

Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

September 1976

Price 12p



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

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COVER

Common Leopard "Lucy" with her two cubs

By courtesy of P. Stubbs, Daily Mirror

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Telephone Chester 20106/7/8

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

"Lucy," with her two cubs, one a Spotted Leopard and the other a Black Panther are now on show in the Cat House, Enclosure 90. "Lucy" was mated with Black Panther "Satan," and he is in an enclosure nearby.

Readers may be interested to know how the spotted and the black have occurred. It is apparent that the mother, the Spotted Leopard, has a recessive black. From a first mating of a Spotted Leopard with a Black Panther the cubs would be Spotted Leopards, as the spotted would then be dominant to the black. Hybridization would, however, become apparent in the second generation when spotted was mated with black, and in succeeding generations where this occurred if the spotted female is carrying black as a recessive. If there is a recessive factor, out of a litter of, say, four there would in all probability be two spotted to two black.

The range of the Spotted Leopard (*Panthera pardus*) is from Manchuria to southeast Asia, from the extreme cold to the excessive heat, being continuous from Asia to Africa. These animals are excellent hunters, able to adapt themselves to a variety of habitats. Black Panthers (*Panthera pardus*) are to be found ranging in southeast Asia, and although they appear to be black their spots can be seen in a bright light.

GENERAL NEWS

Our three-months old Puma Cubs (*Felis concolor*) are now out of the breeding den, and are on show in the Cat House, Enclosure 90.

Twin Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) can be seen feeding from the mother. These youngsters are at this stage rather timid and after feeding tend to retire quickly to their indoor quarters. They will, however, be spending more time on the open paddock in a few weeks, as at the time of writing they are only a few days old. The youngsters are a light brown colour, like the mother, the father being a grey colour. Only the adult male has horns, and these are quite short, measuring but a few inches. Twins are the rule rather than the exception.

Another Arabian Gazelle (*Gazella arabica*) has been bred, one having been reported in our last issue of the magazine. These animals can be seen in Enclosure 106.

Four young Wapiti (*Cervus canadensis*) can also be seen in the cool of the trees in Enclosure 3 which is near the South Entrance.

Three Common Zebras (*Equus burchelli granti*) were bred last year, and two more have been bred recently. These animals are on show in Paddocks 77 and 79. Their distribution is East Africa, Mozambique and Kenya. Predators were the wild lions, but the herds now live on reservations where they are protected. Zebras favour open plains, finding shelter from the heat and the flies under trees in the daytime.

A Red Lechwe (*Kobus leche*) has recently been bred in the zoo. The distribution of these animals is northern South West Africa and Botswana, the Caprivi Strip, south eastern Angola and Zambia into southern Zaire.

Kobus leche are a lovely golden-brown colour, with white undersides, the white extending from the throat to the chest and abdomen and down the insides of the legs. The females do not have horns, but the males have horns which are long, measuring about twelve to eighteen inches. The distribution of the Red Lechwe is endangered, owing to hunting; they are, however, protected throughout most of their range, being found in national parks and reserve areas. These animals can be seen in Enclosures 75 and 76.

Another Hamadryas Baboon (*Papio hamadryas*) was born a few days ago. We have lost several youngsters in the past owing to territorial disputes. Of late we feel we may have overcome these problems as recent babies have survived. The latest youngster is, however, receiving some pretty rough treatment just now and we hope that it too will survive.

The young tiger cubs (*Panthera tigris*) have had their first outing, and are now on show at certain times of the day. These are the cubs bred from "Isis" and "Pharoah," reported in the July issue of the magazine.



By courtesy of P. Stubbs, Daily Mirror
"WE ARE ALL HAND-REARED YOU KNOW . . ." Young Chimps "Digby" and "Jerry", and Orang-utan "Sibu"

ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

The following is a list of the mammals which have been bred in the zoo since our last report:

- 2 Wapiti (*Cervus canadensis*)
- 2 Common Zebras (*Equus burchelli granti*)
- 1 Arabian Gazelle (*Gazella arabica*)
- 1 Red Lechwe (*Kobus leche*)
- 2 Common Leopard Cubs (*Panthera pardus*)
- 2 Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*)
- 1 Hamadryas Baboon (*Papio hamadryas*)

We also wish to report the birth of a Formosan Sika Deer, the mother being pregnant on arrival at the zoo. We acquired the two females in April this year, and we have had our male since 1971. The new arrival has not yet been sexed, but we are hoping for a female.

