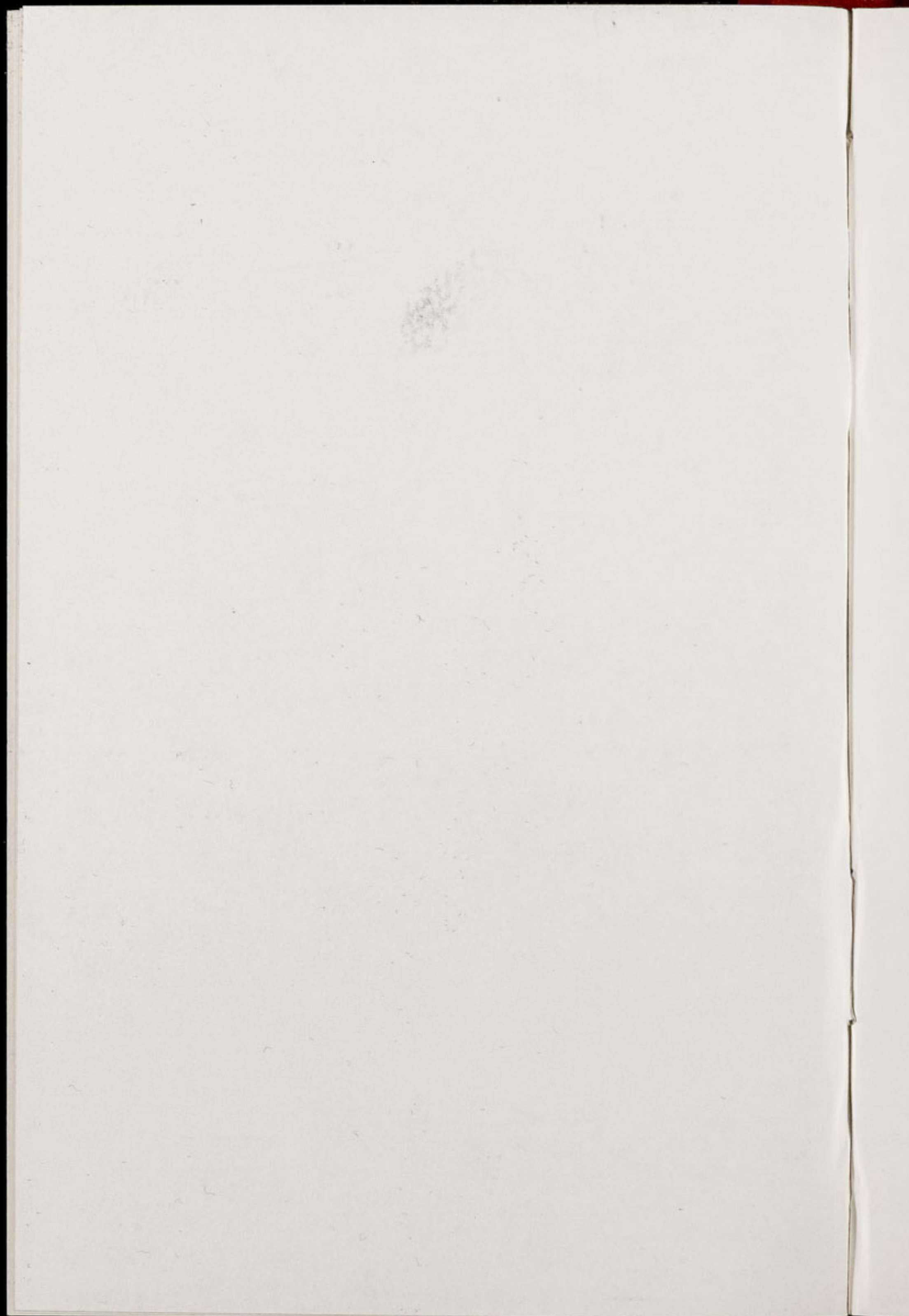


**CHESTER ZOO NEWS**  
***AND GUIDE***

May 1975

Price 10p



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

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COVER

*Common Leopard Cub  
with its Mother, Susie*

Annual subscription — One Pound and Seventy-Five Pence, postage paid  
Telephone Chester 20106/7/8

### COVER PHOTOGRAPH

This month's cover photograph is that of Common Leopard 'Susie' with one of her two cubs. These cubs are now on show in an enclosure in the Cat House (No. 90). They have been out for only about one week, and are proving a very popular attraction.

### ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

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

- Two Brown Bear Cubs (*Ursus arctos*)
- Four Père David Deer (*Elaphurus davidianus*)
- One Highland Calf (*Bos taurus*)
- Five Soay Sheep (*Ovis aries*)

The two Brown Bear Cubs which have been born in the zoo are still very tiny and are at present off show, being with their mother in the den. We will let readers know as soon as these cubs venture into the outer enclosure.

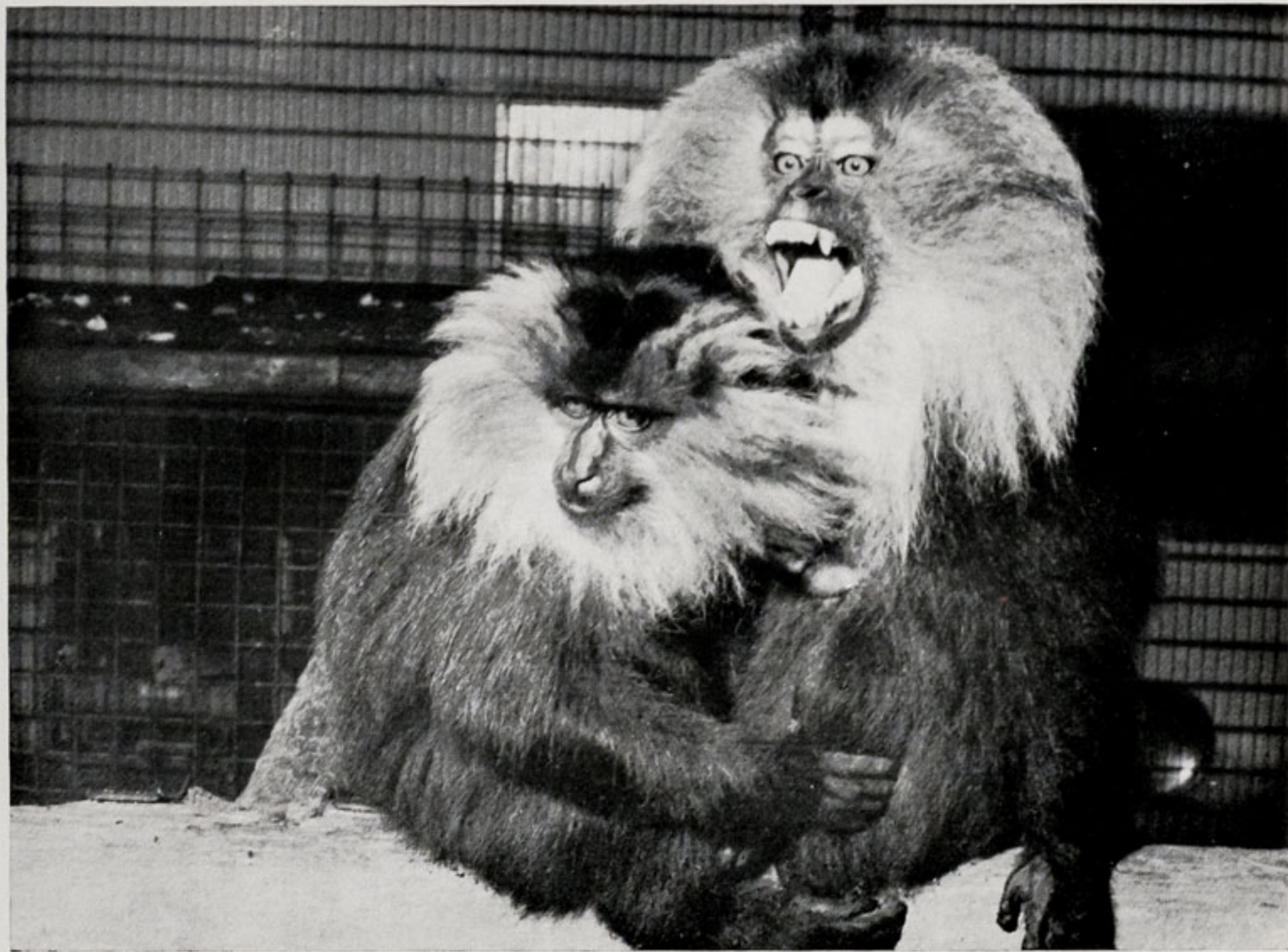
Four Père David Deer have been born and are to be seen in the Père David enclosure (109). These have not yet been sexed.

