they go through a courtship ritual, when the male and the female go through a series of jumping, circling, butting and climbing over each

locusts or new-born mice readily. This species has been exhibited before at Chester, but never with a great deal of success, due to their low tolerance of fluctuating temperature and humidity. There is very little known about the treatment of ailments which frogs get, and most species do not react well to various drugs. As this group are doing so well in their present conditions, it is of the utmost importance to create the same environment in an exhibition cage.

As we learn new techniques and different ways of providing the correct environment for these creatures, so we can expand our collection of frogs, breed them and pass both the animals and our knowledge on to other collections, thus benefiting the frogs and enabling more people to see and appreciate this wonderful and fascinating group of animals.



The ever-popular Kirkajou

K. W. Green



Rodrigues Island Fruit Bats

K. W. Green



Slow Loris—one of the real characters of the new exhibit

Kath Freeburn

# NOCTURNAL



Blotched Genet

Eric Kirkland



At last our visitors can really see the Echidna in their true light.

Bertha Perazak

# HOUSE



Senegal Bushbaby

K. W. Green

## Snippets

### VIETNAM PIGS

(*Sus scrofa domestica*)

Fondly known by most people who have come across this species as the Vietnamese Pot-bellied Pig, owing to their quite amazing shape when fully matured adults, these animals are a fairly recent acquisition to the collection at Chester.

A male and two females arrived in May 1983 and wasted no time in deciding to expand the Zoo's pig population. All three adults were bred at Bridgemere Wildlife Park in 1982, so had come to Chester as relative youngsters themselves.

On 1st October, one of the females gave birth after a gestation period lasting three months, three weeks and three days! Unfortunately, she did not appear interested in the piglets at all, and sought the company of the other female in the shed next door, leaving her babies to get cold and hungry. At Chester we always try to hold back before diving into a hand-rearing situation, as, obviously, it is better if the parents will do the job themselves. However, by the following afternoon, it was clear that the mother had no intention of rearing her youngsters, possibly owing to her inexperience, and one of the babies was in a very weak state.

Peter Wait, Curator of Mammals, made the decision to remove the piglets, and he took them home, where he and his wife, Maveen, began to warm them up and feed them, using a premature baby bottle. In no time, the two stronger piglets began to respond, but the weaker one never revived and died a few days later. However, the other two, named 'Perky' and 'Porky', grew from strength to strength and, on 20th October, they were returned to the Zoo and placed in the warm Kangaroo House quarters, in the care of Alan Woodward and Dave Haw. Soon the piglets, who are both females, will be introduced to the group.



Belita Neate  
Vietnam Piglets

### MUELLER'S GIBBON

Following the unexpected death of his mate last year, it is with sadness tinged with happiness that we report on the departure of our last Mueller's Gibbon. A resident of one of the enclosures adjacent to the lions, he has become a favourite with the staff and visitors alike. However, with no chance of pairing him up in this country and a request having been made of us from America, we are pleased to say that he has been found a new mate.

The gibbon arrived in the collection, with his mate, as a donation from Society Member Mr Ronald G Pryor in 1968, and he is now on his way to the Gibbon and Gallinaceous Bird Center in Saugus, California. He will be quarantined on arrival in the States at the University of California, before being introduced to his new mate early next year. We are assured that we will be kept in touch with his progress, reports of which we will look forward to eagerly.

## The Wildlife Club of Tanzania Needs *Your* Help

Although they share their country with some of the most spectacular wildlife on earth, such as Lions, Cheetahs, Leopards, Elephants, Zebras and Rhinos, the children of Tanzania rarely ever see such creatures. They cannot get to National Parks or even into the bush, as transport is sparse and expensive. There are few books or magazines on wildlife and very few people can watch television. So how are these children going to learn about these amazing creatures and understand why such a beautiful and valuable part of their environment needs to be preserved?

