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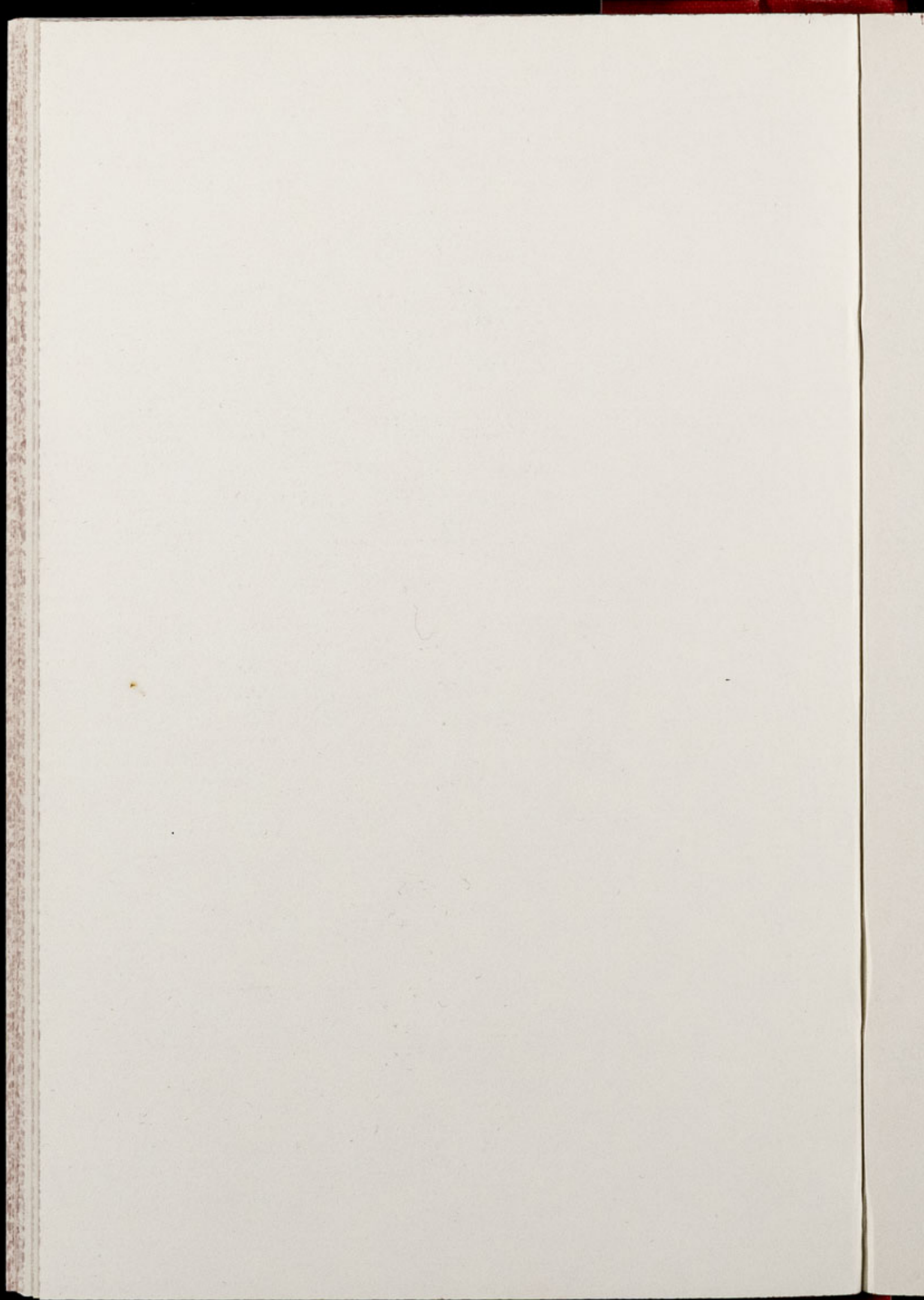
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

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Editorial

This is the time of the year when many of the catering establishments and Zoo Shops are closed. The Oakfield and Fountain Restaurants as well as part of the new Zoo Shop will be kept open throughout the winter. Waterbus rides have also been discontinued and this gives maintenance staff a chance to paint and overhaul the boats.