A few of these animals may be inhabiting the mountainous southern part of the Island of Formosa. Some of these deer, however, are reared on "Green Island" and are kept mainly for the medical properties of their antlers. Formosan Sika Deer now exist in zoos and private collections, thus ensuring their preservation.

Our Formosan Sika Deer can be seen in Enclosure 77.

BIRD NOTES

We are pleased to report the following birds which have been bred in the zoo:

- 2 Tiger Finches (*Amandava amandava*)
- 2 Jungle Mynahs (*Aethiopsar fuscus*)
- 3 Silverbills (*Euodice malabarica cantans*)
- 3 Cut-throat Finches (*Amandina fasciata*)
- 6 Guiana Parrotlets (*Forpus p. passerinus*)
- 3 Sacred Ibises (*Threskiornis aethiopicus*)
- 7 Lesser Patagonian Conures (*Cyanoliseus patagonus*)

[OVER

BIRD NOTES--cont'd.

- 2 Scaly-breasted Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*)
- 1 Red-eared Waxbill (*Estrilda troglodytes*)
- 1 Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*)
- 1 Paradise Whydah (*Steganura paradisaea*)
- 3 Quaker Parrakeets (*Miopsitta monachus*)
- 3 Laughing Doves (*Stigmatopelia senegalensis*)
- 3 Nanday Conures (*Nandayus nanday*)
- 7 Peach-faced Lovebirds (*Agapornis roseicollis*)
- 3 Fischer's Lovebirds (*Agapornis fischeri*)
- 1 Black-headed Sibia (*Leioptila capistrata*)
- 1 Rhea (*Rhea americana*)

A Lesser Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Kakatoe sulphurea*) has been presented to us.

A second Kookaburra (*Dacelo novaeguineae*) has been bred this season, and we are very pleased about this. In our last issue of the magazine we reported a chick out of the nestbox, and the female then went to nest again and bred a second youngster.

These are second generation birds, as the parents themselves were bred here in 1968. As far as we know this is possibly the first time outside Australia, but we would be pleased to hear from anyone who has had second generation Kookaburras.

This species is one of the Kingfishers, and its distribution is eastern and south Australia. Kookaburras are thick-set birds with their short necks, tails, and large heads. Being of the Family Daceloninaea (forest kingfishers), they are sometimes to be found living far away from water.

The Kookaburra (or Laughing Jackass) has a weird, laughing cry which could almost be human in expression, and quite frightening to those who have not heard it before. In the hinterlands of Australia these birds are also known as the "bushman's clock," as they emit their strange cry at dusk and as dawn breaks. Their diet consists of small birds and mammals, snakes and lizards, insects and their larvae. They sometimes raid farms for ducklings and baby chicks.



