

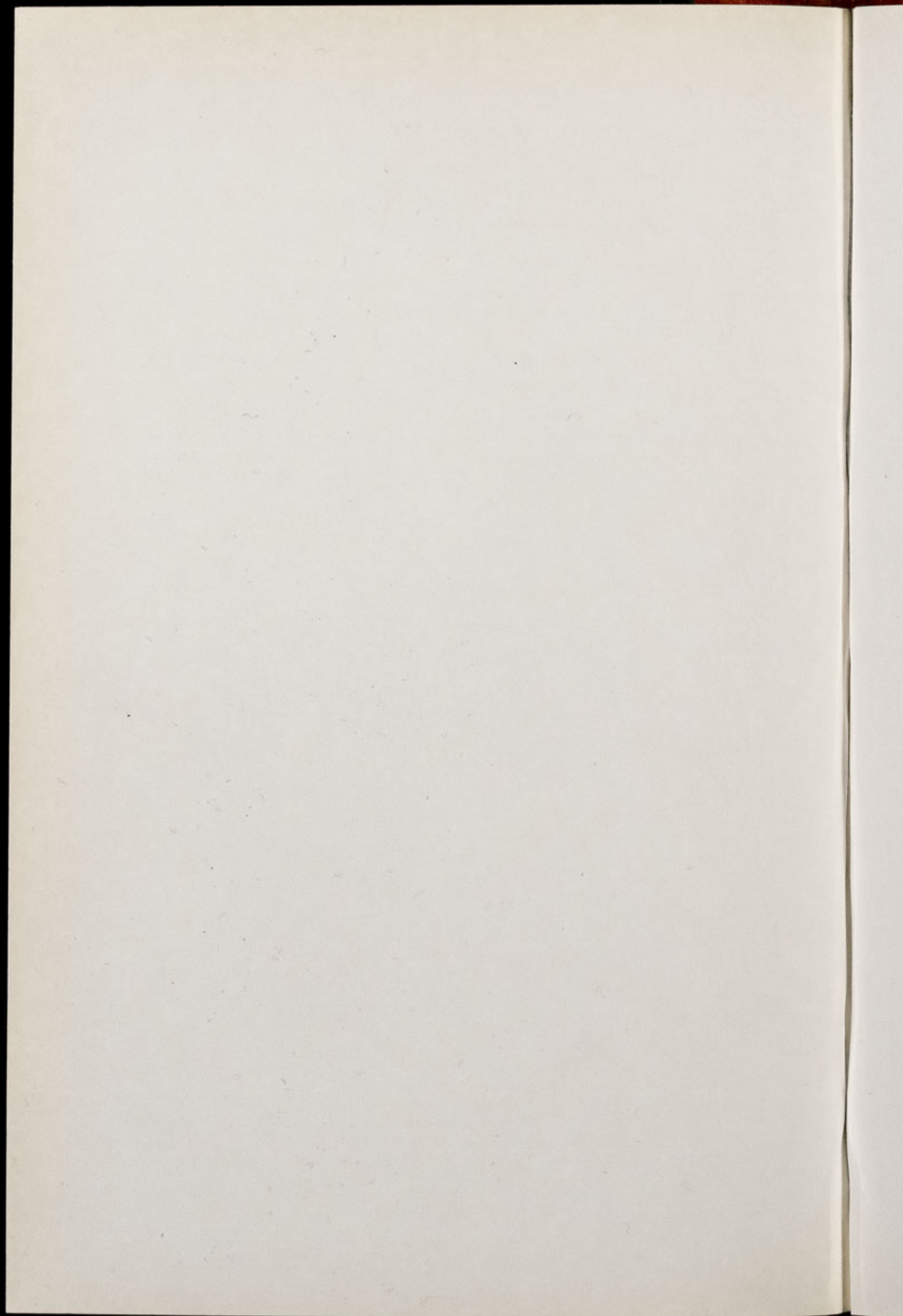


CHESTER ZOO NEWS

AND GUIDE

September 1977

Price 12p



The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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COVER

"Jubilee"

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

Annual subscription — Two Pounds and Thirty Pence, postage paid
Telephone Chester 20106/7/8

"JUBILEE"

When observing "Jubilee" recently the writer was highly amused by his antics. He and the three adult elephants were inside the Pachyderm House—"Jubilee" had entered the small pool to the delight of the visitors, and with his mouth below water level and his trunk waving about in the air was rushing along the length of the pool. Backwards and forwards he came, obviously enjoying himself and having a great deal of satisfaction in being able to keep cool in the heat of the day.