We have recently bred five Soay Sheep at the zoo. These were all born on the same night, and we were presented with two sets of twins and a single lamb. Visitors can see these lambs in enclosures 102 and 96.

The Soay Sheep originate from the Island of Soay in the St. Kilda group, west of the Outer Hebrides. Flocks now exist in parks and on other islands in Britain. They are a very ancient breed, being widespread in Britain in prehistoric times, the period not being actually known.

These sheep are brownish in colour, with some white around the ears and underside. They have relatively long legs, a short tail and their coats are close-woolled. The horns of the *Ovis aries* are slightly spiral, those of the ewe being usually thin, compressed and rising from the head with a slight outward curve. The horns of the ram curve out in a semi-circle.

During the early days of its life, the lamb stays close to the mother. The ewe is able to recognise its offspring through its senses



*By courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.*  
LION-TAILED MACAQUES (*Macaca silenus*)—NEWLY ACQUIRED MOTHER AND SON

and by moving from one to the other of the lambs. Only when both recognize each other do they become attached again.

Soay Sheep are unique and resemble the true wild sheep or mouflon to be found in Corsica and Sardinia. They are however smaller, probably due to their habitat and in-breeding.

\* \* \*

One female Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) has recently been acquired. The present herd consists of four Nilgai, two of which came to us in 1968, one female being born here in August 1971 and another, a male, born in August 1972.

The female Nilgai and two Lion-tailed Macaques were acquired in exchange from another zoo.

The Lion-tailed Macaque (*Macaca silenus*) has been allocated a sheet in the Red Data Book, which means that it is seriously in danger of becoming extinct in the wild. In Southern India, in districts where there has been forest clearance for plantations, there has been a replacement of forest with fast-growing exotics, *i.e.* eucalyptus and acacia, by the State Forest Departments in Madras and Kerala, thus bringing about the destruction of the natural environment of the *Macaca silenus* which cannot adapt itself to change. The sport hunting of all monkeys in the State of Madras has been prohibited.

In captivity, special attention is paid to diet, as this differs from other species in that the Lion-tailed Macaque requires substantial amounts of leaf-buds and the addition of twigs, leaves, etc., would appear to be indicated.

As a matter of interest there is in existence a studbook on the Macaque, issued by the Wild Animal Propagation Trust. The captive breeding project for the Lion-tailed Macaque should have good possibilities. Diet modifications along with a few basic techniques should improve the situation. The Trust hopes to involve European collections and other zoos around the world in the project.

The *Macaca silenus* does not breed easily in captivity. Some species of primates refuse to breed with mates with whom they have been living since infancy. An exchange of males often leads to a situation in which breeding can take place in both groups. There is a theory



*By courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.*  
FAMILY GROUPING OF RING-TAILED LEMURS (*Lemur catta*) IN THE MONKEY HOUSE WITH  
THE BABY BORN IN MARCH (AS DESCRIBED IN OUR APRIL ISSUE)

that an inherent mechanism exists to prevent the breeding of brothers to sisters and other close relatives.

We have recently acquired one female and one male (mother and son) Lion-tailed Macaques, and this should encourage mating as we have in the collection one male and one female (Lennie and Lena who are brother and sister), both acquired in 1963 and who have not successfully mated. A photograph of the Macaques appears on page 3. When the new male is old enough we will separate them, and house him with Lena, and Lennie with the new adult female.

There are twelve species of Macaques alive today, the Lion-tailed Macaque being the least typical. It inhabits dense forest regions of the mountains of the West Coast of India, and is said to be shy and retiring, unlike any of the other species. It is a medium to large, heavily built monkey, with strong limbs almost equal in length, and is easily identified by the grey side whiskers which frame its entire face like a ruff, the tail being medium long with a conspicuous tuft. The hair is rather silky in texture, and black or very dark brown in colour, except for the grey ruff which is more exaggerated in the male than the female. The body of this species is about 2 feet long and the tail approximately 10 inches. In colder climates the fur of these animals grows very long and thick.

