



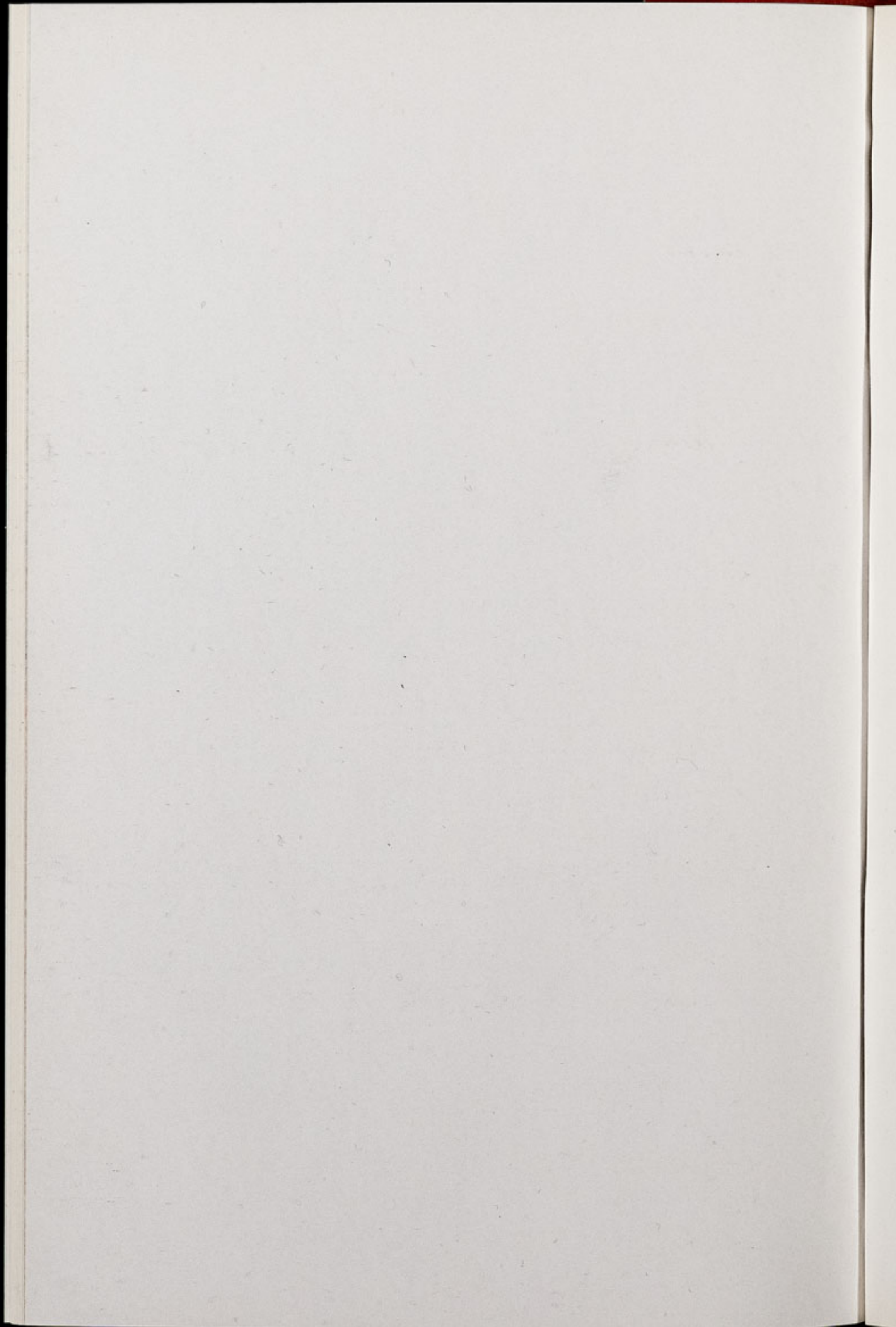
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

October 1978

Price 12p



The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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COVER

Greater Kudu.

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

Annual subscription — Two Pounds and Thirty Pence, postage paid
Telephone Chester 20106/7/9

DR. M. R. BRAMBELL

Our New Director, Dr. M. R. Brambell, Ph.D.(Edin.), M.A., Vet. M.B. (Cantab.), M.R.C.V.S., will take up his appointment on the 1st November next.

We have asked Dr. Brambell to introduce himself to our readers and we hope that the following notes will be of interest.

"It is not easy to say how excited and honoured I am to be coming to Chester to take up the reins of the Zoo after the late George Mottershead. Chester Zoo was already over one year old when I was born, and by the time I started my own career as a zooman at Regent's Park, Mr. Mottershead was already the much loved and respected doyen of the British Zoo fraternity. Indeed, as a past President of the International Union of Directors of Zoological Gardens he was already one of the great elder statesmen of world zoos.