The more delicate animals are being moved to warmer quarters for the winter. First to be transferred were the Scarlet Ibis and Wood Rail, which have been liberated in the Temperate Bird House; Currasows, Quail and Guineafowl have also been moved from their outside enclosures to the long flight in the Bird House. During the next few days, Keepers will move the herd of Common Zebras to winter quarters at the rear of the Giraffe House.

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COVER: This month's cover shows two Blotched Genets (GENETTA TIGRINA) in the Nocturnal House.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION SIXTEEN SHILLINGS POST PAID

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ZOO BABIES

ACOUCHY: The eighth acouchy to be bred since the arrival of the adults in August 1963, was born on the 1st October. The Acouchies are housed in the Small Mammal House and can be compared with the closely related Agouties; both of these rodents are natives of South America.

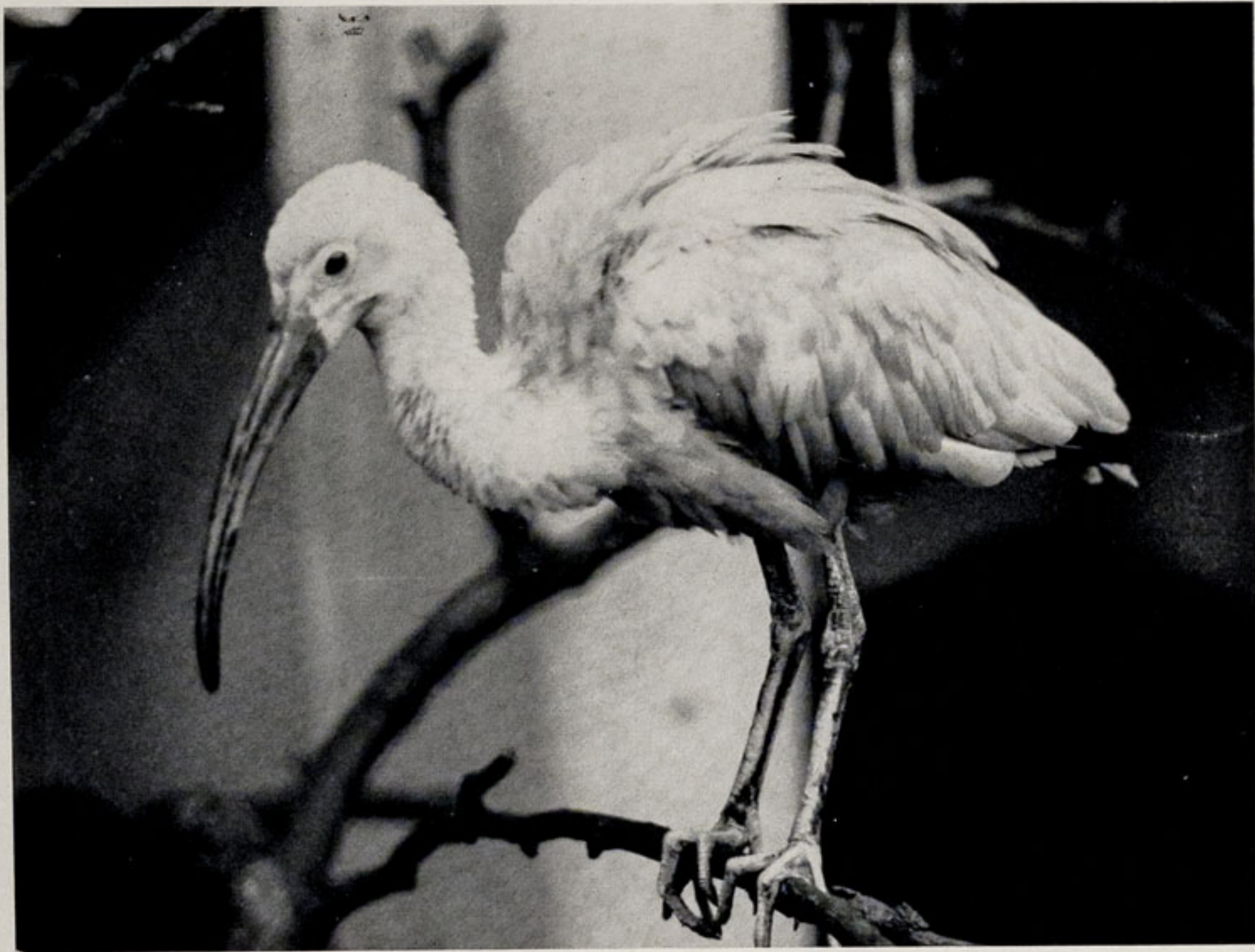
COYPU: Four Coypus, also natives of South America, were bred on the 9th October. Four young is not unusual for Coypus as up to nine have been recorded. Coypus are found around rivers, streams and canals and are excellent swimmers. They feed mainly on vegetables and roots and make large burrows on the riverbanks. Coypus are not the most beautiful animals, resembling a giant rat in general appearance and having two large orange incisor teeth which protrude from their mouths.

