



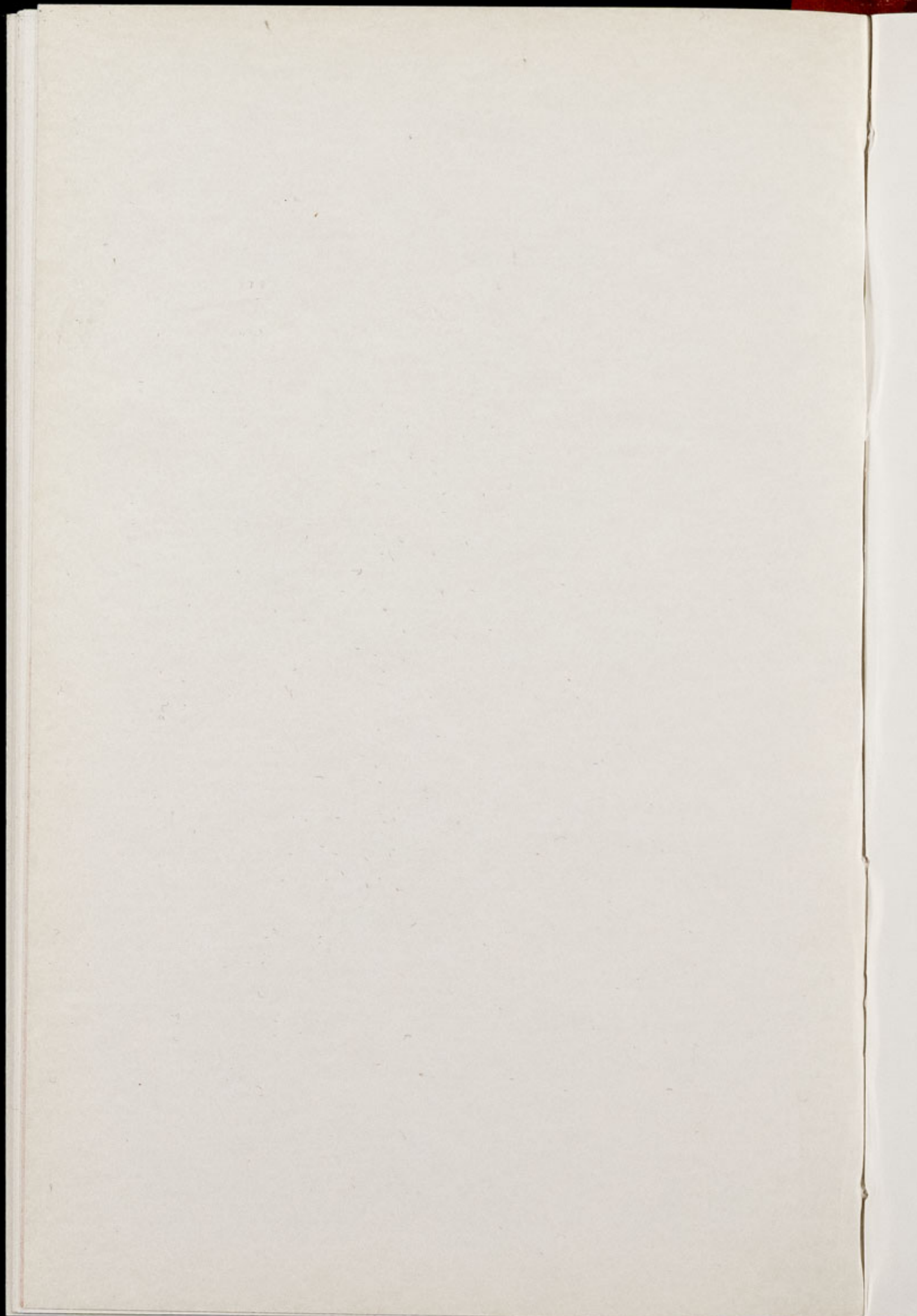
# **Chester Zoo News**

## ***AND GUIDE***

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

**June 1975**

**Price 10p**



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

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COVER

*The two delightful Brown Bear Cubs mentioned in our last issue have been named Ben and Bella. They are being hand-reared and visitors can see them in enclosure No. 67.*

