



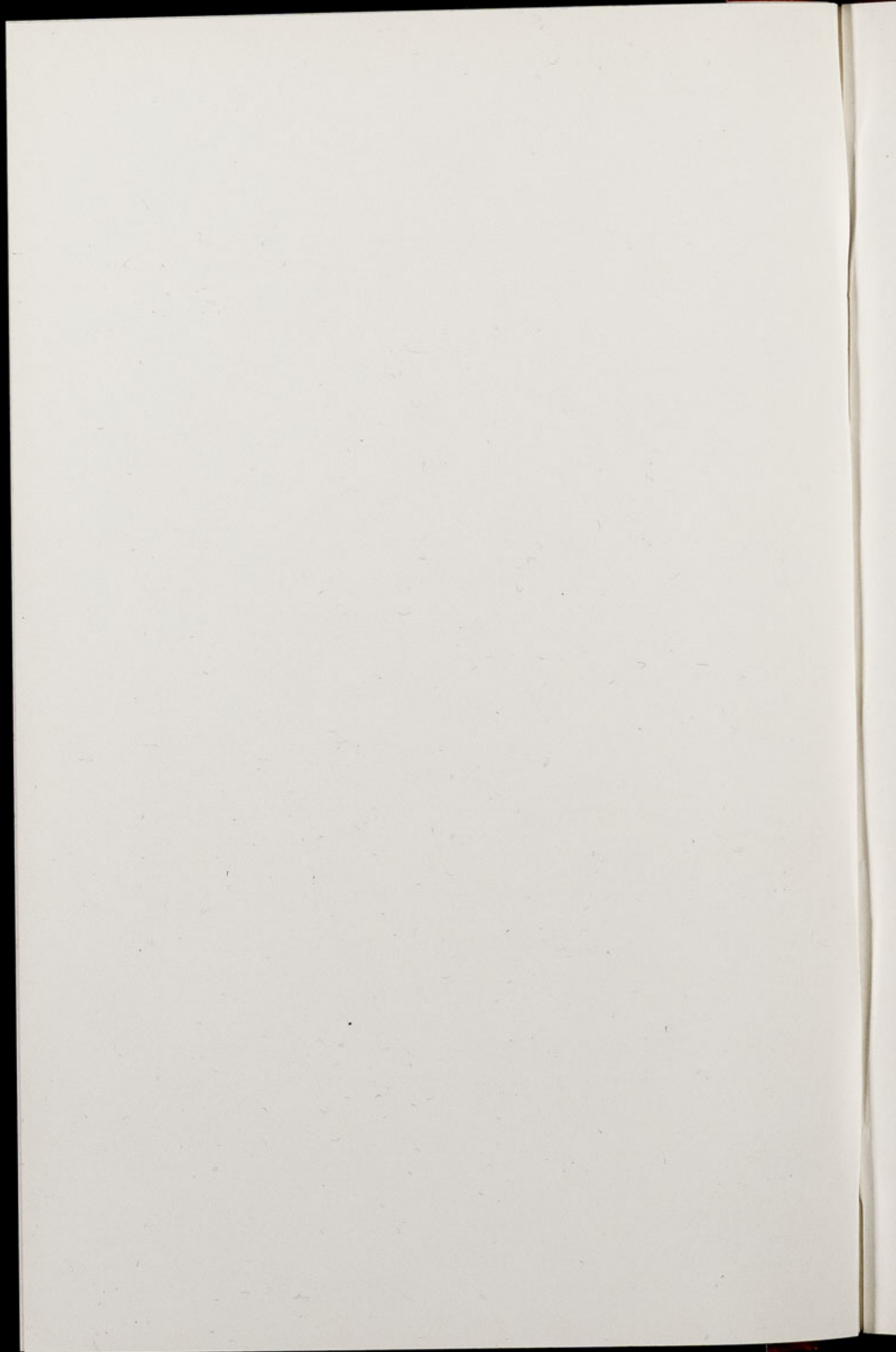
# Chester Zoo News

## *AND GUIDE*

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

May 1976

Price 10p



# The North of England Zoological Society

## ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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### COVER

*Ring-tailed Lemur twins "Dandelion" and "Burdock"  
with their Mum and Dad "Coata" and "Abi"*