It was very encouraging for me as someone new to zoo management to be so freely given friendship and advice by Mr. Mottershead. He had a clear grasp of essentials, a fund of zoo tales (which we must not let be forgotten) and a vision of what zoos can do, which others are still striving to follow. Chester Zoo has a world-wide reputation. Mr. Mottershead also managed to make the zoo something very special to the people of Chester. I am a newcomer to the City (though my boyhood in Bangor, Gwynedd, doesn't make me that much of a foreigner), but it is my hope that I will do nothing to lessen the feeling that this is Chester's own zoo, a place for the City to be justifiably proud.

After training as a veterinary surgeon in Cambridge I went, in 1956, to Edinburgh to work on the parasites of sheep. At first sight it was not an obvious step to move in 1967 from that to looking after the mammals at the London Zoo, though it has always seemed to me to have been the most natural step in my career. Perhaps my home background, (my father was Professor of Zoology at Bangor,) and my work with parasites which lived in exotic species as well as our domestic sheep, combined to lead me into zoos.

I arrived in the middle of London's great re-building programme. We were replacing the 1926 Monkey House and the 1876 Lion House. A modern zoo building cannot be taken 'off the shelf' by just asking the designer to produce it. It was very necessary to work out with everybody involved exactly what was needed, what the animals needed, what the keepers needed, and what the public needed, so that every situation likely to occur was catered for. There will never be the last word in zoo building, for we are all the time learning more and more about what is needed, but each new building can be planned on the success of those that have gone before and



By courtesy of the Zoological Society of London
DR. M. R. BRAMBELL

should set a new standard for everybody else to follow. One of the things Chester Zoo has done is to show that good buildings do not have to be expensive; the important thing is for them to be well thought out.

I have been looking forward very much to coming to Chester. I want it to remain a leading Zoo in the scope of its Collection, the standard of its housing and keeping and the performance of its breeding stock. I want it to continue to contribute significantly to

the conservation of endangered wildlife and to be a place where people can enjoy seeing some of the wild animals that share this Earth with us. Above all, I want it to be Chester's Zoo."

GENERAL NEWS

The following mammals have been bred:

- 1 Squirrel Monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*)
- 1 African Civet (*Viverra civetta*)
- 1 Alpaca (*Llama pacos*)
- 1 Red Lechwe (*Kobus leche*)
- 1 Axis Deer (*Axis axis*)

The undermentioned specimens have been received into the Collection:

- 1 Malayan Tapir (*Tapirus indicus*)
- 6 Coypu (*Myocastor coypus*)
- 1 Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*)
- 2 Leopard Cats (*Felis bengalensis*)

A female Malayan Tapir has been received on breeding loan and she is slowly being introduced to the resident male. They are in adjoining enclosures in the Pachyderm House; this has made it necessary to remove the Brazilian Tapirs (*Tapirus terrestris*), mother, father and baby "Joy", to the Rhino House.