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

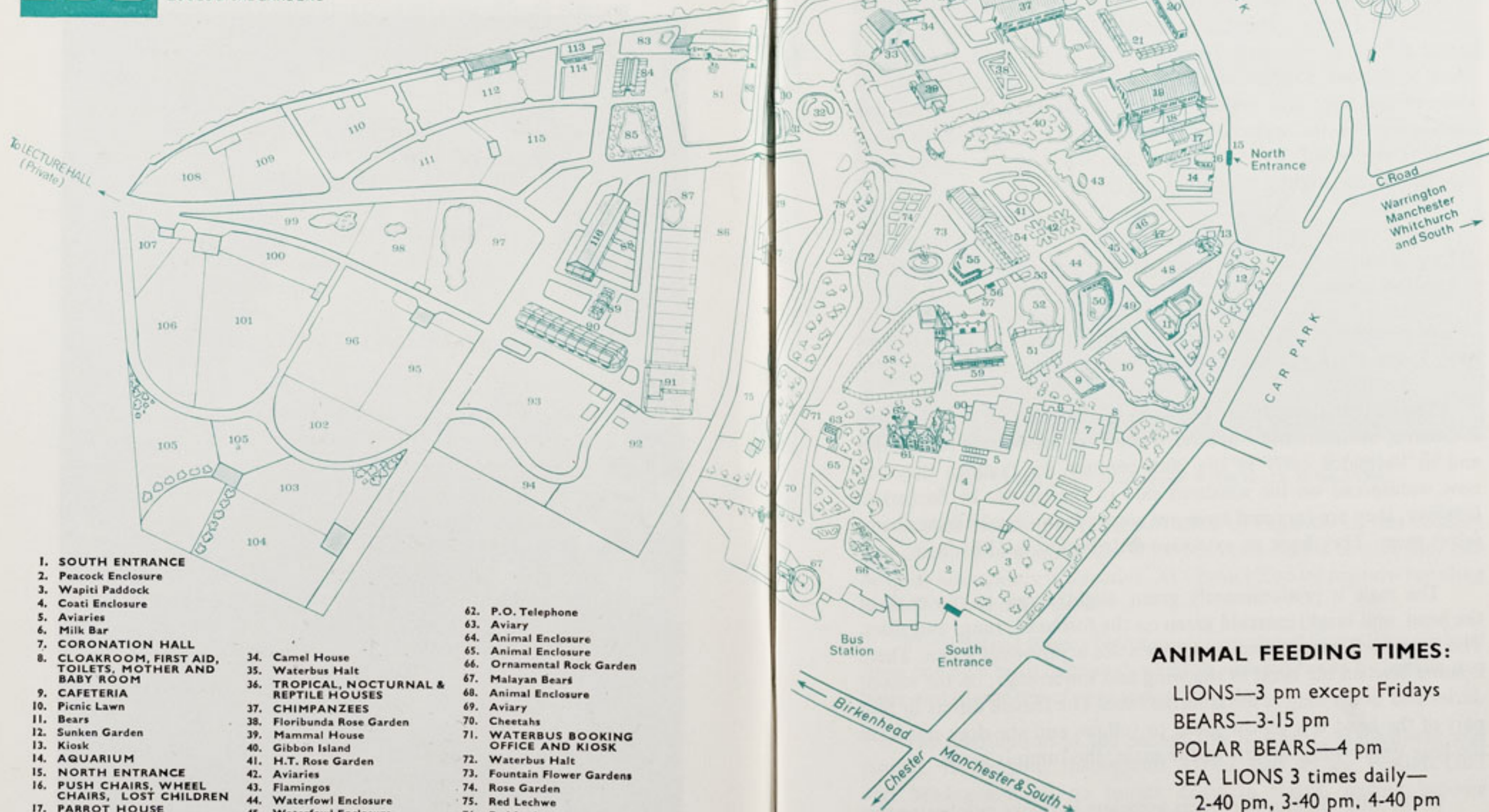
KOOKABURRA CHICK (*Dacelo novaeguineae*) AT ABOUT EIGHT WEEKS OLD

CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

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

**Chester Zoo is Open Daily
from 9.00 a.m. until dusk.**



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, 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. Picnic Lawn
21. Aviaries
22. TOILETS
23. Tuatara Exhibit
24. Peccaries
25. Waterbus Halt
26. Birds of Prey Aviaries
27. Condor Aviary
28. Jackal and Hyaena 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. 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. Malayan Bears
68. Animal 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. 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. Big Cat Enclosures

92. Antelope and Kudu
93. Antelope Enclosure
94. Antelope Enclosure
95. Zebras
96. Zebras
97. Waterfowl Enclosure
98. Waterfowl Enclosure
99. Waterfowl Enclosure
100. Blackbuck
101. Wallabies
102. Animal Enclosure
103. Wallabies
104. Pere David's Deer Paddock

105. Llamas
- 105a. Llamas
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

The upper parts of the birds are a mottled brown, the plumage being lighter at the head and rump; there is a delicate blue on the shoulder and wings. The tail is barred black, and in flight a white terminal band can be seen. There are dark marks on the crown, and these birds have a slight crest. A dark streak appears from the bill through the eye; the underparts and nape are whitish, the bill blackish above and whitish below; the iris is pale brown. In shape the bills are broad, more flattened than those of the fishing kingfishers, and are slightly hooked at the end.