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

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Annual subscription — One Pound and Seventy-Five Pence, postage paid  
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## ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

During the past month the following mammal births have been recorded:

- 3 Common Zebras (*Equus burchelli granti*)
- 1 Bison (*Bos bison*)
- 2 Soay Sheep (*Ovis aries*)
- 1 Wapiti (*Cervus canadensis*)
- 2 Highland Calves (*Bos taurus*)
- 1 Arabian Gazelle (*Gazella arabica*)

A male Common Zebra (*Equus burchelli granti*) has been born in the zoo this month. By a happy coincidence it was born on the Curator's son's birthday and we have named it Brad. The previous Common Zebra to be born in the zoo was a female, in 1973; she is the mother of our recent addition.

We have been very successful in breeding Common Zebras. They do well in captivity and breed without difficulty, another two having been born within the last few days. We are not too sure of the sexes of these two, and they have not therefore been named yet.

The distribution of the *Equus burchelli granti* is that of East Africa, *i.e.*, Mozambique and Kenya, the race from the north being in the territory occupied by Chapman's Zebra. Wild lions prey on the zebras, and the herds now live on reservations where they are protected. They favour the open plains, sheltering from the heat and the flies under trees during the daytime.

We have also bred a Bison (*Bos bison*) in the zoo. The bison is a giant among North American mammals, the bulls standing about 5½ft. to 6ft. tall at the shoulder, weighing from 11 to 20-cwt. The cows are of course smaller and lighter. The American Bison is heavily and powerfully built in front, and has a large head, carried low. It is an impressive animal with its bleary eyes, short horns, wide forehead and thick mane. The bison has a pronounced hump and the body tapers quickly to a weak rump. The large imposing front is accen-



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

COMMON ZEBRA FOAL (*Equus burchelli granti*)

tuated by the mane and the curly hair of the head. The summer coat of the bison is much shorter than the winter one, the latter being shed quickly; in the transition period, the animals are patchy and look as though they are suffering from mange. The general colour of their hair is dark brown, the horns being small, the hooves, muzzle and horns black. Despite its bulk the American Bison is much faster than most domestic cattle and when galloping it is said to be almost as fast as a horse. In addition to being a first class runner, it is a fast, skilful swimmer. Cows give birth to a single calf after a gestation period of nine months.

The numbers of American Bison have declined year by year owing to the hunting of great herds in the past. The remaining bison have been taken over by the American Bison Society formed for their protection, thus saving the herds from extinction. There is apparently an Antelope Island in the big Salt Lake which has been turned into a reserve for American bison. In the wild they were most gregarious, living in big herds. In the winter they migrated southwards for over 100 miles, the migration being reversed during the hot summer months. They followed buffalo paths which had been used by their kind from primitive times.

These animals once numbered in millions, favouring the rich grazing lands of the prairies, providing means of life for the Indian Tribes. The bison's natural enemies, apart from white man, were the wolves and Indians. The bison herds were most affected by bad weather, and during severe spells of snow hundreds of these animals died of starvation.

\* \* \*

We have recently been presented with a pair of Celebes Black Apes (*Cynopithecus niger*), the distribution of these apes being the Island of Celebes, Indonesia.

The Black Ape, like the Barbary Ape, is a monkey with the tail so small that it does not show on the outside of the body. Despite its lack of a tail it spends most of its time climbing in the forests and mangrove swamps of its native island of Celebes. It is approximately 2ft. in length and it has long black hair which



AMERICAN BISON (*Bos bison*) WITH CALF

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

stands up to form an attractive crest on the top of the head. This conspicuous conical-shaped mane of long hairs is capable of erection under excitement. The upper parts of the *Cynopithecus niger* are dark brown to black, and the underparts usually lighter, sometimes being nearly grey; the young animals are brown in colour. The bottom pads, referred to as ischial callosities, are a bright flesh colour, the fur being dense on the body and thinner on the limbs.

