



*By Courtesy of D. A. Wright, Esq., Liverpool Daily Post*

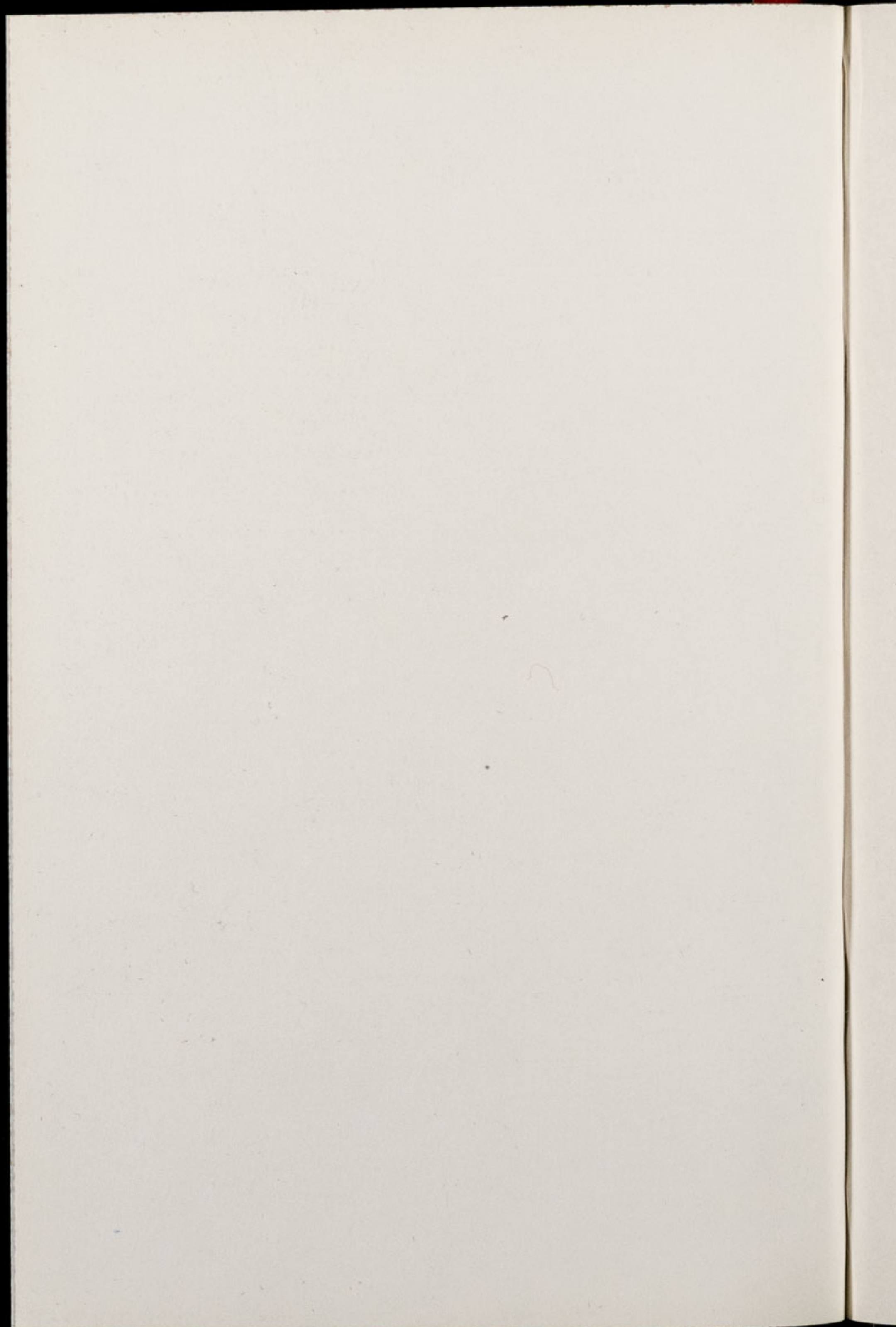
# Chester Zoo News

## **AND GUIDE**

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

June, 1965

Price 1/-



## Editorial

Another summer season is under way and the Zoo grows busier with each passing day. Those visitors who have not been to Chester since last summer will find many changes have taken place during the year. Apart from new buildings and enclosures, we have added many mammals, birds, reptiles and fish to the Collection. Also we were fortunate in the large number of animals bred during the past year.

Work on the new Bird House has gone ahead so fast that we expect it to be completed before the end of July. Details of the House will follow in future issues of "*Zoo News*".

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COVER: *This month our cover features one of Chester Zoo's two Russian Bears.*

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### ZOO BABIES

ACOUCHYS: Three youngsters were born on the morning of 25th May in the Small Mammal House.

