



*By Courtesy of J. Gwyn Jones, Esq.*

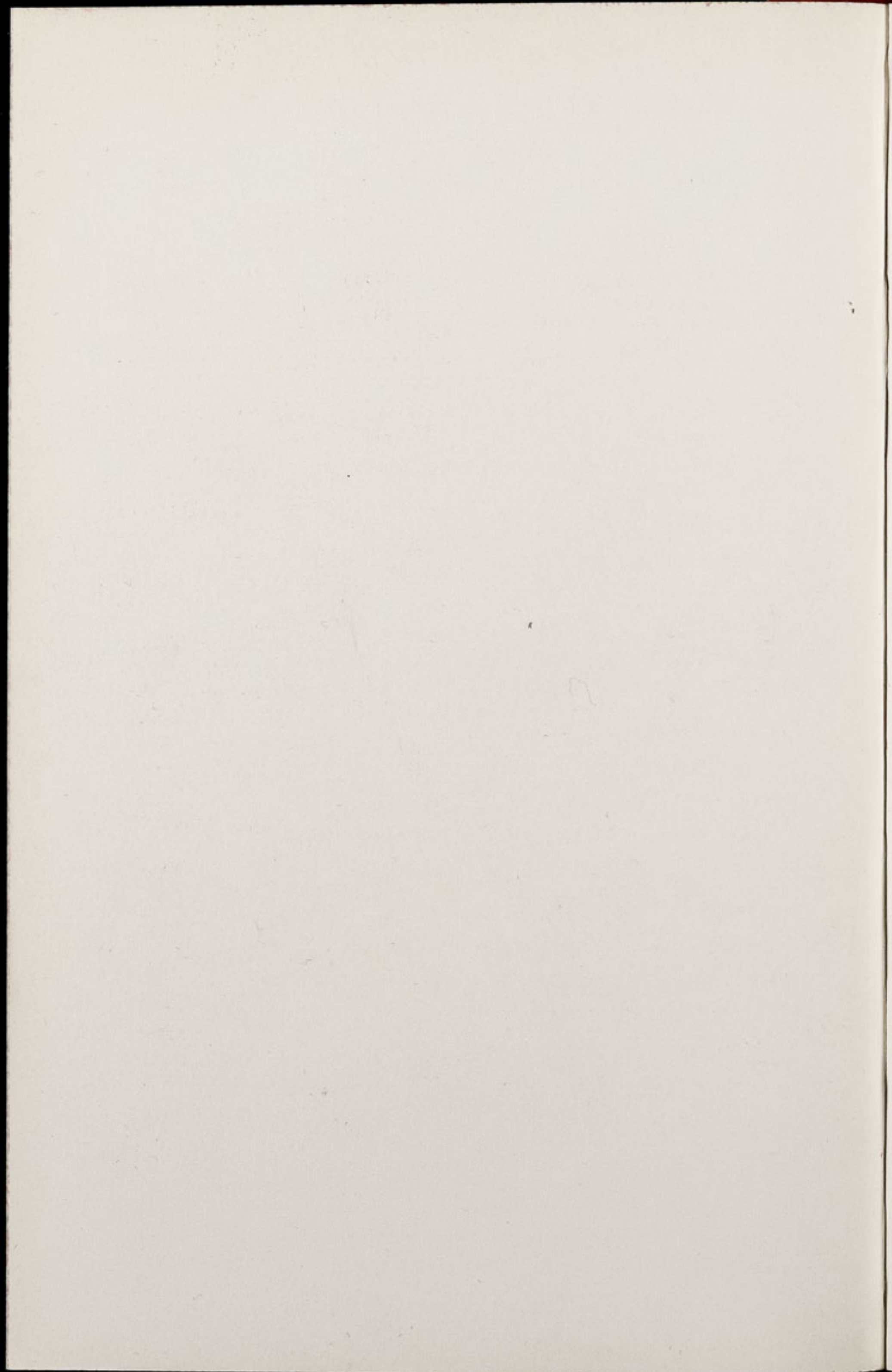
# **Chester Zoo News**

## **AND GUIDE**

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

July, 1965

Price 1/-



## Editorial

Once again we must emphasise the importance of visitors abiding by our NO FEEDING rule and making sure that plastic bags and other litter do not fall into the animal enclosures. "Jimmy", the larger of our two male Orang Utans, is at present recovering from an unpleasant illness caused by eating a plastic bag which had been thrown into his enclosure. Please help us to show you our wonderful collection of animals at its best — a little thoughtfulness is all we ask.

Rare newcomers during June included a Boat-billed Heron and a Double-striped Thick-knee. If you are in doubt as to what the latter is, see page five.

Work on the new Zoo Shop is going ahead fast and should be completed before the end of the summer season. The removal of the unsightly old cat cages has improved the appearance of this area of the Zoo tremendously.

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*COVER: Chester Zoo's pair of Mandrills take over the cover spot this month.*

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### ZOO BABIES

COMMON ZEBRA: 7th June saw the birth of another Zebra calf — this time of the Common or Grant's species. The new youngster is a male and can be seen with the other Common Zebras in the paddock shared by the Fallow Deer.

BRINDLED GNU: Baby number three for the Brindled Gnu herd arrived on the 9th of June.

KISKADEE: In the May issue of "Zoo News" we reported that the Kiskadees in the Tropical House had hatched at least one youngster. In fact there was only one — which left the nest on 12th June. The Kiskadees are in the end compartment of the upper range of aviaries.

