



By Courtesy of J. Whitworth, Esq.

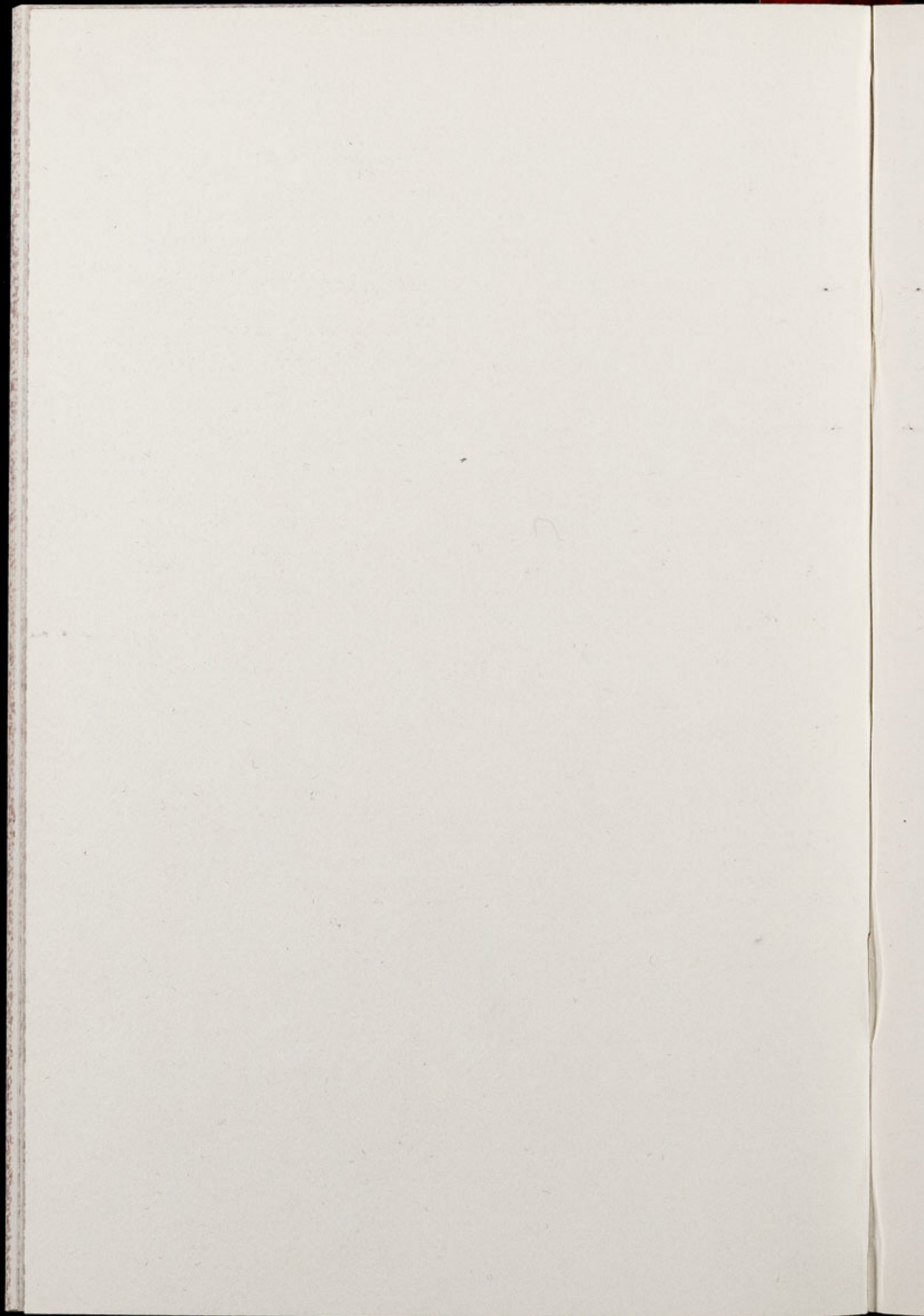
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

