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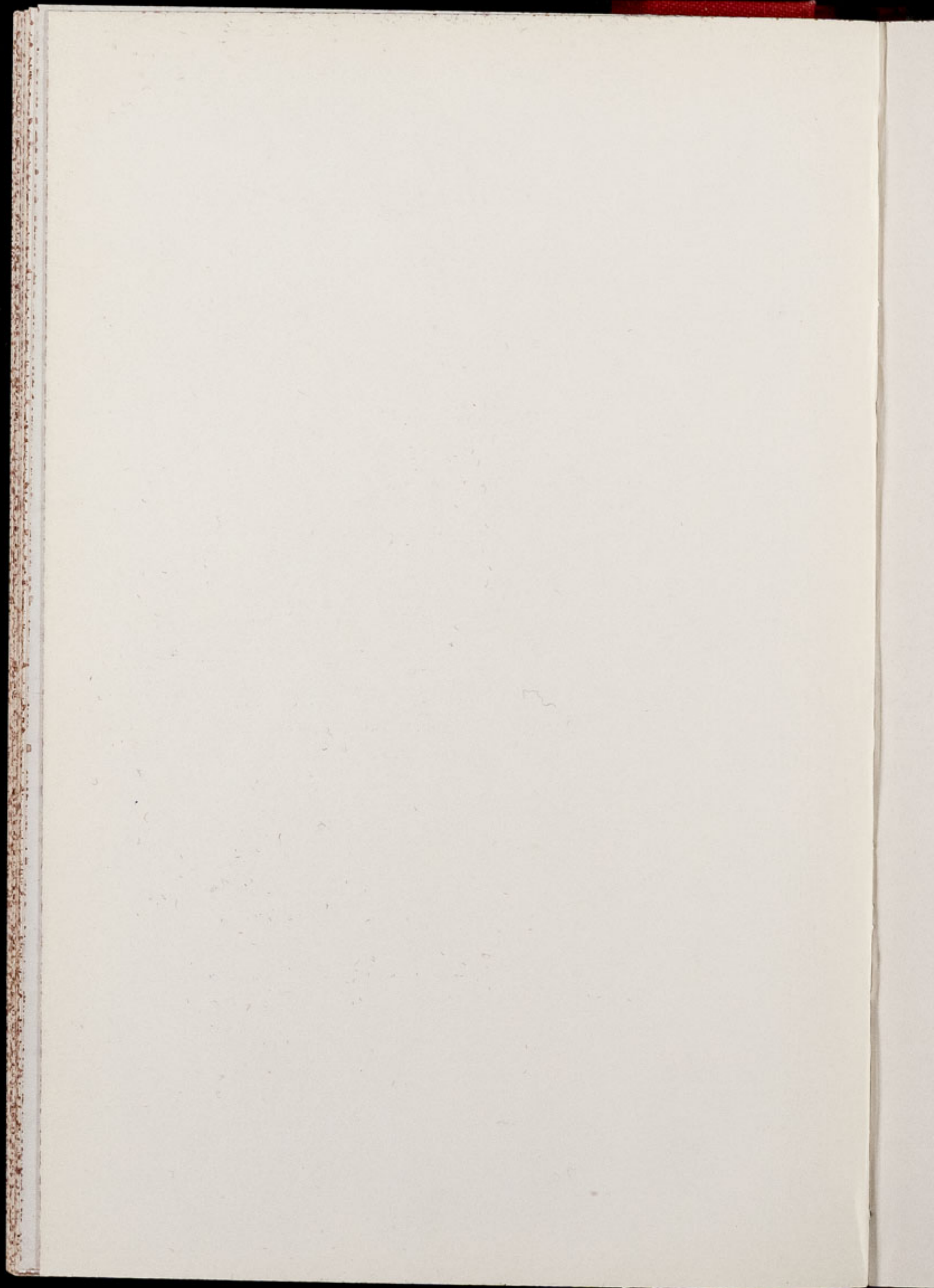
# **Chester Zoo News**

## **AND GUIDE**

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

June 1967

Price 1/-



# The North of England Zoological Society

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## Editorial

Despite very poor weather during the past month, the number of school and other organized parties visiting the Zoo has increased.

This edition contains details of a large number of births and hatchings, as is usual at this time of year and an article on our latest building project, the new Penguin Pool and Anteater Enclosure.