"Judy", the mother, and "Sheba" our other Indian Elephant female, wearing the most sanguine of expressions on their faces, kept a very definite watch over the youngster, although he has taken a bath in the pool almost daily since he was born.

"Jubilee" is now taking solid food in the form of hay and grass, although of course he will continue to be fed by the mother for some time to come.

GENERAL NEWS

We are pleased to report the breeding of a Guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) from a pair which we purchased in September 1976. The youngster is a healthy animal and can be seen in Enclosure 98. These animals have a distribution in South America.

* * *

Two Squirrel Monkeys (*Saimiri sciureus*) have been bred in the zoo. These youngsters can be seen in the Small Mammal House (Enclosure 84).

The species gives birth to one young which is at first carried on the mother's underside and later rides on her back. It is commonly distributed over all the Americas, occurring particularly throughout Amazonia. These monkeys occur in large troupes of up to 100 animals. Their habitat is the few hundreds of yards of forest bordering river banks. The reason for this would appear to be that of availability of

food, mainly flowers and fruit from the creepers which exist there. They do however eat insects usually caught on the wing, small birds, frogs and snails. A familiar sight is that of the Squirrel Monkey using its forearms as a tray when feeding—in the manner of the capuchin and the uakaris.

Squirrel Monkeys have a coat of olive-green with yellowish-white underparts and orange feet and limbs. These monkeys have tufted ears which are white; the rings around the eyes are white, the muzzle and tip of the tail being black. This is a small animal measuring about a foot in length; its tail is prehensile.

Noisy and quarrelsome, these animals struggle for central positions in the troop at night. To keep themselves warm they sleep with their tails wrapped round them. When angry or frightened they cry loudly, but their voices are generally flute-like.

* * *

A recent photograph of "Chad", quite the nicest chimpanzee Mrs. Joan Timmis has hand-reared. Aged about six months when the photograph was taken a few weeks ago he will soon be seen in the Zoo in the Animal Nursery near the Bird House. See page 4.

BIRD NOTES

The following birds have been bred in the zoo since our last report in the July issue of the magazine :

- 3 Crimson-bellied Conures (*Pyrrhura rhodogaster*)
- 1 Blue-fronted Amazon Parrot (*Amazona aestiva aestiva*)
- 1 Laughing Dove (*Stigmatopelia senegalensis*)
- 1 Black-headed Sibia (*Leioptila capistrata*)
- 1 Ornate Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus ornatus*)
- 3 Spice Birds (*Munia punctulata*)
- 2 Tri-coloured Nuns (*Munia malacca*)
- 5 Silverbills (*Euodice malabarica cantans*)
- 2 Orange-cheeked Waxbills (*Estrilda melpoda*)
- 3 Sundervall's Waxbills (*Estrilda rhodopya*)
- 3 Lesser Patagonian Conures (*Cyanoliseus patagonus*)
- 1 Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*)
- 1 San Blas Jay (*Cyanocorax sandblasiana nelsoni*)



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

"CHAD"



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

KOOKABURRA CHICK (*Dacelo noyaeguineae*) ABOUT EIGHTEEN DAYS OLD

The distribution of the Blue-fronted Amazon (*Amazona aestiva aestiva*) is Brazil, from Piauhy and Pernambuco to Rio Grande do Sul.

Breeding of the Blue-fronted Amazon in the Zoo has represented three years' efforts to bring the adults into "tip-top" physical condition to enable them to breed, and obviously their diet is the most important factor.