### BIRD NOTES

The following birds which have recently been acquired will be of interest to readers:

- 0.1 Cape Dove (*Oena c. capensis*)
  - 1 Long-tailed Glossy Starling (*Lamprotornis caudatus*)
  - 1.1 Black-throated Oriole (*Icterus gularis*)
  - 1.1 Moustache Parakeets (*Psittacula alexandri fasciata*)
  - 1.1 Azure (or Little) Gallinules (*Porphyryla flavirostris*)
  - 1.1 Ashy-crowned Finch-Larks (*Eromopteryx grisea*)
  - 2 Grey-naped Wood Rails (*Aramides cajanea*)
- 0.1 Black-headed Sibia (*Heterophasia capistrata*)
  - 3 White-throated Laughing Thrushes (*Garrulax albogularis*)

The Cape Dove originates from Madagascar and South Africa. It is a graceful little bird, feeding on the seeds of various weeds. Its call is a rather plaintive 'coo-coru.' Owing to its extreme gentleness

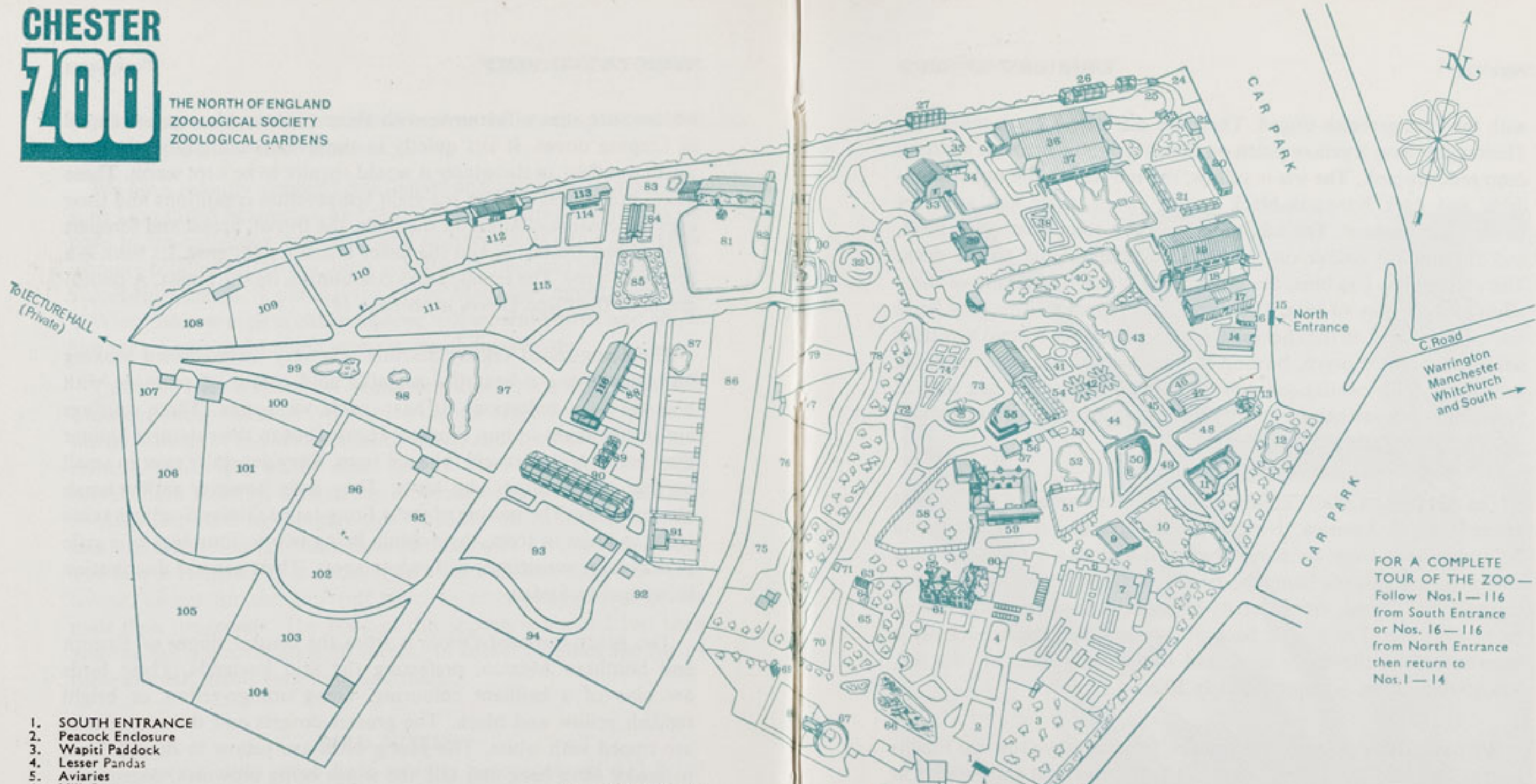
we are sure it is a favourite with those visitors who are interested in keeping doves. It sits quietly in the aviary and enjoys the very warm weather; in the winter it would require to be kept warm. These doves breed well if given the right temperature conditions and their eggs are cream-coloured. In the male, the throat, breast and forepart of the head are black, and the lower breast a light grey. Its back is a brownish-grey. The female lacks colouration on the breast. A photograph of the Cape Doves is on page 11.