VERVET MONKEY — *Cercopithecus pygerythrus*: Our second Vervet baby of recent weeks arrived on the 28th of May. Vervets are members of the Guenon family as are the Dianas, Monas and White-nosed Monkeys, also exhibited at Chester. Natives of south east Africa, these Monkeys live in small groups in forest areas. They are popular Zoo exhibits as they breed readily in captivity.

PIG-TAILED MONKEY — *Macaca nemestrina*: 27th May was the birthday of a very healthy little Pig-tailed Monkey. Normally one baby is born at a time and the females make devoted mothers. Our female is still holding fast to her offspring, so we do not yet know whether it is male or female.

Found in south east Asia, Sumatra and Borneo, Pig-tailed Monkeys are extremely sociable and live in large groups composed of both sexes and all ages. Youngsters in captivity are usually friendly towards their Keepers but adult specimens are more often thoroughly bad-tempered and untrustworthy. In some areas natives train young Pig-tails to collect Coconuts.

BRINDLED GNU: Another Brindled Gnu (or Wildebeeste) calf was born on the 31st of May.

HIGHLAND CATTLE: A second female calf arrived on the 31st of May.

JUNGLE CATS: We have been able to sex the kittens born on the 6th of May and find they are two males and three females — all doing well and growing fast.

PARRAKEETS: There is a considerable amount of nesting activity among the Parrakeets at the present time. Three Golden-mantled Rosellas have already left the nest, a pair of Crimson-wings have four chicks in their nestbox and a pair of Pennants are feeding an unknown number of youngsters.



*D. A. Wright, Liverpool Daily Post.*

WHITE STORK ON NEST



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

**BUDGERIGARS:** One white and three blue "budgies" have left the nest in the Oakfield Aviaries and several green chicks are on the point of following suit.

**OWLS:** At the time of writing the Spotted Eagle Owls have hatched one chick and two eggs remain. The Snowy Owls are sitting on eggs, so we should have further news to report next month.

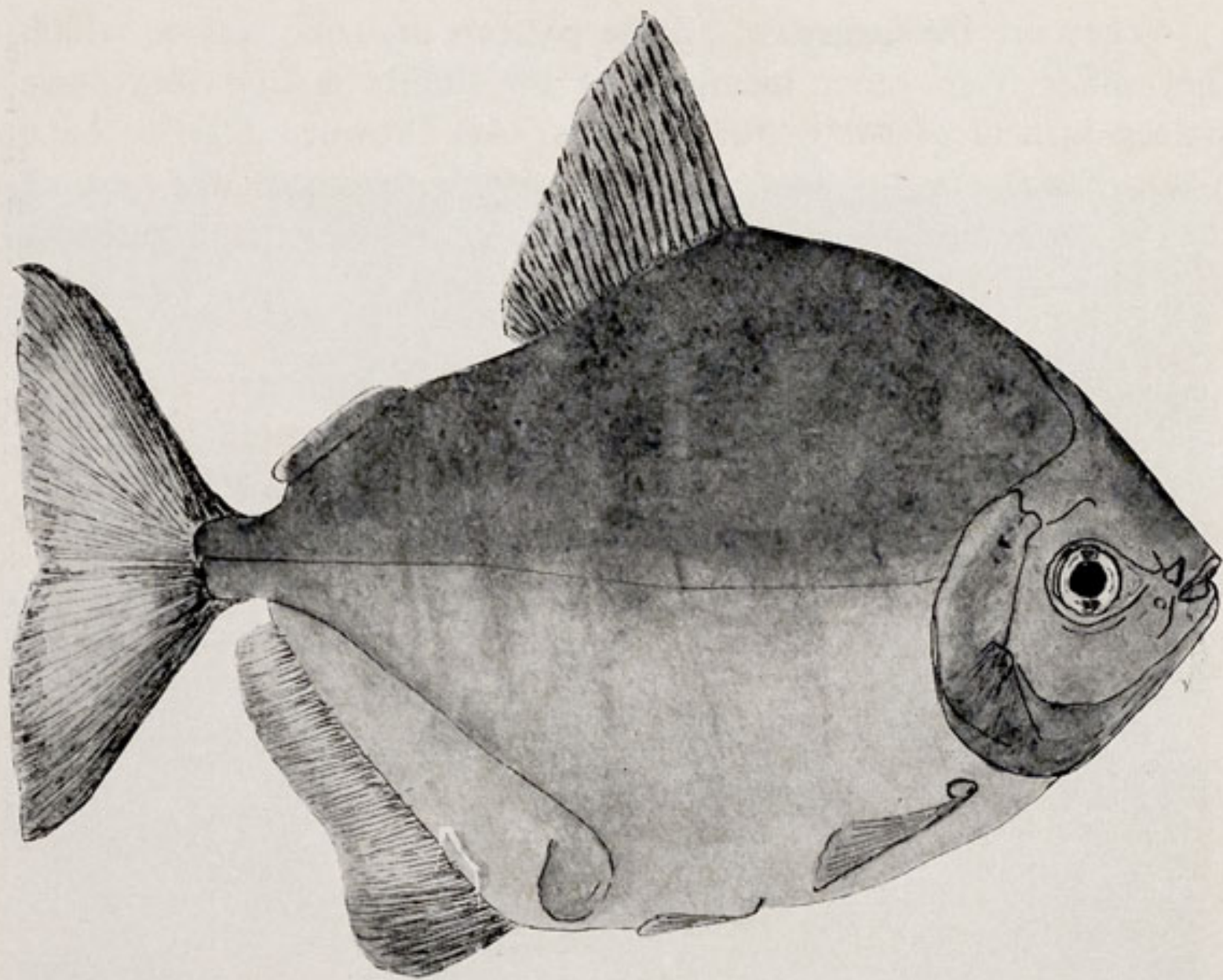
**STORKS:** The European White Storks, in one of the enclosures behind the Monkey House, are in the process of nest building — see picture on previous page.