In Tanzania, the African Wildlife Leadership Federation has started the Milihai Wildlife Clubs and is in need of colour pictures of African animals to help it in its work with the young people of their country. It intends to help them understand their environment and the importance of preserving it. If you have any good, clear pictures

from travel brochures, postcards or magazines and could send them to the Zoo, you could help arouse the interest and enthusiasm of a young person in Africa towards conserving the spectacular wildlife resources of that great Continent. Even pictures of quite common African animals could become prize possessions of one young Tanzanian wildlife supporter.

Chester Zoo has made a start by sending copies of all the relevant Zoo postcards and if you would like to help by sending or bringing pictures of these animals to the Zoo, we will collect them and despatch them to Tanzania. If you would like to help as a group, e.g. in school, Brownies, Scouts etc., and send your pictures direct to Tanzania, the address is:— Milihai Clubs, Box 3134, Arusha, Tanzania. Any help would be gratefully received, and we will report on this project in future issues.

# JU NEWS



Well, a year has gone by of the new JuNews, and I would like to know what you think of the show so far! I would still like to hear from you, with suggestions as to what you would like to see on your page.

This issue we have a 'Discover the Animal's Name' and a 'Word Hunt' for you to strain your brains.

Firstly, an animal's name is *hidden* in each of the following sentences. Can you find them?

E.G.—Although I cannot compel, I can ask you to leave

1. What have you done with the other one?
2. Mr Smith's tailor is making Jim his first suit.
3. He did not say to use all the cream.
4. Please ban ten girls from the swimming pool.
5. The second orchid in the row won the first prize.
6. Her hearing was affected by the blast.
7. That Prairie Marmot has had babies.
8. My favourite carol is 'Hark The Herald Angels Sing'.
9. Will you open Guinness bottles first?
10. How lovely to see the sea.



Secondly, in the letter square, there are the names of 30 animals which you can find by going upwards, downwards or diagonally:—

The remaining letters spell a special message just for you (5, 9).

APE  
 AYE AYE  
 BAT  
 CAT  
 CROCODILE  
 DOG  
 EEL  
 EGRETS  
 ELEPHANT  
 FROGMOUTH  
 GORILLA  
 JAGUARUNDI  
 LION  
 LOON  
 MANTIS

S	N	A	K	E	D	E	G	R	E	T	S
G	E	A	P	A	Y	E	A	Y	E	O	M
O	C	A	O	E	T	T	A	B	R	E	I
R	R	T	U	R	T	L	E	E	L	R	D
I	O	W	L	R	I	S	C	E	H	M	N
L	C	R	G	O	C	O	P	P	E	R	U
L	O	O	N	A	N	H	T	I	H	R	R
A	D	Y	T	I	A	R	I	G	C	A	A
N	I	C	H	N	S	I	T	N	A	M	U
E	L	R	T	R	E	G	A	N	O	S	G
W	E	H	T	U	O	M	G	O	R	F	A
T	A	R	A	N	T	U	L	A	I	H	J

NEWT  
 ONAGER  
 OWL  
 PIG  
 RAM  
 RAT  
 RHEA  
 RHINOCEROS  
 ROACH  
 SEA URCHIN  
 SNAKE  
 TARANTULA  
 TIT  
 TOAD  
 TURTLE

ANSWERS—Heron, Loris, Seal, Banteng, Condor, Rhea, Moth, Shark, Penguin, Owl.

We still need jokes for the Golden Jubilee 'Animal Joke Book', so please send them in. See you at the Christmas Party on Friday, 9th December, or, if not, in 1984.

# Senior Membership News

## 1983/84 Members' Meetings

Despite the inclement weather, the first of the Winter Meetings was held on Saturday, 15th October, and was attended by over 80 Members. Professor King, the Chairman, was back in his familiar seat on the stage to welcome the Guest Speaker, Professor William Hale, who had kindly offered to address the meeting. The subject was *'Waders of the Ribble Estuary'*, and Professor Hale then proceeded to share his vast knowledge of the different kinds of waders, their prey, breeding habits and the ever-present danger from predators. Slides showed the vast areas of the estuary which are inhabited by the thousands of birds. Some of the very interesting slides showed successfully-reared chicks (including some rare species which are now beginning to come back to the area to breed).

