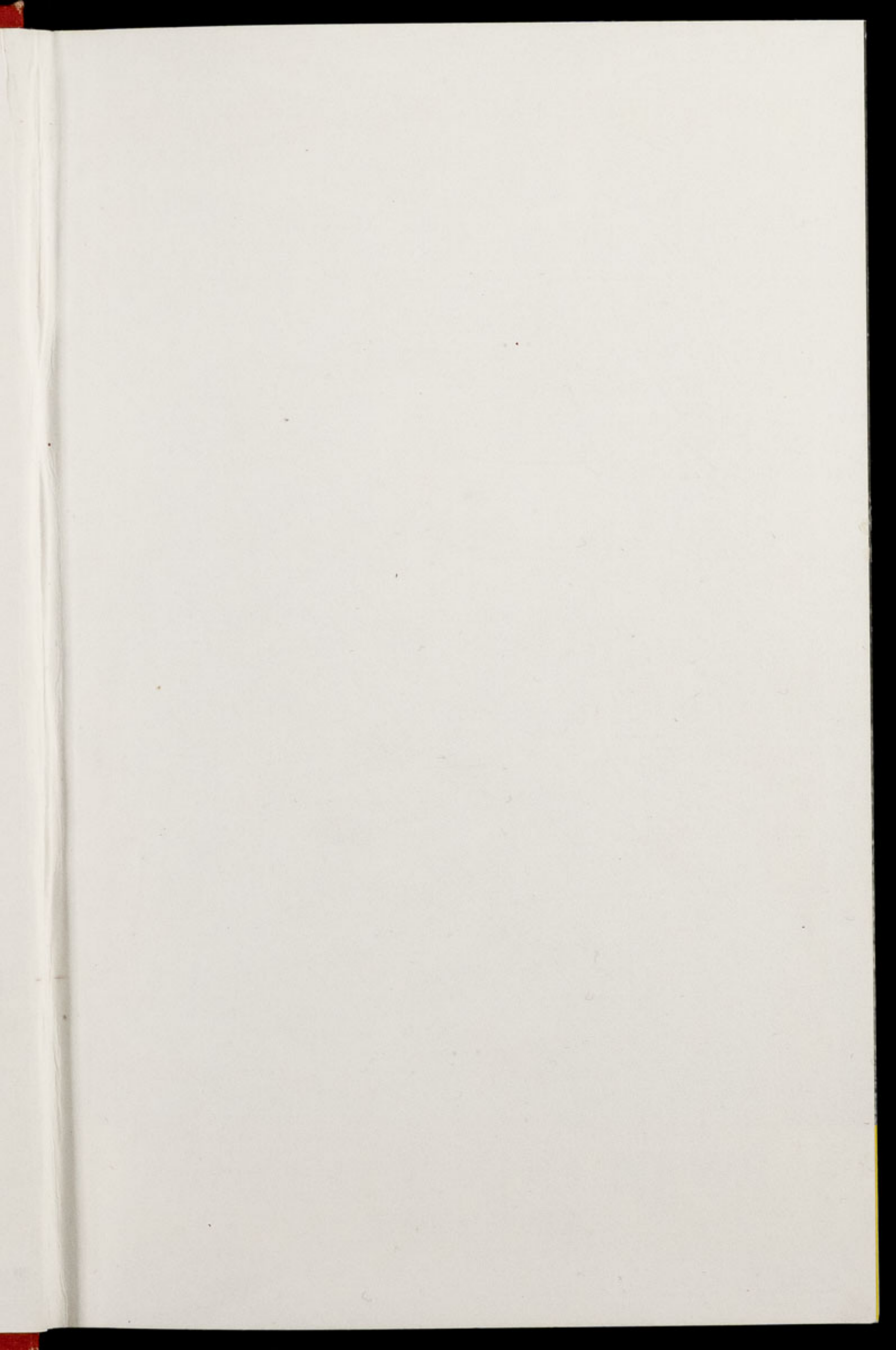