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

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**Annual subscription — Two Pounds, postage paid**  
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## GENERAL NEWS

Three Brown Hybrid Bear cubs were bred in the zoo in February this year. They are now on show to the public in Enclosure 80. These cubs are with their mother and are proving to be quite interesting and amusing to watch.

Our twin Lemurs (*Lemur catta*) are progressing very well. Born recently to "Coata" and "Abi", they have been named "Dandelion" and "Burdock." They are of course still clinging to their mother's underside, and if surrounded by the "family" their tiny heads can be seen. We have not yet been able to sex them. Our Cover Photograph is of the twins taken with their parents in a family grouping. They are to be seen in the Monkey House.

At this time there are quite a number of Bennett's Wallaby babies being carried in their mothers' pouches. These can be seen in Enclosures 101 and 103 as the Bennett's Wallabies have now been split up into two groups and put into new enclosures.

Young chimps "Lollipop" and "Jamie" now have their afternoon airing in one of the outside enclosures at the back of the Monkey House.

We have recently acquired two Beavers, and these have been put in the pond which is Enclosure 32. Our male Beaver, who has lived in this pond on his own for quite some time, was presented to us in 1970. He has been removed from this enclosure as the new arrivals would almost certainly kill him if he remained there. At this time he is off-show as he is having a veterinary check-up. When this is completed we are hoping to introduce him to Enclosure 85 which is near the small Mammal House (Enclosure 84) where we anticipate he will live quite happily for some time. There are various species of waterfowl on these ponds which are of interest. Beavers are of course nocturnal, but can be seen occasionally repairing their lodges, feeding and grooming, during the day. These broad-tailed rodents are to be seen more often in the autumn and early winter days.

We are sorry to report that our oldest Red Lechwe female died recently from natural causes. She was bred in the zoo in July 1963, and had herself given birth to several calves. Our herd of Red Lechwe can be seen in Paddocks 75 and 76.

### ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

We have the following additions to our collection:

- 0.2 Formosan Sika Deer (*Cervus nippon taiouanus*)
  - 1 Kinkajou (*Potos flavus*)
  - 1 Hamadryas Baboon (*Papio hamadryas*)
  - 1 Arabian Gazelle (*Gazella arabica*)
  - 2 Beavers (*Castor canadensis*)

There are now three Formosan Sika Deer (*Cervus nippon taiouanus*), and these consist of one male and two females. The male was acquired in 1971, and the two females in April this year. We are hoping to breed from them and develop a herd of pure Formosan Sika. These animals can be seen in Paddock 77, next to the Red Lechwes.

*Cervus nippon taiouanus* closely resemble the common sika, except that the coat of the latter is unspotted in the winter, and the coat of the Formosan Sika distinctly spotted. Formosan Sikas are of medium height—about 2ft. 11 in. at the shoulder. The face and limbs are shorter than those of the common sika; the muzzle is more pointed.

The general colour of this animal in the summer is light chestnut with large white spots, the hind part of the neck having a deep red tinge. The white caudal area has a black border, and there is a median black line on the tail and a dark line down the back which is boldly marked. A photograph of our Formosan Sika Deer is on page four.

It is thought that there may be a few of these animals inhabiting the mountainous southern part of the Island of Formosa. Formosan Sika originally existed in the high range of mountains interwoven with forest and covered in snow all the year round. Some of these deer are, however, reared on "Green Island" and are kept mainly for the medicinal properties of their antlers.

Formosan Sika Deer now exist in zoos and private collections, where many herds have been established, thus ensuring their preservation.

