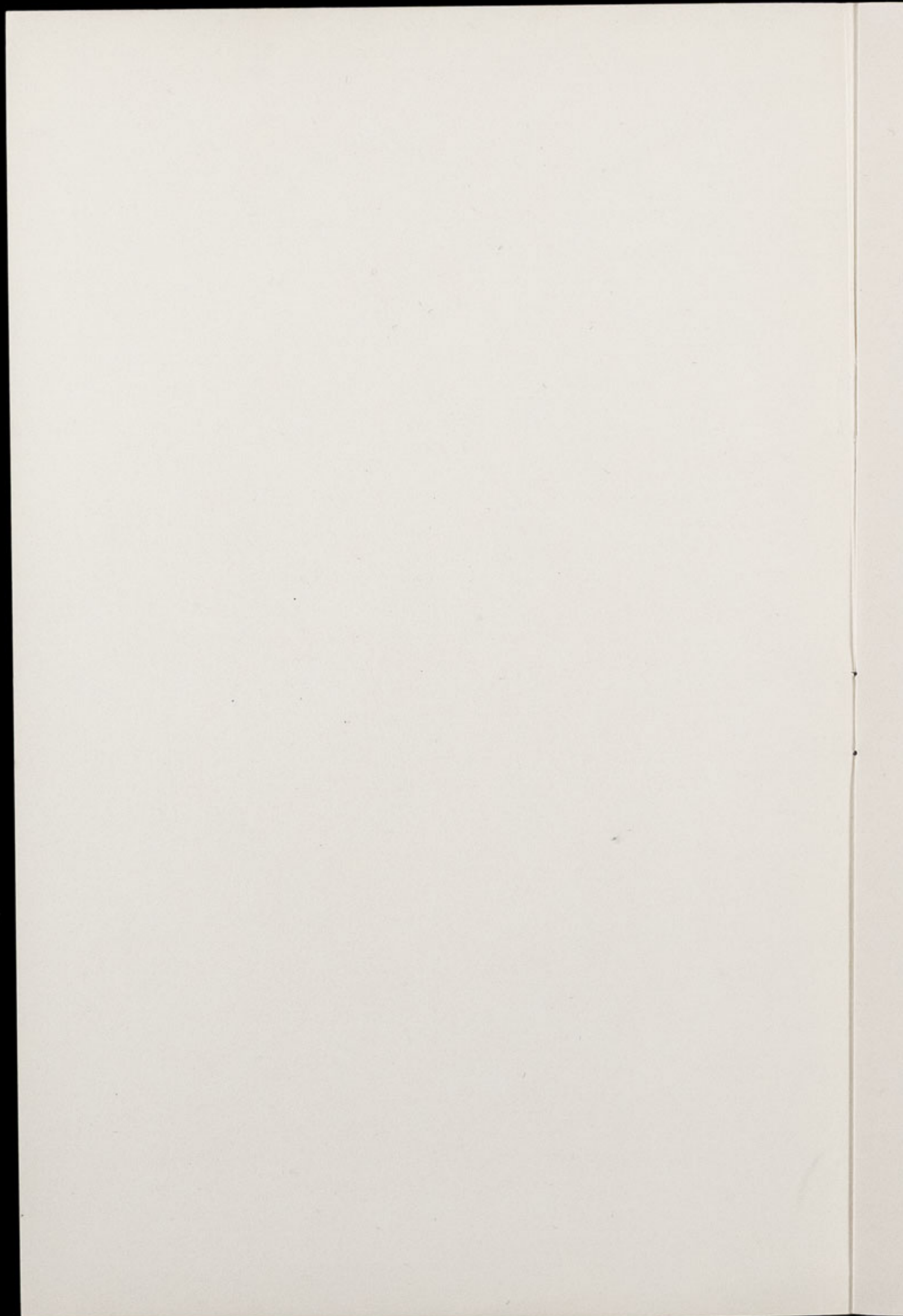




**CHESTER ZOO NEWS**  
**AND GUIDE**

May 1974

Price 6p



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

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**COVER:** *Ring-tailed Lemur (Lemur catta) with twins; see page two.*

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

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**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION — ONE POUND AND FIVE PENCE POSTAGE PAID**

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### COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Although a Lemur was the subject of last month's cover, we thought this was such an excellent photograph of female Ring-tailed Lemur, Coata, and her twins that it had to appear on the front of the May issue. We are pleased to report that the youngsters are developing very satisfactorily and can now climb about by themselves.

As the mother of the twins was born at Bristol Zoo in a group of Ring-tailed Lemurs which has often appeared in the "Animal Magic" series, the B.B.C. were interested in including a sequence of the family at Chester Zoo in one of their programmes. Johnny Morris, the star of the series, and a B.B.C. team spent a day at the zoo filming the Lemurs. Happily the animals proved very co-operative. When the lamps were set up ready for filming, Coata came to the front of the enclosure and began to sunbathe. In the process she spread her arms, enabling the film crew to obtain a good view of the two babies clinging to the fur on her undersurface.

### ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

Since the last report the following mammal births have been recorded:

- 1 Chinchilla (*Chinchilla laniger*)
- 1 Mona Monkey (*Cercopithecus mona*)
- 1 Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*)
- 4 Soay Sheep (*Ovis aries*)
- 1 Père David's Deer (*Elaphurus davidianus*)

As the previous six Chimpanzees born at the zoo have been females, the birth this time of a male baby made quite a change. Unfortunately the little fellow was rejected by his mother, a twelve year old female named Jeannie, and so he was taken to the home of

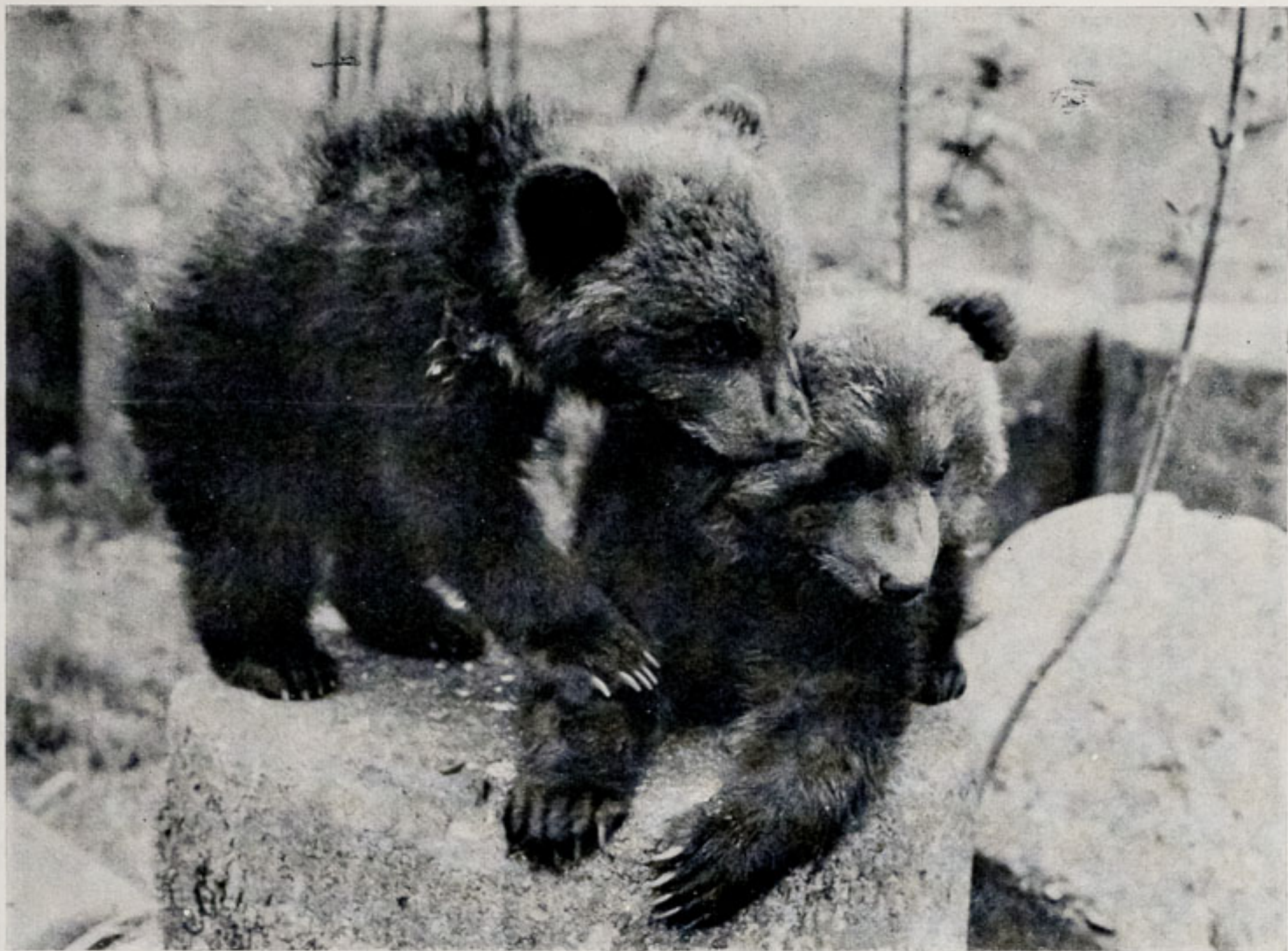
the Curator to be hand reared. The Curator's two sons named the new addition to their family Jamie and to date his progress has been excellent.