BUDGERIGARS: A further eight 'budgies' left their nests in the Oakfield Aviaries on 16th June.

GENETS: Twin Black Genet kittens were born in the Nocturnal Section of the Tropical House on 12th June.

CARACAL LYNX: For the fourth year in succession our pair of Caracal Lynx have produced twin kittens. The latest youngsters arrived on the 22nd of June.

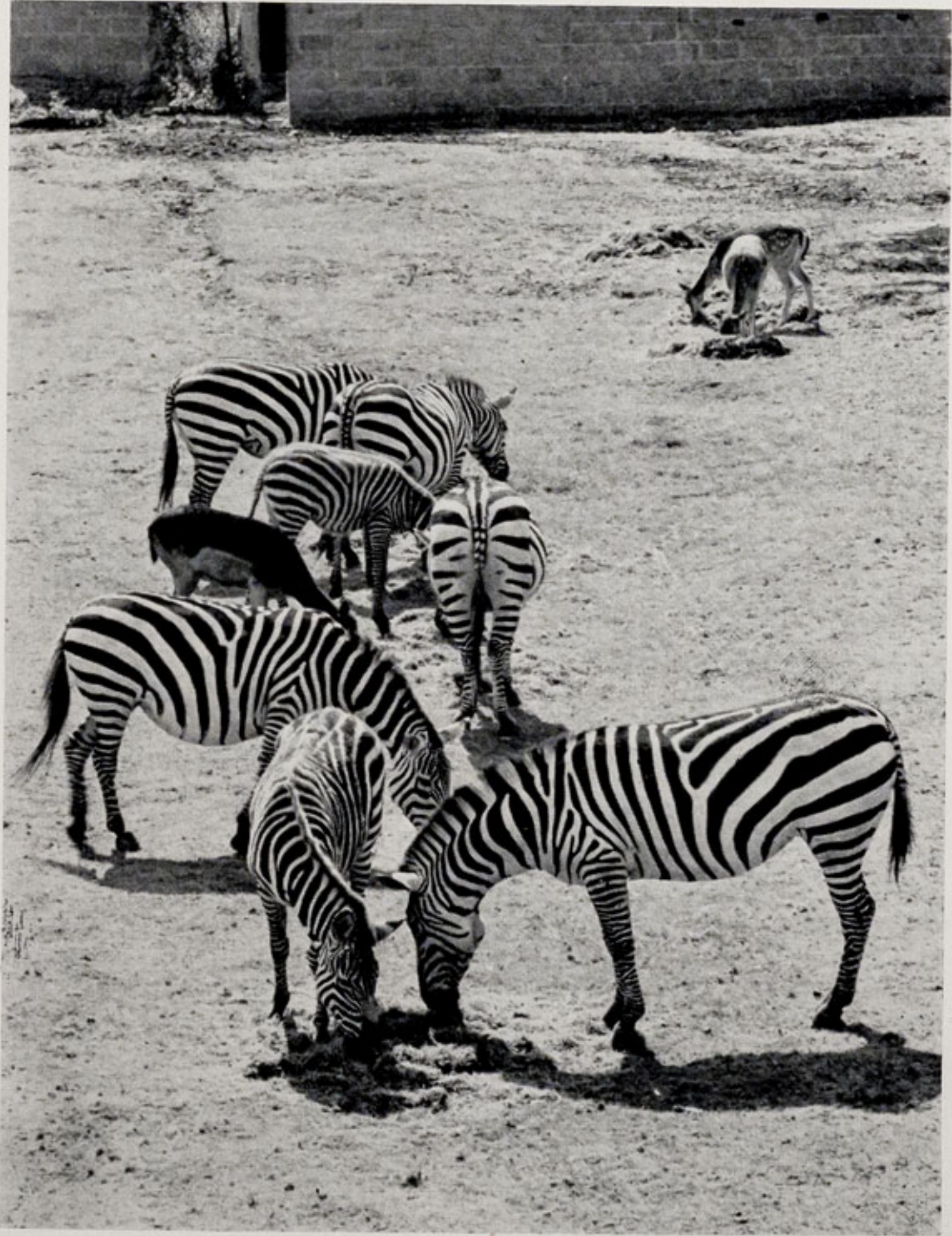
AGOUTIS: Quadruplet Agoutis were born in the Small Mammal House, also on the 22nd of June.

ANKOLE CATTLE: The most recent addition to the herd was born on 27th June.

### PRESENTATIONS

1st June — female Crab-eating Monkey — *Macaca irus*. Crab-eaters are common throughout south east Asia and the East Indies. In the wild they do actually eat crabs, although the greater part of their diet consists of fruit, vegetables and insects. They are experts at swimming and diving — unusual abilities for Monkeys.

3rd June — three Beavers from Calgary Zoo and a cock Cockatiel.