At the start of the 19th century the value of the Coypu's blue-grey underfur became well known. Recently fur-farms have been started in many places and in the trade a Coypu pelt with outer hair removed is known as nutria. Some Coypus escaped from fur-farms, and in this country due to their lack of natural predators, have become serious pests. In many parts of Norfolk and Suffolk they not only eat large quantities of crops but undermine river banks and dykes.

ADVICE ON PET TORTOISES

In response to many requests for information, we are providing readers with details of keeping tortoises through the winter.

At this time of the year most tortoise kept as pets become sluggish and go off their food. This is a sure sign that they want to go into hibernation, as being cold blooded animals their actual body temperature is controlled by the temperature of their surroundings. Therefore, in warm weather they are far more lively but if exposed to cold weather and frost they will die.



SCARLET IBIS

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

The tortoise, when it becomes sluggish, should be placed in a large box with a ventilated lid and be entirely surrounded with straw, hay, leaves or wood shavings. It is important to have all this bedding material absolutely dry. The box should then be stored in a cool but frost free situation. *e.g.*, outhouse or garage.

When the weather becomes warmer during the end of March or April, the tortoise will gradually come out of hibernation. It is a good plan to give it a warm bath at this time, as the eyes, nostrils and mouth often become sealed with dry mucous. Be careful about leaving tortoise outside during spring nights; it is always best to bring them indoors in case of a hard frost.

Most years several people write to the Zoo as they have a difficult tortoise which will not hibernate. It is more natural, however, for tortoise not to hibernate, but they must be provided with plenty of food as well as a temperature of at least 75°F.

PRESENTATIONS

30th September — An Indian Hill Mynah joined the rest of these excellent mimics in the New Temperate Bird House.

— One Indian Mongoose, which had been a family pet, was taken to the Small Mammal House. The Mongoose is well known for its habit of snake killing and contrary to popular belief, is not immune to snake venom. In Kipling's book "Rikki-tikki-tavi", the Mongoose of that name was famous for his fight with cobras. The food of the Mongoose consists of small birds, mammals, insects and snakes. Mongooses were introduced into the West Indies in the hope that they would reduce the snakes and rats. Unfortunately, they killed off poultry and native animals as well, and have reached pest proportions. For this reason, the importation or possession of several species of Mongoose is prohibited in the United States by federal statute.