The Kinkajou (*Potos flavus*) which has been born recently is the



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

STAG AND TWO FEMALE FORMOSAN SIKA DEER( *Cervus nippon taiouanus*)

offspring of a pair which were presented to us last year. Our stock consists of four females, two males and the latest offspring which we have not yet been able to sex as the youngster is still with its mother.

The distribution of the Kinkajou is Central and South America, the forests of southern Mexico, and south to Mato Grosso in Brazil.

This animal has a very long and prehensile tail. Its coat is a lovely tawny-olive colour, the underparts of the body being a lighter tawny-yellow. It has soft and woolly hair, and its muzzle is a dark brown to black colour.

The claws of Kinkajous are short and sharp, their heads are round and their faces short. In their natural habitat they spend most of their lives in trees, sometimes lying out on a limb or in vine tangles when the weather is hot and humid, and sometimes in tree holes during the day. At night they travel about in pairs or singly; they are, however, sometimes found in groups, usually when attracted to a tree bearing fruit.

Kinkajous 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 can be heard from quite some distance.

The breeding period of Kinkajous is Spring or Summer, and usually one (rarely two) are born. The eyes of the young are open at ten days. Nineteen years is the usual span of life, but these animals have been known to live much longer.

### BIRD NOTES

We have recently bred a Laughing Dove (*Stigmatopelia senegalensis*) and a Silverbill (*Euodice malabarica cantans*).

A pair of Cereopsis (or Cape Barren) Geese have been presented to us. A photograph is on page eleven.

Cape Barren Geese (*Cereopsis novae hollandiae*) originate from the Islands of the Bass Straits off the south coast of New South

Wales, Australia. These geese are large, and ash-grey in colour; they have a whitish crown. The tips of the primaries and secondaries, the rump and the tail are black. There are also large blackish spots on the wing-coverts and on the tertiaries. The iris is a reddish-brown, the legs a purplish-pink and the webs and toes are black. The bill is covered with a greenish-yellow cere as far as the tip which is also black. The webs of these geese are small, the nails being long and sharp. Their wings are broad, those of the male being 450-500mm., and their tails are long and square. The female of the species is slightly smaller than the male. Immature specimens are similar to the adults, but slightly lighter in plumage colouration and with more dark spots on the wings. Both male and female Cape Barren Geese are alike in colouring. The call of the male is loud and that of the female low and grunting.

In the wild these geese build their nests on the ground, in grass or amongst low bushes. Their nests are saucer-shaped, and are made of grass and lined with down. The male helps in the building of the nest. Breeding takes place on the islands off the coast of Southern Australia, from Albany in the west to Bass Straits. In the migrating and non-breeding season they visit the mainland, returning to the islands in March. Breeding takes place between June and August, which comprises the Australian winter.

Cape Barren Geese have become rare in the wild, but are kept in zoological gardens and private collections where they breed easily. Pairs do, however, isolate themselves in a territory, and often the number of adults which can be kept in captivity depends on there being sufficient space in which to contain them.

These geese are wary, cautious and shy, and are not easily approached. When caring for the young both the male and female can be very savage if approached by human beings, or large mammals and birds. Cereopsis Geese feed entirely on grass.

\* \* \*

Another Laughing Dove (*Stigmatopelia senegalensis*) has been bred in the zoo. This is a very common dove. It has a speckled reddish chest, the male being brighter and more red on the chest. Young birds lack the chest markings, are less colourful and have brownish heads.

The distribution of these birds is Africa, south of the Sahara, Arabia and Asia Minor to India. In their natural habitat they often frequent gardens, spending much time walking about on the ground, the head bent forward, in a hunched-up attitude, taking rather short steps. Their notes are quiet and gentle; their flight is steeply upwards, planing down again. Laughing Doves feed on seeds and grain crops, but occasionally on insects such as termites.

In the wild the nest of the Laughing Dove is generally placed low in trees, sometimes at ground level, but can also be found at a height of twenty feet or so. In the zoo these birds are kept in the Temperate Bird House, where a metal ring support has been placed high up in the aviary to enable the birds to build their nest.