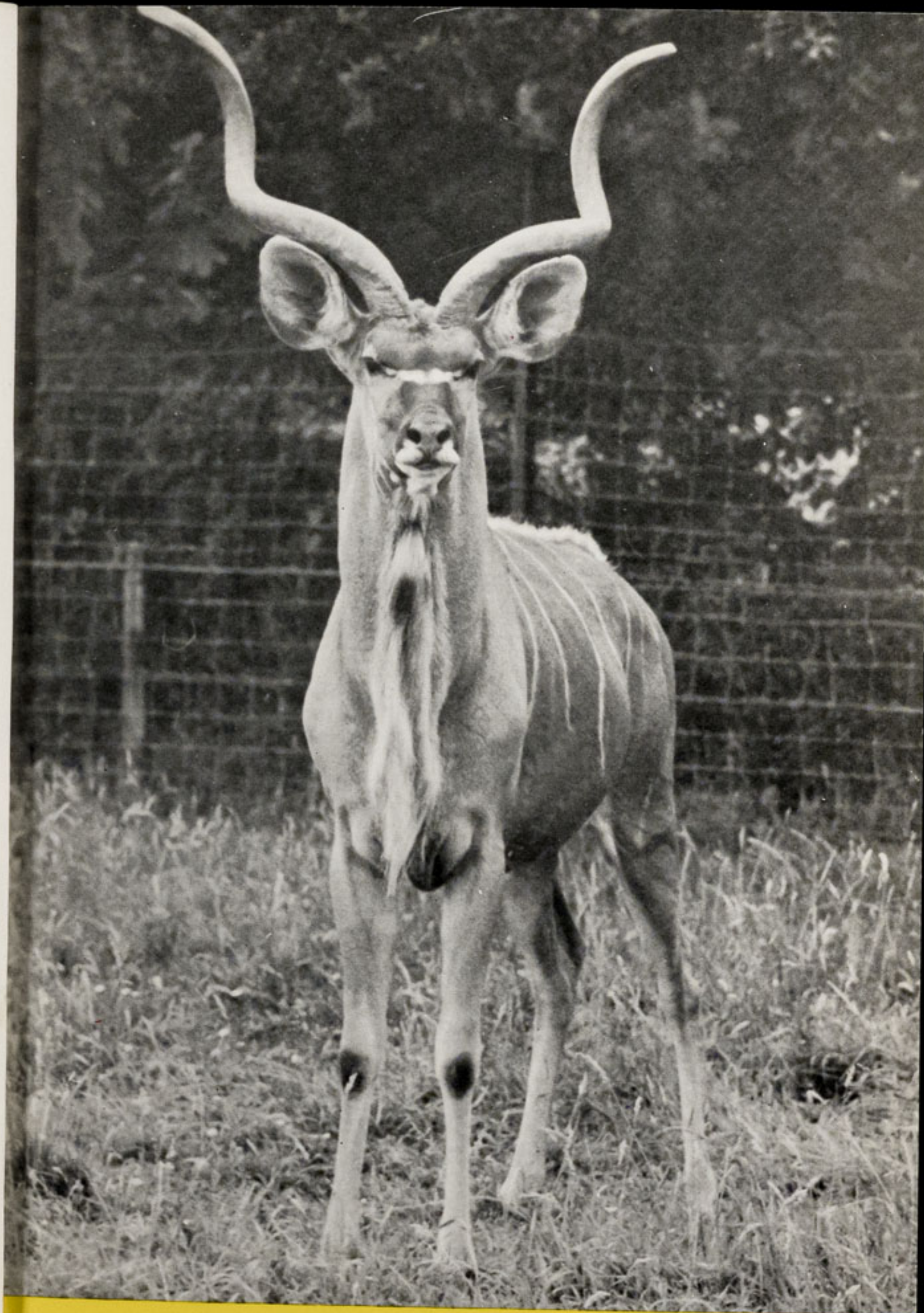
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