Apart from the usual staple diet of dry seed consisting of a mixture of sunflower, caraway and millet which is always available for the birds, they have a large variety of extra foods. They enjoy apple, pear and grapes, and occasionally a slice of orange. In addition seed which has been soaked in water for 24 hours and then washed thoroughly under the cold water tap is very beneficial and will always be taken in preference to dry seed. Sunflower, safflower, wheat and oats are the ones we usually offer but others are sometimes tried.



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

YOUNG BLUE-FRONTED AMAZON (*Amazona aestiva aestiva*)

Amazons, like most parrot-like birds, enjoy peanuts but these are fed to them in moderation. It is noticeable, however, that when feeding young in the early stages much less interest is shown in nuts and fruit. Greenfood is given throughout the year, and is absolutely essential during the breeding season. Chickweed, groundsell, dandelion and seeds in grasses are fed during this period. We ensure that greenfood is never offered when frosted and we also make doubly sure that it is obtained from a source where there is no chance that it has been subjected to any modern weed-killer or insecticide sprays. Cuttle-fish bone to aid digestion is always available, and we also provide a vitamin preparation with either the drinking water or the seed. When young are being fed we like to give the adults bulk food such as stale brown bread soaked in honey or sweetened condensed milk.

Parrots like to chew bark, buds and leaves and so twiggy branches of pear, apple, willow and poplar are provided every day. These are extremely beneficial not only internally but they help to keep the birds occupied. Larger branches and logs also help in this respect and serve to wear down the beak, preventing excessive growth. Some of our parrots will accept live foods such as maggots and mealworms. This again helps to keep them in good physical condition.

The forehead and lores of this parrot are blue; the crown, the area surrounding the eyes, sometimes part of the cheeks, the throat and, in some individuals, even part of the upper breast, also the thighs, are yellow. The primaries are blue and black with a prominent red speculum. The bend of the wing is red, or red and yellow. There is a broad yellowish-green band at the tip of the tail and a red patch at the base of the lateral feathers. Many of the feathers, in particular those of the neck and upper breast, have black edges. The beak and cere are black; the eye-lashes are also black. The intelligence and powers of mimicry of this species are remarkable.