Nests are composed of a flimsy platform of sticks and may be used several times during the breeding season. Eggs are laid throughout the year, but mainly from September to October and March to April. The normal clutch is two, the nesting period being 14 to 17 days. Incubation is by both parents.

### REPTILE NEWS

In our April issue we reported that we had bred twenty-two Common Boas (*Constrictor constrictor*), and we are pleased to say that another of our females will soon be having some youngsters.

A number of the young snakes bred recently have been given in exchange for two Green Tree Pythons (*Chondropython viridis*).

The Common Boa has a wide distribution over tropical America, and temperate South America as far as Central Argentine. It is a non-venomous, constricting snake, and is considered one of the giants of all snakes, but there are, in fact, several which exceed it in length and bulk. It is the second largest species of the New World, only the Anaconda being longer and wider.

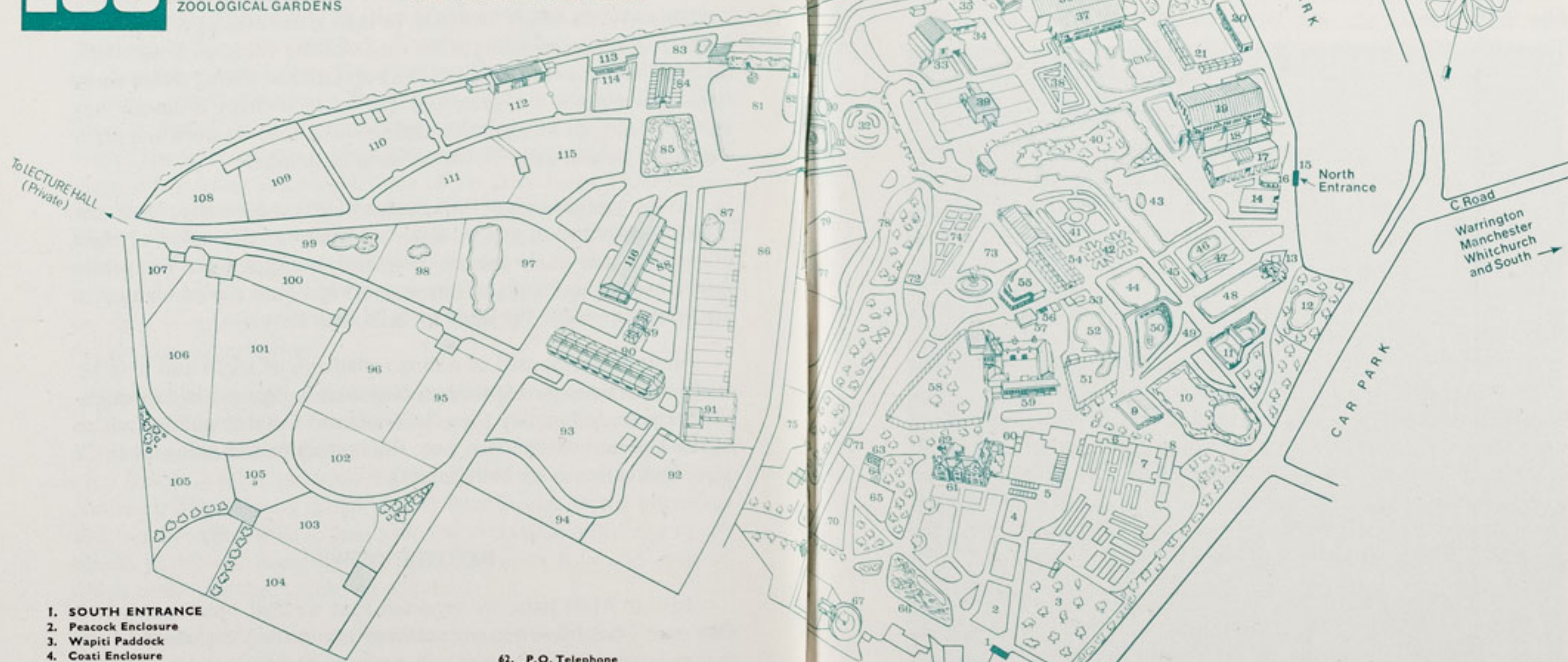
A curious thing about Boas is that they have hind limbs which are almost imperceptible; these are in the form of spurs near the bottom of the tail. They also have sense organs in the scales of the lips, and these are called "labial pits".

# CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND  
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

FOR A COMPLETE TOUR OF THE ZOO — Follow Nos 1-116 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 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. 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 enclosure
- 93. Antelope enclosure
- 94. Antelope enclosure
- 95. Zebras
- 96. Zebras
- 97. Waterfowl enclosure
- 98. Waterfowl enclosure
- 99. Waterfowl enclosure
- 100. Blackbirds
- 101. Wallabies
- 102. Animal enclosure
- 103. Wallabies
- 104. Pere David's 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

It is interesting to know that enormous kinds of snakes existed fifty million years ago, and these reached a length of about 50ft. The length of the Common Boa is about 10ft.

\* \* \*

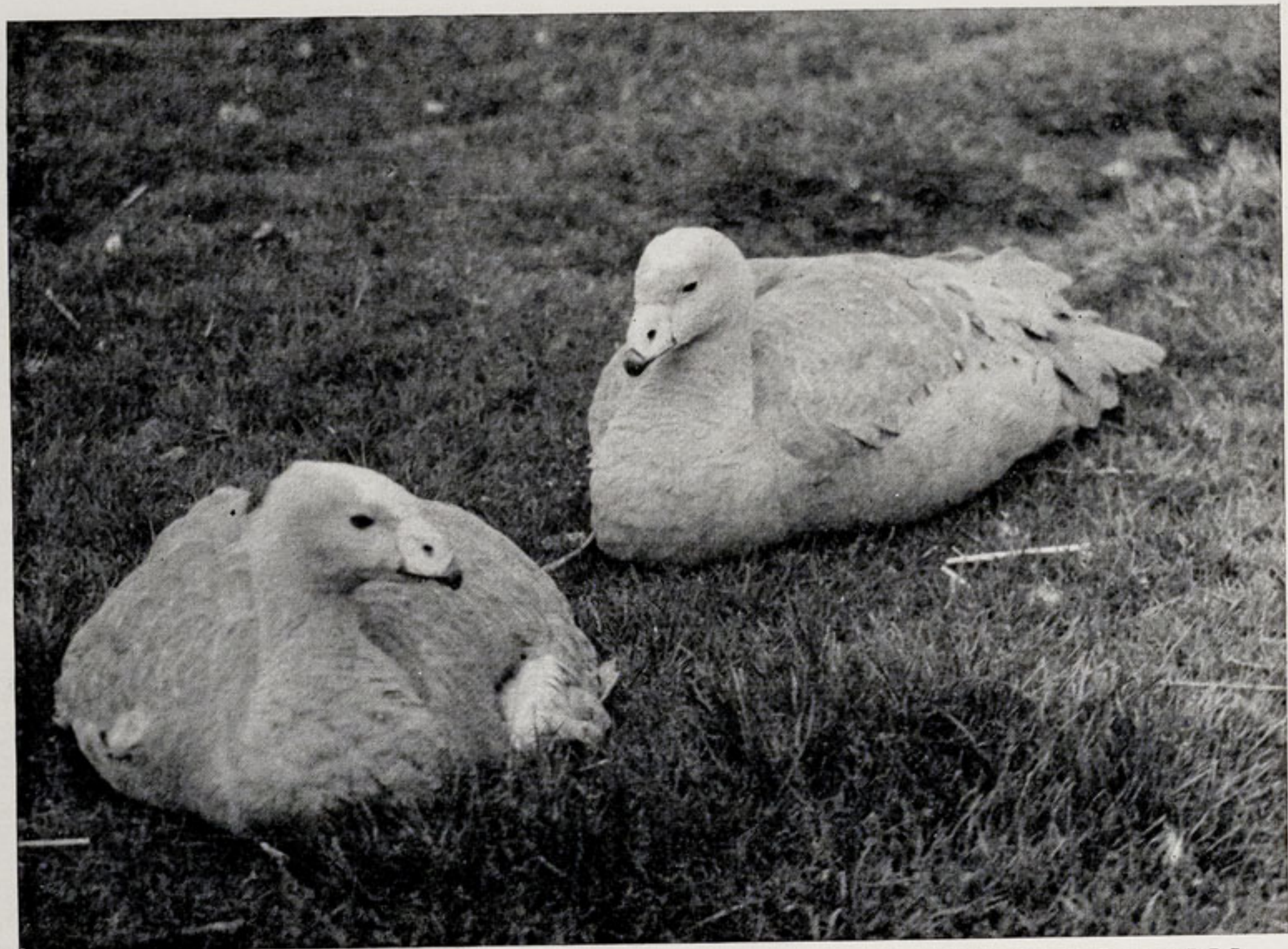
The two Green Tree Pythons received in exchange for the Boas have been put in the vivarium with our female. The male died which we acquired in June last year, and as it is almost certain that the two we have recently received are a pair we hope we will be able to breed from them.