The Long-tailed Glossy Starling is a very distinguished looking bird, displaying a beautiful metallic gold colour of plumage with blue to violet reflections. It has a wide wing-span. These starlings are in free flight in our Tropical House, but in their natural habitat they prefer high, densely foliated trees. They generally exist in small parties, being rather shy birds. They have however rather harsh raucous cries. The nesting of these Long-tailed Glossy Starlings takes place in holes in trees, their clutch being two to four eggs of a pale blue colour, sometimes with white spots. Their general distribution is Senegal to Sudan.

The Black-throated Oriole is from the coastal slopes of Eastern and Southern Mexico, preferring the arid lowlands. These birds are also of a brilliant colouring, being orange-yellow or bright reddish yellow and black. The greater coverts and the secondaries are tipped with white. The young birds are yellow to deep yellow, to dusky olive back and tail, the wings being brownish, edged with a paler brown. Fully grown the Black-throated Oriole is about 8½ in. to 11 in. in length.

Moustache Parakeets have a distribution in South East Asia from the Lower Himalayas in the north through Burma, to Thailand and Vietnam. The normal habitat of the Moustache Parakeets is that of the mountain forests, but they come down in large flocks to the rice plantations when the grain is nearly ready for harvesting, sometimes doing much damage. These birds usually have four white eggs, nesting starting in the early spring. The adult birds in the wild are sometimes noisy and they have raucous voices. The young are easily tamed and generally quiet.