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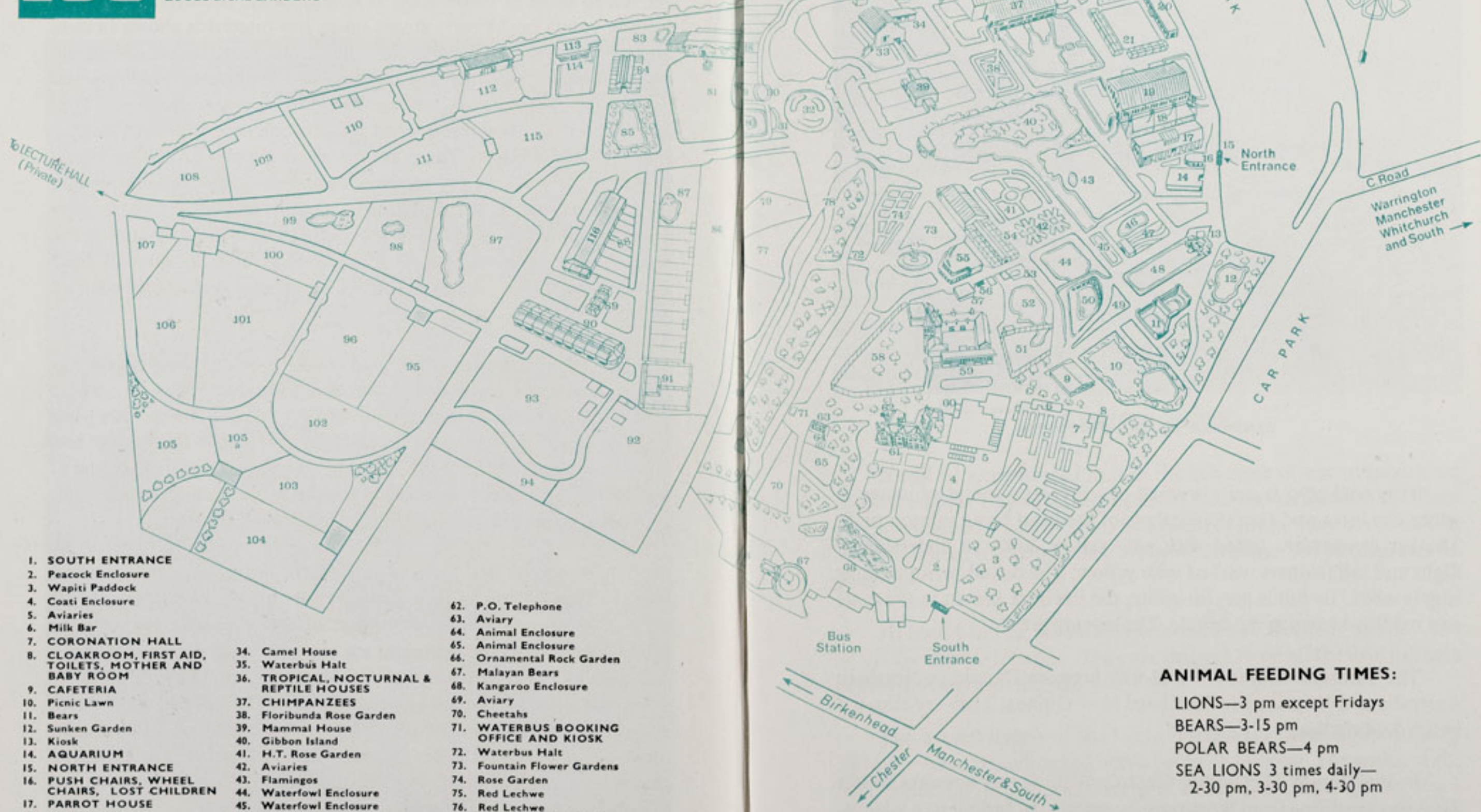
We have recently received a pair of Goffin's Cockatoos (*Cacatua goffini*) in exchange. Goffin's Cockatoo is found only on the Tanimbar Islands in Indonesia. It has probably been introduced to Tual in the Kai Islands, Indonesia.

CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

FOR A COMPLETE TOUR OF THE ZOO — Follow Nos 1-16 South Entrance
or Nos 16-116 from North Entrance then return to Nos 1-14

**Chester Zoo is Open Daily
from 9.00 a.m. until dusk.**



1. SOUTH ENTRANCE

2. Peacock Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Coati Enclosure
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. Shop and Kiosk
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 & REPTILE HOUSES
37. CHIMPANZES
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. Aviary
64. Animal Enclosure
65. Animal Enclosure
66. Ornamental Rock Garden
67. Malayan Bears
68. Kangaroo Enclosure
69. Aviary
70. Cheetahs
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. Big Cat Enclosures

92. Antelope Enclosure
93. Antelope Enclosure
94. Antelope Enclosure
95. Zebras
96. Zebras
97. Waterfowl Enclosure
98. Waterfowl Enclosure
99. Waterfowl Enclosure
100. Blackbuck
101. Wallabies
102. Animal Enclosure
103. Wallabies
104. Pere David's Paddock

105. Llamas
- 105a. Llamas
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—
2-30 pm, 3-30 pm, 4-30 pm

ANIMALS MAY BE MOVED
FROM TIME TO TIME



By courtesy of W. H. Timmis

TANIMBAR ISLAND, INDONESIA

This cockatoo is quite a small species. Its general plumage is white, the lores and bases of feathers of the head being salmon pink. The ear coverts are tinted with pale yellow, and the underside of flight and tail feathers washed with yellow. The naked periophthalmic ring is white. Its bill is greyish-white, the iris dark brown in the male and reddish-brown in the female. The legs are grey.