*Chondropython viridis* originate from Australia and New Guinea. They are very beautiful and are one of the smaller members of the python family. Their colouring is emerald green with a bright yellow belly and white vertebrae markings. The young are a brilliant golden yellow or a brown reddish colour, changing to green when about three years old. In the daytime they exist in the vivarium on branches of trees and are almost immobile. They are nocturnal and move about only at night to feed and drink. In the wild they feed on small mammals and birds. In some areas of New Guinea they are reported as being caught and eaten by the local people.

\* \* \*

We have two Giant Blombergs Toads (*Bufo blombergi*) which can be seen in the Reptile House. They are eight to nine inches long and will increase in bulk, becoming quite large. These toads are in a vivarium with four female Marine Toads (*Bufo marinus*). We think both the Blombergs are males, and we are hoping to find a female in order to breed from them. A photograph of one of them is on page thirteen.

An interesting aspect of the *Bufo blombergi* is that there are frequent moultings during growth. When these take place the toads hold their heads down, bending the back into a convex shape. The old skin then splits along the midline of the back, and the toad contrives to push this off first with one hindlimb and then with the other. The pushing action goes as far forward as the paratoid glands, and this is done by inflating the belly and making a downwards movement of the lower jaw. The skin is left hanging and is rubbed



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

OUR PAIR OF CAPE BARREN GEESE (*Cereopsis novae hollandiae*) ENCLOSURE 98

off in the water. The new skin is somewhat paler and is shiny—the adult colouration being a dull brown.

After spawning the tadpoles go through a period of change and this takes place on about the 26th day. They lie half out of the water, and do not feed. At first the hind legs begin to extend when swimming. Complete metamorphosis takes about six to seven weeks.

Giant Blombergs Toads are from South America, and are also referred to as the Columbian Giant Toads.

\* \* \*

Six Leopard Geckos (*Eublepharis macularis*) have recently been hatched. We started off with one pair and we are now into a third generation. The incubation period for these reptiles is approximately six weeks. Of the eight Leopard Geckos which were hatched last year seven survived. All the eggs have been incubated artificially as they would have little chance of hatching if left in the vivarium. The Curator of Reptiles removes the eggs as soon as possible.

### AQUARIUM NEWS

We wish to report the following Fresh Water Tropical Fishes which have been added to our collection.