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*COVER: This month's cover photograph shows our Arabian Gazelle being bottle fed. For further details see page 6.*

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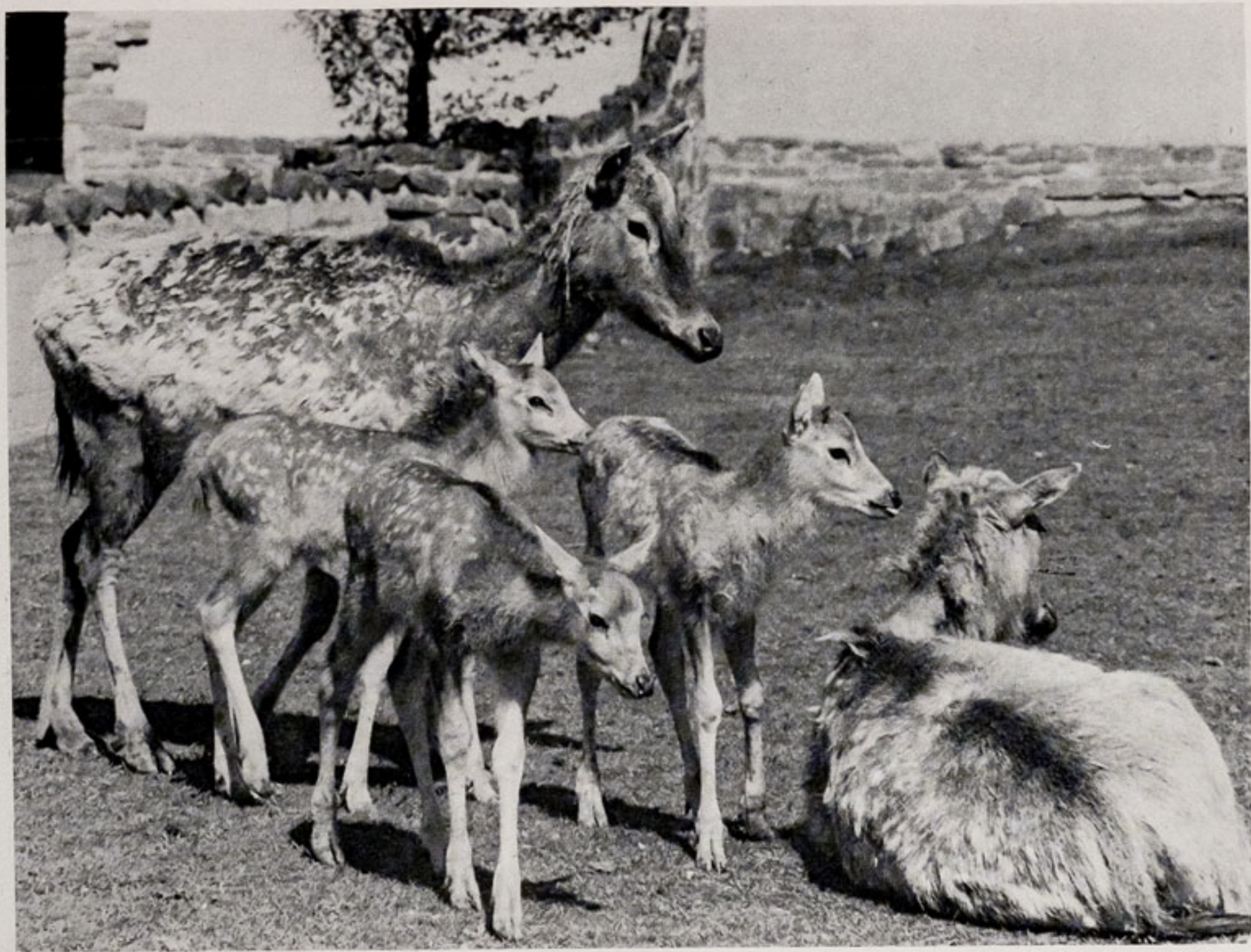
### ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

Three Père David's Deer fawns can be seen in enclosure No. 95, all being recent births. The fawns often lie close to each other at the edge of the paddock and are very charming animals, with their delicate white and brown spotted fur and attractive features. The spots are lost as the Deer become older and the animals are not so attractive when fully grown. Somehow, adult Père David's Deer look out of proportion and have dull, tufty fur.