### PURCHASES

25th May — a small collection of Hummingbirds was released in the Tropical House. Unfortunately the cock Fairy Bluebird (which arrived from Frankfurt Zoo on the 22nd of May) took exception to them. He succeeded in killing one Hummingbird before they could be re-caught and put into the large compartment of the Reptile Section — in which we exhibit Terrapins, Tortoises and Lizards. The Hummingbirds are doing well there and for such tiny birds are drinking fantastic quantities of the nectar provided.

29th May — a mate for our baby male Clouded Leopard — *Felis nebulosa* — arrived on this date. The male is approximately four months old and the female slightly younger. Both are beautiful little animals.

Clouded Leopards are natives of the East Indies and South East Asia. They are excellent tree climbers and feed mainly on small mammals and birds. An



METYNNIS SCHREITMULLERI

M. D. Murphy

29th May (cont'd) adult male may be up to three and a half feet long from head to tail base and have a three foot long tail — females are somewhat smaller. The tail of the Clouded Leopard is proportionately longer than that of any other carnivore.

1st June — new specimens of the following fish were added to the Aquarium:—Golden Barbs, Hawaiian Mouthbrooder, Thick-lipped Gouramies, Honey Gouramies, Red-line Rasboras, *Botia horae* and *Metynnis schreitmulleri*.

### CROWNED PIGEONS

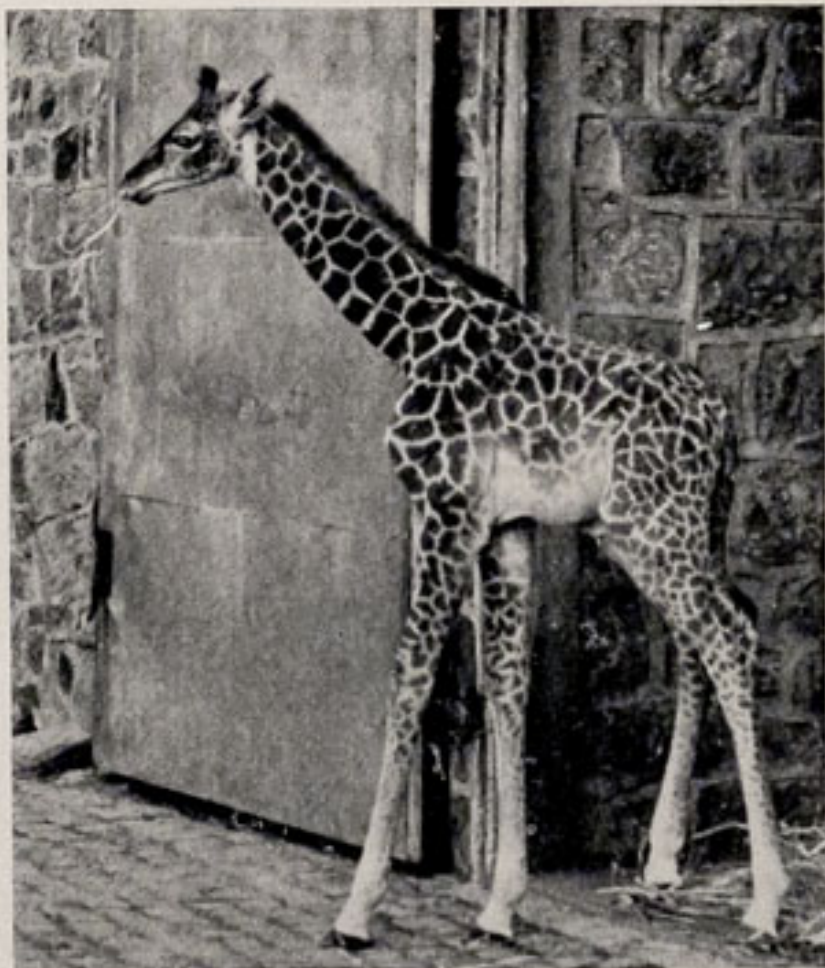
There are three species of Crowned Pigeon, of which we now have two on exhibition at Chester — the Common (*Goura cristata*) and the Victoria Crowned (*Goura victoria*). Four beautiful specimens of the latter species arrived with the Birds of Paradise from New Guinea.