The usual cup of tea was enjoyed after the meeting, and quite a wide range of items from the Souvenir Shop were on sale at the Lecture Hall. The Garden Shop (situated near the Sealion Pool) was also open, and it is hoped that this will be open on a regular basis throughout the winter for the Members' Saturday Meetings.

## Junior Members News

We are pleased to welcome many new Junior Members to the Club in the past few months, and I am glad to say that all the trips have been well supported.

At the beginning of August, nearly 40 hard-working individuals offered their services to the Zoo for the afternoon, and were divided out around the sections to give the Keeping Staff a hand. At least 20 youngsters had the task of cleaning out the Sealion Pool, which they did with admirable enthusiasm and gusto. (I am not sure that their parents received them home with such enthusiasm, judging by the odour they were taking with them!) Other Juniors helped to sweep paddocks and prepare food on the Giraffe, Monkey, Rhino and Small Mammal Sections, to say nothing of the trio who had the unenviable job of weeding the Penguin Pool island.

The end of August saw the first Junior Members' Barbeque, at which we were also delighted to welcome once again John Delft, entomologist extraordinaire, from the Manchester Education Department, who set up two moth lamps, which attracted some visitors which most of us did not realise existed. Brian D'Arcy was also on hand with a 'bat detector', borrowed from the British Mammal Society for the evening. This proved that our attempts to encourage bats in the Zoo, by putting up nesting and hibernation boxes for them last year, was by no means a pointless exercise. Most Juniors were surprised to discover the number of bats in the Zoo.

September's trip took us to Llynbrenig Lake, in North Wales, where Nick Ellerton, a frequent visitor to the area, led a walk around part of the lake, and gave some lessons in fly-fishing. After lunch, we followed a nature trail and went bird-spotting, but were somewhat ham-

The Members' Meetings for the beginning of 1984 are planned as follows:—

### Saturday, 11th February, at 2.30 pm

Joint Meeting of the Society and the Fauna and Floral Preservation Society.

### Saturday, 17th March, at 2.30 pm

#### 'Birds of Sri Lanka'

Dr John Rains, Member of the Society and a widely-travelled bird expert

### Saturday, 14th April

12.30 pm—Annual Buffet Lunch

2.30 pm—'Chester Zoo—A Review'

Dr Michael Brambell, Zoo Director

### Saturday, 26th May, at 3.30 pm

Annual General Meeting

pered by a thick mist which descended remarkably quickly—fortunately not before having seen a few Cormorant, Greater Crested Grebe and a beautiful group of ten Red Grouse up on the moor.

Blackpool Zoo and a chance to see the lights was the destination of October's trip, and competition for places on the minibus was fierce; fortunately, Mr Alan Jones (Senior Member) provided one car for overflowees. Our Junior Members met up with Blackpool Zoo's Junior Club when they arrived there, and a very good day was had by all. Following a fish and chip supper, Mr Peter Wait, who led the trip, returned home via the lights, with some quite exhausted youngsters.

## JUNIOR MEMBERS' TRIPS TO LOOK FORWARD TO:—

### Friday, 9th December, from 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY—There will be a snack supper in the Oakfield, with games and quizzes organised. The prize for the 'VIP' raffle will be the winner spending a day at the Zoo in the company of one of the Curators on his rounds. Please think up some good jokes to tell the others! Meet at the Time Office.

### Saturday, 21st January, at 2.30 pm

CONTACT SESSION—For those Juniors who would like to meet some of our residents 'face to face', this is your opportunity to do so. We hope to have Kinkajou, Snakes, Tarantulas, a Reindeer and, perhaps, some others there for you to touch. Meet at the Oakfield.