Caring for a Chimpanzee of this age is not very different from looking after a newly born human baby. In fact there are greater hazards to be encountered in rearing Chimpanzees. In this alien climate, young apes are far more susceptible to diseases than are their human counterparts.

It was to Jamie's advantage, therefore, that he was one of the largest Chimpanzees ever born at Chester Zoo, as a substantial body weight improved his chances of survival during the first crucial days. He is now being fed at two hourly intervals, day and night, and the Curator needs no alarm clock to remind him that a feed is due—the Chimpanzee's impatient cries soon alert the household. At each feed Jamie consumes between 1 and 1½ ounces of a milk mixture which is given usually to premature babies.

For the first few weeks of life, like human infants, baby Chimpanzees cannot focus. Jamie is just beginning to observe objects clearly and with his eyes follows members of the family around the room. His ability to crawl will evolve during the next month or two and by this time also he should have progressed to eating solid food and have cut his first teeth. When the Curator considers that the ape has grown sufficiently, Jamie will be returned to the zoo to complete his development in the company of other young Chimpanzees.

The four Soay lambs which have been born represent two sets of twins. The two younger animals came into the world in the normal manner and are being nursed by their mother in enclosure No. 95. Unfortunately the mother of the earlier twins experienced a very difficult labour and her lambs had to be delivered by Caesarian section. Already weakened, this ewe did not recover from the operation. However both lambs were sturdy and after spending a



BROWN BEAR CUBS (*Ursus arctos*)

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

few days at the veterinary hospital, they were returned to the zoo and placed in the care of a keeper. Visitors can see these lambs in enclosure No. 68.

Next door in enclosure No. 67, there are two Brown Bear cubs (*Ursus arctos*) which are also being reared by keepers. These appealing youngsters, now approximately three months old, are shown in the photograph on page four. The decision to remove the cubs for bottle feeding was taken for several reasons. One benefit is that by doing so we will avoid the inevitable problems which would have arisen in segregating the young bears from the adults for a protracted period of time.

The cubs were being suckled by one female but, rather surprisingly, had different mothers. The original mother produced two cubs but one of her litter died when it was a few days old. A week later a second mother produced a single female cub and this was immediately appropriated by the first mother, presumably to replace the cub which she had lost. This is the first time such an incident involving bears has been recorded at Chester Zoo.

Keepers have named the elder cub, which is a male, Bubble and the female, Squeak. Both are into all sorts of mischief and their antics are proving an extremely popular attraction for the visitors. At the moment their diet consists mainly of milk and feeding time is quite chaotic, with the cubs so anxious to finish the contents of their bottles, that usually they manage to chew through the rubber teats.

The Père David's calf is the first born this year and it may be seen with the rest of the herd in enclosure No. 103. Several more births are imminent in this group.

### BIRD NOTES

At the time of writing many birds at the zoo are in the process of incubation. So far the only chicks to have emerged from the nest

are two Red-billed Weavers (*Quelea quelea*) in the long Oakfield flight, No. 5, and two Java Sparrows (*Padda oryzivora*) in the Tropical House.

A pair of Weka Rails (*Gallirallus australis greyi*) have also bred successfully but as staff have caught only glimpses of the chicks, the number in the clutch is not yet known. Both parent birds were hatched here, so this is a second generation zoo breeding. They chose to nest in a cave at the rear of the large flight aviary, No. 18, in a site which has proved popular with previous pairs of Weka Rails.

During the past month there have been a number of presentations to our bird collection. These included:

- 1 Red and Yellow Macaw (*Ara macao*)
- 1.1 Masked Lovebirds (*Agapornis personata*)
- 1.1 Glossy Starlings (*Lamprocolius nitens*)
- 1.1 Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots (*Loriculus galgulus*)
- 0.1 Turquoise Parrakeet (*Neophema pulchella*)
- 1.1 Nonpareil Buntings (*Passerina ciris*)
- 1.1 Green Avadavats (*Amandava formosa*)

Two of these species, the Nonpareil Buntings and the Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots, were not already represented here. The Buntings have been released into the Oakfield aviary and the Hanging Parrots into an aviary adjoining the Temperate Bird House, No. 54.

Twelve Sacred Ibis (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*) were a notable presentation from Bristol Zoo. All have been introduced into the large flight aviary, where they have joined other Sacred Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Herons and Cattle Egrets.

For several months there has been a single female Greater Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus major*) on display in one of the group of aviaries labelled No. 54. With the arrival this month of a male woodpecker, we have been able to form a pair of this species. The newcomer's presence in the flight was accepted quickly by the hen and, before the season becomes too advanced, it is hoped these attractive birds will turn their efforts towards nesting.