COMMON ZEBRAS AND FALLOW DEER

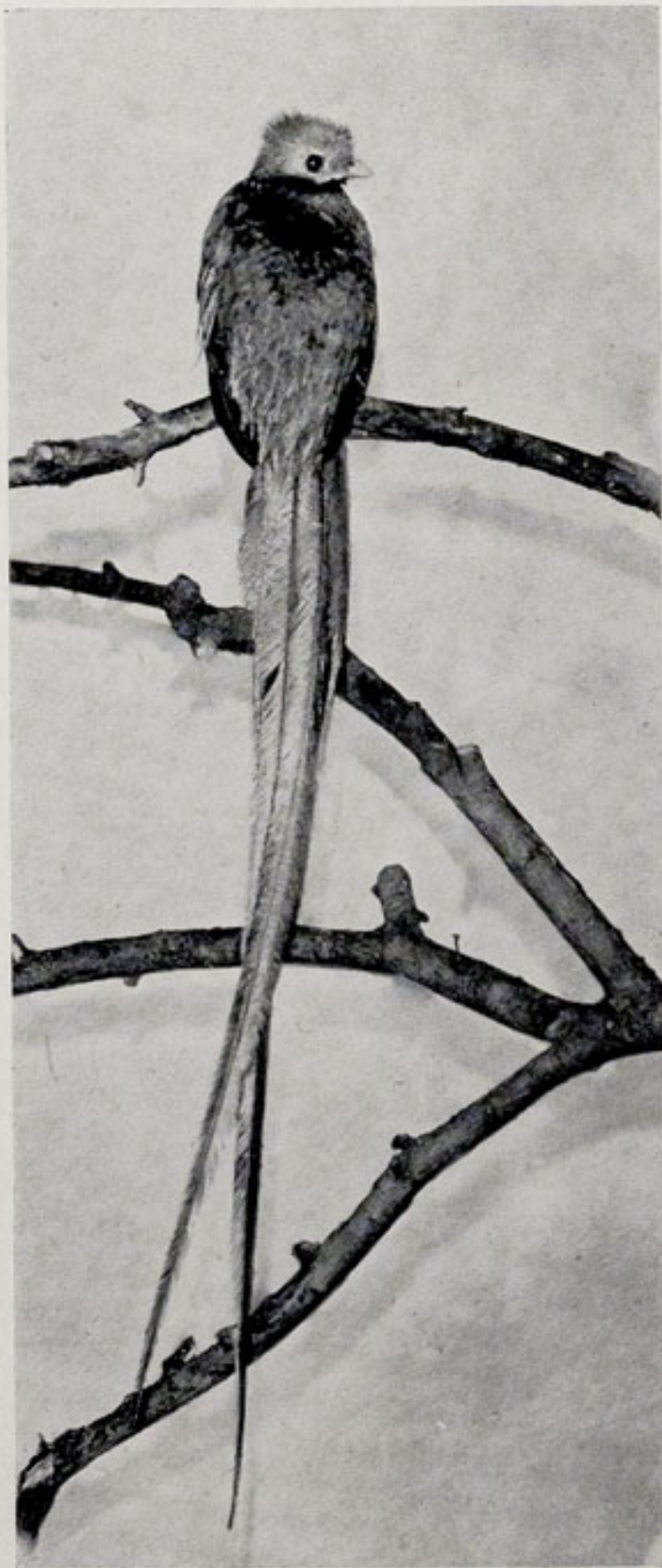
*K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.*

5th June — three hen Orange Weavers, two Silverbills and two Tri-coloured Nuns released in the Tropical House and a Pekin Robin released in the Oakfield Aviaries.

6th June — a Black-necked Cobra presented.

12th June — Indian Hill Mynah. This bird has a truly amazing vocabulary!

19th June — one cock and three hen Silver Pheasants.



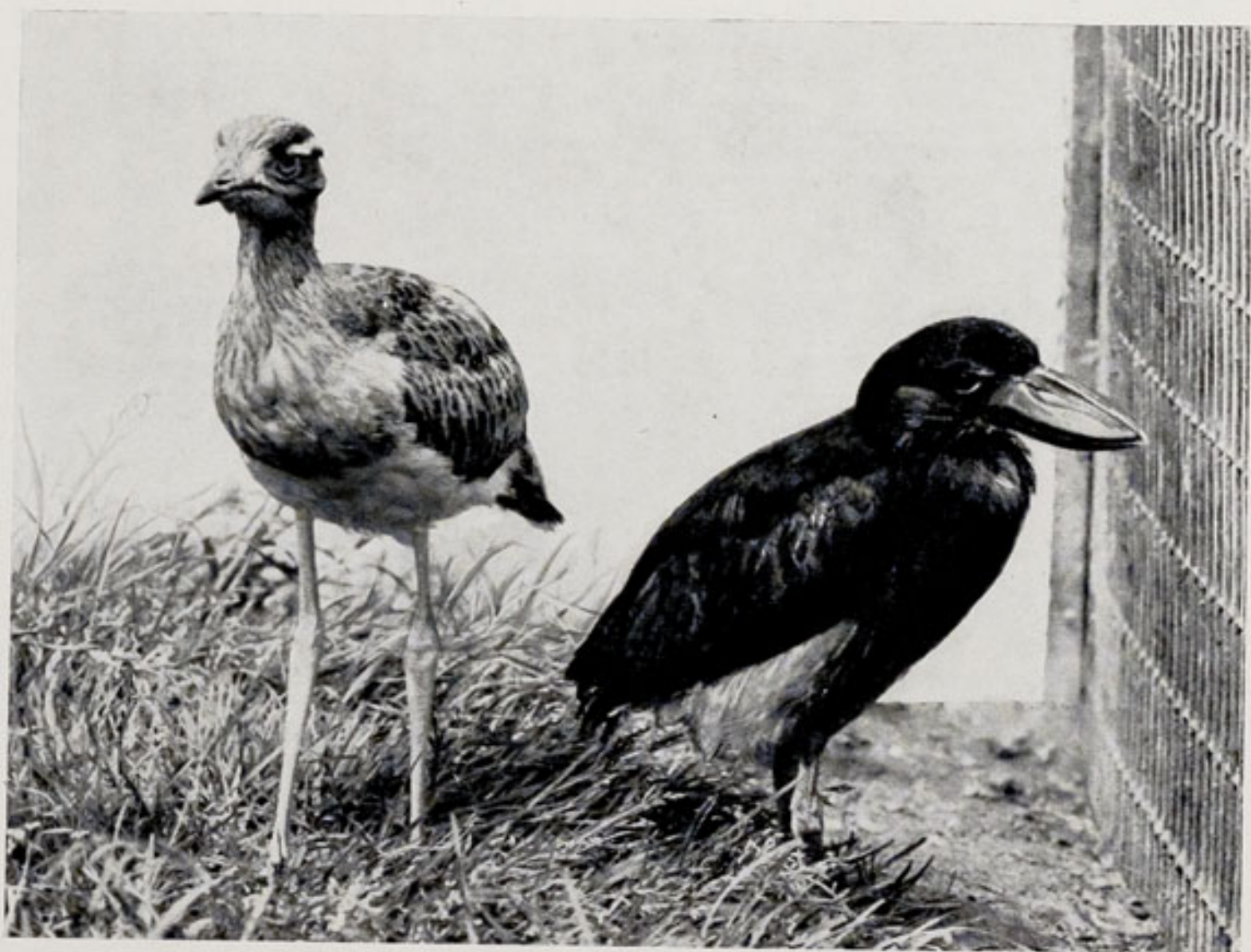
Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