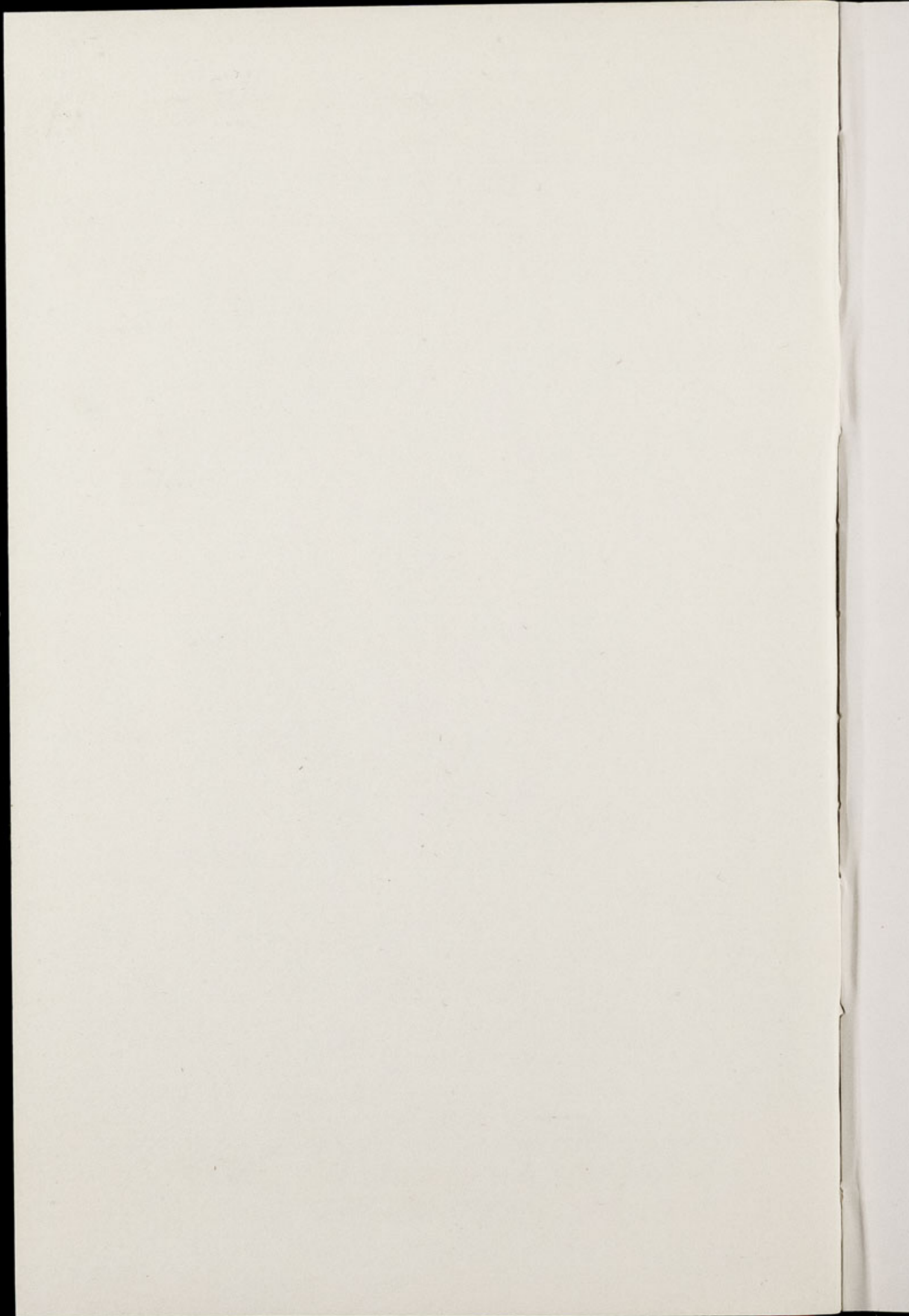