In one of the enclosures at the rear of the Monkey House, No. 87,

visitors can see the pair of Sarus Cranes (*Grus antigone*) which were also acquired recently. This species, the largest of the cranes, is found in northern and central India. Males reach five feet in height with the females usually an inch or two shorter. As regards colouration, the sexes are difficult to distinguish. Both have pale grey plumage with the exception of whitish tips to the wings and a white band around the lower neck. The most colourful parts of the Sarus Crane are the upper neck and head where the bare skin is deep red. Like most of the crane family, this species has a vociferous courting display during which both birds throw back their heads and utter loud, raucous cries. To be in close proximity to the Sarus Cranes when this performance begins can be quite ear splitting!

Perhaps the most beautiful new additions have been a pair each of Victoria Crowned (*Goura victoria*) and Common Crowned Pigeons (*Goura cristata*). The three species of Crowned Pigeons are all found in New Guinea, though in different localities. The Common, or as it is sometimes known, Blue Crowned Pigeon lives in north western New Guinea and the Western Islands. The range of the Victoria Crowned is in northern New Guinea, while the third species (*Goura scheepmakeri*) is found in southern districts. Where their ranges overlap, the three kinds of Crowned Pigeons interbreed freely and consequently some authorities consider they belong to one species with well defined local races.

All are greyish-blue birds, about the size of large hens, which bear splendid lacy crests on the tops of their heads. This crest is most magnificent in the Victoria Crowned Pigeon where its scalloped plumes are edged with white. In the Common species the crest is entirely greyish-blue. The Victoria Crowned Pigeons have been introduced into the aviaries mentioned earlier, No. 54, and the pair of Common Crowned into one of the Tropical House flights. Incidentally both the Sarus Cranes and the Crowned Pigeons were obtained in exchanges for Bennett's Wallabies bred at Chester Zoo.

### GENERAL NEWS

With the prospect of another good breeding season in the bird section, once more the Curator was confronted with the problem of ensuring adequate supplies of live insect food for the nestlings. In

# CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND  
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. SOUTH ENTRANCE  | 41. H.T. Rose Garden                     |
| 2. Peacock Enclosure   | 42. Aviaries                             |
| 3. Wapiti Paddock  | 43. Flamingos                            |
| 4. Lesser Pandas   | 44. Waterfowl Enclosure                  |
| 5. Aviaries  | 45. Waterfowl Enclosure                  |
| 6. Milk Bar  | 46. Gazelles                             |
| 7. CORONATION HALL   | 47. Penguins                             |
| 8. CLOAKROOM, FIRST AID,<br>TOILETS, MOTHER AND BABY<br>ROOM | 48. Sealions                             |
| 9. CAFETERIA   | 49. Rock Garden                          |
| 10. Picnic Lawn  | 50. Polar Bears                          |
| 11. BEARS  | 51. Tigers                               |
| 12. Sunken Garden  | 52. Waterfowl Enclosure                  |
| 13. Kiosk  | 53. Anteaters                            |
| 14. AQUARIUM   | 54. BIRD HOUSE                           |
| 15. NORTH ENTRANCE   | 55. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT                  |
| 16. PUSH CHAIRS, WHEEL CHAIRS,<br>LOST CHILDREN              | 56. Ape Nursery                          |
| 17. Parrot House   | 57. TOILETS                              |
| 18. Free Flight Aviary                                       | 58. Lions                                |
| 19. APE HOUSE  | 59. SOUVENIR SHOP                        |
| 20. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP                                    | 60. TOILETS                              |
| 21. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn                                 | 61. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT                  |
| 22. TOILETS  | 62. P.O. Telephone                       |
| 23. Tuatara Exhibit  | 63. Gibbon Pen                           |
| 24. Peccaries  | 64. Animal Enclosure                     |
| 25. Waterbus Halt  | 65. Cheetahs                             |
| 26. Birds of Prey Aviaries                                   | 66. Ornamental Rock Garden               |
| 27. Condor Aviary  | 67. Malayan Bears                        |
| 28. Jackal and Hyaena Enclosures                             | 68. Animal Enclosure                     |
| 29. Animal Enclosure   | 69. Aviary                               |
| 30. Porcupine Enclosure                                      | 70. Wallabies                            |
| 31. Coypus   | 71. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE<br>AND KIOSK |
| 32. Beavers  | 72. Waterbus Halt                        |
| 33. Giraffe House  |  |
| 34. Camel House  |  |
| 35. Waterbus Halt  |  |
| 36. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND<br>REPTILE HOUSES                |  |
| 37. CHIMPANZEES  |  |
| 38. Floribunda Rose Garden                                   |  |
| 39. Mammal House   |  |
| 40. Gibbon Island  |  |

- |                                |
|--------------------------------|
| 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. Gazelles and Emus          |
| 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 and Llamas          |
| 96. MONKEY HOUSE               |
| 97. Waterfowl Enclosure        |
| 98. Wallabies and Waterfowl    |
| 99. Cranes and Waterfowl       |
| 100. Blackbuck                 |

- |                                |
|--------------------------------|
| 101. Alpacas                   |
| 102. Bison Paddock             |
| 103. Pere David's Deer Paddock |
| 104. Eland and Marmots         |
| 105. RHINO HOUSE               |
| 106. TOILETS                   |
| 107. Mpila Snack Bar and Kiosk |
| 108. Antelope Enclosure        |
| 109. Antelope Enclosure        |

Animals may be moved from  
time to time.