The story of the Père David's Deer is quite well known and as we mentioned in our December 1963 edition, is a good case of an animal saved from extinction by being bred in captivity. A French missionary, Father Armand David, discovered the Deer during 1865 in the Chinese Emperor's hunting park near Peking. A breeding herd was set up by the Duke of Bedford at Woburn Abbey, which was very fortunate, as all the Chinese specimens were killed during the Boxer Revolution. To-day, there are several hundred Père David's Deer in captivity, and some have been sent back to their original home in China.

At Chester Zoo we have nine Père David's Deer; the three new babies are all females.

An American Bison has been born and can be seen in enclosure No. 94. The American Bison originates from North America, where they used to be found in great numbers. With the coming of the white man they were slaughtered by the thousand until to-day they are found only where strictly protected in nature reserves. Fortunately Bison breed well in captivity and specimens can be seen in most of the larger Zoos. At Chester Zoo we have one male, three females and one youngster.



PERE DAVID'S DEER

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

In the Monkey House, twin Ring-tailed Lemurs have been born. During 1965 and 1966 single Lemurs were born and we are very pleased with the success of this species as they are becoming quite rare in the wild state. Ring-tailed Lemurs are found in Madagascar and are probably the best known of the Lemur group; due to agricultural requirements and capturing and shooting in the past many species of Lemur have been brought to the verge of extinction. They are now strictly protected and as far as possible, their exportation from Madagascar has been prohibited.

The Bennett's or Red-necked Wallabies are exhibited in enclosure No. 92 and at the present time a number of youngsters can be observed in their mothers' pouches. The young are at the stage where they spend some time out of the pouch but rush back again at the slightest hint of danger. From the time of being born to when the young are independent is about 5 months but very often youngsters can be seen trying to force themselves into mother's pouch, when obviously they are far too large.

A male baby has been born to "Meg", the 20 year old Chimpanzee, resident in the Chimp House. Unfortunately, she would not look after this youngster, so it is being hand-reared by the wife of our Animal Supervisor, Mrs. William Timmis. The baby Chimp is being bottle fed every four hours day and night and is receiving the same attention as a human child.

A Black Panther was born in the Cat House and at the time of writing its eyes are opening and it is beginning to move around. The Black Panther is a melanistic form of Leopard; Black Panther cubs can be found in the same litter as Spotted Leopards.

Other recent arrivals were a young Kinkajou and a Civet.



S. W. Jacobsen, 'Liverpool Daily Post'

BENNETT'S WALLABY

### ARABIAN GAZELLE

Pam Logan, Keeper in the South Section of the Zoo recently acquired a newly born female Arabian Gazelle which the mother would not look after. This was the first Arabian Gazelle to be born live in the Zoo since the original stock of these animals arrived during late 1964. Subsequent additions to the Gazelle herd occurred during 1965 and 1966 and we now have 10 adults in the collection.

At first the young Gazelle was bottle fed at four hourly intervals, starting at 8 a.m., with the last feed at 8 o'clock in the evening. At the time of writing, the Gazelle is 3½ weeks old; the length of time between feeds has been increased, she is starting to graze and her milk consumption has decreased a little.

The adult Arabian Gazelles can be viewed in the enclosure at the rear of the Monkey House. The youngster is, however, to be seen in enclosure No. 65, which is shared with a Sika Deer and a Chinese Water Deer. These Deer make no attempt to attack the Gazelle and in fact, seem rather frightened of her. As can be seen in the photograph, the young Gazelle is a most attractive animal; she has been very independent since birth and does not take kindly to being handled in any way.

It is our aim at Chester Zoo to form a breeding nucleus of these animals as they are becoming increasingly rare in their natural habitat of Arabia. This is due to countless numbers being slaughtered now that the purchase of automatic weapons is so easy for people living in countries made rich by the oil industry.

In the recently published "RED DATA BOOK" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, I. R. Grimwood states, "*In fact the Arabian Gazelle is likely to be exter-*