- 5th October — One Japanese Ground Squirrel was housed with the others in the Small Mammal House.
- 6th October — One young male Rhesus Monkey and one young female Pig-tailed Monkey were accommodated in the Monkey House. The new female looks like a cross-bred specimen but we will have to ascertain her parentage before being sure of this.
- Two Phillipine Green Parrots were presented.
- 8th October — One male White-throated Capuchin (*Cebus capucina*) and one female White-faced Capuchin (*Cebus albifrons*), the latter being almost as dark as a brown Capuchin but may become lighter coloured as she gets older. Both these animals are very tame and have settled down well in the Monkey House.
- 12th October — Four Arabian Gazelles arrived from Aden and were taken to the Zoo Quarantine Station in Birkenhead. (See page 10).
- Two Glossy Starlings.
- 13th October — A breeding pair of Chimpanzees were presented. (see page 12).
- Two Rainbow Boas arrived at the Reptile House and have settled well in their temporary home shared with a Chicken Snake. We already had two darker coloured Brazilian Rainbow Boas but these new specimens are a very welcome addition to the Reptile Section.

EXCHANGES

7th October — One young male Cherry-crowned Mangabey arrived at the Monkey House. For a considerable time we had been trying to find a mate for our female Mangabey which was presented to us in May 1960. Unfortunately, the latest arrival is only a youngster in the region of six months old, and has, therefore, been placed in a nursery cage with two young Vervet Monkeys. We hope to introduce the two Mangabeys when the male becomes fully grown.

Cherry-crowned Mangabeys are found in forest areas of West and Central Africa. They congregate in large troupes and their diet consists mainly of fruit.

— One male Great Indian Hornbill. (*see page 14*).

— Four Tacazze Sunbirds were released in the Tropical House and joined the other six species already at liberty. The Tacazze Sunbird is found in mountainous areas of East Africa, generally at an altitude of 7,000 ft. or over. They sometimes enter gardens in search of food, but usually inhabit grassy glades or mountainous forest areas.

— Two immature Night Herons were released in the Temperate Bird House. Their plumage is brown coloured, streaked and speckled with white, but when adult they will become grey above, white below and will grow three long filament feathers on their napes. Night Herons are found over wide areas of Europe, Africa and Asia and similar species occur in North and South America. They are very rarely found wild in this country, but individuals sometimes migrate to southern and eastern shores during spring and summer.



ARABIAN GAZELLE "REZIM"

K. W. Green

GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

SEA LIONS—2-40, 3-40, 4-40 p.m.