### Saturday, 25th February, at 10.00 am

LIVERPOOL NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM—A unique opportunity to see behind the scenes of this well-known museum, being shown around by the museum's Curator and Education Officer. Michael Coupe will lead this trip.

**Saturday, 24th March, at 2.30 pm**

RE-BRANCHING CAT HOUSE ENCLOSURES—More hard work for the hardy amongst you. Allan Guy and Peter Wait will supervise the re-branching of some of the enclosures in the Cat House. Places for this event may be limited, so please let me know if you are hoping to come. Assemble at the front of the Monkey House at 2.30 pm

**Saturday, 28th April, from 10.00 am to 5.30 pm**

TROUT FARM AND SLATE MINE VISIT—Nick Ellerton will lead the trip to one of the trout farms in North Wales, and Council Member Ray Heaton, a geologist, will show you around a slate mine. Wellingtons essential; assemble at the Staff Car Park.

**Saturday, 19th May, from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm**

MARTIN MERE—A repeat of a popular trip from last year, but visiting at a different time of the year—the breeding season—so there should be plenty to see. A member of the Martin Mere staff will show us round the reserve.

**Saturday, 2nd June, at 11.00 am**

ANNUAL POND SURVEY—One of the Zoo's ponds will be chosen and we will spend the day making detailed records of the life discovered, the plan being to see how this varies each year. Senior Member Brian D'Arcy will lead this trip—wellingtons once again essential.

**Saturday, 30th June, from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm**

AINSDALE NATURE RESERVE—A visit to the Southport area to see this large reserve, where the warden will be on hand to give us a tour.

Full details of all these trips have been circulated. Please address any queries about Senior Members' Meetings to Mrs M McNally and Junior Members' Meetings to Mrs Penny Rudd, Chester Zoo, Caughall Road, Upton-by-Chester CH2 1LH. Tel: (0244) 380280.

**All Members of the Society are reminded that subscriptions for 1984 are due on 1st January next:—**

Junior Members .....	£2.50
Associate Members .....	£5.00
Annual Members .....	£10.50

**Life Members will receive their 1984 Membership Cards at the beginning of the year**

# Chester Zoo

*Golden Jubilee*  *1934-84*

As you have read in the Autumn Issue of 'Chez Nous', we are very busy organising events to celebrate our Golden Jubilee next year.

they come up, and we will be relying on every Member for their support.

We will be letting you know of any other events as

Here are some dates for your diary:—

**1984 CELEBRATIONS CALENDAR  
(Preliminary)**

**January**

A short story competition launched through local schools.

**February**

Joint North of England Zoological Society and the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society Members' Meeting.

**March**

Art and photographic exhibition. The latter will launch a photographic competition.

**April**

Easter egg hunt on Easter Saturday.  
Sunday, 29th: Sponsored Bird Watch—hopefully with Bill Oddie.  
A fellowship day for the disabled.

**May**

Thursday, 9th: Celebrations Day.  
Friday, 18th: Jubilee Dinner, with a special Guest Speaker, at the Grosvenor Hotel in Chester.

**June**

Wednesday, 13th: Members' Mid-Summer Night's Barbeque.  
Insectivorous Plant Exhibition in the Tropical House.

**July**

'Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo'—A musical production by a local school.

**August**

Craft Fair.

**September**

Roberts Bakery Brass Band Performance.

**October**

World Wildlife Fund/Chester Zoo Sponsored Walk.

**November/December**

Watch this space.