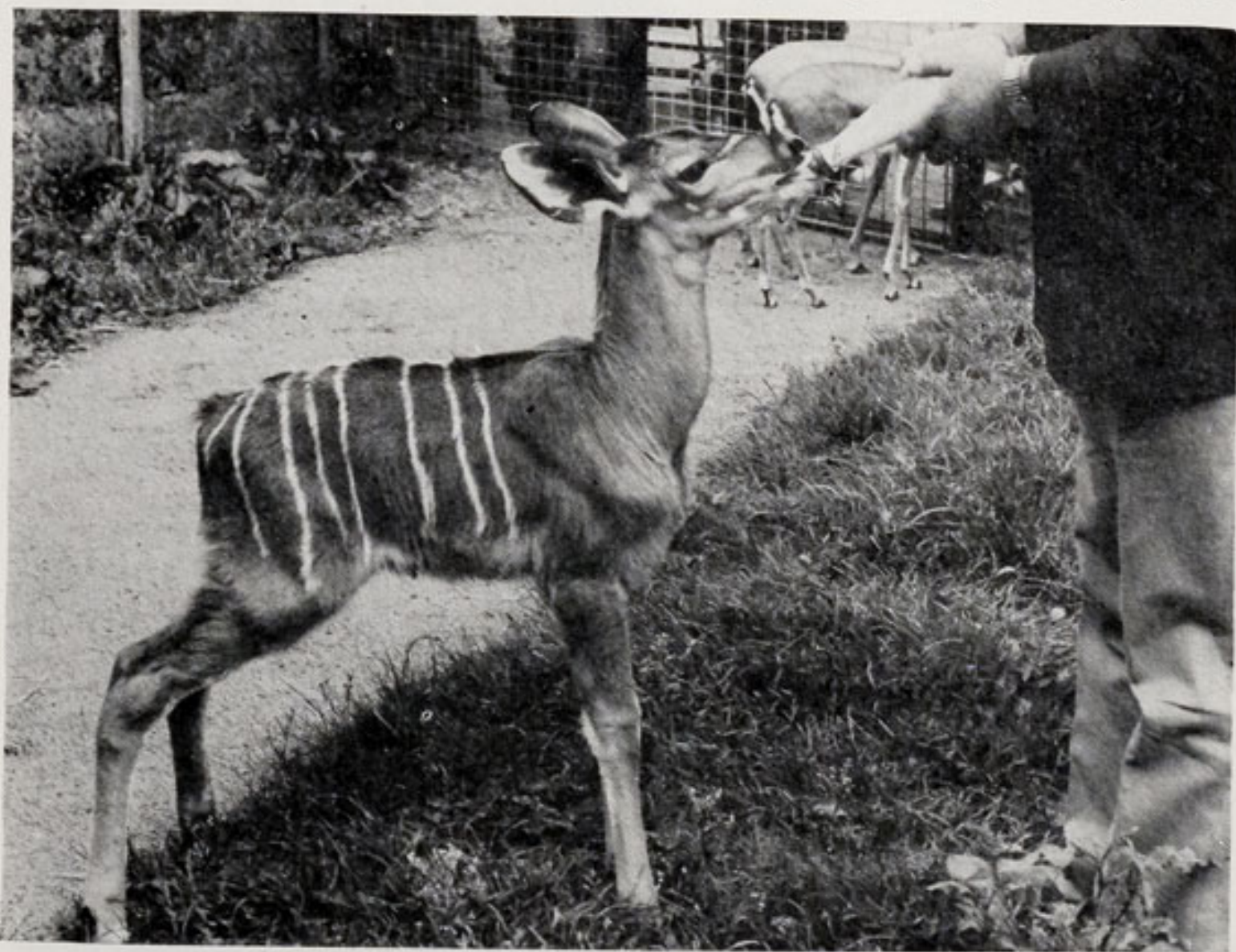
THE GREATER KUDU

The Greater Kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*), standing five feet at the shoulder, is one of the largest African antelopes; it is also one of the most beautiful. The large, thickly-lashed eyes, delightful white facial markings and huge, mobile ears give this lovely animal a most appealing expression.

The young Greater Kudu shown on the cover of this month's issue is "Kwango", a male who was abandoned at birth by his mother; since that time he has been under the very good care of Mr.

Peter Wait, the Curator of Mammals. To begin with the youngster was bottle-fed every three hours, throughout the day until midnight, but he is slowly being weaned on to Zoo Concentrate, hay and grass. When Mr. Wait is not around, Kwango has Omar and Salome, two Arabian Gazelles for company.

As an adult bull the Greater Kudu weighs approximately 650 lbs and by this time has grown a pair of beautiful, wide spiralling horns; these can measure anything up to 66 inches along the curve and are present on the male only. If anything, it is probably these



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

YOUNG GREATER KUDU BEING BOTTLE-FED

horns which give the Kudu bull its majestic appearance. The coat will remain the same as it is now a light golden brown, with white vertical stripes descending from the top of the back; there are usually 5-10 stripes, Kwango has eight. Other characteristic markings of this antelope are the three white spots on either cheek and the white chevron on the muzzle; the insides of the ears are also white. A thick mane and fringe of long hairs on the throat will become more pronounced as Kwango matures. The cows of this species are similar in appearance to the bulls, although a little smaller and, as

previously mentioned, they are usually hornless; however, very exceptional cases of cows with small horns have been recorded.

Individual specimens or small groups of cows and immature bulls, can be found in the rocky bushveld of East Africa; the adult bulls join the cows during the mating season. The calves are born after a gestation period of 7-8 months. In some regions the young are born throughout the year, and in others the births are according to the rainy season. Youngsters stay hidden until they are able to follow the female.

When food, water, and cover, are readily available the Greater Kudu remains stationary. During the cooler hours of the early morning and evening the antelopes emerge to browse: their diet consists mainly of foliage, seed pods, and young grass, but if water is scarce juicy roots, bulbs and tubers will also be taken to supplement their liquid intake.

As mentioned earlier, cover is vital for survival as this antelope has no turn of speed should it be pursued, although it has a tremendous leap. The Kudu prefers to stand very still amongst the bush, and amazingly, the vertical stripes merge into portions of light and shade until it is extremely difficult to distinguish between antelope and vegetation! This camouflage technique is designed to confuse would-be predators such as leopards, wild dogs, lions and Man, although once the Kudu is pursued by a Cheetah it may not get the opportunity to remain still long enough to mingle with its background.