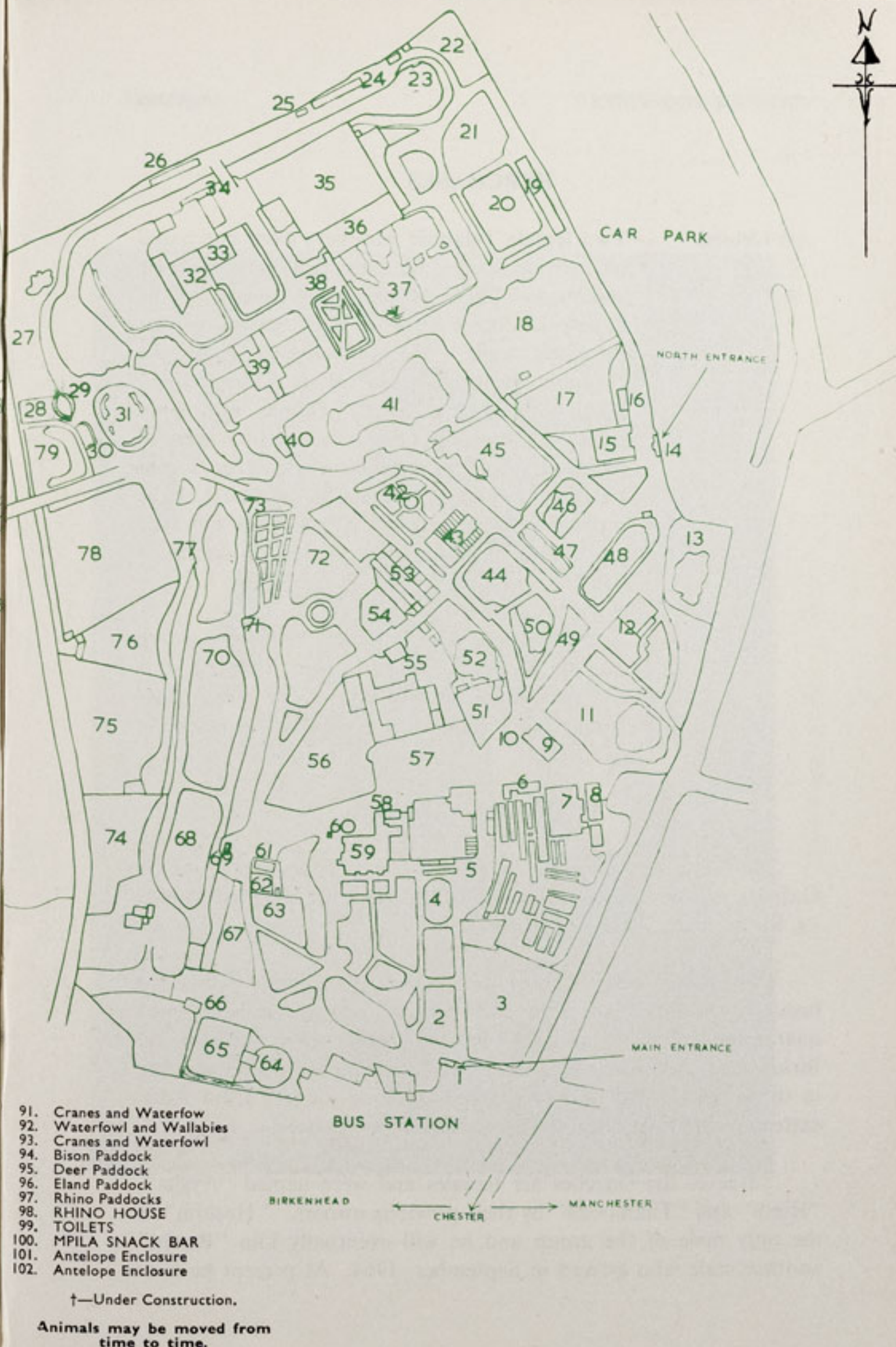
BEARS—3-15 p.m.

POLAR BEARS—4-0 p.m.

1. MAIN ENTRANCE
2. Bird Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Lesser Pandas
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS AND FIRST AID
9. CAFETERIA
10. Shelter
11. Picnic Lawn
12. Bears
13. Animal Enclosure
14. NORTH ENTRANCE
15. AQUARIUM
16. PUSH CHAIRS AND WHEEL CHAIRS
17. Animal Enclosure
18. Animal Enclosure
19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP
20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
21. †TOILETS
22. Peccaries
23. Waterbus Halt
24. Birds of Prey Aviary
25. Birds of Prey Aviary
26. Owls
27. †Animal Enclosure
28. Wolverines
29. Racoons
30. Coypus
31. Beavers
32. Giraffe House
33. Camel House

34. Waterbus Halt
35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES
36. APE HOUSE
37. Chimpanzee Islands
38. Floribunda Rose Garden
39. Zebra House
40. Bridge Cafe
41. Gibbon Island
42. H.T. Rose Garden
43. Parrot House
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Penguins and Pelicans
46. Flamingos
47. Waterfowl Enclosure
48. Sea Lion Pool
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Tigers
52. Waterfowl Enclosure
53. BIRD HOUSE
54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT
55. TOILETS
56. Lions
57. NEW ZOO SHOP
58. TOILETS
59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT
60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk
61. Animal Enclosure
62. Jackals
63. Cheetahs

64. Malayan Bears
65. Animal Enclosure
66. Lynx Cage
67. Kangaroo Enclosure
68. Island
69. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE
70. Islands
71. Waterbus Halt
72. Flower Gardens
73. ROSE GARDENS
74. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
75. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
76. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
77. Waterbus Halt
78. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
79. Kamchatka Bears
80. Elephant Paddock
81. Hippo Paddock
82. PACHYDERM HOUSE
83. Tapir Paddock
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Ankole Cattle
87. Stork Enclosures
88. Monkey Enclosures
89. †Cat House
90. MONKEY HOUSE



91. Cranes and Waterfowl
92. Waterfowl and Wallabies
93. Cranes and Waterfowl
94. Bison Paddock
95. Deer Paddock
96. Eland Paddock
97. Rhino Paddocks
98. RHINO HOUSE
99. TOILETS
100. MPILA SNACK BAR
101. Antelope Enclosure
102. Antelope Enclosure

†—Under Construction.