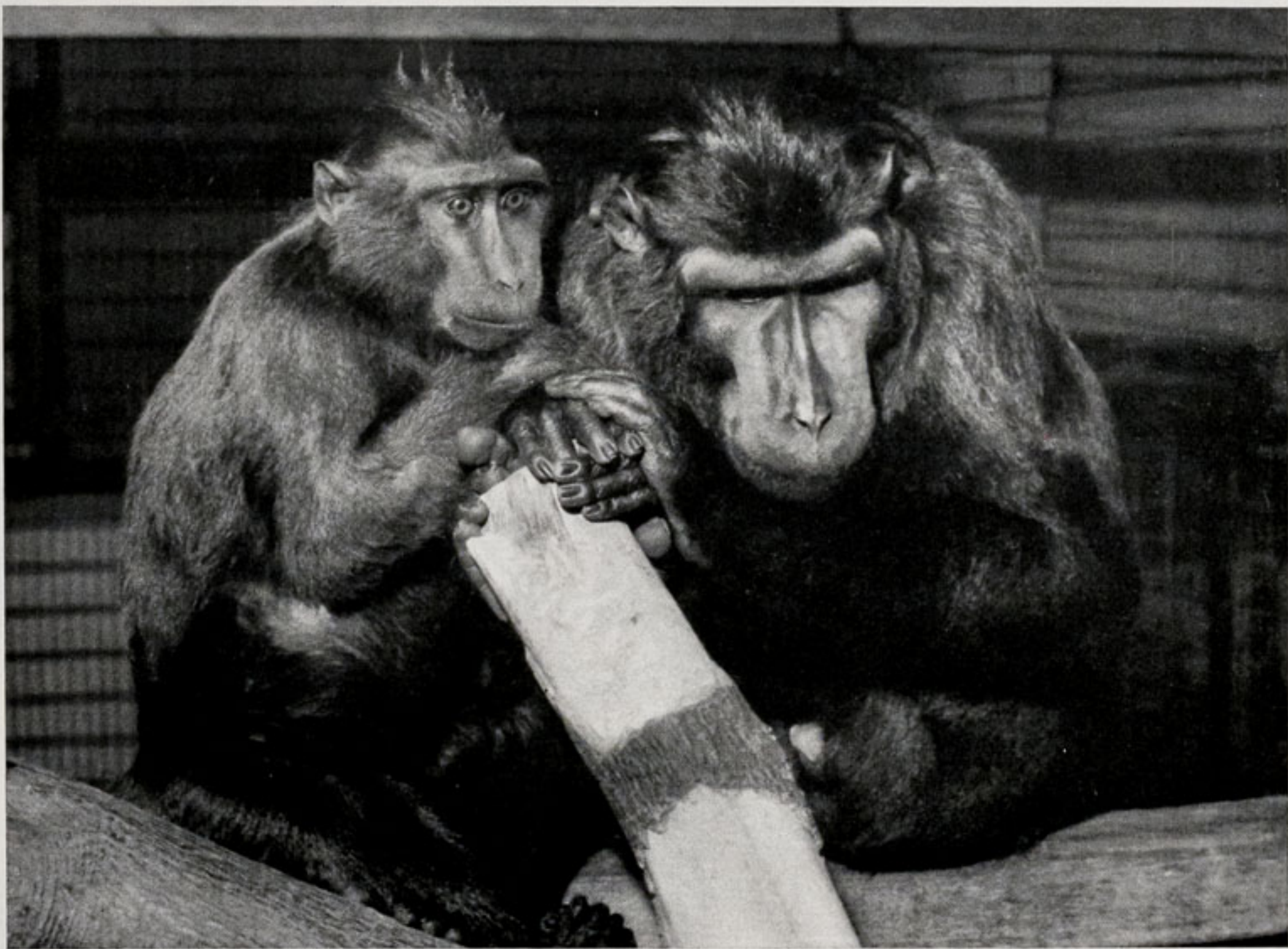
These animals are sometimes regarded as being intermediate between the macaques and the baboons of Africa. In the northern part of the Island of Celebes the Black Apes are quite common, the local inhabitants regarding them as sacred, considering them to be the ancestors of their own tribe. They live in small groups, or sometimes even in pairs, and on the whole cause little trouble, although they do sometimes raid plantations. At low tide they are to be seen occasionally working their way along the seashore in search of animal foods, but they do however spend much time in trees, often feeding on grassland adjacent to the forests.