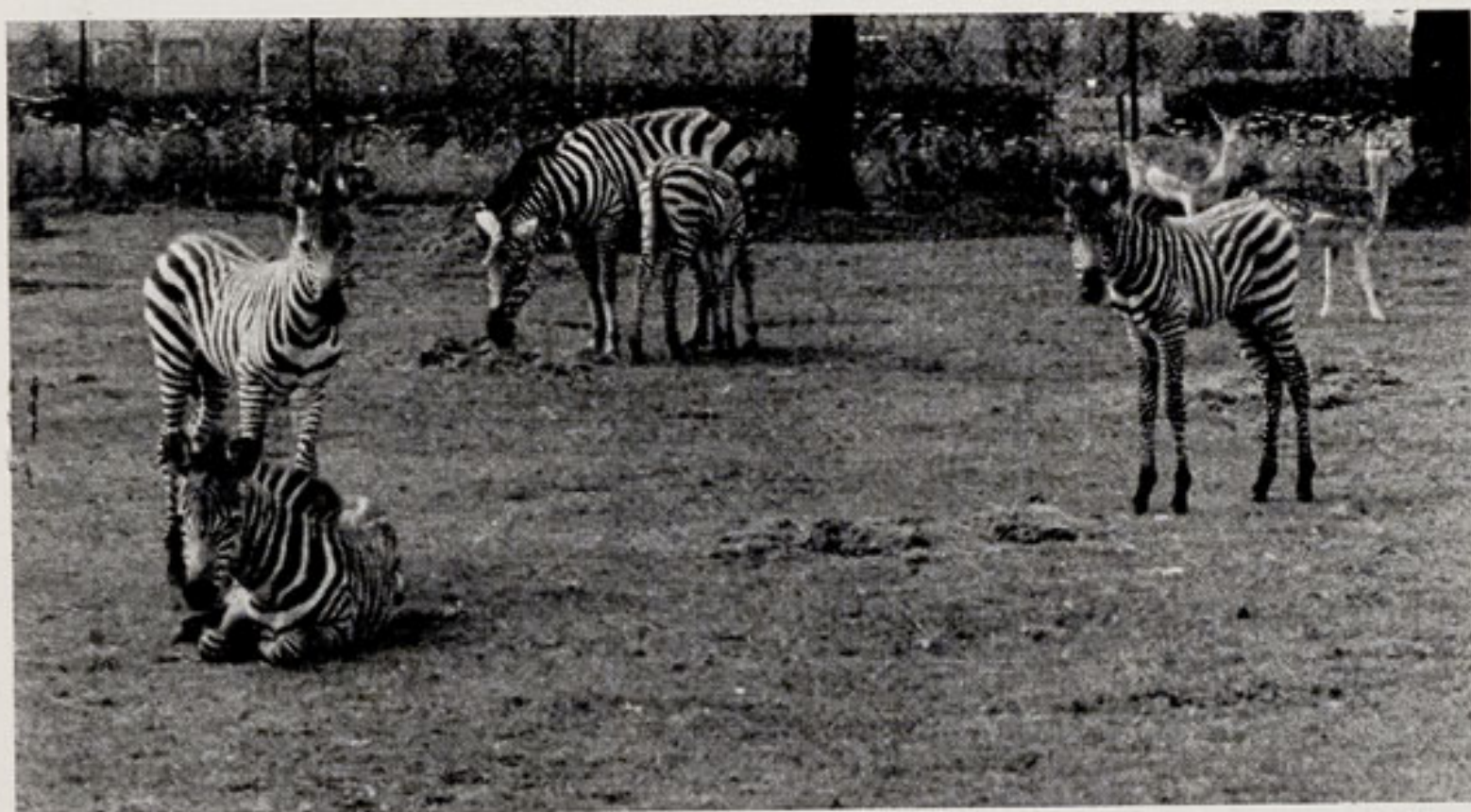
THE NORTH OF ENGLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON - BY - CHESTER

August, 1965

Price 1/-



Editorial



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

We have another long list of births and hatchings to report on page two. It is worth noting that the Grevy's Zebra, Common Zebra and Brindled Gnu groups have all achieved one hundred per cent breeding records this year. We have only one complaint — of the six Zebras born in 1965, only one is a female and she is pictured above with the other Common Zebra youngsters.

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COVER: Two of Chester Zoo's Giraffes are the subject of this month's Cover Picture.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION SIXTEEN SHILLINGS POST PAID

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ZOO BABIES

WAPITI: Two further additions to the Wapiti paddock, alongside the Main Entrance to the Zoo, were a male youngster born on the 23rd of June, followed by a female on the 7th July.

SNOWY OWLS: The Snowy Owls hatched two chicks on the 29th June — to give Chester Zoo its first ever breeding success with this species of Owl.

PENNANT PARRAKEETS: Four chicks left the nest on 29th June.