Animals may be moved from time to time.

PURCHASES

6th October — Two female Talapoin Monkeys were purchased to provide mates for our two existing male specimens. These Monkeys are natives of the Equatorial forest areas of West Africa and are extremely agile. Most Zoologists place the Talapoin Monkey in the Genus *Cercopithecus*, along with Monas, Vervets, Dianas, and many others. There are, however, several structural differences between Talapoins and other *Cercopithecus* monkeys. Talapoin Monkeys have rarely been observed in the wild state but they are known to raid natives gardens in search of corn.

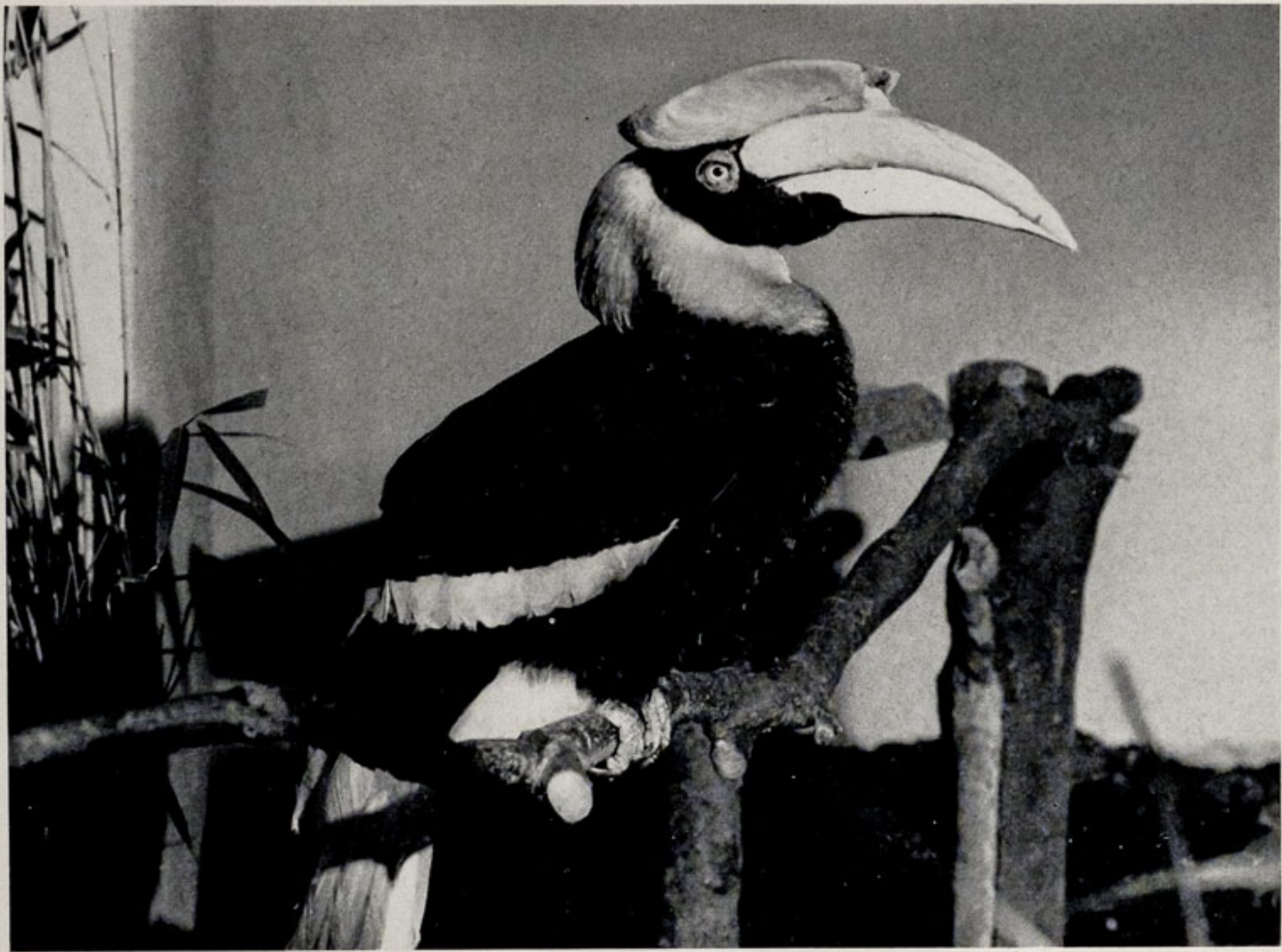
The original Talapoin Monkeys were friendly to the newcomers from the very start and all are together in one of the larger glass fronted enclosures in the Monkey House.