The adult Moustache Parakeets display plumage of pale blue-grey,



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
- } under construction

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

### 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

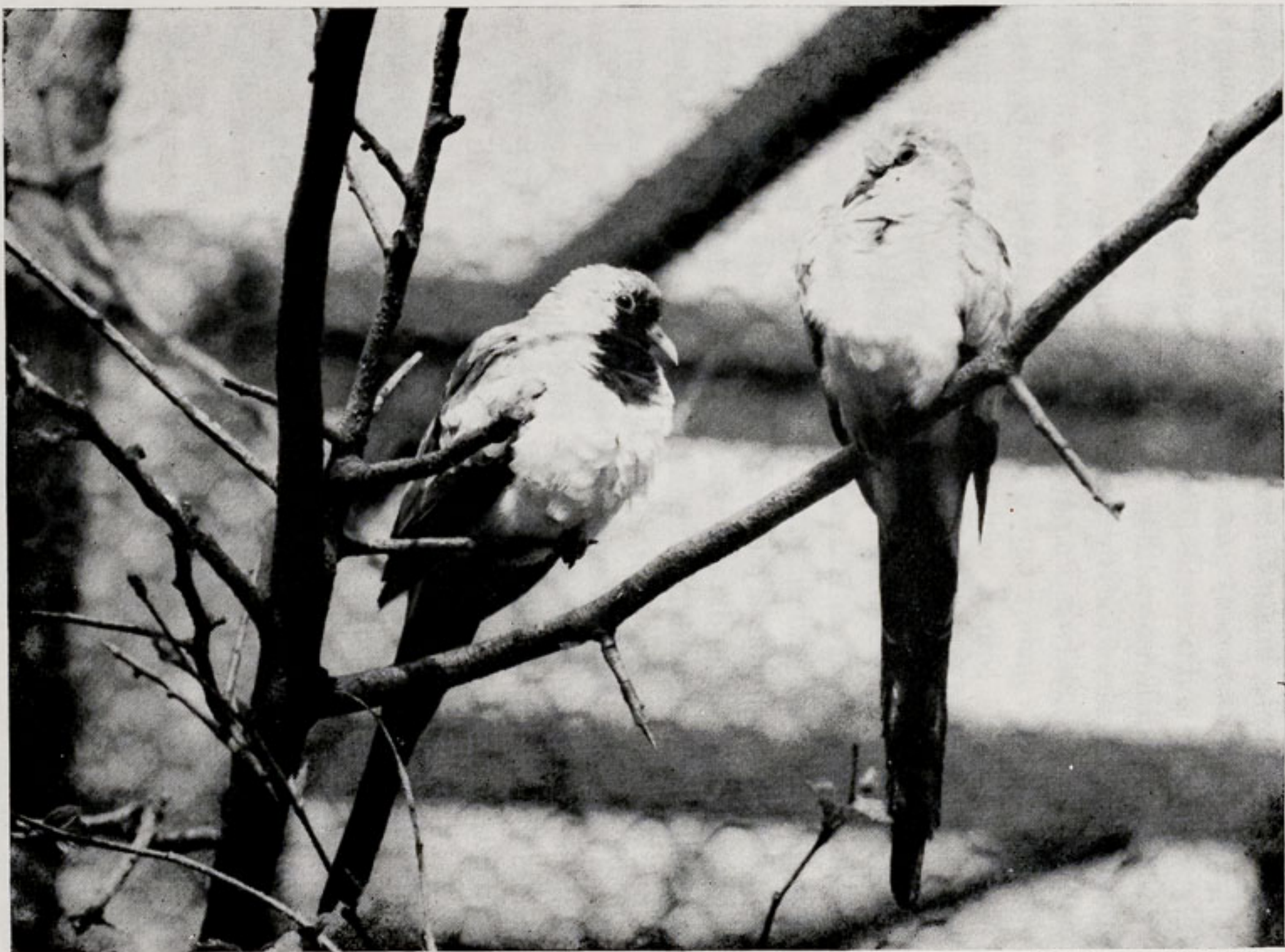
Animals may be moved from time to time.

with the eyes greenish-tinged. There are distinctive black markings. Their wings have a yellow patch on the coverts; the breast is a strong deep reddish-pink. The iris is yellow, the bill red on the upper mandible and dark brownish-black on the lower, their legs and feet being a grey colour. The adult female has a somewhat bluer head, and the pinkish colour on the breast extends higher to the neck. The abdomen is less blue, the bill entirely black. The length of these adult birds is 14in. to 16in. The young bird is green with a grey hood and a black band on the cheeks. The male courts the female by sitting next to her on the perch, bowing and displaying, and accompanying his actions with continuous noisy, excited chatter. The hen may at first ignore his attentions and fly away, but mating we understand usually takes place soon afterwards.

The Azure (or Little) Gallinule inhabits some areas of the tropical zones of South America, living in the marches and rice fields. It will be appreciated from its name that this bird has a beautiful blue colour which spreads from the head, neck and breast to the wing coverts. The throat, centre of its breast and the remaining underparts are white. The crown, back of the neck and upper back are a brownish-olive, the lower back and rump being blackish. Its bill, when fully grown, is approximately 10in.

We have acquired one male and one female Ashy-crowned Finch-Larks. This bird is even smaller than the sparrow, but very similar in build. The colour of the male is a pale grey to dark brown, and it is distinguished by white on the cheeks and sides of the breast. There is also a dark line through the eyes and another below the white cheek patches, chin, breast and abdomen. The female has a more grey colour, and the young follow this pattern. It has a very wide distribution in the arid regions of the Indian sub-continent and there is also a race in Sri Lanka.

Ashy-crowned Finch-Larks feed on seeds and insects. The flight of these birds ascends to as much as 40ft. and they have a characteristically quaint song during the downward swoop. The nest consists of a small hole dug in the ground by the female, composed of disintegrating grasses. The female finishes off the nest neatly, sometimes decorating it with bits of stones and clay. She



CAPE DOVES (*Oena c. capensis*)

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

has two eggs, these being a pale greenish-white, freckled with yellow-brown and purplish-grey.