COMMON ZEBRAS: Keepers reporting for duty on the morning of 1st July were delighted to find two new arrivals in the Common Zebra paddock. Two days later, yet another baby was born.



E. Kirkland, F.R.P.S.

COATIMUNDIS

RED LECHWE: On the opposite page is the first picture to be taken of the male Red Lechwe, born on the 7th July, with his mother.

COATIMUNDIS: Triplet Coatimundis were the latest additions to the Small Mammal House on the 5th July.

JUNGLE CATS: Evidence of the third breeding success in the newly completed Cat House are twin jungle kittens, born on the 13th July.

BRINDLED GNU: As mentioned on page one, all our adult female Gnus have given birth this year — the fourth youngster arriving on the 14th July. We have not been able to determine the sex of all the babies as yet, but at least one is a female.

RED-RUMPED PARRAKEETS: The Red-rumped Parrakeets contributed to the baby boom at Chester Zoo, when their two chicks left the nest on 18th July.



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

THE NEW RED LECHWE AND HIS MOTHER

NEW BIRD HOUSE OPENED

Chester Zoo's latest building was first opened to the public on Friday, 16th July, and is already attracting thousands of visitors. With the plants and birds installed, the difference between the picture above and that in last months magazine is amazing.

Birds previously confined in the long aviary of the old Bird House can now fly between the two buildings. These include the Victoria Crowned Pigeons, Purple-Crested and Red-Crested Touracos. Other birds at liberty are two species of Starling, a pair of Grey-headed Kingfishers, Variegated Bittern, Snowy Egret and the Double-striped Thick-knee.

Tanagers, Kookaburras, Toucans, Double-toothed Barbets, Roller, Cock of the Rock, Boat-billed Heron and a group of Starlings are accommodated in aviaries. A popular feature of the house is the aviary of talking Indian Hill Mynahs. New birds will be added as they become available.

PURCHASES



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

COMMON IGUANA

11th July—four
C o m m o n
Iguanas—*Iguana
iguana*. The new-
c o m e r s a r e
a p p r o x i m a t e l y
f o r t y - e i g h t
i n c h e s l o n g a n d
s h o u l d g r o w t o
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S o u t h A m e r i c a n
L i z a r d s , o f t e n
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n e a r w a t e r a n d
a r e s u r p r i s i n g l y
g o o d s w i m m e r s .

Iguanas are reputed to make good eating and the natives of South America eat both the adults and their eggs. Food of the lizards themselves consists of leaves, berries and other plant food. Youngsters also eat insects, worms and snails.

16th July — a collection of birds purchased on this date included Tanagers, Kingfishers, Starlings and Sunbirds, as follows:—

A Scarlet-rumped Tanager and a Blue-shoulder Mountain Tanager, now housed in one of the aviaries in the new Bird House.

A pair of East African Grey-headed Kingfishers (which are insect feeders) and a pair of Violet-backed Starlings, given their liberty in the new Bird House. The latter species is found mainly in west and central Africa, where they are also known as Plum-coloured Starlings. The male is brightly coloured but the female has dull brown plumage.



CHESTER ZOO'S NEW BIRD HOUSE

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

Two pairs of Violet-backed Sunbirds and a pair of Kirk's Sunbirds released in the Tropical House. Violet-backed Sunbirds have a wide range throughout west, central and east Africa and are mainly insect feeders, although they will also take nectar. Kirk's are actually a sub-species of the Black Sunbird and have a restricted range in East Africa. We now have a total of seven species of Sunbird at liberty in the Tropical House.