The Tanimbar Islands lie mid-way between Darwin in Northern Australia and Vogulkop in Northern New Guinea. They are situated in the Arafura Sea.

In 1962 Mr. W.H. Timmis, Curator of Birds and Apes at Chester Zoo, was returning from Singapore by sea via the Indonesian Islands, and Tanimbar was the last stop of the Indonesian chain. He visited Jamdena on Tanimbar, spent four days there, travelling south to Latdalam, and was able to make several excursions inland. The island is heavily forested with deep gullies and forest peaks. He saw large numbers of Goffin's Cockatoos both on the coast and inland, mostly occurring in pairs. On two occasions, however, he saw five or six birds together. At dusk they returned to their roosting trees, some

of these being along water courses where they would settle on the outermost branches of tall trees.

The flight of Goffin's Cockatoo is direct with regular, deliberate wing beats. The nest is in a hollow limb or fold in trees usually very high up from the ground. Mr. Timmis was shown one nesting hole containing two white eggs. He was told that the tree nesting site had been abandoned by a pair of Goffin's Cockatoos. The two eggs were removed and measured and found to be 38.3 x 27.6mm.

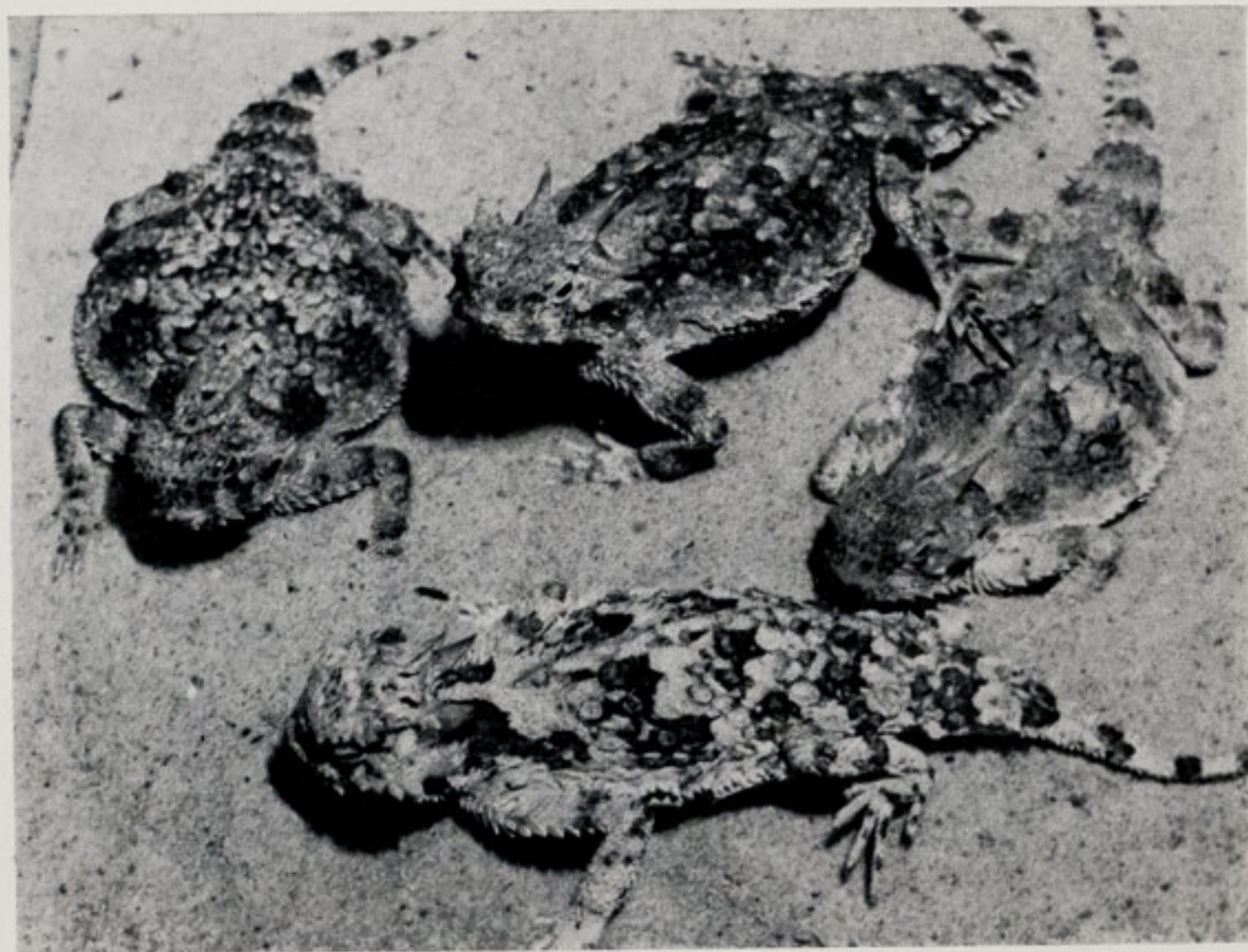
Goffin's Cockatoo was named by Dr. Otto Finsch in 1863. He named this new species after Herr. A. Goffin as a tribute to their friendship. Goffin was an infantry lieutenant in the Netherlands Army who had been trained for a collecting expedition to West Africa but unfortunately he died before this could be accomplished.