# Arrivals and Births

0.1	Lion-tailed Macaque ( <i>Macaca silenus</i> )	Birth
1.0	South American Tapir ( <i>Tapirus terrestris</i> )	Birth
	Ostrich ( <i>Struthio camelus</i> )	Hatchings
2.0	Arabian Gazelle ( <i>Gazella arabica</i> )	Birth
1.1	Hummingbirds ( <i>Amazilia amazilia</i> )	Purchased
1.1	Golden Pheasant ( <i>Chrysolophus pictus</i> )	Presented
1.0	Gnu ( <i>Connochaetes taurinus</i> )	Birth
0.0.3	Crimson-winged Parrakeets ( <i>Aprosmictus erythropterus</i> )	Fledged
0.0.1	Rodrigues Island Fruit Bat ( <i>Pteropus rodricensis</i> )	Birth
0.0.7	Tinamous ( <i>Nothoprocta perdicaria</i> )	Hatched
1.0	Celebes Macaque ( <i>Cynopithecus niger</i> )	Birth
0.0.1	White-crested Jay Thrush ( <i>Garrulax leucalophus</i> )	Hatched
1.1	Nanday Conures ( <i>Nandayus nenday</i> )	Presented
0.0.1	Blue and Gold Macaw ( <i>Ara ararauna</i> )	Presented
1.1	Senegal Bushbabies ( <i>Galapago senegalensis</i> )	Breeding Loan from Bristol Zoo
0.1	Common Zebra ( <i>Equus burchelli</i> )	Birth
0.0.11	Slender-billed Conures ( <i>Enicognathus leptorhynchus</i> )	Fledged
0.1	Red-sided Eclectus Parrot ( <i>Eclectus roratus</i> )	Fledged
1.1	Blackbuck ( <i>Antelope cervicapra</i> )	Birth
1.0	Grevy Zebra ( <i>Equus grevyi</i> )	Birth
1.0	Masai Giraffe ( <i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i> )	Purchased
1.0	Palm Cockatoo ( <i>Probosciger aterrimus</i> )	From Blackpool Zoo
0.1	Palm Cockatoo ( <i>Probosciger aterrimus</i> )	From Twycross Zoo
0.0.1	Derbyan Parrakeet ( <i>Psittacula derbiana</i> )	Fledged
0.0.2	Caracal Kittens ( <i>Felis caracal</i> )	Birth
0.1	Red Lechwe ( <i>Kobus leche</i> )	Birth
1.1	Goldies Lorikeets ( <i>Trichoglossus goldeii</i> )	Exchanged
0.1	Puma ( <i>Felis concolor</i> )	Birth
0.0.2	Crested Guans ( <i>Penelope purpurascens</i> )	Hatched
0.0.2	Blue-eyed Cockatoos ( <i>Cacatua ophthalmica</i> )	Fledged
0.0.4	Capybaras ( <i>Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris</i> )	Birth
0.0.13	Japanese White-eyes ( <i>Zosterops japonica</i> )	Exchanged

## STAFF ARRIVALS

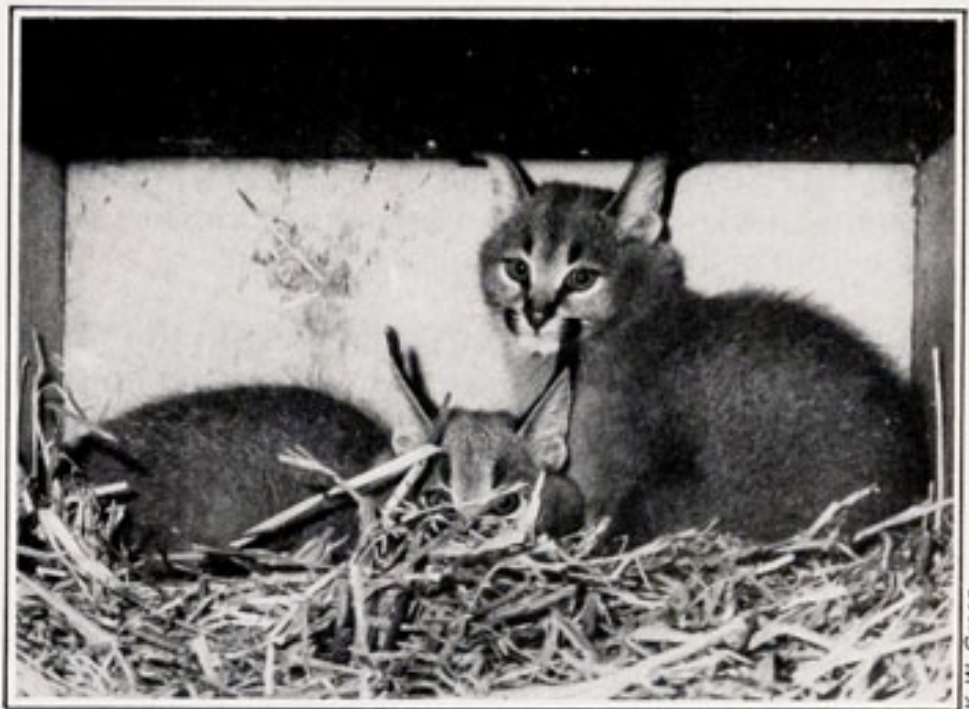
We would also like to welcome three new arrivals on the staff side:—