FOR A COMPLETE  
TOUR OF THE ZOO —  
Follow Nos.1-109  
from South Entrance  
or Nos.16-109  
from North Entrance  
then return to  
Nos.1-14

## 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

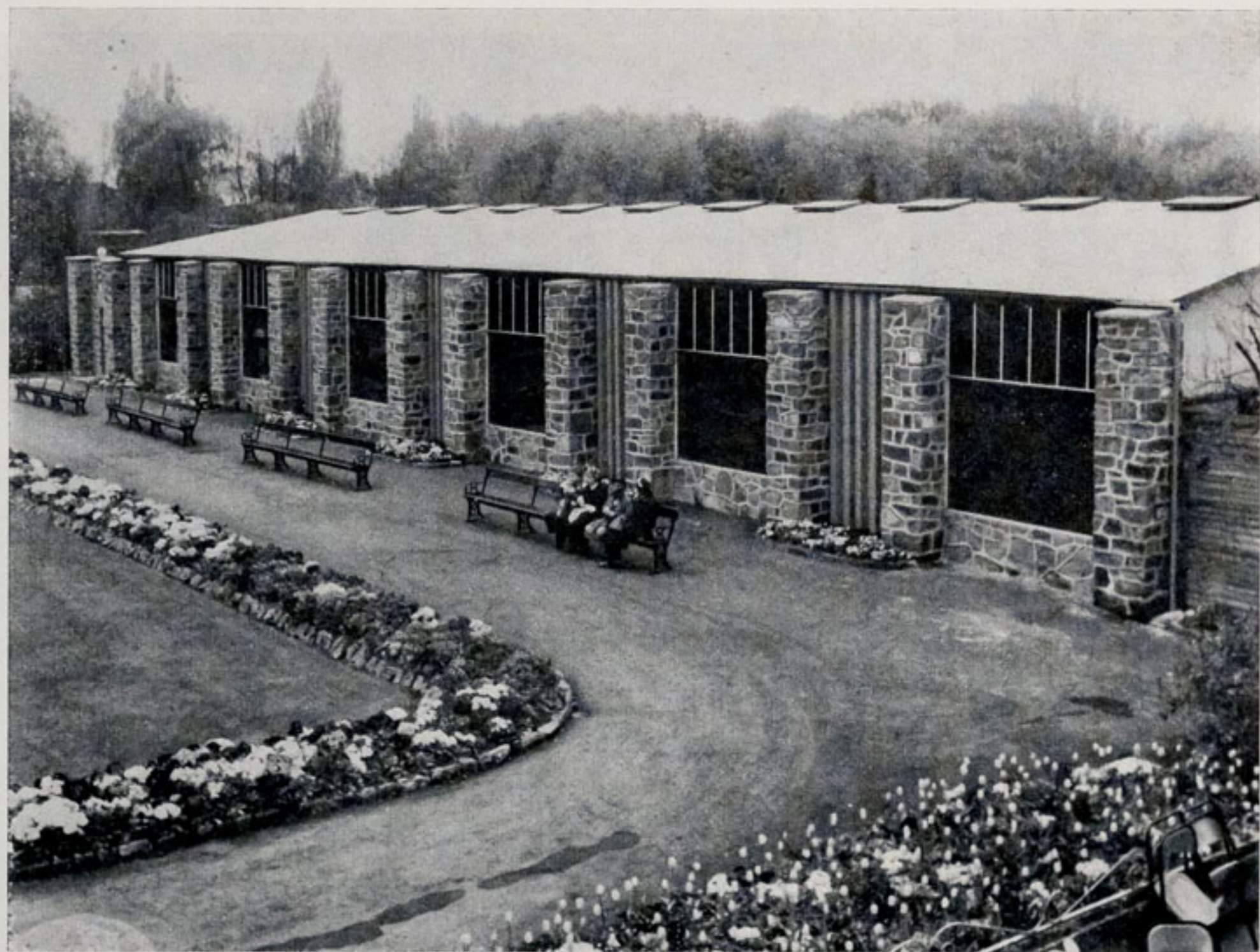
the past, zoo staff have collected these insects, but this year he decided another solution would be sought. Following an enquiry from the Curator, Manchester University were able to site one of their moth traps in the zoo grounds. The arrangement will be of mutual benefit. We will be able to secure ample quantities of insects for feeding purposes and at the same time assist in a university project by looking out for Peppered Moths (*Biston betularia*). This particular moth is often quoted as an illustration of evolution through natural selection. The original Peppered Moth had white wings speckled with black. During the industrial revolution a darker form of this species emerged which, against the blackened buildings, was camouflaged more effectively than the white variety. At the present time the percentage of lighter coloured moths is again increasing.