We now have two Grey-naped Woodrails. These are rather large birds, being approximately 15in. in length, originating from Central and South America, these two being from Guyana living in forests, swamps and ricefields. Their colour is slate-grey to yellowish-brown and reddish-brown, their distinguishing marks being a white chin and the black of the lower abdomen. This rail is very noisy at night and in the early morning; it has a characteristic call. When nesting it makes a shallow cup of leaves on the ground, its eggs being a pale creamish colour, with reddish-brown spots and purple markings.

We now have one female Black-headed Sibia originating from the N. W. Himalayas. This is a handsome bird, being rust coloured with a black crest and slightly blue on the wing feathers. These birds frequent the Himalayan forests in noisy pairs or parties. They haunt the hillsides and ravines covered with dense moist forest, especially the oak and rhododendron forest zones, and hunt for insects among the tree tops, hopping along the branches, peering into leaves. These birds have a soft rattling chuckle as they move about in search of food. Their diet consists of insects, seeds and berries, but they are also very fond of flower nectar. They are very shy birds and have several rather attractive-sounding calls.

The nesting period is April to July. The nest is a neat, compact deep massive cup of moss, grass and roots firmly interwoven and lined with roots of maidenhair fern, etc. It is placed in a bush eight to twenty feet up. The normal clutch is of two or three eggs, which are a pale bluish-grey colour, spotted-blotched and streaked with various shades of reddish-brown and faint markings of greyish-purple. Both parents feed the young.

The three White-throated Laughing Thrushes originate from the Western Himalayas. They are usually in flocks of eight to ten birds, and are seen in high oak forests, or well-wooded hillsides where they hop about from tree to tree in search of food. Their call is a rather short high-pitched one, but when disturbed they explode into the typical laughing choruses. They are distinguished by the broad,

graduated tail, which is also a feature of the Sirkeer Cuckoo (*Taccocua*).

The nesting period of the White-throated Laughing Thrushes is from about early April through to June. The nest varies in shape from a deepish cup to a shallow saucer and is made of coarse grass, dead leaves, moss, etc., sometimes lined with fine roots. It is placed in the branch of a small tree or shrub, 3—10 feet from the ground. The normal clutch consists of three eggs, but sometimes four. These birds are a lovely, intense blue colour. Their plumage is of a fine texture and has a beautiful gloss.

As a matter of further interest we have now bred two Swainson's Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodus moluccanus*), and these are occupying an aviary in group No. 42. They are striking looking birds as the markings on their heads are of an intense blue, through to dark bluish-purple at the centre of the abdomen; there are some yellow markings on the face and fin. The breast feathers are a paler blue with black edgings, the underwing coverts being yellow-orange. These birds are easily identified in flight by the blue of the head.

The *Trichoglossus haematodus moluccanus* lives in the forest lands of Eastern Australia, moving from place to place for pasture, usually following the flowering of the eucalyptus, feeding in large flocks on its nectar. Being gluttonous creatures they attempt to consume as much nectar as they possibly can at one meal, often over-feeding and eventually lying on the ground in a stupor. Their first meal is taken soon after dawn, and during the day they spend the time in preening themselves in tall shady trees, often slicing stems and tearing at leaves; they feed again before nightfall. These birds also eat berries and nuts.

The Gannet (*Sula bassana*) which arrived early in 1974 is still with us, although free to fly away when it chooses. Our readers will remember the bird was rescued from an industrial estate in a feeble condition (after presumably having been blown inland), and was brought to the zoo. It has survived very well, and would appear to prefer to stay with us, swimming in its pool and eating the food we provide. We had another Gannet brought to us in March this year, and these two birds appear to have settled down together.

## AQUARIUM NEWS

We now have two new Catfish (*Pimeiodeila gracilis*). These are a white-green to blue-grey colour, the upperside being darker and the underside white. The gill cover to the tail has a black band which broadens towards the back, becoming less noticeable as the fish grow older.

Another Catfish (*Pimelodus clarias*) has been acquired which is about 10in. long. The dorsal and pectoral fins of these fishes have strong spines, and they are armed with teeth. The colour of this fish in general is brown-black, and the fins grey. The adult fishes are a uniform grey. Being nocturnal they become lively only at night, when in search of food. They are gluttonous and grow rapidly when well cared for. Large specimens are very quarrelsome and are best kept in isolation. The *Pimelodus clarias* are not bred in captivity.