ARABIAN GAZELLES

We were very pleased to receive the gift of four Arabian Gazelles on the 12th October. All four Gazelles travelled on the s.s. SUNDA from Aden to London.

Due to very strict importation laws these animals cannot be brought straight to the Zoo but have to undergo twelve months quarantine. Our Quarantine Station is on the outskirts of Birkenhead, and the Gazelles were taken straight there after arriving in this country. All have weathered the long journey from Aden extremely well and have settled in their new quarters.

Three of the Gazelles are females and were named "Aysha", "Hindi" and "Thamooda" by their previous owners. "Hashim" is the only male of the group and he will eventually join "Rezim" another male who arrived in September, 1964. At present he is in



FEMALE GREAT INDIAN HORNBILL

K. W. Green

one of the new antelope enclosures opposite to the Monkey House.

Arabian Gazelles have been greatly persecuted in the past and in some places this has brought them to the verge of extinction.

TROPICAL HOUSE

Visitors to our Tropical House will be very pleased to know that we are now installing toilets in this building. During the period that this house has been opened, it has become more evident that toilets are a necessity, because the ever increasing number of visitors sometimes stay for several hours at a stretch. In fact, if they are to see all they want to see to advantage in this Tropical Jungle, they have to sit and study, wait and watch. It is then that they see some of the wonderful displays of Tropical Birds which are flying about in complete freedom. Now that the vegetation is becoming more and more dense, there is more interest than ever; within the thick undergrowth, one never knows what surprises are in store.

NEW CHIMPANZEES

During this month, two Chimpanzees were presented to the Zoo, and are a very welcome addition to the Ape House. Both are large, healthy and active.

These Chimpanzees must be the most widely travelled animals in the Zoo. They have appeared on the stage in places as far away as Tokyo, and Moscow, have made films in India, and appeared on television in Hong Kong.

At the present time they are being kept indoors and have a large play area and a heated sleeping den. During warm weather they will gradually be acclimatized to a more outdoor life and will be able to roam on large moated islands. It is hoped to introduce them to one of the Chimpanzee colonies.



Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

NEW MALE GREAT INDIAN HORNBILL WITH HEAD KEEPER J. MURRAY

THE GREAT HORNBILL

(*Dichoceros bicornis*)

On the 7th October, we received a male Great Indian Hornbill to provide a mate for our female bird which has been in residence since May, 1960. The new addition is much younger and, therefore, we have as yet, been unable to introduce the two birds. The young male is housed in an adjoining aviary separated from the female by a wire netting division. We hope to put these birds together at a later date. The young male Hornbill is most affectionate towards his keepers, following them around when he wants to be fed. He does not bite with his enormous beak and takes food very gently from fingers. It is hoped he stays as gentle in the future, as Hornbills often have a nasty habit of giving their keepers a sharp peck when least expected.