The trap itself is a square container with the top side raised into a pyramid. The centre of the pyramid is cut away and here a vapour light is fixed. Beneath the lamp, the opening into the trap is surrounded by plastic chutes. The insects, attracted by the light, land on the chutes and in most cases drop into the bottom of the container. There they settle themselves under cardboard egg cartons. The moth trap is operated by a time switch, so staff can set the light to come on at whatever time in the evening they wish.

By positioning the trap in various locations, different types of insects will be obtained. For instance, near plane or beech trees, cockchafer beetles will be attracted but in an open field it is more likely that moths will be trapped. It is of course important to preserve the rarer species and we have full instructions as to which moths should be released. The weather plays a major role in determining the quantity of insects collected, as on rainy nights few species will be flying. However, despite a heavy shower, during its first night of operation, the trap produced forty moths. It is anticipated that as the summer progresses this result will be improved tremendously.

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The alterations to the Temperate Bird House described in a previous issue have now been completed. The work involved mainly the reconstruction of the wall overlooking the Fountain Restaurant gardens and as can be seen by the photograph on the right, the effect is quite pleasing.

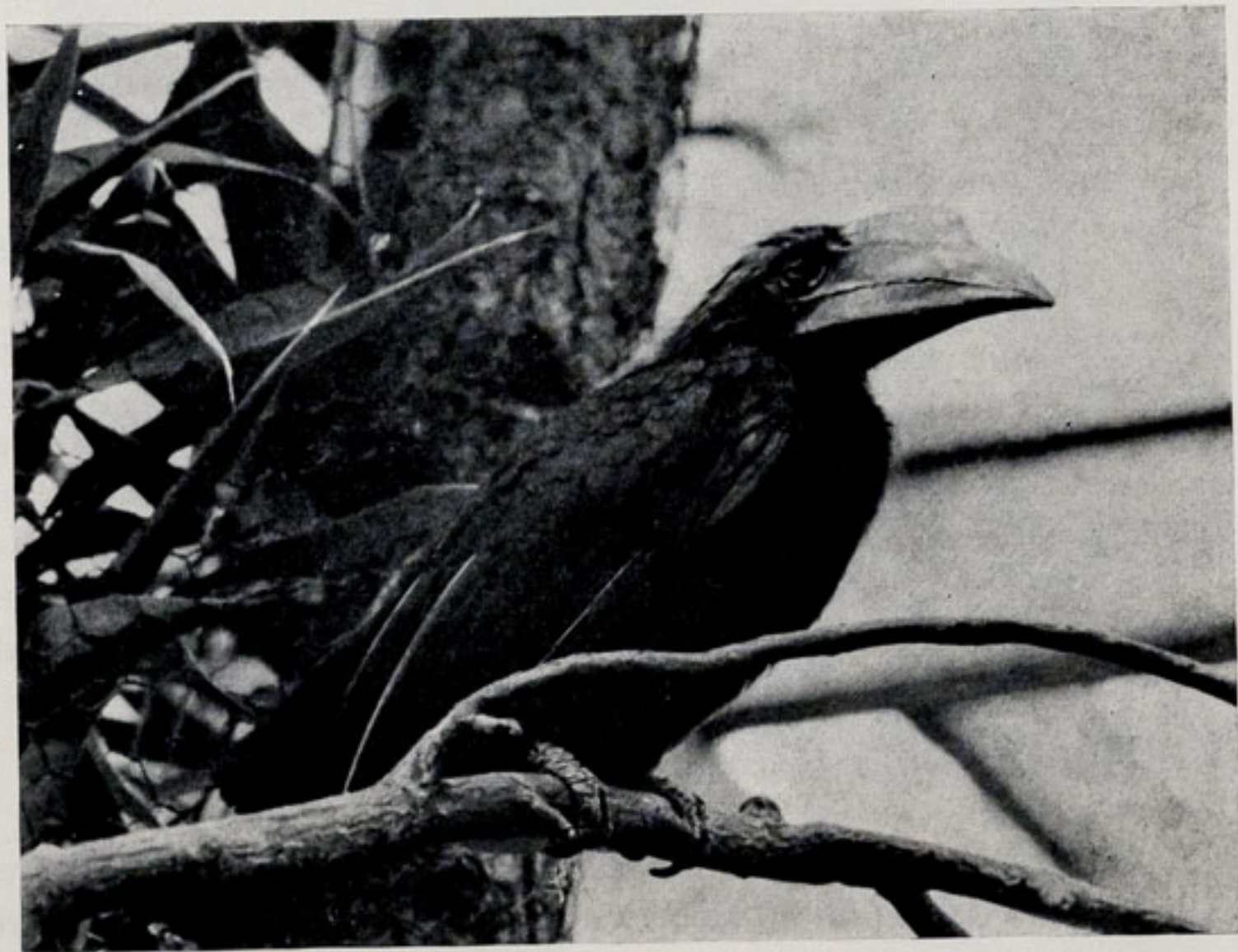


MODIFICATIONS TO TEMPERATE BIRD HOUSE

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

During the past few weeks work has commenced on the development of a new area of the zoo grounds. The site is a large field which is situated to the south of enclosures No. 95, 100 and 101 (see zoo plan). Another three enclosures are under construction in this section, which will comprise two grassed and one hard paddock. All will be surrounded by aha perimeter walls and from each there will be access to indoor quarters. A more detailed description of this project will be published when the work is nearer completion.

Last month we reported the arrival of a pair of Black Hornbills (*Anthracoceros malayanus*) from Indonesia. The female, which displays a blackish bill and casque, is shown below. The male Black Hornbill, illustrated on the right, differs from his mate in having a white bill and casque and also a broad white stripe above each eye. At the present time these birds are accommodated in one of the upper aviaries of the Tropical House.



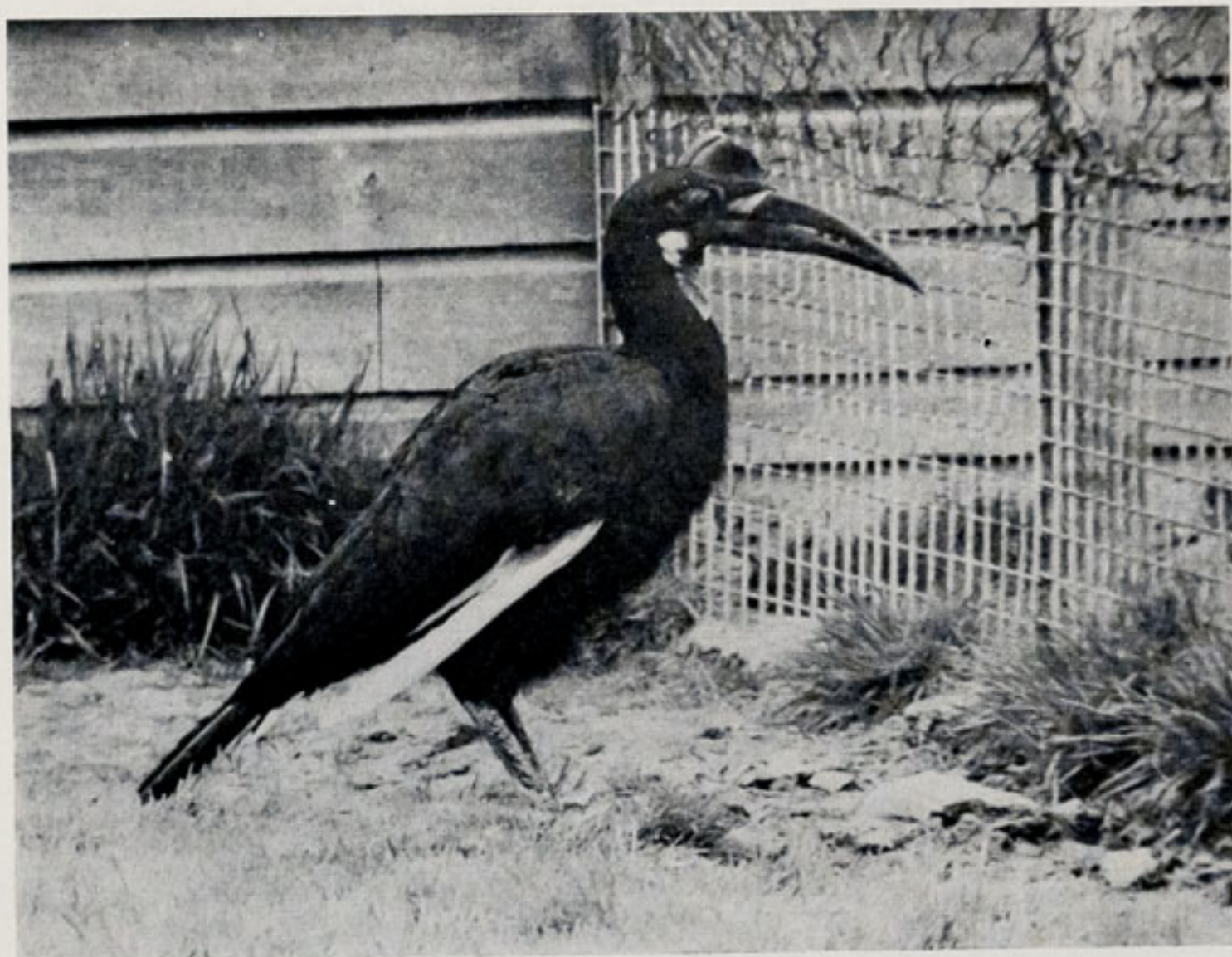
K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