Red-eyed Tetras, or Glass Tetras, (*Moenkhausia oligolepis*) have been acquired. These fishes originate from Amazon and Guiana, and they thrive in small-standing and sluggish waters. They grow to about 12cms., are unassuming and peaceful; the young are especially interesting and lively. Red-eyed Tetras breed easily and will feed on almost anything offered.

The colouration is olive-green to olive-yellow; the flanks are a gleaming silver with a bluish sheen. The undersides are silvery-white and the large scales are often dark-edged. There are one or two rather faint shoulder blotches. The root of the tail is black, often displaying two gold-gleaming blotches. The iris is red above, but the remaining area is golden.



*By courtesy of J. Whitworth*  
BLOMBERG'S GIANT TOAD (*Bufo Blombergi*) TO BE SEEN IN THE REPTILE HOUSE

Glowlight Tetras (*Hepigrammis erythrozonus*) have also been added to the collection; these fishes originate from South America. The general colouration is a broad gleaming ruby-coloured stripe which extends longitudinally at the junction of the body cavity with the tail, from the gill-cover to the root of the tail, widening into a gleaming spot. The upper half of the iris is a brilliant red as are the anterior rays of the dorsal fin. The females are somewhat larger and more stocky than the males.

New Platy (*Xiphophorus maculatus*) are also on show. These fishes originate from the Atlantic slope of Mexico and Guatemala. The female grows to 4cms., and the male to about 6cms. This species is singularly variable. They are very hardy and contented fishes.

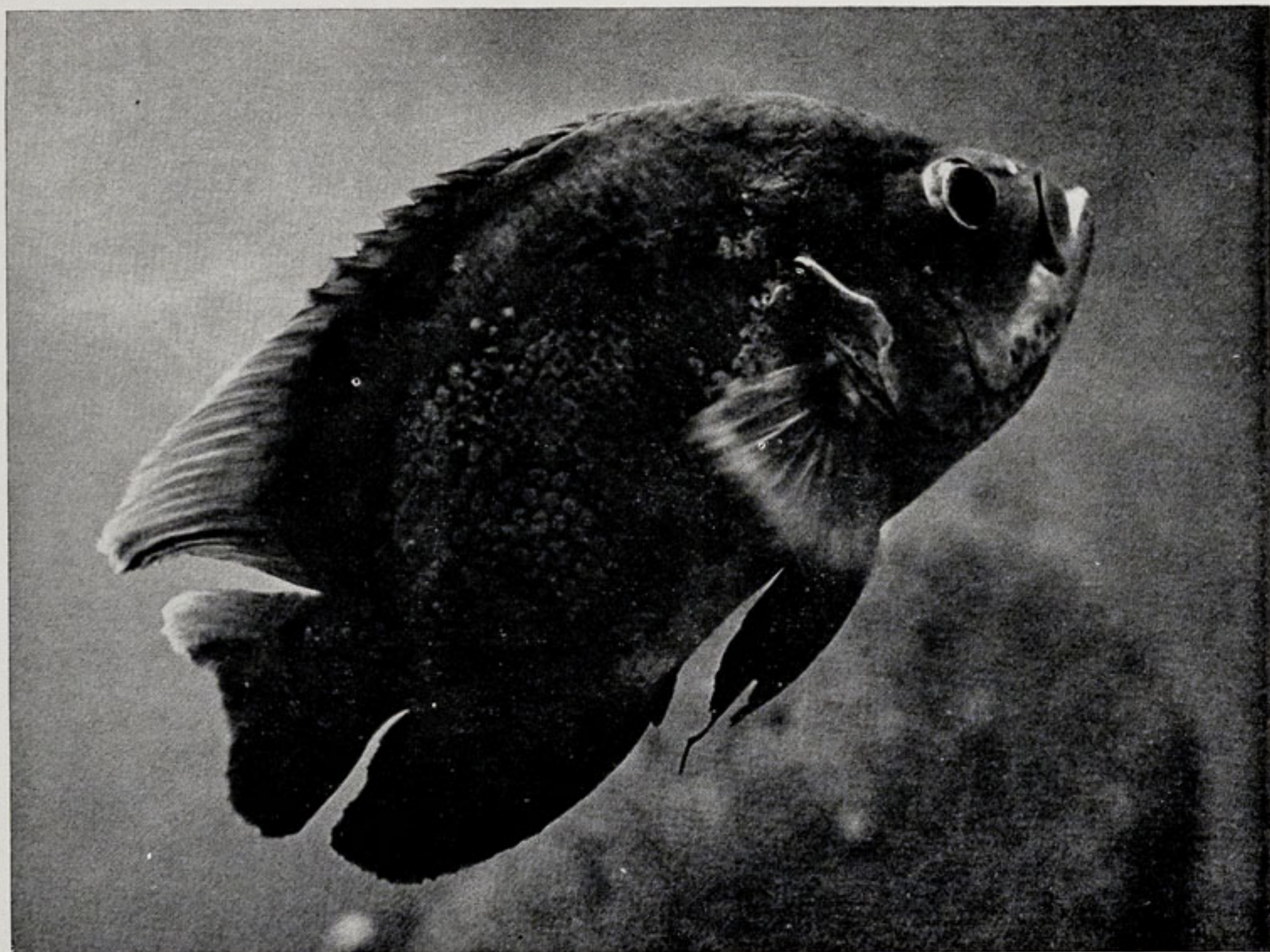
There are also some new Guppies (*Lebistes reticulatus*) on show. Their distribution is South America, ranging from Venezuela, Barbados, Trinidad, and part of northern Brazil and Guiana. There are a great number of form and colour varieties. They are contented and hardy fishes always moving about and breeding constantly. Guppies produce live young, unlike most fishes which lay eggs.