REPTILE NEWS

It will be remembered that in the last issue of our magazine we mentioned four Little Horned Lizards (*Phrynosoma modestum*). These were presented by Mr. Timmis as a result of his holiday in the U.S.A. We are pleased to say that they are now thriving. See photograph on page 12.

Horned Lizards, commonly referred to as Horned "Toads", are of the Genus *Phrynosoma*. They are distinct from all the other genera of North American lizards.

The overall length of the Little Horned Lizard is approximately $3\frac{3}{4}$ in, the head including the horns being $\frac{11}{16}$ in. long. The width of the head including the temporal horns is about $\frac{13}{16}$ in. This species has a distribution in Western Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, and the states of Chihuahua and Sonora, Mexico. Its colouration is yellowish to pinkish with a large black patch on each side of the nape of the neck—sometimes this can be rather indistinct. The abdomen is yellowish-white and, with the exception of the region of the vent, is immaculate. Several small patches of black occur frequently in front and behind the vent. No crossbars appear on the back; the tail, however, is usually banded.



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

LITTLE HORNED "TOADS" (*Phrynosoma modestum*)

Little Horned Lizards do not have spiny scales at the edge of the abdomen; the head spines are small and lack the appearance of the larger horned lizards. The eardrum is exposed or only partly covered with granular scales and in this aspect differs from some other species. There is a lack of enlarged rows of scales on the chin which are apparent in some species of the Horned Lizard.

In captivity Horned Lizards must be kept dry and very warm. Sunshine, induced or otherwise, for the greater part of the day is necessary to keep the creatures in good health and taking food. Several inches of fine sand should line the floor of the vivarium, which must be heated if the temperature inside the enclosure is likely to be variable. A consistent temperature of at least 70° F. is ideal.

Horned Lizards prey on insects. They possess a thick, viscid tongue, which they protrude quickly and almost instantaneously the insect has disappeared into the lizards' mouth. This method of eating is toad-like, the head being bent deliberately in the manner of an

amphibian, but a few seconds later a frightened lizard may dart away at great speed.

Seventeen species of the Horned Lizard are recognized, several of these being exclusively Mexican. A few species which occur commonly in Mexico range a short distance over the border-line of the United States. Certain characteristics must be borne in mind when determining individual species. These are as follows: formation and proportionate length of the head spines; type of fringe of spiny scales along the edge of the body and whether in one or two rows. Care should be taken to note if the scales of the abdomen are smooth or keeled. There may be an arrangement of enlarged scales on the chin, this being a distinctive characteristic in some species. The precise locality of the specimen obtained is of great importance in determining an individual species.

Living young numbering from six to twelve are produced by the Horned Lizard. These are born encased in a transparent wrapping through which they soon emerge. At birth they possess tiny horns but do not have the spiny appearance of the parent.