They are the largest of all the pigeons and one way in which they differ from other members of the family is that they have sixteen instead of twelve tail feathers. All Crowned Pigeons have a fan-shaped crest of lace-like blue feathers which, in the case of the Victoria, are edged with white. Their plumage is a pleasing dull blue — with deeper shading on the back.

In New Guinea the natives hunt Crowned Pigeons for food as their flesh is particularly tasty. They are rather stupid birds and therefore easily caught. As a result, these Pigeons are now scarce near human habitation but are thought to be fairly numerous in the remoter parts of New Guinea. Small flocks congregate in marshes or woodland areas and perch on low branches at night.

Our new Victoria Crowned Pigeons are accommodated in the long flight of the Bird House.

### NEW HOME FOR GERRY



GERRY AS A BABY

"Gerry", the first Giraffe ever to be successfully reared at Chester Zoo, has now gone to his new home at Twycross Zoo-Park, Leicestershire. He was born on the 9th of April, 1963, and is now well over twelve feet tall. After spending the night in a specially built crate, so that he could get used to it before the journey, he was taken to Twycross by road on the 27th of May.

Waiting to greet him at Twycross was "Sorbo", a young female Giraffe. By all reports she was delighted to meet Gerry and gave him an exuberant welcome.



*D. A. Wright, Liverpool Daily Post.*

VICTORIA CROWNED PIGEON

# GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

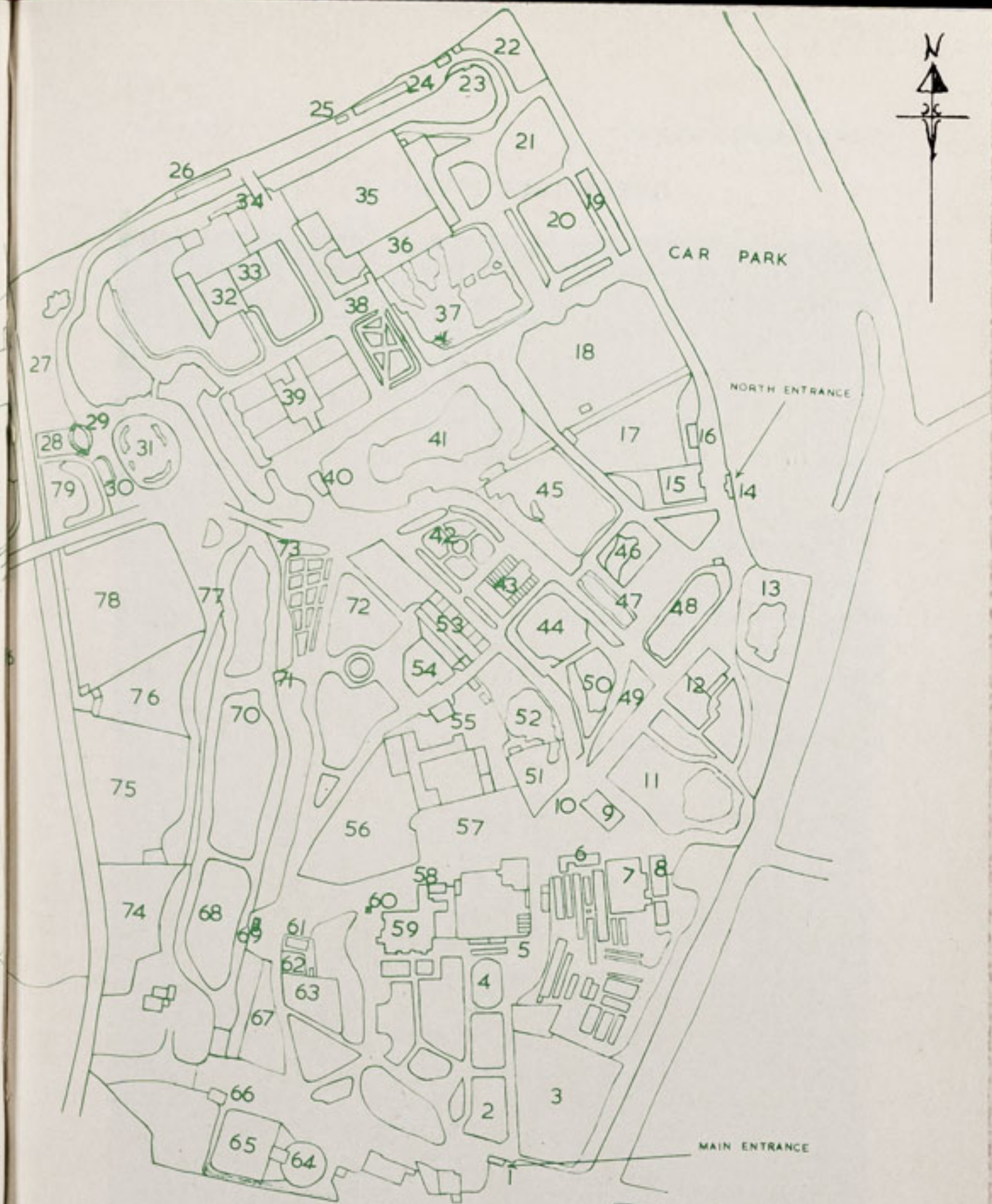
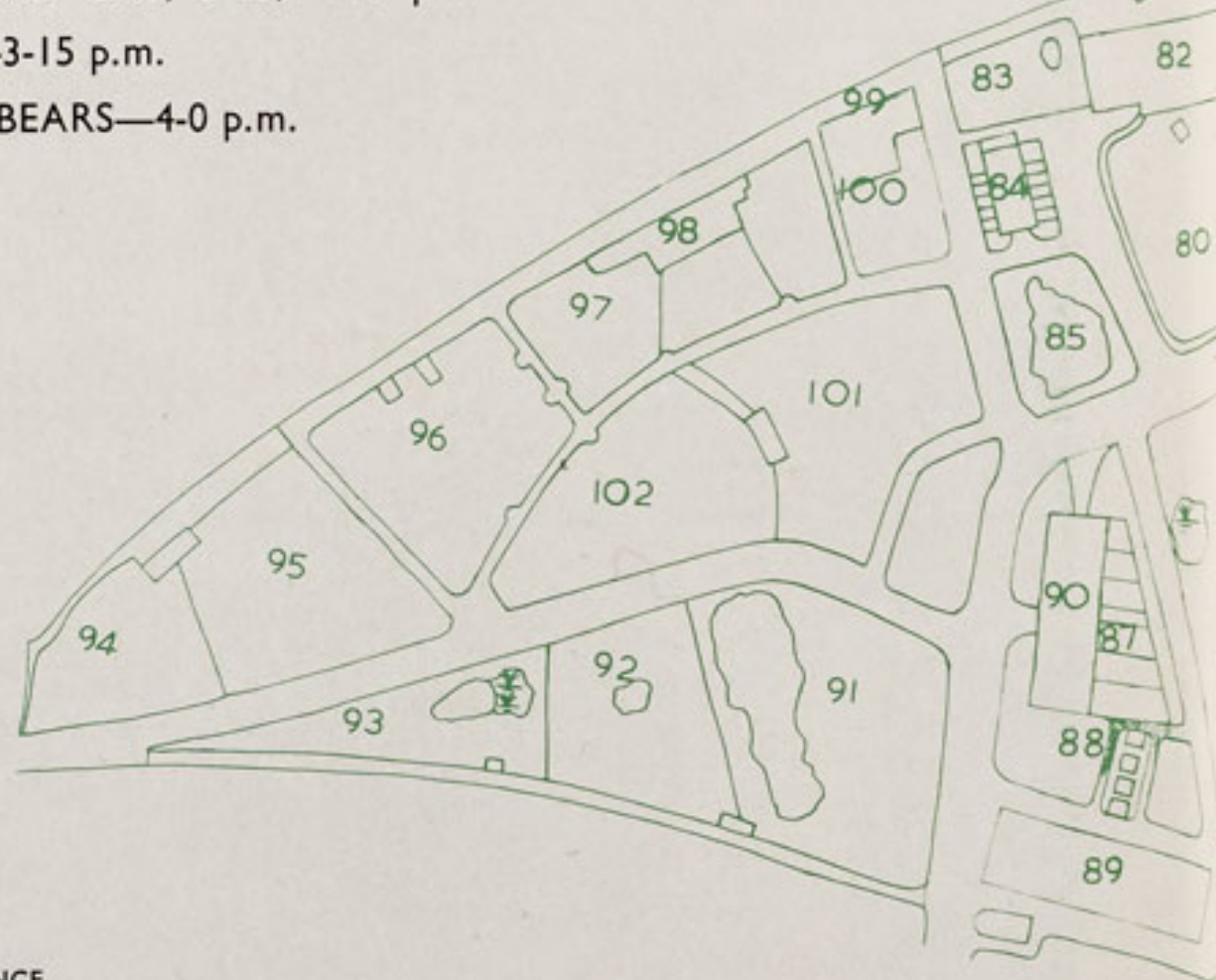
## ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