COCK QUETZAL

### PURCHASES

6th June — a pair of Talapoin Monkeys, *Cercopithecus talapoin* and a pair of Moustached Guenons, *Cercopithecus cephus*, purchased for the Monkey House. All four newcomers are between six and eight months old and came from West Africa.

8th June — cock Quetzal, *Pharomachus mocino*, purchased and introduced to our two females in the Tropical House. Quetzals are found in forested mountain areas of Central and South America. The long tail plumes are displayed by the male birds only and the two central feathers can grow to three feet long.



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

THE YOUNG DOUBLE-STRIPED THICK-KNEE AND BOAT-BILLED HERON

16th June — two South American birds were added to the collection. These were specimens of the rare Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) and Double-striped Thick-knee (*Burhinus bistriatus*). The latter species is a member of the Stone Curlew family.

20th June — new additions to the Reptile Collection were Brazilian Rainbow Boas, Basilisk Lizards, Rat Snakes and Rainbow Lizards.

### GARDENING NEWS

Planting of the summer bedding display has now been completed and the plants are getting away well this year. The cloudy, showery weather has suited them, giving a much better opportunity to make root and new growth than the hot, sunny days often experienced in June.

Our Fuchsia border, situated at one end of the H.T. Rose Garden, this year contains a collection of ninety-two different

varieties and has twenty-six standards, four hundred pyramids and one hundred and sixty bush Fuchsias planted in it. We seem to add new varieties every year — there are of course many more than the ninety-two here, but we do try to keep only those which are distinct and worth while.

What a relief it always is to part with all the various bedding plants from the greenhouses. In May we reach saturation point and our general run of pot and tropical plants are crowded into one or two greenhouses and suffer because of it. But now they have been given ample room and will soon recover from the effects of the crowded conditions temporarily forced upon them.

The large greenhouses are once again filled with tomatoes to supply the Zoo's Restaurants. We are also growing cucumbers this year, as we have been requested to raise these as food for the Gorillas.

Preparations are now being made for the planting of the new Bird House (*see opposite page*). For this summer it will be mostly temporary planting and we hope to be able to execute permanent planting during the coming winter. Since this is to be a cool house we will use plants which require a more temperate climate.



Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

PITCHER PLANT IN THE TROPICAL HOUSE

Plants in the Tropical House continue to make rapid growth and it is hard to realise that they were only planted just over a year ago. The Banana — *Musa paradisiaca* — has almost reached the roof and the whole building is rapidly assuming the required jungle effect. Various climbers have covered the pillars and are now flowering. However, we wish that the Ficus (which are intended to cover the wall above the Reptile Section), would hurry up and do their job. But, as in all aspects of gardening, we have to be patient and wait for nature.



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

THE NEW BIRD HOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Again the seasons have turned full cycle in the garden and our chief thought now is preparation for next spring's bedding display. At the moment some forty thousand pansies are being planted out in our nursery, with wall-flowers, etc., to follow.