Many species of the Horned Lizard inhabit the true desert where the sun beats down mercilessly. They prefer hot and dry, sandy or sub-arid places. In desolate wastes of the Southwest the little creatures dart about with amazing rapidity. They are at their most active in the hottest part of the day, preparing themselves for the night long before sunset. In doing this they work their noses into the hot sand, quickly pushing their way forward for a few inches using the head as a tool to produce a furrow. They then flatten themselves and with their sharp spiny sides dig their way deeper, throwing the sand over their backs, using the head and then the sides until covered. Quite frequently they leave the top of the head visible just about level with the surface of the sand.

The average Horned "Toad" is fairly harmless apart from an



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

SOLOMON ISLAND SKINKS (*Corucia zebrata*) To be seen in the Reptile House. This is the only breeding group in the country.

ability to inflict a superficial scratch from the spines of its head when trying to defend itself. Specimens will close their eyes and feign indifference or death. Some puff up prodigiously, while others go to the other extreme, completely flattening the body. When handled some specimens have been observed to eject jets of blood from the corner of the eye, following on a distinct sound similar to that of a human being pressing the tongue against the roof of the mouth, thus forcing a small quantity of air forward. Apparently the blood is ejected at great pressure, the duration of the flow being one and a half seconds. Blood appears to come from the eyelids which at this time are very swollen. When the specimen is released these outward signs of alarm discontinue.

Horned Toads will eat mealworms, but they will also eat ants, grasshoppers and crickets, and small soft-bodied grubs. They will not however eat earthworms. Lettuce leaves dipped in water provide an inducement to absorb liquid.

GARDENING NOTES

The summer beddings have been very good this year as we have not had any continuous rainy spells to spoil the flowers. Canna Lilies planted in the two circular beds in front of the Fountain Restaurant have been in full flower since June. As these grow two to three feet high they show off best when planted in the circular beds on the lawn. Together these two beds contain 500 plants of Canna Lilies with an edging of 200 *Chlorophytum*. Canna is the Celtic name for cane or reed; *Chlorophytum* is made up from the Greek *chloros* meaning green, and *phyton*, a plant. Its common name is Spider Plant, so called because the long flower stems produce off-shoots of young plants which make propagating easy. This plant is very popular as a "house plant".

The well known Salvia "Blaze of Fire", is growing in a triangular bed near the main Lion Enclosure No. 58, where there are 1,000 of these plants along with Standard Fuchsias "Flying Cloud" and Yellow *Calceolaria Amplexicaulis*, the latter being a lighter shade of yellow. This bed is edged with White Alysium.

For the past few years a disease called "rust" has attacked the Antirrhinums and by the end of August some of our beds containing these plants will have been ruined; the disease usually gets worse in September. We used less Antirrhinums this year, but where they are planted they have been very good and at the time of writing "rust" is only just beginning to show in a few places.

This year the narrow border round the lawns in front of the Fountain Restaurant was planted with groups of varieties of French Marigold. At intervals, Salvia "Blue Coronet" is interplanted, and this is erect-growing to 2ft. high.

The two middle weeks of August was a busy period in the greenhouses, when we put in cuttings of various plants for next year's summer beddings. Plants like Geraniums, Fuchsia, Lantana, *Calceolaria*, Abutilons and all the grey-foliage plants have to be propagated by cutting and rooted before the end of September. It is the same with the half-hardy *Gazania* and *Mesembryanthum* which we plant in the rockeries.

We shall also be taking semi-hard cuttings of shrubs and conifers and rooting them in the greenhouses. Once they are rooted they will be put in a cold frame for the winter.

Dutch Elm disease was first observed in one of our elm trees three years ago and this tree was promptly cut down. Since then, however, the odd tree has shown signs of this disease, and it is possible that in a few years' time we won't have any elm trees left.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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 £2.30, 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.

**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**

Printed in England by
W. H. Evans & Sons Ltd.
Sealand Road Trading Estate
Chester