An interesting feature of the Black Ape is its elongated face, and the eyebrows which protrude because they rest on a prominent bony ridge over the orbit. It is interesting to note that the crest is not well developed in young animals, and this characteristic distinguishes the *Cynopithecus niger* from all species of *Macacca*, one of which, *Macacca maurus*, is to be found on Celebes.

We have had a pair of Kinkajous (*Potos flavus*) presented to us. The distribution of the *Potos flavus* is Central and South America, the forests of southern Mexico, and south to Matto Grosso in Brazil.

The upper parts of the body and the surface of the tail of the Kinkajou are a tawny-olive colour and, in some cases, there is a black mid-dorsal line. The underparts of the body, and the under-surface of the tail, are a tawny-yellow colour. The hair is soft and woolly, and the muzzle is a dark brown to black. The tail of the Kinkajou is very long and prehensile.

Kinkajous have rounded heads, short faces, and short sharp claws. A peculiarity is that the hind feet are longer than the forefeet. In their natural state they spend most of their lives in trees; during



*By courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.*  
PAIR OF CELEBES BLACK APES (*Cynopithecus niger*)



1. SOUTH ENTRANCE
2. Peacock Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Lesser Pandas
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, FIRST AID, TOILETS, MOTHER AND BABY ROOM
9. CAFETERIA
10. Picnic Lawn
11. Bears
12. Sunken Garden
13. Kiosk
14. AQUARIUM
15. NORTH ENTRANCE
16. PUSH CHAIRS, WHEEL CHAIRS, LOST CHILDREN
17. Parrot House
18. Free Flight Aviary
19. APE HOUSE
20. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP
21. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
22. TOILETS
23. Tuatara Exhibit
24. Peccaries
25. Waterbus Halt
26. Birds of Prey Aviaries
27. Condor Aviary
28. Jackal and Hyena Enclosures
29. Animal Enclosure
30. Porcupine Enclosure
31. Coypus
32. Beavers
33. Giraffe House

34. Camel House
35. Waterbus Halt
36. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES
37. CHIMPANZEES
38. Floribunda Rose Garden
39. Mammal House
40. Gibbon Island
41. H.T. Rose Garden
42. Aviaries
43. Flamingos
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Waterfowl Enclosure
46. Waterfowl Enclosure
47. Penguins
48. Sealions
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Cat Enclosure
52. Waterfowl Enclosure
53. Anteaters
54. BIRD HOUSE
55. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT
56. Ape Nursery
57. TOILETS
58. Lions
59. SOUVENIR SHOP
60. TOILETS
61. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT

62. P.O. Telephone
63. Gibbon Pen
64. Animal Enclosure
65. Cheetahs
66. Ornamental Rock Garden
67. Malayan Bears
68. Animal Enclosure
69. Aviary
70. Wallabies
71. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE AND KIOSK
72. Waterbus Halt
73. Fountain Flower Gardens
74. Rose Garden
75. Red Lechwe
76. Red Lechwe
77. Deer or Antelope Enclosure
78. Waterbus Halt
79. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
80. Kamchatka Bears
81. ELEPHANTS
82. Hippos
83. Tapirs
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Ankole Cattle
87. Emus and Cranes
88. Stork Enclosures
89. Baboon Pens
90. Cat House
91. Lions and Tigers

92. Antelope and Ostrich
  93. Antelope Enclosure
  94. Antelope Enclosure
  95. Zebras
  96. Llamas
  97. Waterfowl Enclosure
  98. Wallabies and Waterfowl
  99. Waterfowl Enclosure
  100. Blackbuck
  101. Wallabies
  102. Animal Paddock
  103. Animal Paddock
  104. Animal Paddock
- } under construction