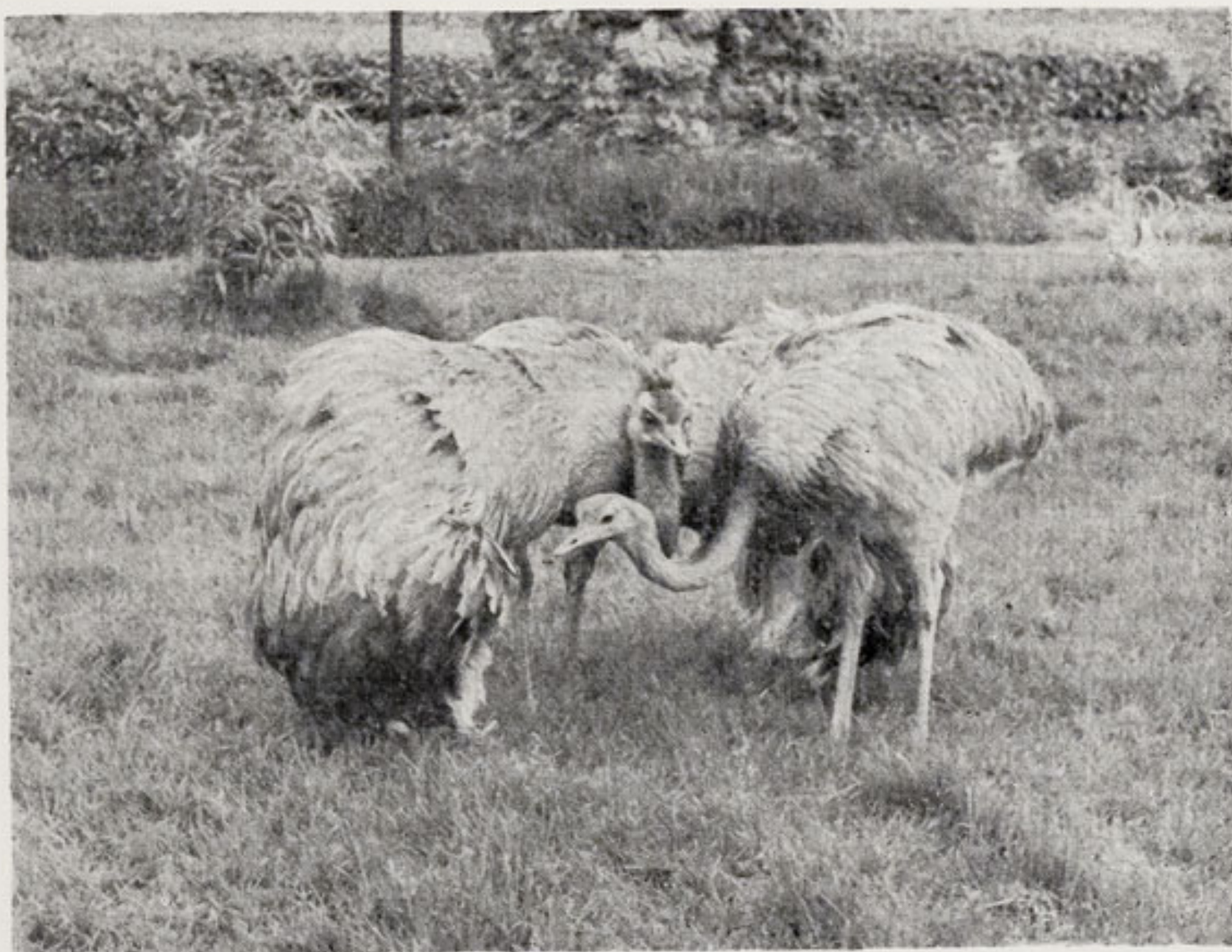
Kookaburras are not very active, and will perch on a branch for as long as half an hour at a time, occasionally dropping to the ground to swallow a morsel of food.

A photograph of the first chick at about eight weeks old is on page 7, and the Kookaburras can be seen in the Bird House.

The distribution of the Guiana Parrotlets (*Forpus p. passerinus*) is Guiana, Surinam and Cayenne. They were introduced in Jamaica and in Barbados early in the 20th century. In Jamaica they are now widespread on the southern side of the island. In Barbados, however, they are rare and have not succeeded in establishing themselves there. They have an extensive distribution in Guiana.

The male is predominantly green, slightly grey to the back of the head, and bright emerald green on the forehead, rump and sides. The upper tail coverts and underparts are a yellowish green. There is some blue on the bend of the wing and lower edge; on the secondaries and underwing is ultramarine blue. The female differs in that part of the head is a yellow-green to yellow, and she does not have the blue under-wing coverts of the male; the rump is green.