*S. W. Jacobsen, 'Liverpool Daily Post'*

KEEPER PAM LOGAN BOTTLE FEEDING ARABIAN GAZELLE

# GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

## ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

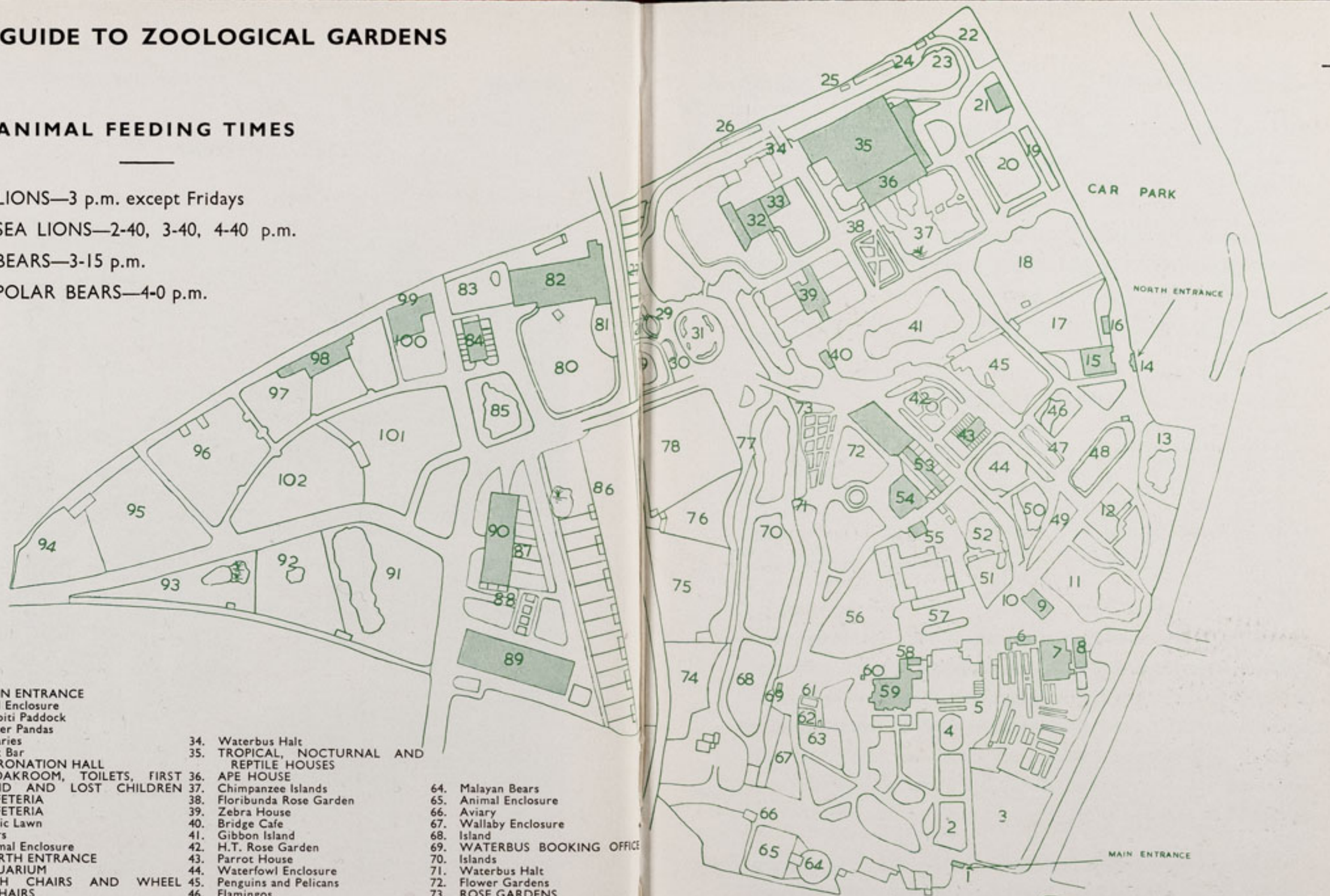
LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

SEA LIONS—2-40, 3-40, 4-40 p.m.

BEARS—3-15 p.m.