105. Proposed New Bear Enclosures
106. Arabian Gazelles
107. Animal Paddock
108. Bison
109. Pere David's Deer Paddock
110. Prairie Marmots, Alpacas
111. Antelope Enclosure
112. RHINOS
113. TOILETS
114. Mpila Snack Bar
115. Antelope Enclosure
116. MONKEY HOUSE

## ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES:

LIONS—3 pm except Fridays

BEARS—3-15 pm

POLAR BEARS—4 pm

SEA LIONS 3 times daily—

2-40 pm, 3-40 pm, 4-40 pm

Animals may be moved from time to time.

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

the day in tree holes, sometimes lying out on a limb or in vine tangles during hot, humid days. They travel about at night in pairs or singly, but are sometimes found in groups, usually because they have been attracted to a tree bearing fruit.

Although these animals move rapidly in trees, travel from tree to tree is made cautiously and relatively slowly. They have a variety of calls including barking when disturbed, but the usual call when feeding during the night seems to be a rather shrill, quavering scream which may be heard for quite some distance. Kinkajous are born in Spring or Summer, usually one (rarely two), the eyes of the young being open at ten days; they can hang by their tails at seven weeks. Nineteen years is the usual span of life, but they have been known to live much longer.

A female Jaguarundi (*Felis yagouarundi*) has been presented to us, the distribution of which extends to the south western states of America. This animal has become rare since the cutting of thickets in the delta of the Rio Grande; its range extends southwards through to the tropics to Paraguay. The *Felis yagouarundi* are regarded as forest and swamp animals; they swim so well that in parts of Mexico they are known as the otter cats. Their favourite North American habitat is dense chaparral scrub near water. They are solitary animals except at mating time, which is approximately from November to December. Mating time is accompanied by much caterwauling and fighting, and usually two, but up to four kittens are born, with a gestation period of nine or ten weeks. The litters are born in a hollow tree or other hide-out. In some areas there may be two litters a year because young have apparently been reported both in March and August.

In appearance the Jaguarundi has a long body, the head is low and it has small ears. In general its colour is a dark greyish black.

## BIRD NOTES

We have recently bred a Laughing Dove (*Stigmatopelia senegalensis senegalensis*), a sub-species of the *Stigmatopelia senegalensis*. The distribution of this bird is Africa, south of the Sahara, Arabia and Asia Minor to India. It is a very common dove which has a speckled reddish chest, the male being brighter and redder on the chest; the young birds lack the chest markings, are duller in colour and have brownish heads.

In their natural habitat the Laughing Doves often frequent gardens, spending much time walking about on the ground in a characteristically hunched-up attitude, taking rather short steps, the head bent downwards. These birds sometimes form flocks when they are breeding. The Laughing Doves have quiet and gentle notes, their flight being steeply upwards, planing down again. They feed generally on seeds and grain crops, but occasionally on insects such as termites.

The nest is generally placed low in trees about 10ft. from the ground, sometimes higher—up to twenty feet or so, but quite often at ground level. Nests are composed of a flimsy platform of sticks and the nests may be used several times. Eggs are laid throughout the year but mainly in the periods September to October and March to April. Two is the normal clutch, and the incubation is by both sexes, the nesting period being 14 to 17 days. The young leave the nest rather prematurely and are often rescued by well meaning people who think they have fallen out of the nest too soon.

The Laughing Doves at the zoo are kept in the Temperate Bird House and they are again nesting. We have put a metal ring support for the birds to build their nest high up in the aviary, *i.e.*, at least ten feet from the ground.

A pair of Great Kiskadees (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) has been acquired recently in exchange. This is quite a large bird being 8in. to

10in. long, the crown and sides of its head being black, the crest yellow, and the crown surrounded by a white band. The back and wings are brown, the coverts edged reddish-brown. The tail is a dark brown, edged a reddish-brown; the throat is white and the rest of the underparts a bright yellow. The Great Kiskadee has a narrow and sharply ridged bill.