FEMALE BLACK HORNBILL (*Anthracoceros malayanus*)



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

MALE BLACK HORNBILL (*Anthracoceros malayanus*)



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

ABYSSINIAN GROUND HORNBILL (*Bucorvus abyssinicus*)

A male Abyssinian Ground Hornbill (*Bucorvus abyssinicus*) which has been resident in the collection for two years will be spending his first summer outside. Visitors can see this splendid bird in one of the enclosures at the rear of the Monkey House, No. 87, where the above photograph was taken. The Hornbill's wings have been clipped to prevent him from flying over the perimeter fence but he has plenty of room in his large paddock to run about and a shelter into which he can retreat during inclement weather. Since his arrival in 1972, this bird has reached maturity and it is hoped that soon it will be possible to obtain a mate for him.

A second group of Arabian Gazelles (*Gazella g. arabica*) has now been introduced into summer quarters. The enclosure, No. 46, in which the five animals will live during the warmer months was also occupied by gazelles last summer and proved a very popular exhibit. In previous years it has been necessary to accommodate these animals in either pairs or trios, an arrangement which was far from satisfactory. Following the completion of a large enclosure for Arabian Gazelles earlier in the season, we have been able to maintain

more individuals in one paddock and consequently reduce the number of gazelle exhibits to just two. The other, larger, group of Arabian Gazelles can be seen in one of the enclosures marked No. 101 on the zoo plan.

### AQUARIUM NEWS

At this time each year, where necessary, tanks in the Aquarium are restocked in preparation for the summer season. It is pleasing to note that the Aquarium is becoming self sufficient in an increasing number of species but amongst the varieties which had to be replenished there were Rosy, Nigger and Tiger Barbs, Lemon, Glow-light and Neon Tetras, Beaconfishes, Harlequins, Serpa Characin and Moonlight, Three-spot and Pearl Gouramies.

Several small Glassfishes (*Chanda wolfi*) are new and have been released into a tank containing members of a related species, the Indian Glassfish (*Chanda ranga*). Both varieties have transparent bodies but those of the Indian species display pale golden hues. *Chanda wolfi* is found in Thailand, Sumatra and Borneo, and its adult length of six to seven inches is twice that of the Indian Glassfish.

A number of Angelfishes have also been acquired. They are representatives of the species *Pterophyllum altum*, sometimes known as the Tall Angelfish, and are particularly interesting specimens as they were caught in the wild. Most of the Angelfishes being exhibited in aquariums today are domestic varieties. It is possible to distinguish the wild Angelfishes from the captive bred stock in the tank, as the former have numbers of reddish brown spots across their backs.

Because Scats and Fingerfishes share a preference for brackish water, very often they are accommodated in the same tanks. Into one of our larger community tanks we have released a number of Red Scats (*Scatophagus argus*) and Fingerfishes belonging to the species *Monodactylus argenteus*. All are young specimens.

Amongst this month's new arrivals were a few species which have not been shown here for some years. The White Cloud Mountain Minnows (*Tanichthys albonubes*) fall into this category. Found

in fast-flowing streams in the White Cloud Mountain area of China, these little fishes are able to withstand a wide range of temperatures and consequently are comparatively easy subjects to both keep and breed in the aquarium. The adult minnow reaches approximately one and a half inches in length and has a chiefly olive-brown body, with a white belly and iridescent blue-green stripe along either flank. This colouration is more brilliant in the juvenile fish, at which stage it closely resembles a Neon Tetra.

With the establishment of an exhibit of Japanese Medakas (*Oryzias latipes*), visitors to the Aquarium can now see an example of killifishes or egg-laying tooth carps. Measuring no more than one and a half inches when fully grown, the Japanese Medaka is another small variety but, unlike the minnow, it is not a particularly colourful fish. It has a whitish body with a blue circle around each eye. Soon after arrival the Japanese Medakas began to spawn and their eggs, which take twelve days to hatch, were transferred swiftly from the exhibition tank to one of the nursery tanks.

Some very attractive Ember Barbs (*Barbus melanymphix*), natives of India and Ceylon, and several catfishes belonging to *Plecostomus sp.* have also been acquired. Of the latter species, we now have six specimens of the Common and three of the Bearded varieties.

With regard to recent breeding successes, at present a considerable number of *Tilapia maria* fry are being reared in nursery tanks.

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### SUBSCRIPTION FORMS

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 shop. An annual subscription (12 issues) costs £1.05, postage paid, which can either be handed over the counter at the shop 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.**

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