In the wild Guiana Parrotlets associate in flocks numbering five to thirty, and occasionally up to 50. They are small in size, and are not easily observed because of their green plumage. The call note is helpful, and this is a shrill "chee . . . chee . . . chee," and a penetrating disyllabic "tsup-tseup" with the accent on the second note. They feed and rest in trees and shrubs, and during these periods are constantly twittering. Guiana Parrotlets feed on seeds, berries, fruits, leaf-buds, and blossoms.



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

PAIR OF RHEA (*Rhea americana*) WITH MALE DISPLAYING

A first breeding of these parrotlets in captivity in this country was obtained in about 1926. Once the birds decide to nest they can be quite abundantly productive. At Chester Zoo we are now breeding them from our own stock.

Three Sacred Ibises (*Threskiornis aethiopica*) have also been bred from our own birds, although we have suffered losses by having two birds and a number of eggs stolen last year.

The distribution of the Sacred Ibis is Africa, Madagascar and Arabia. Its range is throughout Africa, east to the Persian Gulf and Madagascar. It no longer exists in Egypt, having become extinct about a century ago.

Adult birds have bare black skin on the head and neck. Their plumage is mostly white, with the flights tipped black glossed with green; the scapulars and innermost secondaries end in ornamental fluffy plumes of varying shades of violet. In young birds the head and neck are covered with white feathers mottled with black. They do not have the ornamental plumage of the adult bird.

Male and female share in building the nest, and this comprises quite large sticks which the birds keep on adding until it becomes enormous. Their clutch is two or three eggs, and the incubation period 21—23 days.

Three Lesser Patagonian Conures (*Cyanoliseus patagonus*) are now out of the nest. Last year we bred four specimens, three of which were from our original breeding pair.

The distribution of these conures is the breeding area in south-central Argentina from Neuquen Territory and southern Buenos Aires Province to Chubut, migrating in winter north to Mendoza and Buenos Aires, occasionally to Uruguay. It is, however, resident in the mountains of Cordoba.

In their natural state they are gregarious at all times, and nest close together in burrows excavated in a perpendicular cliff or high bank. The burrows are $3/4$ ft. deep and the clutch is $4/5$ eggs. These birds feed on fruits and berries, and the seeds of the giant thistle (*Cardus mariana*) and the wild pumpkin. This species is one of the many faced with extinction. It is heavily persecuted as it damages certain crops, maize in particular.

In captivity the normal clutch is two, sometimes three eggs, and the incubation period is 24—25 days. Only the female incubates; the male does not enter the nestbox until after the chicks are hatched. Lesser Patagonian Conures emit a constant noisy, screeching sound. They are, however, a most attractive bird with the beautiful colouring of the head and throat which is a dull olive-brown, the wing-coverts a greeny mustard-colour. The breast and abdomen are yellow to bright red. The tail is long and is olive-green and light green to dark at the tip.

AQUARIUM NEWS

Freshwater Fishes

We have acquired another Black 'Shark' (*Morulus chrysophekadion*). This is a young specimen and is about $7/8$ in. long. The original one which we acquired about six months ago is now approximately 14in. long. We are waiting for the young one to catch up, when we hope to have them in a tank together.

We have recently bred some new Thick-lipped Gourami (*Colisa labiosa*). These are at present microscopic but will grow to about 2in./2½in. *Colisa labiosa* are natives of Burma, mostly from the south. In the wild they grow to a length of about 3in. These fishes are bubble-nesters and the male cares for the eggs. A thin layer of eggs appears among the floating vegetation in the tank.

A number of Australian Rainbow Fishes (*Melantonaenia species*) have been bred in the aquarium. They are of the Family Atheriniae and are to be found in brackish or even fresh waters at the mouths of rivers in the Madagascar regions, and in Australia.

These fishes are very small, and it will be some time before we can tell whether there may be two different species. We think these are all the Australian Red-tailed Rainbow Fishes (*Melantonaenia nigrans*), but will not know for certain until they are much bigger. The young fishes are rather undefined in colouration. There are two sizes in the tank, the original ones which we acquired now being quite large in comparison. However, these fishes do not eat their babies, and so the two sizes can live quite well in the same tank.

About 100 *Tilapia Maria* have been bred recently. These are of the Family Cichlidae. They originate from Africa, Central America and tropical South America. Cichlids have differing colour phases according to their emotional condition and life-phase.