These birds have a distribution in tropical zones, the general distribution being east of the Andes in Colombia, except the Pacific slope. They like open woodland, parks, gardens and clearings, feeding on berries, small fishes, small animals and insects.

\* \* \*

Of special interest are the following birds which recently have been presented to us:

- 1.1 Black-headed Caiques (*Pionites melanocephala*)
- 12 Parrotlets (*Forpus passerinus passerinus*)
- 1.0 Moluccan Cockatoo (*Kakatoe moluccensis*)
- 1.0 Red-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos tucanus*)
- 1.1 Spotted Winged Stares (*Saroglossa spiloptera*)
  - 1 African Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*)
  - 1 Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)
  - 1 Hill Mynah (*Gracula religiosa*)
- 1.3 Sonnerat's Jungle Fowl (*Gallus sonnerati*)
  - 1 Great Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Kakatoe galerita*)

The Black-headed Caiques have a distribution in South America, from Guinas and Northern Para, Brazil, West to Southern Colombia, Eastern Ecuador and North West Peru. The adult bird has beautiful colourings, being black on the forehead, crown and nape, lores and green under the eye, the cheeks and throat an orange-yellow. It

has a broad reddish-brown band across the hindneck, bordered above and below by a few bluish feathers. The back, wings and upper tail coverts are green, the breast and centre of the abdomen a creamy-white to buff; the thighs, sides of the abdomen and flanks orange; its under-wing coverts are green, the carpal edge greenish-yellow, the tail above green, tipped with yellow and below a dull olive-yellow. Its bill is a grey-black, the iris orange and the legs grey. The colourings of the immature caiques are paler, the bill horn-coloured with black markings at the base of the upper mandible; the iris is a dark brown.

These parrots are noisy, moving about in their natural state in flocks of up to thirty. They spend most of the day in the upper branches of trees, feeding on fruits, berries and seeds. When disturbed they will fly off, screeching loudly. These birds are reported to breed successfully in captivity. The incubation period is approximately 27 days, the young birds staying in the nest for ten weeks or more after hatching. The average clutch is three eggs.

The Parrotlets are a sub-species of the Green-rumped Parrotlets (*Forpus passerinus*). They are from South America, being widely distributed in coastal and inland regions of Guyana, and Surinam in open country, wherever there are scattered trees.

They have a predominantly green plumage colouration. The male is yellowish-green to paler, often paler and brighter on the forehead, cheek, underparts, lower back and rump; there is a greyish tinge on the nape and hindneck. Towards the rump and lower back they are a pale blue, the primary coverts, bases of shorter primaries and underwing coverts violet blue, secondaries pale blue, and the undersides of flight feathers bluish-green. The tail is green, paler below, the bill horn-coloured, the iris dark brown, and the legs a brownish colour. The female is coloured similarly except that the blue markings are replaced by green, the forehead being more yellowish than in the males. These parrotlets associate in flocks from five to thirty or even more, but because of their green colouration and small size are difficult to see unless one is attracted by their shrill and penetrating calls. They are quite lively birds, constantly twittering when feeding or resting. The nest is usually in a hollow limb or hole in a tree, two to seven eggs making the normal clutch.

The Moluccan Cockatoo, or Rose Cockatoo, has a distribution in Ceram, Saparua and Hakuru in the Southern Moluccas, Indonesia. They have been introduced to Amboina and also in the Southern Moluccas.

The plumage of the adult birds is a pale salmon-pink, the undersides of their backward-curving crest and the undersides of flight feathers a deep salmon-pink. The undersides of their tail features are basally washed yellow-orange and deep pink. There is a naked periothalmic ring white tinted with blue; the bill is grey-black, the iris dark brown, the legs grey. The young birds are similar.

These birds feed on seeds, nuts, fruits, berries, and possibly insects and their larvae. They chew young coconuts to get the soft pulp and the milk. Their call is a loud, quavering cry, and a shrill screech. They nest in the hollow of a tree, their clutch being usually seven eggs. The male and the female incubate the eggs, leaving the nest only when feeding. The male, however, leaves the nest at dusk to roost.