CHESTER ZOO NEWS
AND GUIDE

January 1975

Price 6p



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

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COVER: Male Greater Kudu (Tragelaphus strepsiceros); see page two.

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION — ONE POUND AND FIFTEEN PENCE POSTAGE PAID
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ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

Since our last report the following births have occurred:

- 1 Sierra Leone Striped Squirrel (*Fumisciurus pyrrhopus leonis*)
- 1 Alpaca (*Lama pacos*)
- 1 Greater Kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*)
- 1 Arabian Gazelle (*Gazella arabica*)

The baby Alpaca is a sturdy specimen which is on exhibition with the other ten members of the Alpaca herd in enclosure No. 110. The youngster has been produced by a black female but is itself entirely brown.

The young Greater Kudu is accommodated in enclosure No. 92 but is still rather shy. Although we have not been able to photograph the calf satisfactorily, its father is the subject of this month's cover. This very fine adult male Greater Kudu arrived at Chester Zoo in 1969 and has sired several calves.

In the wild, new-born Greater Kudu rely initially on concealment to escape their enemies. They lie quietly in long vegetation and their mothers visit them periodically in order to feed them. Accordingly, in the past the calves born at the zoo have tended to lie outside in the long grass which grows along the perimeter of the paddock. We were very pleased when the latest calf chose instead to retire to the warm straw bedding of the indoor quarters. Although the weather has been exceptionally mild so far, we could still experience a sudden cold spell and the young Kudu would have far less protection out of doors.

Amongst recent additions to the collection were three Chinchillas (*Chinchilla laniger*), two males and a female, which were presented to the Society. The new specimens have been accommodated in the



CHINCHILLAS (*Chinchilla laniger*)

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

Small Mammal House, No. 84, where the photograph on page three was taken.

The Giant Squirrel in the photograph on the right is another arrival which can also be seen in the Small Mammal House. This very attractive specimen is juvenile and consequently its adult colouration has not yet developed fully. As soon as the Giant Squirrel reaches maturity, we will be able to determine to which species it belongs.

A male Gambian Pouched Rat (*Cricetomys gambianus*) has been acquired and has been introduced to a female of the same species living in the Nocturnal House. Readers may remember that a pair of these large African rodents arrived at the zoo last year. Unfortunately the original male died after several months in the collection and we were pleased when the opportunity arose of acquiring another mate for the surviving female.

Lastly, a Senegal Bushbaby (*Galago senegalensis*) has been presented. This specimen has also been accommodated in the Nocturnal House.

BIRD NOTES

Our breeding list for 1974 was rounded off nicely with the hatching of a Humboldt's Penguin chick in mid-December. The Humboldt's Penguin (*Spheniscus humboldti*) was last bred at Chester Zoo in 1964 when a single chick hatched and, before that, in 1963 when two were reared. Up to the time of writing, staff have caught only brief glimpses of the chick as it appears at the entrance to the nesting box. However by the time this issue returns from the printers, the young Penguin will probably be showing itself more often.

The Humboldt's Penguin is found on the western seaboard of South America, on the coasts and off-shore islands of Peru and



GIANT SQUIRREL

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

To LECTURE HALL
(Private)



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

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

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

under construction

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.



PLUSH-HEADED JAY (*Cyanocorax chrysops*)

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

and violet. On its head the Jay bears a crest of velvety black feathers. The Plush-headed Jay is found over a wide area of South America.

At the time of writing we have not arrived at a positive identification of either the Blue Jays or the Grosbeak. We try always to be accurate in our labelling of exhibits and have made various enquiries about these birds. From the results we hope to be able to pinpoint the species or subspecies to which they belong. As soon as our findings are complete, we will publish further information about the birds.

Additions to our stocks of waterfowl included:

- 2 Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*)
- 1.1 Mandarin Ducks (*Aix galericulata*)
- 1.1 Carolina Ducks (*Aix sponsa*)
- 0.2 White Tufted Ducks (*Aythya fuligula*)
- 1.1 Bahama Pintail (*Anas bahamensis rubirostris*)

The Canada Geese have joined others of this species in the large waterfowl paddock near to the Monkey House, No. 97, and all the ducks have been released into enclosure No. 46.