POLAR BEARS—4-0 p.m.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. MAIN ENTRANCE                                   | 34. Waterbus Halt                          |
| 2. Bird Enclosure                                  | 35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES |
| 3. Wapiti Paddock                                  | 36. APE HOUSE                              |
| 4. Lesser Pandas                                   | 37. Chimpanzee Islands                     |
| 5. Aviaries  | 38. Floribunda Rose Garden                 |
| 6. Milk Bar  | 39. Zebra House                            |
| 7. CORONATION HALL                                 | 40. Bridge Cafe                            |
| 8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS, FIRST AID AND LOST CHILDREN | 41. Gibbon Island                          |
| 9. CAFETERIA                                       | 42. H.T. Rose Garden                       |
| 10. CAFETERIA                                      | 43. Parrot House                           |
| 11. Picnic Lawn                                    | 44. Waterfowl Enclosure                    |
| 12. Bears  | 45. Penguins and Pelicans                  |
| 13. Animal Enclosure                               | 46. Flamingos                              |
| 14. NORTH ENTRANCE                                 | 47. Waterfowl Enclosure                    |
| 15. AQUARIUM                                       | 48. Sea Lion Pool                          |
| 16. PUSH CHAIRS AND WHEEL CHAIRS                   | 49. Rock Garden                            |
| 17. Animal Enclosure                               | 50. Polar Bears                            |
| 18. Animal Enclosure                               | 51. Tigers                                 |
| 19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP                          | 52. Anteater and Penguin Enclosure         |
| 20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn                       | 53. BIRD HOUSE                             |
| 21. TOILETS  | 54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT                    |
| 22. Peccaries                                      | 55. TOILETS                                |
| 23. Waterbus Halt                                  | 56. Lions                                  |
| 24. Birds of Prey Aviary                           | 57. NEW ZOO SHOP                           |
| 25. Birds of Prey Aviary                           | 58. TOILETS                                |
| 26. Owls   | 59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT                    |
| 27. Jackal Enclosures                              | 60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk                 |
| 28. Wolverines                                     | 61. Animal Enclosure                       |
| 29. Porcupines                                     | 62. Animal Enclosures                      |
| 30. Coypus   | 63. Cheetahs                               |
| 31. Beavers  | 64. Malayan Bears                          |
| 32. Giraffe House                                  | 65. Animal Enclosure                       |
| 33. Camel House                                    | 66. Aviary                                 |
|  | 67. Wallaby Enclosure                      |
|  | 68. 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     |

Animals may be moved from time to time.

*minated in the next few years by casual snipers and pot hunters, who do not go out especially to hunt, but who take a shot at anything they see".*

Legislation is very difficult to enforce in such a vast area, but we can only hope that public opinion in the countries comprising Arabia will change, and some form of protection be afforded to these Gazelles and other animals which are in similar danger.

### LOCUST BREEDING

The terrible destruction caused by plagues of locusts is very well known and to look at they are not the most beautiful of creatures. They are, however, a very valuable source of food for birds, especially the Birds of Paradise, and for this reason we have set up our own small breeding unit; the Tuatara is also an avid locust eater.

Our original locusts were obtained from the Anti-Locust Research Centre and the Zoological Society of London. Each cage is used to house 12 to 15 locusts which pair off and lay their eggs in specially provided sand filled metal containers. These are then removed to a hatching bottle, when a sufficient number of eggs have been laid. The eggs are actually laid in the form of pods containing 70-80 eggs and a female can lay at 5 or 6 day intervals.

The eggs are transferred to a large bottle with a perforated top, where they hatch in 7-9 days. The young are then put in a rearing cage for about three weeks before being used as food. The locusts' diet consists of bran and grass and in the case of the young, they are given a drink by being provided with cotton wool soaked in water. The adults are given a shallow dish of water but the young would go straight in and drown themselves.

### **NEW SLEEPING DENS FOR MOUNTAIN GORILLAS**

Behind the scenes in the Tropical House, new sleeping and feeding dens have been constructed for our pair of Mountain Gorillas. The new dens will enable these animals to feed separately and allow both to receive a properly balanced diet.

### **NEW ENCLOSURES FOR ANTEATERS AND PENGUINS**

In the past the enclosure between the Bird House and the Tiger Pen (No. 52 on the Plan) has been used to accommodate various waterfowl. Due to the fact that there are waterfowl enclosures in other parts of the Zoo, this enclosure was used to accommodate odd Swans or Geese brought in by members of the public or specimens removed from other enclosures. In consequence it remained empty most of the time and we felt that with the large pool and shaded areas it would make an ideal home for the Giant Anteaters. Previously the Anteaters were to be seen in one of the Stork enclosures at the rear of the Monkey House. One of the main drawbacks with this enclosure, apart from lack of size, was the fact that the Anteaters could be viewed only when outside, but this has been overcome in the new accommodation.

The pathway in front of the Bird House has been widened and a spacious glass-fronted cedar wood building constructed at the far side. This gives members of the public an excellent view of the Anteaters even when they are indoors. The fencing around the outside has been improved so that the Anteaters will not be able to push their long noses through the fence; this is particularly important where the enclosure abuts the Tiger Pen. At the rear is the Maintenance yard and an interwoven wooden fence has been erected to hide this from view. Although trees were planted, the Maintenance Section was always on view especially during the Winter and Spring.