**NEW BIRD HOUSE FOR CHESTER ZOO**

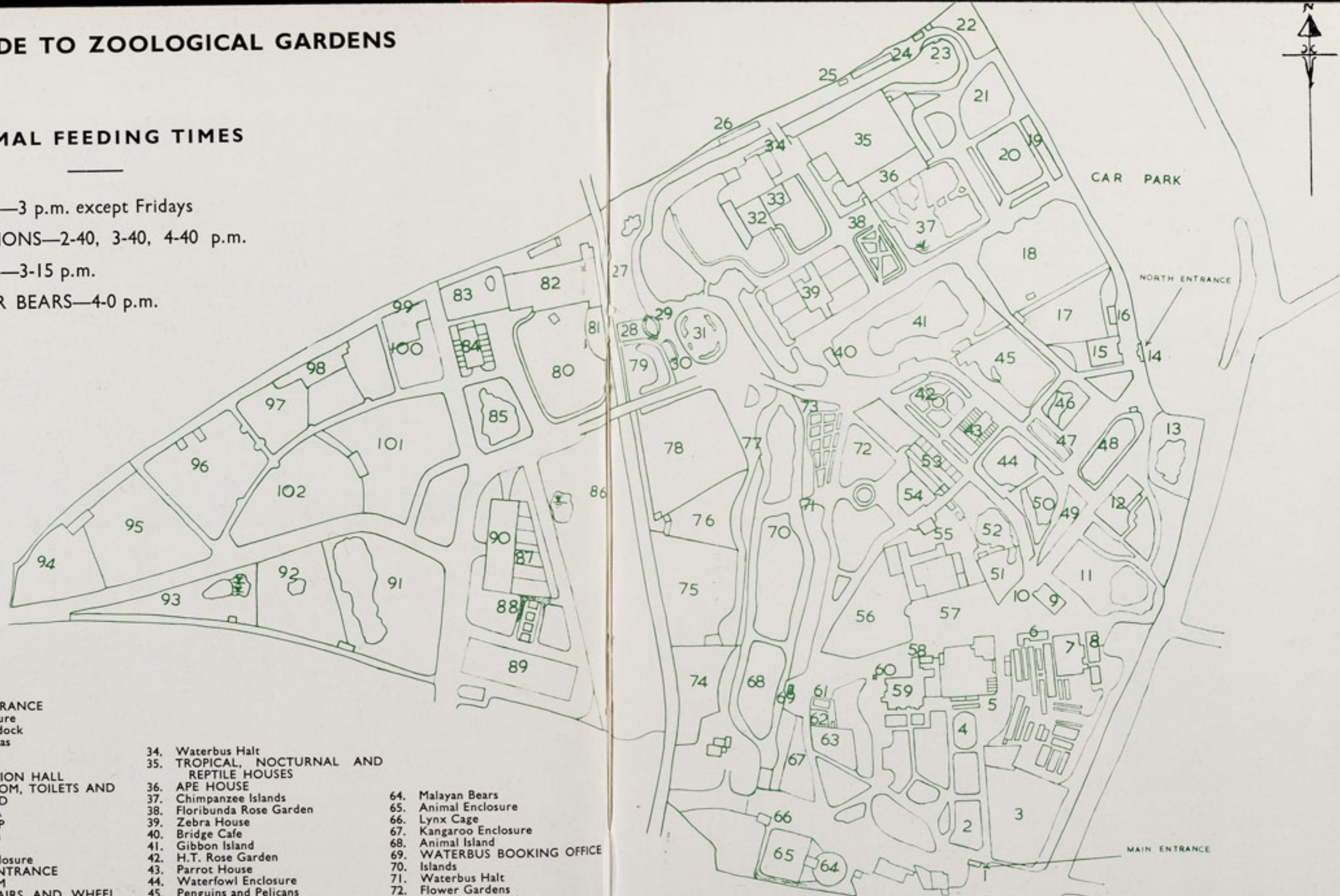
The old range of parrot breeding aviaries beyond the Bird House have all been dismantled and burned. In their place we have erected an extensive walk-through aviary, covered with a double layer of P.V.C. Sheeting. It is forty seven feet wide by one hundred and thirty feet long and sixteen feet high.

The double "skin" of P.V.C. sheeting allows an air space which automatically gives good insulation against cold. The sheeting is suspended on timber framing and the roof is also of the same double thickness material, but corrugated. Being translucent the sheeting allows the maximum possible amount of light to penetrate and has proved to be an extremely economical building medium. The House

# 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. ZOO SHOP
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. Animal 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.

will be slightly heated in winter by the intake of hot air, which will also be used to heat the old Bird House.

Inside the new structure are a series of aviaries or flights to accommodate birds such as Kookaburras and Magpies which we cannot mix with other species. Birds of various species known to agree well together will be allowed their complete freedom inside this large building.

Visitors will be able to wander through the House, along pathways leading over several small bridges spanning the stream which runs the whole length of the House. The stream flows from a waterfall at the south end of the building. Provision has also been made for the inclusion of plant life and double doors at each entrance will prevent the birds escaping.

### THE TWO SOUTH AMERICAN HAWKS



*M. F. Coupe*

CRANE HAWK

On the 15th of September last, two Hawks presented by Major and Mrs. C. R. Rubenstein of Surinam, arrived at Ringway Airport. The birds were brought back to the Zoo and placed in the Bird Hospital to settle down. As both are tropical species it was decided to leave them there for the winter and put them outside during the spring.

Now that the weather is warmer, they are accommodated in a large aviary beyond the Malayan Bear enclosure. This they share with a pair of Crested Screamers.