Bred also in the zoo are some *Zebra danio* of the Family Cyprinidae. These are very attractive fishes; they are slim and lively, and exist in shoals in the wild. Their range is the whole of India with the exception of the northern part, Burma, the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra. They inhabit both still and flowing waters. Most species of this Family like the presence of algae on the bottom of their tanks, but *Zebra danio* will spawn over the gravel without it.

Marine Fishes

A Blue-girdled Angel Fish (*Euxiphipops navarchus*) has been added to the collection of marine fishes. This species of Angelfish is very striking in colouration, having a deep yellow body with blue markings all over, purple-blue fins, and a light blue girdle. It originates from the Philippine Islands.

In general, Angelfishes have brilliant, beautiful colouring. The pattern is most striking, and these fishes have become very popular with the aquarist. A complete change of colour pattern takes place when they are growing out of the juvenile stage, and this is quite fascinating. These fishes have small mouths, with rows of slender teeth, giving a brush-like appearance. Their food consists of small invertebrates, and these include algae, coral polyps and sponges: they sometimes search for food in an upsidedown position in order to eat those items of food which are difficult to acquire. They are very quarrelsome fishes, and even two members of the same species will quarrel, usually ending in one of them being killed.

The eggs of angel fishes are free-floating, and in their natural state the larvae develop offshore in deep waters. Ocean currents then force larvae to areas which adult fishes would not normally be able to reach. Although timid, often escaping by hiding in coral formations, when in danger they alarm the attacker by lowering the head and erecting the dorsal fin spines.

A Sharp-nosed Puffer Fish (*Canthigaster solandri*) has also been acquired. These are small fishes with the ability to inflate themselves with water or air, giving the body a pear-shaped appearance. Their colouration is a deep yellow with blue lines from each eye, and blue spots covering the body and the tail fins. Most of the diet of these fishes consists of small invertebrate animals on reefs. They also eat various crustations, molluscs, sea urchins and starfishes, algae and marine grasses.

Puffer fishes do well in the aquarium, but this species should not be put in a tank with the more timid fishes as they are inclined to bite their fins. Puffers have strong, sharp beaks, and in aquaria keepers should be careful when handling them as they are likely to bite the fingers. This species is wide-ranging in the tropical Indo-Pacific, and common throughout its range. Its colouration is a deep yellow with blue lines from each eye, and blue spots covering the body and the tail fins.

GARDENING NOTES

For the second year running we are experiencing a very dry summer season. At the time of writing we have had no appreciable



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

A VIEW OF THE GARDENS IN FRONT OF THE FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT

rain since the 19th June. We had just completed planting out the summer bedding and thought that rainfall had set us up for the season, but as it turned out it had not. From the 23rd June to the 8th July the temperatures did not fall below 70°F. The flower beds were watered twice a week from our lake. Without this many plants would have died. Since the heatwave we have had more cloud with maximum temperatures round about 70°F.

The roses have flowered very well this year, although during the very hot weather some of the blooms were bleached. Fortunately, we have a clay subsoil here which, in a season like this holds the moisture in the deeper-rooted roses.

Greenfly has been absent this summer owing to an increase in the number of ladybirds. This has saved us a lot of spraying and the natural economy has been most welcome.

The flower beds are looking their best now, and it is a good

season for many plants which do not like above-ground moisture all the time as this affects the flowers.

Verbena is a sun-loving plant, and the red one, named "Lawrence Johnson," can be seen in a border near the Elephant House. This is a hybrid and has to be propagated by cuttings each year. Our method is to root the cuttings now for wintering stock plants, and then take cuttings off these next February.

Heliotrope enjoys the sunny weather, and is heavily scented with the fragrance of cherry pie which happens to be its common name. The name Heliotrope comes from the Greek *Helios* "the sun," and *trope* "to turn," the flowers always turning towards the sun. Although this plant has a Greek name it does, however, originate from Peru, South America.

There are standards in various borders, and we grow 2,800 small bush plants. The lovely dark purple "Princess Marina," interplanted with pink-flowering, ivy-leaved "Madame Crouse," is growing in another border in front of the Fountain Restaurant.

In the middle of August we start rooting cuttings of the various bedding plants for next year. This makes it a busy time in the greenhouses as we like to get our required numbers rooted by the middle of September. 80,000 to 100,000 plants will be required for the display next summer.

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 £2.24, 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 discription 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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