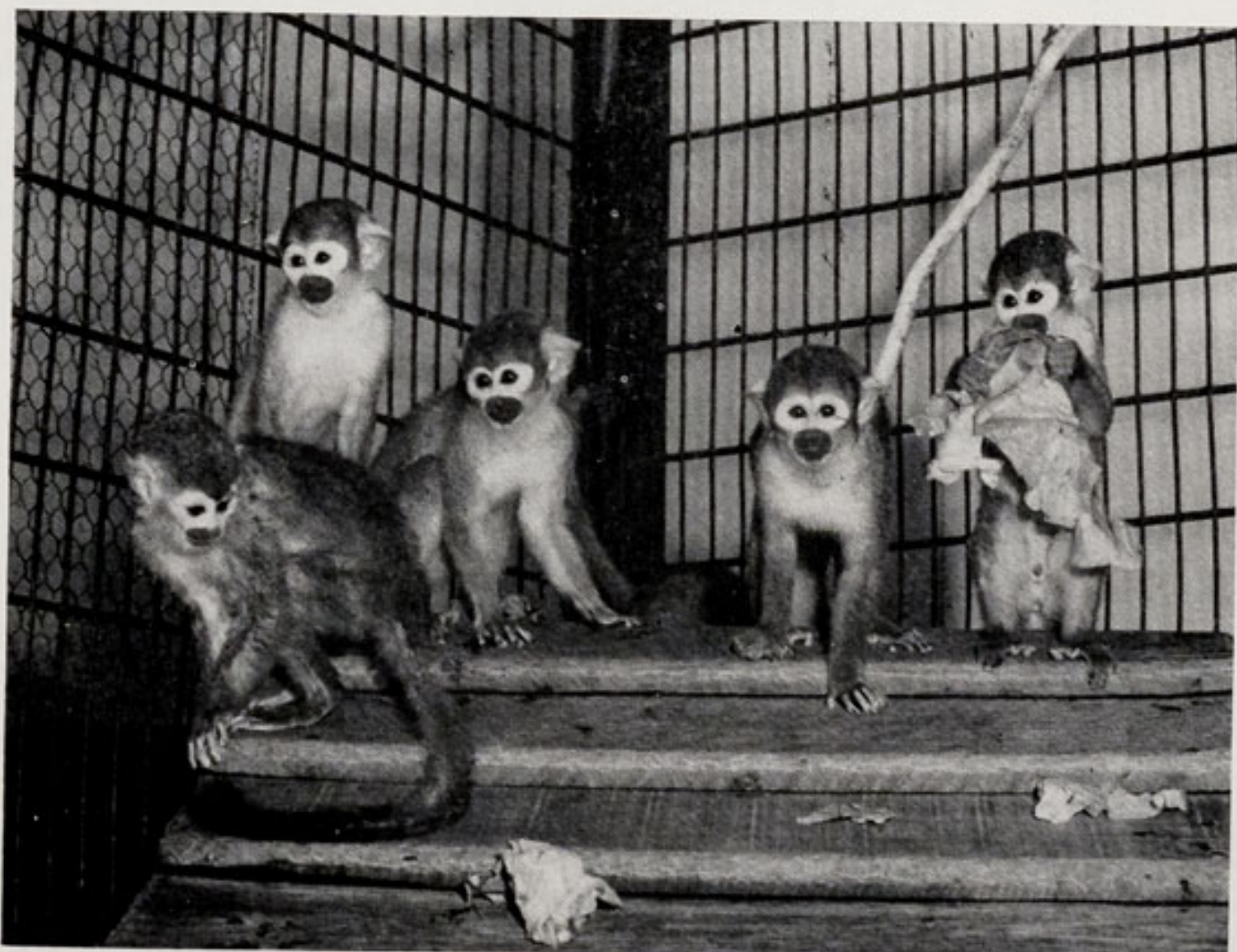
The Greater Kudu was also once found in South Africa but Man together with an epidemic of rinderpest at the turn of the century were instrumental in reducing the numbers of this beautiful and striking antelope.

THE SQUIRREL MONKEY

A Squirrel Monkey (*Saimiri sciureus*), was born recently and visitors to the Small Mammal House may be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the tiny youngster clinging to its mother.

Squirrel Monkeys are separated into four different species and this is generally based on the locality and fur colouring; those at Chester Zoo have an olive-green coat with yellowish underparts. The tufted ears are white, as are the rings around the eyes; the muzzle and tip of the long tail are black.

Large troops of these brightly coloured animals live in the huge tropical forests of South America. Darting from branch to branch, this monkey is able to catch insects on the wing, so quickly does it move. Flowers, fruit and berries, together with tree frogs, eggs, snails and small birds are also eaten.



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

SQUIRREL MONKEYS

There is safety in numbers and individuals or small groups rarely, if ever, leave the trees for the forest floor, but large troops will descend in search of food.

Squirrel Monkeys are not easy to keep in captivity as they are susceptible to intestinal worms and other parasites, but the healthy group at Chester show that with good care and daily attention these problems can be overcome. Robust specimens can live for many years.