The Hawks are of medium size, being only a little larger

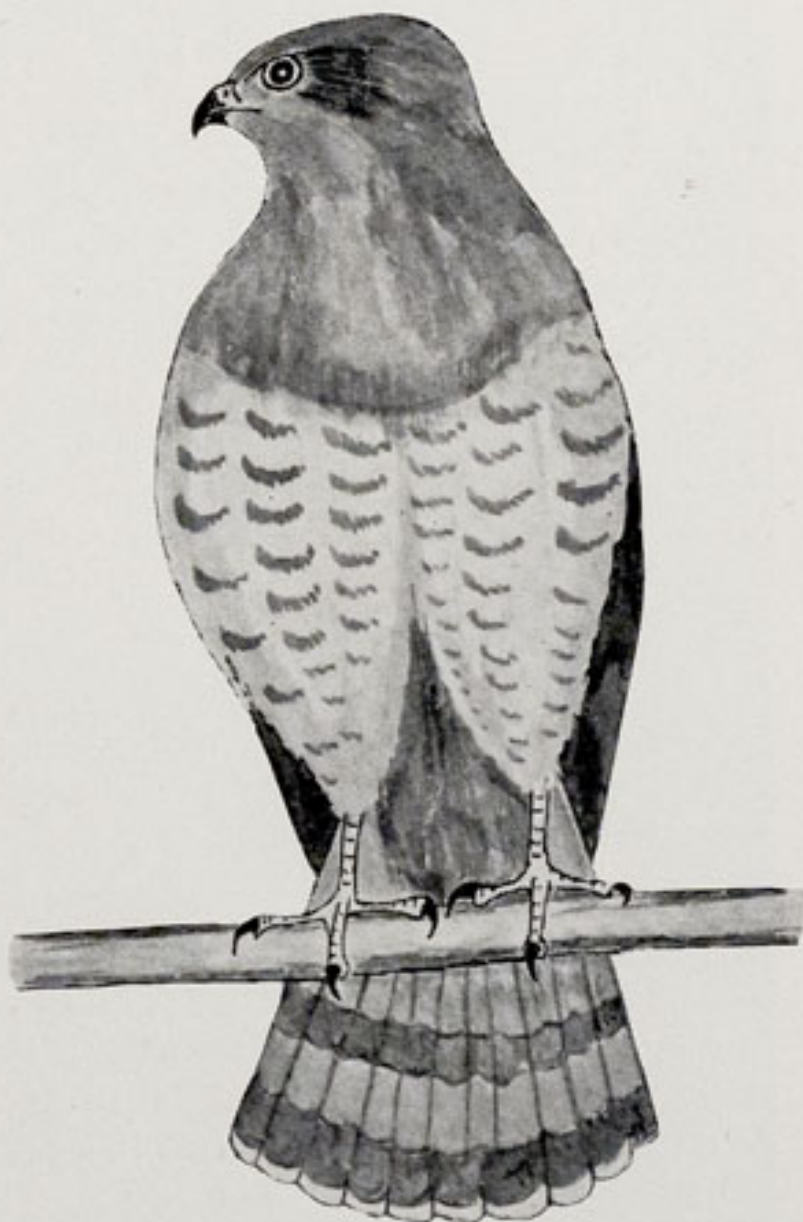
than the British Kestrel. We have identified them as a Roadside Hawk and a Crane Hawk, both of which are natives of Central and South America.

The Crane Hawk (*Geranospiza caerulescens*) is very similar in build and habits to the African Harrier-Hawk and in common with this species has double-jointed legs, enabling it to reach into holes in trees, or burrows in search of food. The usual method of hunting is for the hawk to forage in the branches of a tree, looking into holes and recesses for insects, young birds and eggs. It is also known to feed on small snakes (including coral snakes) and lizards.

Crane Hawks are not particularly colourful in appearance, except for their bright orange legs. Their plumage is mainly a dull slate grey, with dark grey wings and black tail, which has white bars and a white tip.

The Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) is smaller than the previous species in overall length but is far heavier in build. It is related to the Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) found in this country, but is much smaller and more brightly coloured. The head, neck, chest and back are a medium grey colour, the tail is grey with three brown bands and the rest of the underparts are white, barred with yellowish brown. Food in the wild state consists of small rodents, lizards and sometimes small birds.

The diet of both species in the Zoo consists of lean meat with the addition of day-old chicks, rats and mice. These latter are essential to the well-being of all Birds of Prey. The fur, feathers and bones provide roughage. They are swallowed with the rest of the food and brought back several hours later in the form of pellets.



M. F. Coupe  
ROADSIDE HAWK

## COBRAS

Cobras belong to the family of snakes known as Elapidae, which also includes other equally deadly snakes such as Kraits and Mambas. Each Cobra has two short fangs firmly set at the front of its jaws and these inject poison into the bodies of victims when the snake strikes. The venom secreted by the large poison glands affects the nervous system of victims. Almost every species has the characteristic hood of the Cobra which is formed by spreading the long ribs around the neck rather like a fan and is not seen when the snake is at rest. We exhibit six specimens in three different species at Chester.

INDIAN COBRAS — *Naja naja* — can grow up to six feet long and as a general rule are extremely nervous and easily irritated snakes. They are found throughout southern Asia and Indonesia, from the Caspian Sea to south China.



J. Whitworth  
BLACK AND WHITE COBRA

As would be expected with animals having such a wide range there are many varieties and sub-species of Indian Cobra. Some can be differentiated by the markings on their expanded hoods. Our specimens are Monocled Cobras — *Naja naja kaouthia* — and are natives of the eastern parts of southern Asia and the Malay Peninsula.

BLACK AND WHITE COBRAS — *Naja melanoleuca* — are second in size only to the impressive King Cobra. Youngsters can be up to twenty inches long on hatching and eventually grow to over seven

feet long. Females are normally larger than the males.