SEA LIONS—2-40, 3-40, 4-40 p.m.

BEARS—3-15 p.m.

POLAR BEARS—4-0 p.m.



1. MAIN ENTRANCE
2. Bird Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Lesser Pandas
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS AND FIRST AID
9. CAFETERIA
10. ZOO SHOP
11. Picnic Lawn
12. Bears
13. Animal Enclosure
14. NORTH ENTRANCE
15. AQUARIUM
16. PUSH CHAIRS AND WHEEL CHAIRS
17. Animal Enclosure
18. Animal Enclosure
19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP
20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
21. †TOILETS
22. Peccaries
23. Waterbus Halt
24. Birds of Prey Aviary
25. Birds of Prey Aviary
26. Owls
27. †Animal Enclosure
28. Wolverines
29. Racoons
30. Coypus
31. Beavers
32. Giraffe House
33. Camel House

34. Waterbus Halt
35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES
36. APE HOUSE
37. Chimpanzee Islands
38. Floribunda Rose Garden
39. Zebra House
40. Bridge Cafe
41. Gibbon Island
42. H.T. Rose Garden
43. Parrot House
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Penguins and Pelicans
46. Flamingos
47. Waterfowl Enclosure
48. Sea Lion Pool
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Tigers
52. Waterfowl Enclosure
53. BIRD HOUSE
54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT
55. TOILETS
56. Lions
57. †NEW ZOO SHOP
58. TOILETS
59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT
60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk
61. Animal Enclosure
62. Jackals
63. Cheetahs

64. Malayan Bears
65. Animal Enclosure
66. Lynx Cage
67. Kangaroo Enclosure
68. Animal Island
69. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE
70. Islands
71. Waterbus Halt
72. Flower Gardens
73. ROSE GARDENS
74. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
75. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
76. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
77. Waterbus Halt
78. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
79. Kamchatka Bears
80. Elephant Paddock
81. Hippo Paddock
82. PACHYDERM HOUSE
83. Tapir Paddock
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Ankole Cattle
87. Stork Enclosures
88. Monkey Enclosures
89. †Cat House
90. MONKEY HOUSE

91. Cranes and Waterfowl
92. Waterfowl and Wallabies
93. Cranes and Waterfowl
94. Bison Paddock
95. Deer Paddock
96. Eland Paddock
97. Rhino Paddocks
98. RHINO HOUSE
99. TOILETS
100. MPILA SNACK BAR
101. Antelope Enclosure
102. Antelope Enclosure

†—Under Construction.

Animals may be moved from time to time.

### GREEN TREE PYTHONS

For the first time ever at Chester, we are exhibiting Green Tree Pythons — *Chondropython viridis*. Six fine specimens arrived from Taronga Park Zoo, with the Birds of Paradise and Crowned Pigeons on the 27th of April.

They are a small species of Python — growing to only four feet in length — and at one time were thought to be confined to the island of New Guinea. It was not until the early years of the Second World War that soldiers discovered Green Tree Pythons in Northern Australia.

Vivid green in colour the Pythons have a row of white spots down the centre of their backs. They are nocturnal in habit and feed only at night but are already feeding well. Most of their day is spent looped round branches of the tree in their enclosure. They blend so well with the plants in their new home that often visitors have to look twice to spot them.

### BIRDS OF PARADISE

We are extremely proud of our fine collection of Birds of Paradise and readers may be interested to know a little about those exhibited at Chester. Of the thirty-eight species of Birds of Paradise in New Guinea, we have specimens of ten different species.