The Hornbills are one of the most spectacular exhibits in the New Temperate Bird House and occupy spacious aviaries — the first two on the left as one enters the building. Perhaps the most characteristic feature of the Hornbill is the enormous size of the beak. In spite of being so large the beak is comparatively light in weight, as it is constructed of bony compartments filled with air. Another strange feature of this and many other species of Hornbill is the striking horny outgrowth on the top of the head and beak which is known as the casque. The casque is also cellular and partly hollow in construction but its purpose is unknown. One theory put forward is that it is some type of shock absorber.

Sexing Great Hornbills is comparatively easy as the iris of the male is red and that of the female white. An even easier method is by the colour of the casque and bill. In the male the front of the beak and casque are black, together with the ridge of the bill, just in front of the casque. In the female the back of the casque is red. In other respects the Hornbill is not a particularly colourful looking bird, having black and white plumage; it is, however, very large — reaching a length of over 50 inches from beak tip to tail.

Hornbills take readily to captivity and often become surprisingly tame, taking fruit from their keepers fingers. They have a nasty habit of pecking heads as one walks underneath their perches and this can be quite painful. Food in the Zoo consists of a mixture of various fruits chopped into small pieces, with some meat, day old

chicks, and mice. The Hornbill's method of feeding is another peculiarity; the fruit is taken in the tip of the bill, jerked into the air, caught in the throat and swallowed. In the wild state Great Hornbills are said to feed mainly on fruit, but are omnivorous and also take insects, small mammals, lizards, grain, etc.

The Great Hornbill is widely distributed from India, Assam, and Burma, through the Malayan Peninsula to Sumatra. In India it is confined to the western Ghats from near Bombay to Cape Comorin and to the lower Himalayan Ranges up to 5,000 ft. from Kumaon eastwards. They are forest living species and generally keep to the largest trees where they can be seen together in parties of six or more. Observers tell us that the Hornbill when in flight can be heard for almost a mile. This is due to a loud droning noise caused by air rushing through the outer base of the wing quills which are not fully covered by under covert feathers. We are told that in the wild state when perched in trees, Great Hornbills are very noisy, making rattling roars, crackings and bellows. This is true of our captive specimens which frequently give vent to loud bellowing noises which cannot be described properly but have to be heard to be believed.

The breeding season in India is from January to April and the same nesting hole is used from year to year. No actual nest is constructed; a hollow tree stump, ten feet or more from the ground is chosen. When ready to lay, the female enters the nest hole and remains there until the young are a week old. She spends the first few days plastering up the entrance with excreta and mud which dries into a hard clay-like substance. During this plastering process the beak is used as a trowel to mould the entrance to shape.

When finished the only opening is a slit a few inches deep and about an inch wide. The female is dependent on the male bringing her food but can break out if an accident should befall her mate and therefore cut off her food supply. The reason for cementing up the entrance is to keep out predators, in particular Tree Snakes and Monkeys. Any animal trying to reach into the nesting hole would have to face a very sharp pointed beak. When the young are partly grown the entrance is broken open and the female Hornbill is released. At first she is very stiff and dirty and finds great difficulty in flying after her long confinement. The number of eggs laid by the species seems rather variable; one is quite usual but as many as four have been recorded.

HIGHLAND CATTLE TRANSFERRED TO NEW ENCLOSURES

During the month the Highland Cattle were transferred from the enclosure opposite the Rainbow Shop to part of the field at the rear of the Crane enclosure (No. 91 on plan) which has been fenced off to form a paddock. The site where the Highland Cattle were previously exhibited is to be developed to provide the new Parrot House and accommodation for the Orang Utans.

SURPLUS ANIMALS

Due to such a good breeding season in 1965, we have the following animals for disposal.

AGOUTIES	Several.
ACOUCHIES	Several.
KINKAJOUS	1 pair.
JUNGLE CATS	1 male, 2 females — born 1965.
BLACK GENETS	2 pairs.
RED LECHWE	3 males.
BISON	2 males — born 1965.
SOAY SHEEP	6 — born 1965.
PERE DAVID'S DEER	1 male — born 1964.
WAPITI	1 female — born 1965.
COMMON ZEBRA	3 males — born 1965.





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