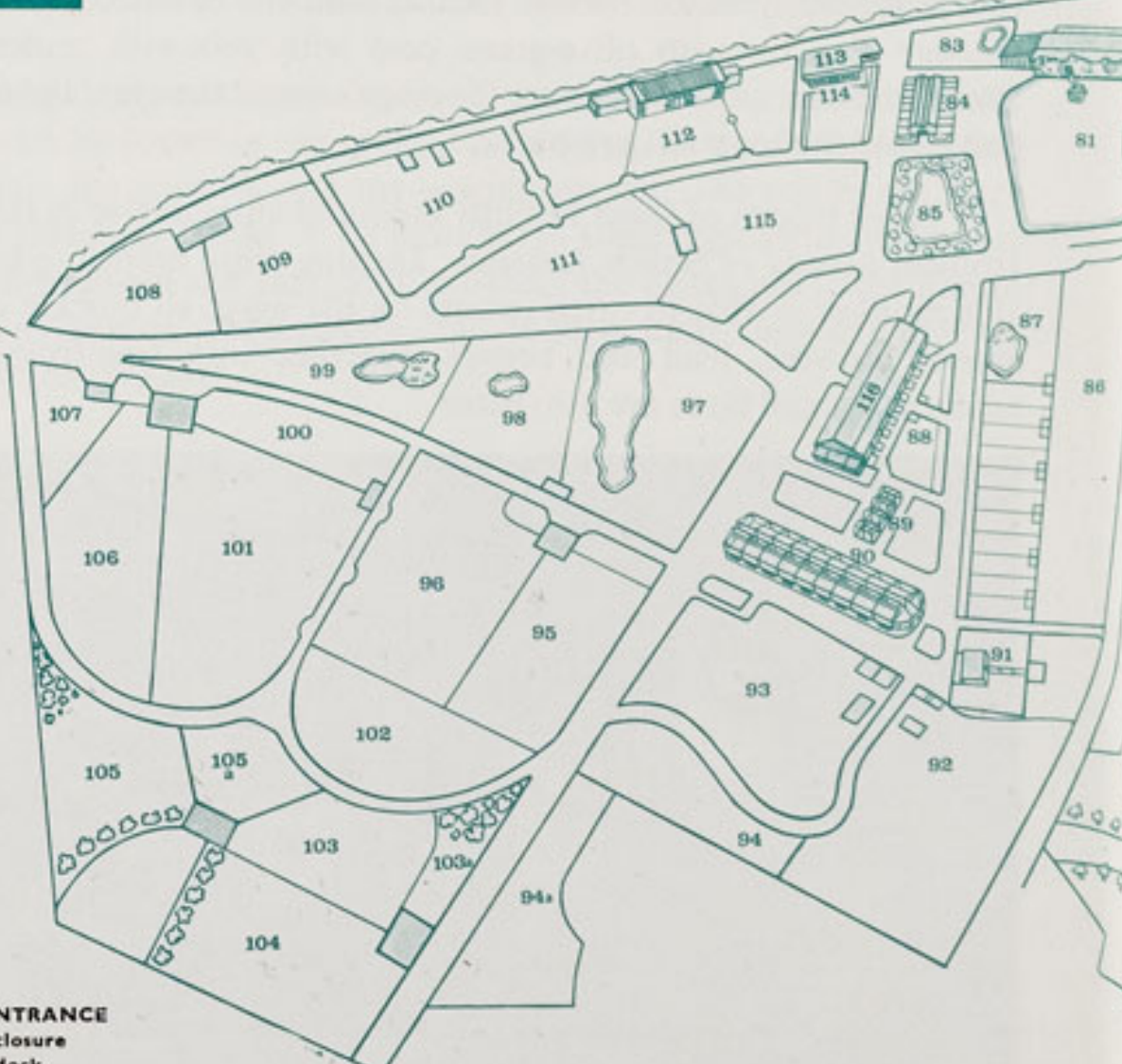
CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

FOR A COMPLETE TOUR OF THE ZOO — Follow Nos 1-15 from 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.**

To
LECTURE HALL
& CLASSROOM
(Reservations only)



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, INVALIDS' TOILETS, MOTHER AND BABY ROOM
- 9. CAFETERIA
- 10. Picnic Lawn
- 11. Bears
- 12. Jubilee Gardens (Noah)
- 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 Hyena 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. 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. Big 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. Wallabies and Kangaroos
- 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. Brown Bears
- 81. ELEPHANTS
- 82. Hippos
- 83. Tapirs
- 84. Small Mammal House
- 85. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 86. Ankole Cattle
- 87. Emus, Cranes and Flamingos
- 88. Outside Monkey Enclosures
- 89. Baboon Pens
- 90. Cat House
- 91. Tiger Enclosures

- 92. Antelope Enclosure
- 93. Antelope Enclosure
- 94. Antelope Enclosure
- 95. Zebras
- 96. Zebras
- 97. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 98. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 99. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 100. Blackbird
- 101. Wallabies
- 102. Animal Enclosure
- 103. Reindeer