The larger of our two specimens is approximately seven feet nine inches long and as thick as a man's wrist. Since the other Black and White Cobra is as yet only three foot long, it will be some time before the two are put together. They eat small mammals, birds,



*J. Whitworth*

MONOCLED COBRA

other reptiles and fish and have extremely glossy black scales. Black and White Cobras are found throughout Tropical Africa.

The BLACK-NECKED or SPITTING COBRA — *Naja nigricollis* — is somewhat smaller than the previous species and specimens over six foot long are exceptional. They have a wide range throughout Africa from Egypt to Angola on the west and south to Transvaal. Their scales have a dull gloss and there are a number of colour varieties, such as blue-black, olive and brown. All have a band of black scales around the throat, thus giving the Cobra its name. Our Black-necked Cobras have salmon pink stripes on the underside below the neck.

Black-necked Cobras can "spit" venom as much as eight feet and aim for the eyes. Spitting is actually an inaccurate description as the venom is ejected through openings at the tips of the fangs. Venom landing on unbroken skin has no effect on human beings, but venom spray landing in the eyes can cause temporary blindness unless quickly washed out.

### MONKEY HOUSE SNIPPETS

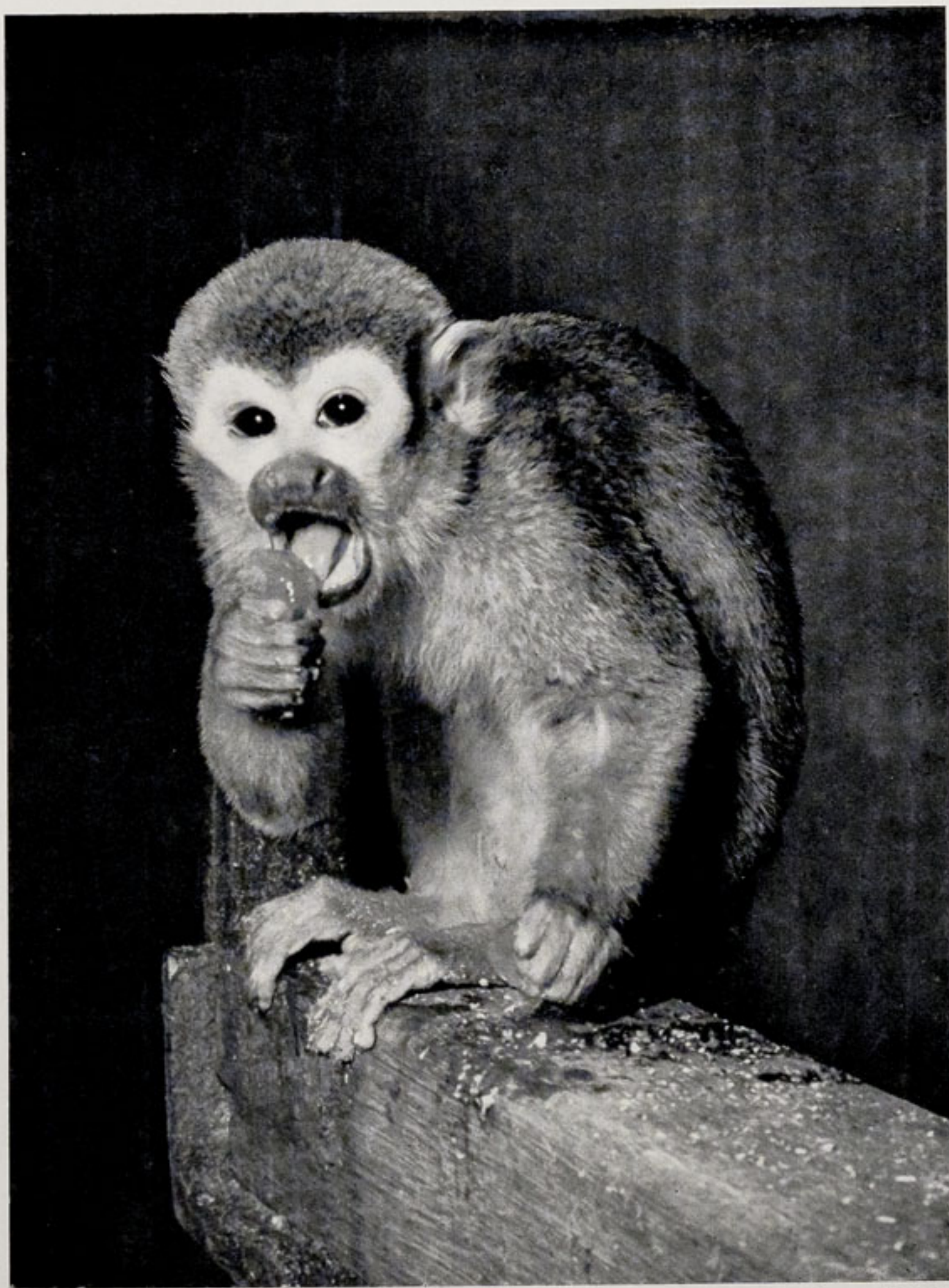
For the first few days the young Pig-tailed Monkey and his mother were kept apart from the male, but now all three are together and the father seems keenly interested in his offspring.