PRINCESS STEPHANIE'S — *Astrarchia stephaniae* — was so named in honour of the then Crown Princess of Austria. The tail is wedge-shaped with the two central feathers growing to a length of two feet. Princess Stephanie's belong to the group known as the Long Tails. Colouration in the male is mainly black, with the exception of the metallic green head feathers and orange head band. Males also have a strange bunch of feathers on the nape of the neck. Females are far smaller and brownish in colour.

RIBBON-TAILS — *Taeniaparadisea mayeri* — are the longest *Passerine* birds with a total length of forty-two inches in the males. The two longest tail feathers of an adult can be three



GREEN TREE PYTHON

*J. Whitworth.*

feet in length and are white with a black tip. Flight is difficult with such a long tail and usually short distances only are covered. Ribbon-Tails can be distinguished from the Princess Stephanie's Birds of Paradise by their thin, nasal tuft of feathers but apart from this, body markings are very similar in the two species. They are found at altitudes of eight to ten thousand feet above sea level.

**SUPERB BIRDS OF PARADISE** — *Lophorina superba* — are found in northern New Guinea. There the natives kill the birds for their skins which are dried and exchanged for cloth, etc. The adult male is black, except for his blue/green forehead and chest plumes. When displaying, the males erect the cape-like circle of feathers around their necks and spread their wings and chest plumes. The female is a dull coloured bird — her plumage being mainly brown above and pale with dark bars below.

**PRINCE RUDOLPH'S or BLUE BIRDS OF PARADISE** — *Paradisornis rudolphi* — were named after the then Crown Prince of Austria. Unlike most other species of Birds of Paradise, the female is almost as brightly coloured as the male, but lacks the two curved tail plumes and the beautiful blue body plumes. The predominant colour of both sexes is blue, but underparts and head are brown and deep orange. Males have a touch of green and purple colouration on their heads. Blue Birds of Paradise are found in south east New Guinea and are very restricted in their range.

**COUNT RAGGIANA'S or RED-PLUMED** — *Paradisea raggiana* — these birds inhabit the dense forests of the mountainous regions of New Guinea and are said to be entirely fruit eaters. Young males resemble the females in colouration for at least two years. After this they gradually acquire the green coloured throat and yellow wing bar, develop a lighter shade of yellow on the head and, finally, grow the long red plumes of the adult bird.

**THE CAROL SIX-PLUMED** — *Parotia carolae* — This species was discovered only fifty years ago, as it is a native of the then



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

PRINCE RUDOLPH'S BIRD OF PARADISE

unexplored inland areas of New Guinea. Adult males have three narrow, shafted plumes with rounded tips, projecting from either side of the head. These plumes can be moved in any direction. The plumage of adult males is mainly black — the throat being orange/brown with a touch of purple. The head is tipped with white and is tinged with green and orange. Peculiar, upward curving flank feathers are black at the base, before becoming orangish-brown, paling to white at the tip. In common with a number of other species, the female is a brownish colour barred underneath with black. She also lacks the plumes and flank feathers. The juvenile male which we have on show is brown and resembles his mate in colouration, but has more colour on the head and still lacks the flank feathers found on the adult male. He has only three head plumes at the moment — possibly the others were broken off during the journey from New Guinea.

LAWES SIX-PLUMED — *Parotia lawesi* — is very similar to The Carol but has a series of broad side plumes which are capable of extension rather like a wide umbrella. The females are brownish with a dark head, pale throat and barred underparts. Colouration of both sexes varies a great deal from locality to locality.

SICKLE-BILL — *Epimachus macleayanae* — This is not a particularly colourful species — the main distinguishing feature of both sexes is their long curved bill. The male has two central tail feathers which can reach a length of thirty inches. Sickle-bills are found in mountainous regions of New Guinea at altitudes of six to nine thousand feet.

MAGNIFICENT BIRDS OF PARADISE — *Diphyllodes magnifica* — are found in dry lowlands and up to five thousand feet in the mountains. A curious habit of these birds is that they prepare a "stage" on the floor of the forest as a display ground. This is cleared of all vegetation, even the leaves and bark being stripped off the saplings growing in the display area. The male dances up and down on the saplings, expanding his brilliant yellow crest in a fan-like cape and puffing out his glossy green chest feathers to reflect the light. The two central