The distribution of the Red-billed Toucan is South America. The plumage of this bird is mostly black, but there are white, orange, orange-red breast spots, these often being separated from the lower parts by a red band. The upper tail coverts are either red, yellow or white, the under tail coverts always carmine red. The Toucan has a huge bill, in general ranging from black to red to various colours. The bare facial skin is orange, yellow, blue or green. In all there are eleven species of Toucan with a wide colour variation, the Red-breasted Toucan (*Ramphastos dicolorus*) being the most colourful. Owing to its large, heavy beak the Toucan can hold its wings out and glide downwards. Its flight is both undulating and brief. These are sociable birds and are to be seen in their natural habitat in flocks of not more than twelve. They like to bathe in any water-filled depression in the fork of a tree or on a thick horizontal branch. The Toucans' large bills make these birds the strongest and most easily distinguishable of the tropical American forests. They eat various fruits and animals.

The general distribution of the Spotted-winged Stare is throughout the Himalayas to South West China. These birds are closely related

to the Madagascar starling (*Hartlaubius auratus*). The adult male is very dark brownish-grey above with black markings. The wings have a band of white patches across the flight feathers which are pointed and black. The cheek patches are dark grey-brown, and the chin and throat are deep chestnut rufous. The chest is reddish-white as are the sides of the belly and the remainder of the underparts are white. The eye is yellow with a dark brown iris. The beak and legs are grey-black. The centre tail feathers are grey-black and the outer tail feathers dark brown.

The adult hen is dark brown above with black and dark grey markings. The wings also carry a band of white patches across the flight feathers which are pointed and blackish-brown. Cheek patches are brown; the chin, throat and chest are whitish streaked with brown. The underparts are mostly whitish except near the wings where they are greyish with a little fulvous. The eyes, beak and legs are similar to the males, but the centre tail feathers are dark brown and the outer ones medium brown.

### REPTILE NEWS

We have recently acquired a Rhinoceros Iguana (*Cyclura cornuta*) in exchange for another reptile. This is about two years old and probably female. It will be a nice addition to our pair, making a trio again, as we lost an old female a while ago. One of the pair came to us in January 1970, and the other in June 1973. The distribution of the Rhinoceros Iguana is Haiti and Puerto Rico.

An additional Green Tree Python (*Chondropython viridis*) has been acquired, which we hope will make up a pair to the one mentioned in our April issue. The latest specimen is more colourful and the Curator of Reptiles thinks this is therefore a male; we are fairly certain that the original one is a female.

Since October 1972 we have had in the collection a Timor Tree Monitor (*Varanus timorensis timorensis*), and we have recently acquired another which we hope will make up a pair. They would appear to have settled down well together in the Vivarium.

### Special Lighting in the Vivarium

It is well known that lizards need great care and attention to keep them alive in captivity, and that they tend to be deficient in Vitamin 'D'. To alleviate this deficiency the Curator of Reptiles has installed a special type of lighting which has been proved to be successful in other zoos. The theory is that reptiles spend a great deal of their active life in the natural state absorbing radiation from the sun. This special lighting is projected through fluorescent tubes. It discourages the growth of bacteria and viruses and stimulates the production of Vitamin 'D'. The light itself is more attractive, being nearer to that of natural sunlight. As a matter of interest we have recently hatched some lizards, and as they are prone to rickets the special lighting will improve their bone structure. The Curator reports that in general the reptiles are now eating better and are becoming more active in the vivarium.

### OBITUARY

We are extremely sad to announce the death of the Right Hon. Lord Tollemache, M.C., D.L., who was a valued member of the Zoo Council for thirteen years. He will be greatly missed by the Members.

### SUBSCRIPTION FORMS

New readers of the CHESTER ZOO NEWS who would like 'o 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 £1.75, 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.**

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**PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP OUR COLLECTION OF  
ANIMALS NOT ONLY ALIVE BUT IN FIRST CLASS  
CONDITION**