At the moment we have four Giant Anteaters at the Zoo and we hope to breed from a pair of these but very few are bred in captivity. Anteaters are very strange looking animals with a long tapering snout, bushy tail and long claws on the fore-feet. They can reach a total length of 6 feet and weigh 45lbs. and their tongues can reach a length of 2 feet when fully extended. As their name implies, they feed on ants and termites and the claws on the fore-feet are used to rip apart termites nests. The long sticky tongue is used to transfer the ants, cocoons and eggs into the Anteater's toothless mouth. The gestation period for Anteaters is 190 days and a single youngster is born, which is carried on the mother's back.

Giant Anteaters can swim extremely well, and this is the reason for giving them the large pool in the new enclosure. In fact, the first Anteater to be moved went straight into the pool and started swimming around in a fast but rather undignified way. They are found in Central and South America from British Honduras to Northern Argentina and inhabit swampy areas, humid forests and savannahs.

An animal with such a specialised diet in the wild state obviously has to be fed a substitute diet when in captivity, although Anteaters will obviously clear their enclosure of ants in a comparatively short space of time. In Zoos we feed a mixture of minced meat, milk, eggs and various vitamins upon which the Anteaters thrive; they have been known to live for up to 14 years in captivity.

One corner of this new Anteater Paddock has been fenced off and equipped with a pool with a waterfall. This is designed to house the Rockhopper and Jackass Penguins, which recently arrived from South Africa. It was felt that as these Penguins were only small, they could not be viewed properly on the large Penguin Island. The edging to the pool and the waterfall is of natural sandstone rockwork



S. W. Jacobsen, 'Liverpool Daily Post'

KEEPER DAVID WARDELL FEEDING ROCKHOPPER PENGUINS

which gives a very pleasing effect and the constantly circulating water is crystal clear.

In the photograph on page 13, Keeper David Wardell can be seen giving these Penguins their first meal in the new enclosure; the Rockhoppers are in the foreground and one of the Jackasses is swimming in the pool.

Both these species of Penguins are to be found off the coast of South Africa. The Jackass or Black-footed Penguin is a resident on many coastal islands and is an irregular visitor to the mainland. The name Jackass is given to this species because of their laughing cry, described as being similar to the bray of a donkey. They are only a small species and are very similar in markings and habits to the Humboldt's Penguins, which inhabit coastal waters off South America.

The Rockhopper Penguin is slightly smaller than the Jackass and is only a rare visitor to South Africa but is found in many of the sub-antarctic islands. The name Rockhopper is very apt and this hopping movement is seen when the birds are moving around on the sandstone rockwork of their enclosure. Rockhopper Penguins are always very tame and trusting and like to take fish from the Keeper's hand. Jackass Penguins on the other hand prefer the fish to be thrown in the water for them to catch.

### BIRD NOTES

The Great Eagle Owls have 4 young which were hatched during the first week in April. The African Spotted Eagle Owls also have young, but these are obscured from public view by pine branches. These branches are placed at the far end of the aviary to give the birds some privacy, but are removed when the young are about a month old. Owls are very good parents; the male bird collects the