In most of the waterfowl enclosures preparations are now in progress for the forthcoming season. Various breeding pens are being created and a number of wooden nestboxes have been made.

The only other arrivals this month in the bird section have been two Andaman Starlings (*Sturnus erythropygius andamensis*) which were presented by the Curator. Both are young specimens which were bred in this country in September of last year. We believe they are a pair and hope we will be successful in breeding them. The Andaman Starlings are found in the Andaman Islands, a group which lies in the Indian Ocean, to the west of Thailand and to the north of the Nicobar Islands. At the zoo the Starlings occupy one of the Temperate Bird House aviaries, No. 54.

GENERAL NEWS

The zoo grounds attract many wild birds in search of food and shelter and a high proportion of these birds are gulls. On New Year's Day the Curator discovered a dead Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) on one of the paddocks and he noticed that the bird had been ringed. The ring bore an address in Holland, to which it was duly returned. At the same time we requested any information about the gull which the ringing station might be able to supply. A few days later we received a reply. The Black-headed Gull had been ringed as a nestling at Meeuwenveen, Nolderveld, Drente, Holland on 22nd June, 1968. This means that it was just over six and a half years old when it died.

Work has been continuing on the rebuilding of the aviaries in group No. 5 and the long flight which normally houses finches, whydahs and weavers has now been completed. The whole aviary has been covered with new wire and the old wooden shed has been replaced with a sandstone building. This new structure is most attractive and incorporates two viewing windows, thus enabling visitors to observe the birds whilst they are inside the house. At the front of the new building the roof has been extended for several feet to form an outer shelter. The access door is now located at the side of the aviary and does not open directly into the inner shelter as before. In this way we hope to avoid startling birds which may be nesting inside the house. A photograph of these new aviaries will be published in a future issue.

GARDENING NEWS

As mentioned in a previous issue, aha enclosures are under construction on sites No. 102, 103 and 104. In keeping with the aims of Chester Zoo, we will be endeavouring to achieve a pleasing combination of zoological and horticultural exhibits in this new section. Accordingly the design incorporates several long borders and a number of beds of various sizes for the planting of flowering shrubs, etc.

The task of creating the gardens has now commenced. The work involves trenching the ground and some transportation of soil will be necessary. To complete the planting of these new beds and borders, approximately 600 shrubs will be required, all of which have been rooted and grown on in our own nursery.

Until recently the borders surrounding the baboon enclosures, No. 89, were planted entirely with roses. However during the past year it became apparent that the thorns of the rose bushes were not acting as a sufficient deterrent to children intent on crossing the barrier to poke food through the wire. Despite notices warning visitors that the baboons bite and that feeding is prohibited, on numerous occasions parents were observed encouraging their children to offer food in this manner. We therefore decided to plant a row of *Berberis wilsonii* at the front of the border, whilst retaining a row of rose bushes at the back. In many other areas of the zoo we have found that *Berberis*, with its masses of sharp thorns, acts as a formidable deterrent.

One rose bed in the Fountain Restaurant gardens has had to be replanted and the variety we have used is Southampton. Like other varieties in this garden, Southampton is a floribunda rose and it has semi-double apricot blooms. Four standard Megiddo have been introduced into the same bed and this variety has scarlet hybrid tea-type blooms.

A few yards away from the Tropical House entrance, on the wall of the building which is adjacent to the waterbus halt (No. 35 on the zoo plan), visitors can see the annual climber *Cobaea scandens*. Rather surprisingly this climber is still flowering profusely, a fact which demonstrates that to date we have experienced no keen frosts. This particular wall is not planted with any perennial climbers but is reserved for *Cobaea scandens* alone. We feel it is one of the best annual climbers, with its masses of purple, Canterbury bell-like flowers, several of which are shown in the illustration on page fifteen.

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 £1.15, 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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G. R. Griffith Ltd.
Castle Printing Works
Chester