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

THE CAROL SIX-PLUMED BIRD OF PARADISE

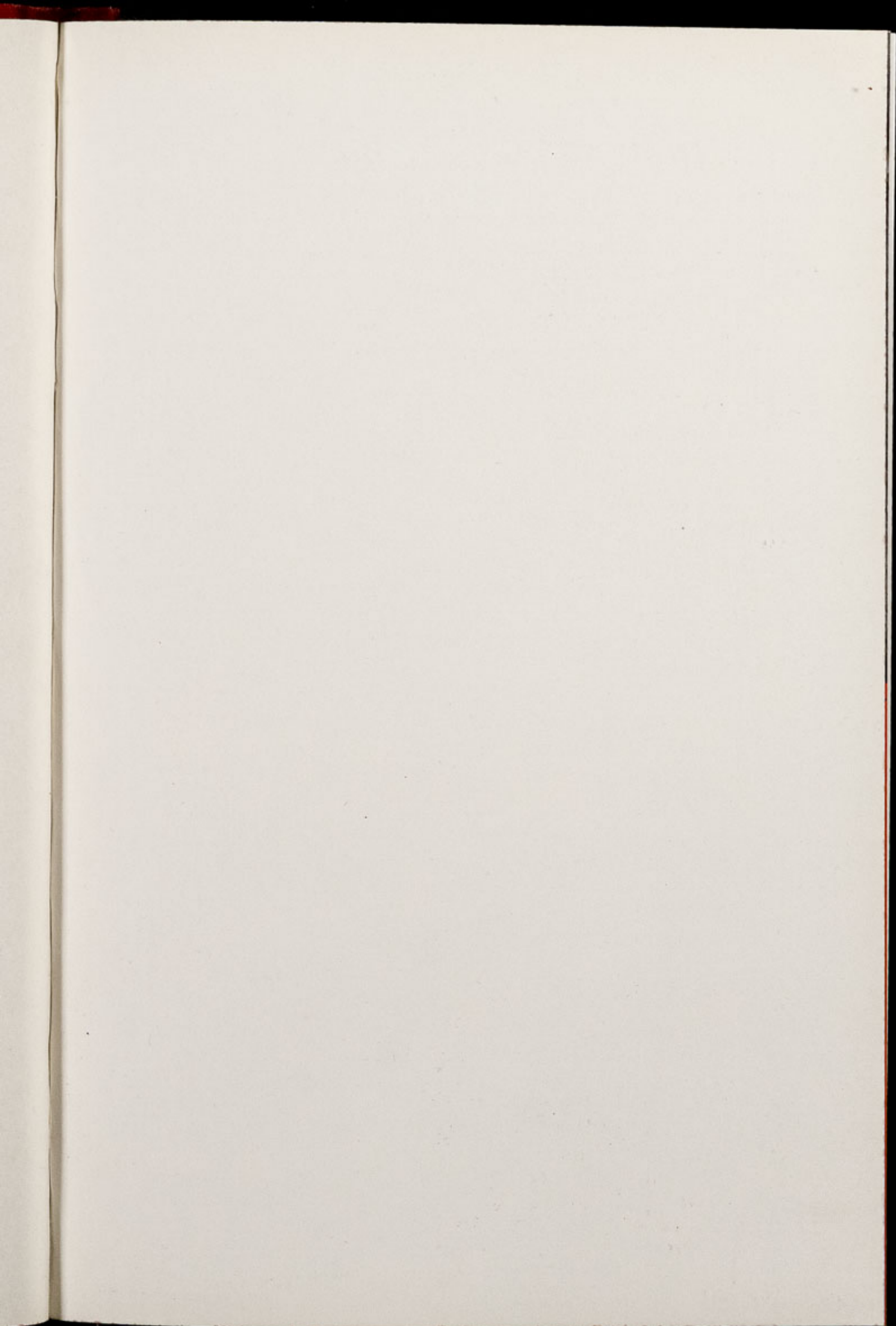
tail feathers in the male are very long and thin and curve back towards the body. The female has greyish-brown plumage above whilst the paler feathers below are barred with black and dark brown.

LORIA'S BIRD — *Loria loriae* — at one time this was thought to be a Bird of Paradise so we are including it here, but it has now been transferred to a genus of its own. It is believed to feed to a large extent on insects and is found in forest areas at altitudes below six thousand feet. Males are dark, almost black in colour, with a yellow mark below the eyes. Females have dull green plumage, with a brown tail and wing tip and the same yellow mark below each eye.

Our Birds of Paradise are fed twice daily, once in the early morning and again around four o'clock in the afternoon. The morning feed consists of minced meat and carrots, diced apple and banana, currants, farex and yeast, a dessert spoonful of cod liver oil and hard boiled egg — all moistened and bound together with fine biscuit meal.

In the afternoon they have fruit cut in half — such as soft pears, apples, bananas, tomatoes and, for the Sickle-bills, oranges. Maggots are given each day and mealworms twice a week. The Carol Six-Plumed Birds of Paradise will also take mice.





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