We have acquired the following Tropical Marine Fishes:

A new Regal Angel Fish (*Pygoplites diacanthus*) is now on show. These fishes grow to about 200mm. They are from the Pacific Ocean, and their colour is blue and white against an orange background. There is a strong green line along the spine, and the tail is orange.

A Banner Fish (*Heniochus species*) is also new. These fishes are of the family *Chaetodontidae* known as Butterfly Fishes. Banner Fishes are very small and exist on coral reefs. They are so named because of the dorsal fin which grows back past the rest of the body. Their colouration is a deep chocolate brown with white stripes, their noses being an orange colour.

A new Spotted Sweetlips (*Gaterin lineatum*) is also on show. The young when swimming have a fluttering movement rather than the usual swimming actions, but this disappears when they change colour. Spotted Sweetlips have thick lips and a row of six pores posterior to the lower lip.



*By courtesy of J. Whitworth*

**RED OSCAR OR VELVET CICHLID** (*Astronotus ocellatus*)

These fishes are from the Amazon, ranging from Rio Paraguay to Rio Negro. They are fresh water tropical and their colouration is variable

Four Yellow-tailed Blue Damsels (*Pomacentrus melanochir*) are also new. They originate from the East Indies and Polynesia. These fishes are popular in aquaria because of the contrast between the blue body and the yellow tail.

There are two new Electric Blue Damsels (*Pomacentrus caeruleus*) which originate from Israel. The colour of these fishes resembles the electric blue which one gets from an electric flash.

Humbug Damsels (*Dascyllus aruanus*) have been added to our collection. Another name for these fishes is the White-tailed Damsel. There are three broad black stripes alternating with two white stripes and a white tail. They also have a broad white mark above the mouth.

We have purchased some Clown Wrasse (*Coris gaimard*) which we have not had for some time. These fishes undergo two complete changes of colour. The young Clown Wrasse is a pinky-red colour with four white stripes shown laterally. The first colouration change then takes place in the intermediate stage at about 30mm., with remnants of the colours remaining. At 150mm. the fishes have completely changed to a dull pink to green with deep blue spots towards the tail, which is yellow.

### 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 £2.00, 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**



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