We have a new Catfish as yet unidentified. This resembles the *Silurus glanis* which is also nocturnal in its habits, laying its eggs upon leaves. We have another Catfish about 2in. long, as yet unidentified, and which is in a tank with the Elephant Trunk-nosed Fish. The Aquarium Keeper is making enquiries about both these Catfishes.

Further additions to the Aquarium are about twenty Dwarf Rainbow Cichlids (*Pelmatochromis kribensis*) and two dozen or so *Molliensia velifera*. These latter are an attractive dark olive through to blue to blue-green, with iridescent green-silver to pale blue spots. These fishes are distinguished by some dark blue-green streaks on the flanks.

Golden Medakas (*Oryzias latipes*) were bred in the Aquarium, these now having laid eggs; this is therefore the second generation to be bred in the zoo. These fishes lay their eggs in bunches on plants in the tank. The eggs take five to seven days to hatch out, and as they lay their eggs every few days a few hatch out continually.

## GARDEN NOTES

The advent of spring is an interesting time in the gardens; after the dull days of winter the spring flowers are always appreciated. With regard to the spring bedding, this is now at its best, Polyanthus, Wallflowers, Pansies, Aubretias, Daisies, etc., making their usual glorious pageant of colour. We have flowering shrubs coming into bloom in rotation, the first being Camellias. These, with the mild winter, started flowering earlier than usual, many being out in January. They received a check, as did all plants, with the cold spell in February and March, but it has meant a longer flowering period than usual as they are still blooming profusely. We have an ideal position for these shrubs in that they are planted at the back of the rockery by the polar bears, against a wall facing south and inter-planted with conifers. This gives the flowers protection against frosts, the shrub itself being perfectly hardy.

The Rhododendrons and Azalias are the next to flower, the earliest being the dwarfs in the rock gardens starting with *Rhodo. praecox*; also the *Erica carnea* varieties flowering in turn throughout the spring, followed by the *calluna* and the *tetralix* varieties which flower during the summer and autumn. We have planted all these to give continuity of flowering practically throughout the year. Magnolias are in flower and will be followed by the cherries and malus; the Amelanchier (*Snowy Mespilus*) recently planted in the sunken garden is full of bud and will soon show an abundance of its white flowers.

To mention a few of the shrubs which will soon be flowering in rotation we have *Ceanothus floribundi*, *dentatus*, glorie de Versailles, *veitchianus*, and *autumnal*. All these have masses of flowers and cause much comment from our visitors each year. Varieties of Berberis, Deutzias, Hypericums, Philadelphus, Potentillas, Spiraeas, Viburnums, Weigelas, *Choisya ternata* (not too hardy these and only successful against a wall with us), Veronicas, etc.

The rockeries are receiving their spring overhaul at this time, which includes a top dressing, hand-forked in, of a mixture of peat, manure, gravel and sand; the removal of all old and worn-out plants, these being replaced with young plants which have been

propagated and grown in our nursery. At this time we plant Gazanias, Violas, Mesembryanthemums, *Verbena chaemidrifolia*, etc., to give continuity of flowering throughout the summer.

The first alpiners to flower are the Saxifrages, many being in flower now. There is a very wide collection of these with colours ranging from varying shades of pink, crimsons, reds and yellow. This range of Saxifrages are amongst the best of all rock plants, being dwarf, neat, evergreen and of profuseness of bloom. Many varieties of Campanula are ideal for the rock garden, dwarf, free-flowering and of spreading habit. Many varieties of Dianthus can be seen in our rock gardens, and this is another good plant for this purpose, also having the advantage of being sweet smelling.

The Gentianas are always most attractive and bright in colour. We have the varieties *acaulis*, *asclepiadea*, *septemfida* and *sino-oranta*. These are but a few of the plant collections to be seen in our rock gardens, there being so many choice plants, it is not possible to mention them all.

Pressure of work in the glasshouses is very high, as is usual at this time of the year. These houses are bursting at the seams, as apart from the greenhouse plants required through the year, we have to accommodate some 80,000 plants for the summer bedding displays and this show depends on the treatment meted out to them now during their growing period.

### 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 shops. An annual subscription (12 issues) costs £1.75, 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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ANIMALS NOT ONLY ALIVE BUT IN FIRST CLASS  
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