- 104. Pere David's Deer Paddock
- 105. Przewalski's Horses
- 105a. Onager
- 106. Arabian Gazelles
- 107. Musk Oxen
- 108. Bison
- 109. Pere David's Deer Paddock
- 110. Prairie Marmots, Alpacas
- 111. Antelope Enclosure
- 112. RHINOS
- 113. TOILETS
- 114. Mplia Snack Bar
- 115. Antelope Enclosure
- 116. MONKEY HOUSE

ANIMALS MAY BE MOVED
FROM TIME TO TIME

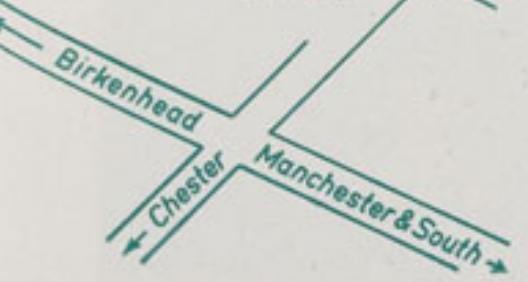
ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES:

- 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



Bus Station

South Entrance



CAR PARK

CAR PARK

North Entrance

C Road

Warrington
Manchester
Whitchurch
and South

Like most monkeys, the Squirrel Monkey can be seen grooming. They are very clean and comb and brush their coats with their fingers, while the toes attend to the head, ears and shoulders.

An interesting point to note is that in relation to the size of other primates, the Squirrel Monkey has the largest brain.

AVIARY NOTES

The following specimens have been bred recently in the Zoo Aviaries:

- 1 African Silverbill (*Euodice malabarica cantans*)
- 2 Guiana Parrotlets (*Forpus p. passerinus*)
- 2 Swainson's Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haemotodus moluccanus*)
- 1 Crested Bronzewing Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*)
- 2 Laughing Doves (*Stigmatopelia senegalensis*)
- 1 Blue-eyed Cockatoo (*Kakatoe ophthalmica*)

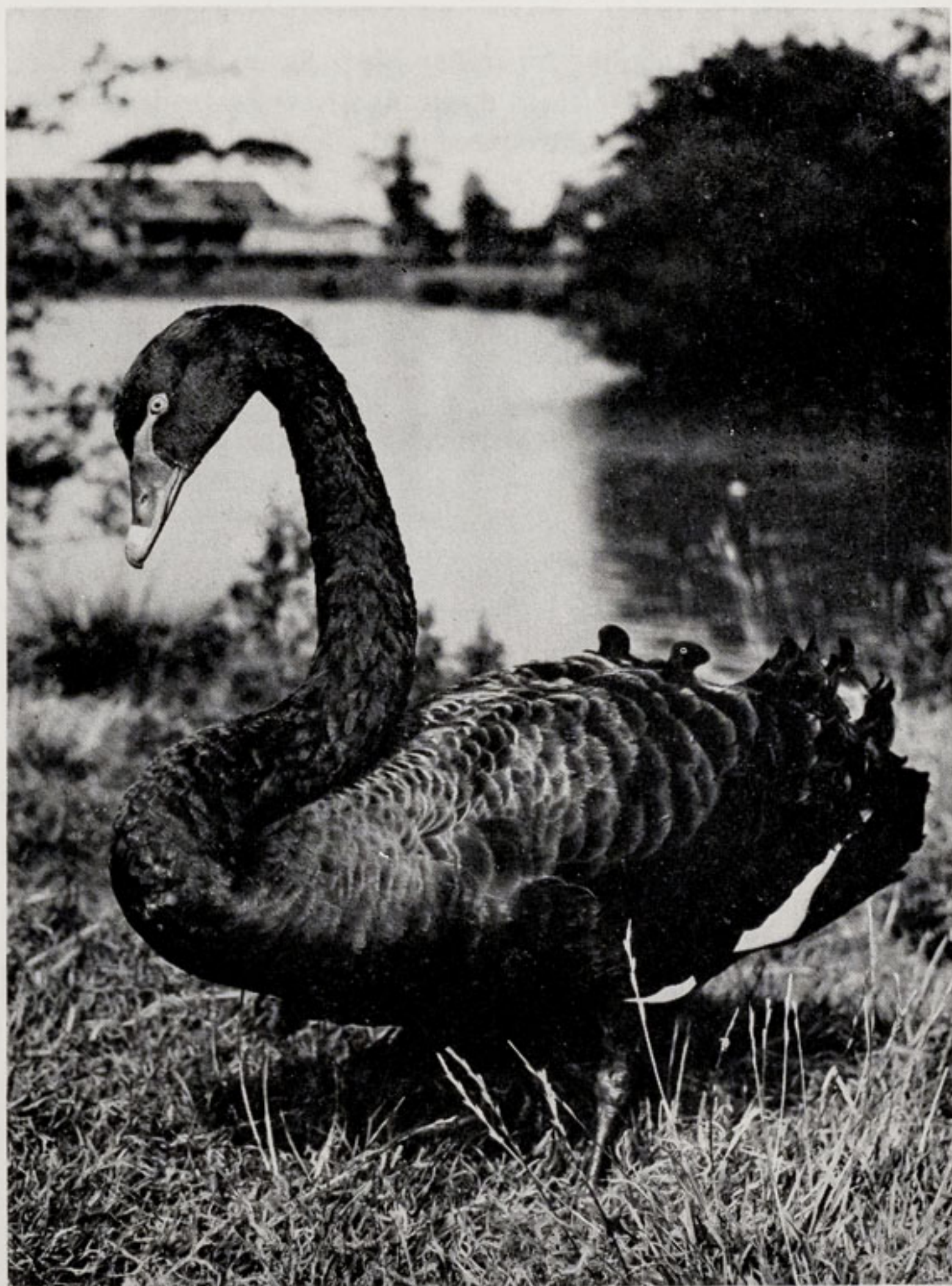
The under-mentioned have been received into the Collection:

- 2 Cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*)
- 1 African Grey Parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*)
- 1 Blue-fronted Amazon Parrot (*Amazone aestiva*)
- 2 Black Swans (*Cygnatus atratus*)
- 1 Stanley Parrakeet (*platycercus icterotis*)
- 1 Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax*)
- 1 Snowy Owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*)
- 2 Grey Go-Away Birds (*Corythaixoides concolor*)

The breeding of the African Silverbill is very pleasing as it is the first we have had; all other Silverbills which have been bred were Indian.

AUSTRALIAN BLACK SWAN

The Zoo is extremely pleased to inform readers that two Black Swans (*Cygnus atratus*), have been received into the Collection. The last time Black Swans were exhibited and bred at Chester, was in 1975.



By courtesy of J. Whitworth

AUSTRALIAN BLACK SWAN

It is an extremely graceful bird with glossy black plumage and a bright red bill. The wings have a white border, but this is more easily seen when the bird is in flight.

Although known as the Australian Black Swan, they are in fact, scarce in Central and Northern Australia; New Zealand, however, has a large number of this introduced bird.

During droughts large colonies collect near the coast, but more often the Black Swan can be found near shallow lakes and swamps. Gregarious in habit, the Black Swan is closely related to the Mute Swan and both species pair for life, although the former is not territorial.

Large colonies nest closely together on river banks and lake sides. The nest, often built on top of an old nest, is a steep mound in the centre of which is a rough cup lined with feathers and grass. The 4-7 pale green eggs are incubated by the cob and pen, and when the cygnets hatch they are covered in a thick grey down. An enchanting sight is that of the adult swan carrying the young, tired cygnets on its back. When six months have passed, however, the young birds are able to fly and will eventually leave the nest to search for a partner.

TROPICAL HOUSE NEWS

Specimens listed below have been received recently into the Collection:

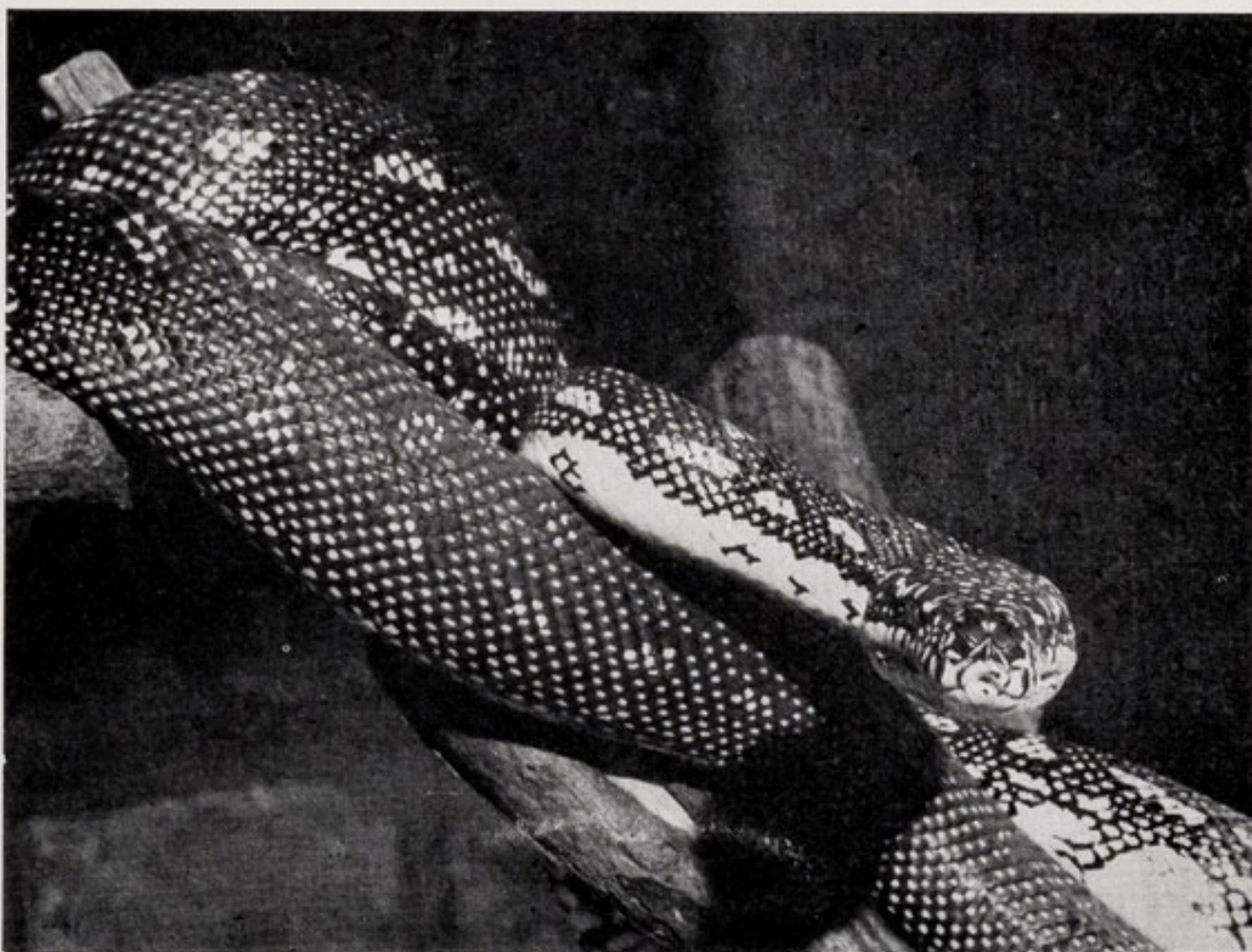
- 1 Soft-shelled Turtle (White) (*Dogania subplana*)
- 1 Florida Cottonmouth Moccasin (*Agkistrodon piscivorous*)
- 1 Aldabra Tortoise (*Geochelone gigantea*) *conanti*

On page 13 readers can see a picture of a female Diamond Python (*Morelia spilotes*), which was received, along with two males, a short time ago. The female, incidentally, is the largest of the group at the moment measuring approximately 7 feet but they have been recorded at lengths of up to 14 feet. These beautiful snakes are a new exhibit to the Tropical House and have settled down very well. Distributed throughout Australia and New Guinea they are recognised by the brilliant yellow spots and diamond-like

shapes on the black background together with a distinctive broad head. Diamond Pythons are complete individuals, displaying their own different patterns.

As with all Pythons, these are egg-layers and as they have been observed mating since their arrival it is hoped that eventually they will breed.

The Zoo diet consists of dead rats, but in the wild they will take birds, small mammals, and occasionally, lizards.



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

THE GEORGE S. MOTTERSHEAD MEMORIAL FUND.

The George S. Mottershead Memorial Fund, established after the death of Mr. George Mottershead, the Founder of Chester Zoo, now stands at £1,150. New readers may be interested to know that the Fund is still open and contributions, which should be sent to The North of England Zoological Society, Upton, Chester, will be very welcome.

The list of subscribers to date is as follows:

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Mrs. E. Thornhill	Staff Anon.

Cheques should be made payable to the George S. Mottershead Memorial Fund.

GARDENING NEWS

During the month the Gardeners have been busy changing the flower beds and replacing them with the hardy plants to flower next Spring. This work will be completed by the middle of November and the plants will then have time to get established before any severe weather sets in.

Plants from the Zoo nurseries have grown very well this year, especially the *Polyanthus* as they prefer a wet season and are usually the first to suffer in a dry Spring.

The Gardeners will be digging-in our own manure and it is

interesting to note that this is the only feeding operation carried out during the whole year.

Some fairly severe pruning will be done on the shrubs this year so that they will be kept in shape.

Cuttings taken from various Summer bedding plants in August have now rooted and many have been potted in small pots. The *Geraniums* are left in the boxes until next Spring, when they are potted in peat pots. Cuttings of various shrubs for future replacements were propagated in September and put in a warm greenhouse with shading to help them to root more quickly.

For colour inside the various Houses during the Winter a large batch of *Cyclamen* and *Begonia* are grown. These will probably be staged inside the Elephant and Tropical House. *Bougainvillea* and *Hibiscus* continue to flower inside the Monkey House and the Tropical House. A good collection of *Abutilons* are in the Rhinoceros House and these will flower till late in the year. The *Abutilons* are the most suitable plant to grow in the animal houses which have a lower temperature in the Winter. They are planted in permanent positions and once established, will stand severe pruning to keep them confined to a small area.

Bill Timmis, Curator of Birds, has returned from South America where he was a Member of the Wallace Expedition Team. It is hoped to bring readers some very interesting and exciting articles throughout the next few months.

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**