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At first young Ring-tailed Lemurs travel clinging to their mother's stomach but soon transfer to their backs. Our baby Lemur does not seem to mind which member of the group she clings to for journeys around their cage and is now spending short periods clambering about on her own.

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The young hand-reared Baboons and Barbary Ape have grown sufficiently to be re-introduced to the adult groups of these Monkeys in the new pens beyond the Monkey House. All settled down in their new quarters without incident.



"SQUIB" — SQUIRREL MONKEY

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

There has been a tremendous improvement in the health of our three Siamang Gibbons since arriving at the Zoo last November. All signs of colds and skin troubles have disappeared completely, their coats are in good condition and the three have now been transferred to an outside enclosure.

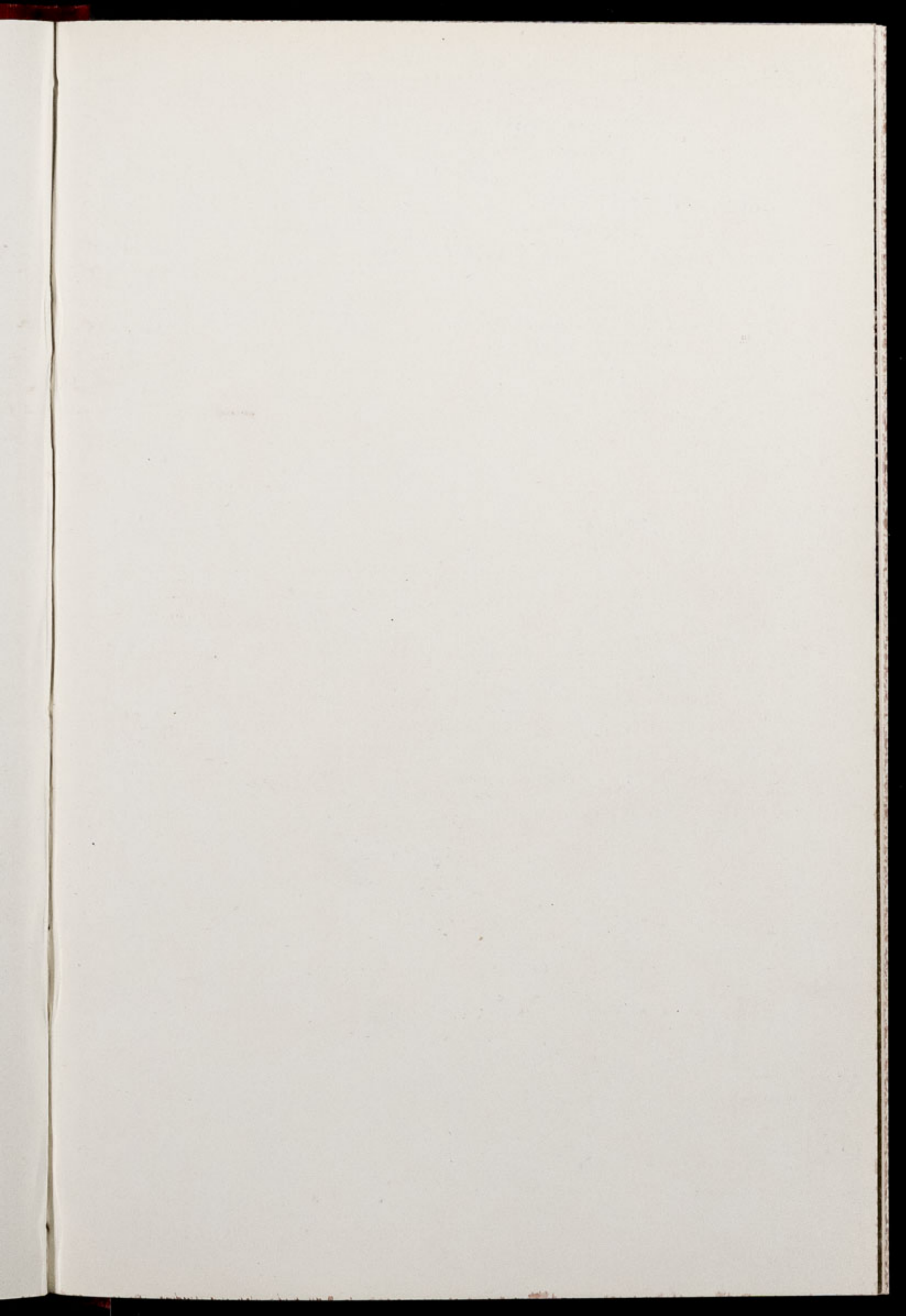
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Monkeys which have been house pets before coming to the Zoo sometimes cause problems, because they will not at first accept other monkeys as companions. One such monkey is "Pepe", a young White-faced Capuchin. He makes a terrific fuss of his Keepers but we have still to find a companion of his own kind to Pepe's liking.

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All of our Monkeys have their own very individual personalities and curious habits. For example one of the Monas and "Squib", eldest of the Squirrel Monkeys, always wash their food before eating. When "Charlie", the Patas Monkey, is not playing football with the window of his cage as an opponent, he juggles with his empty food container. The Cherry-crowned Mangabey, apart from being a pickpocket, is a hose stealer. She snatched a hose whilst the water was running recently and succeeded in flooding her cage before being noticed. Nearly all monkeys seem to have a well developed sense of fun and showmanship and ours are certainly no exception.





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