GREAT EAGLE OWL CHICK BEING FED BY FEMALE

*J. Gwyn Jones*

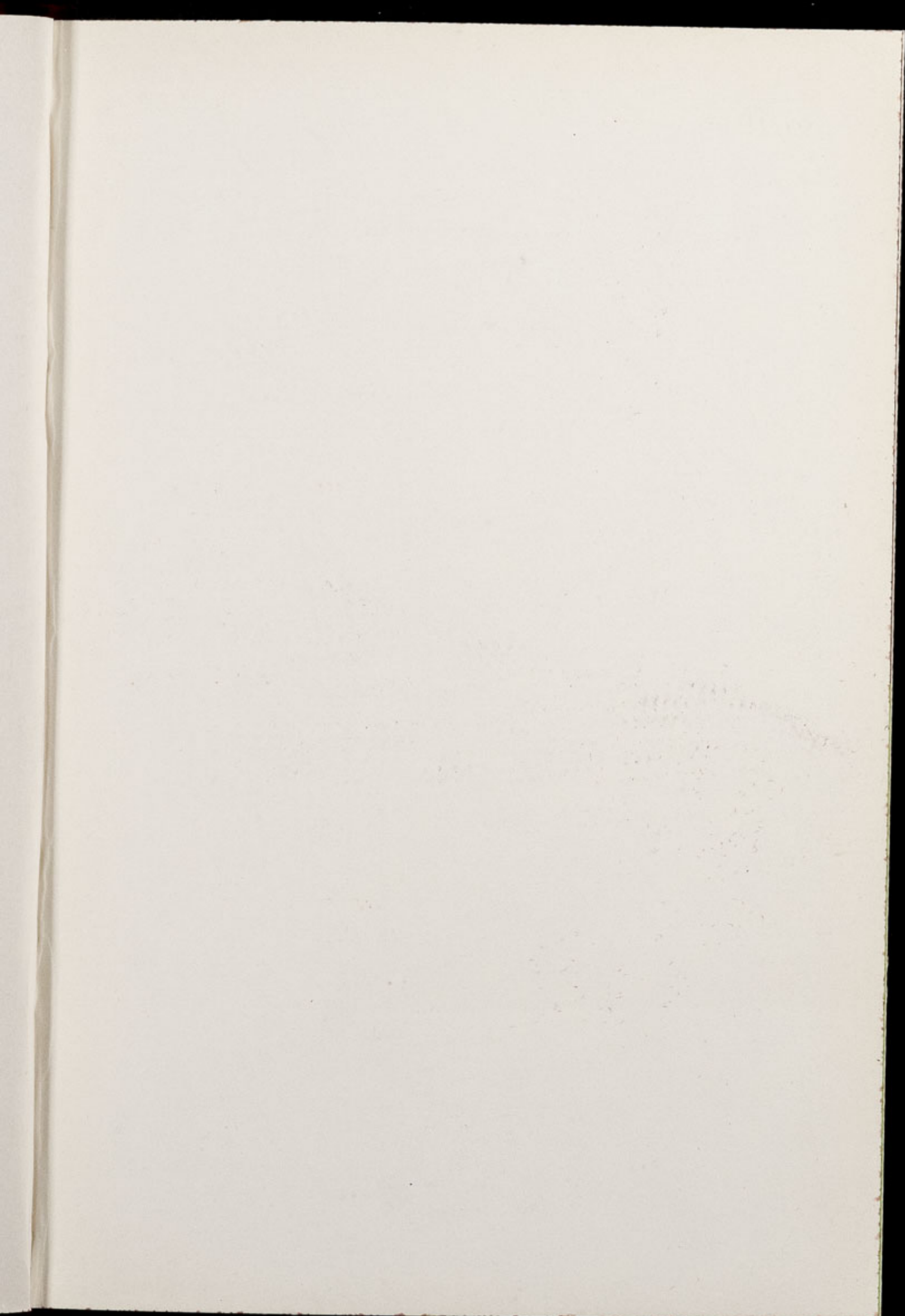
food and passes it to the female who feeds the young. In the wild state the male Eagle Owl does the majority of the hunting and brings back the food to the female. This tradition is still continued in captivity, despite the fact that the male carries the food only a few feet from where the Keeper has put it down. When these Eagle Owls have young, a large proportion of their diet consists of rabbits, fowl, chicks and rats. This is essential for the well being of the young and even adults have to be given a certain amount of food with fur or feather if they are to survive for any length of time in captivity.

In the Tropical House, Zosterops and Orange-cheeked Waxbills have nests, but it is very difficult to keep a check on all the birds at liberty in this building.

#### REPTILE NOTES

There have been several new arrivals in the Reptile Section, the most spectacular being a pair of Rhinoceros Iguanas, which have been accommodated with our original female. All have settled down well and make a marvellous exhibit. Another acquisition, an Eastern Diamond-backed Rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*) is a native of South Eastern United States. This is the largest species of Rattlesnake, reaching a length of 8 feet and is very dangerous, having enormous fangs and a very toxic venom. Two Geckoes arrived which were purchased as Leopard Geckoes. It was decided by the Reptile House Staff that these were in fact Fat-tailed Geckoes (*Eublepharis macularis*) a species found in India and Pakistan.

Work has been completed on the new Crocodile Pool in the old part of the Tropical House. The pool edges and walls have been constructed of natural sandstone and a waterfall has been incorporated into the design. One special feature is the water heating system which is easily controlled to give the Crocodiles the required amount of heat.



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