**DR. ROGER WILKINSON** has taken up his post as Curator of Birds, having recently returned to this country following a six-year period lecturing at the University of Kano, in Nigeria, where he taught all aspects of zoology, with emphasis on ornithology, ecology and animal behaviour.

Dr Wilkinson did his degree at Southampton University, where he also studied for his PhD in Auditory Discrimination in Birds.

Married, with two young children, Roger has moved from his home base in Blackpool to take up his new position.

**DAVID QUAYLE** has joined us in the newly-created post as Head of Marketing. He brings with him a wealth of marketing and commercial expertise. He began his



Caracal Lynx Kittens

1.1	Hartlaub's Touraco ( <i>Tauraco hartlaubi</i> )	Exchanged
0.0.1	Senegal Bushbaby ( <i>Galapagos senegalensis</i> )	Birth
0.0.2	Patagonian Conure ( <i>Cynaoliseus patagonus</i> )	Fledged
1.0	Bagot Goat ( <i>Capra hircus</i> )	Received in exchange
2.1	Vietnam Pigs ( <i>Sus scrofa domestica</i> )	Birth
0.1	Common Peafowl ( <i>Pavo cristatus</i> )	Presented
3.0	Zebra Finches ( <i>Poephila guttata</i> )	Arrival
0.0.6	Spicebirds ( <i>Lonchura punctulata</i> )	Arrival
0.0.1	Orange-cheeked Waxbill ( <i>Estrilda melpoda</i> )	Arrival
0.0.2	Bengalese Finches ( <i>Lonchura striata</i> )	Exchange
2.0	Golden Sparrows ( <i>Passer luteus</i> )	Exchange
2.0	Chilean Flamingos ( <i>Phoenicopterus ruber chilensis</i> )	Exchange with Paighton Zoo
1.0	Bornean Orang-utan ( <i>Pongo pygmaeus pygmaeus</i> )	Birth
0.1	Guanaco ( <i>Lama guanicoe</i> )	Birth
1.0	Gaur ( <i>Bos gaurus</i> )	From London Zoo
1.2	Beaver ( <i>Castor canadensis</i> )	From London Zoo
0.0.1	Blackfooted Penguin ( <i>Spheniscus demersus</i> )	Hatched
1.1	Chestnut-bellied Starlings ( <i>Spreo pulcher</i> )	Exchange with Paighton Zoo
0.0.1	De Brazza Monkey ( <i>Cercopithecus neglectus</i> )	Birth

career in marketing at Flamingo Park Zoo and went on to manage the Regional Exhibition Centre at Leeds, before serving as Marketing Services Director for an American conglomerate.

David Quayle will be relocating with his wife and two children to Chester from Scotland in the near future.

**BRENDA NORGAIN** joins us from King's Grove School in Crewe, where she had been headmistress for the past 14 years, nine of which were spent at the Crewe Girls' Grammar School, prior to the reorganisation into the comprehensive system five years ago.

A zoologist by training, Brenda has been placed at Chester Zoo by the Cheshire Education Authority to work in the educational field at the Zoo. She held a private pilot's licence for many years, and still retains a great interest in aviation.