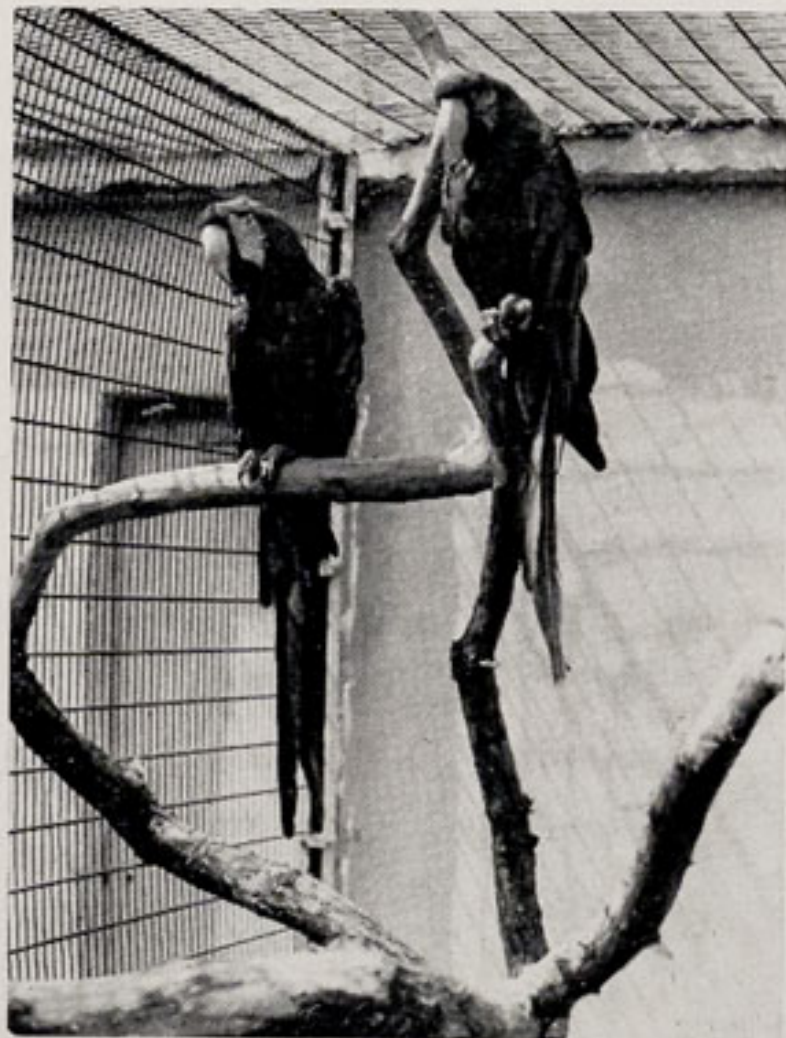
PRESENTATIONS

3rd July — male White-fronted Capuchin Monkey — "Alex".

4th July — two Japanese Ground Squirrels. These squirrels — *Eutamias sibiricus* — which are related to the North American Chipmunks, are natives of Japan, Korea and Siberia. They are tiny creatures only nine to ten inches in total length and their diet consists mainly of fruit, seeds and insects. Although they live in forested areas, they are basically ground living, as their name implies. Colouring is mid-brown with light

- 4th July and dark stripes running the length of their bodies.
cont'd. — Japanese Ground Squirrels can be nervous and difficult to tame, but when tame make charming pets.
- 5th July — four Tawny Owls.
- 7th July — two Japanese Ground Squirrels.
- 9th July — one Little Owl.
- 14th July — one Red-eared Terrapin.
- 18th July — one Rosy Pastor released in the new Bird House. The Rosy Pastor — *Sturnus roseus* — is a species of starling found in central and south west Asia and south west Europe. At some time or other this species has been observed in all the countries of Europe, including Britain. Rosy Pastors are extremely sociable birds and can be seen congregating in flocks, sometimes several thousand strong, at their breeding places.
- one Madagascan Lovebird released in the Oakfield Aviaries.
- a fifth Japanese Ground Squirrel presented.
- 19th July — Indian Hill Mynah.

MACAWS



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

RED AND BLUE MACAWS

Thirteen Macaws of six different species are exhibited in the Parrot House. Macaws, which are the largest members of the Parrot family, come from tropical Central and South America.

A rather friendly pair of Red and Blue Macaws (*Ara chloroptera*), share an aviary on the left of the Parrot House with a pair of Lead-beater's Cockatoos. They have both inside and outside aviaries and even in cold or wet weather spend a considerable amount of time out of doors.



BLUE AND YELLOW MACAWS

J. Gwyn Jones

One of their favourite pastimes is removing the label, giving their distribution, scientific and common names, from the front of the aviary. Using their large beaks like pliers, we find it takes them about a week to do this. They seem to prefer outdoor amusement, as they only turn to the indoor label when the other is down. If we use thick wire to attach the labels they unwind it and if the wire is too thin they simply bite it through. Much to the relief of the member of Staff responsible for labelling, the Red and Blues are the only Macaws with this habit. Given half a chance the Macaws would be delighted to sample a finger on his weekly visits to repair their handiwork.

All Macaws have large, strong beaks, for crushing the nuts and seeds which form the greater part of their diet. In the Zoo they also have some fruit and greenfood. Red and Blue Macaws are beautifully coloured birds — mainly dark crimson, with blue wing tips and a green wing band. This band accounts for their alternative name of Green-winged Macaw.

GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

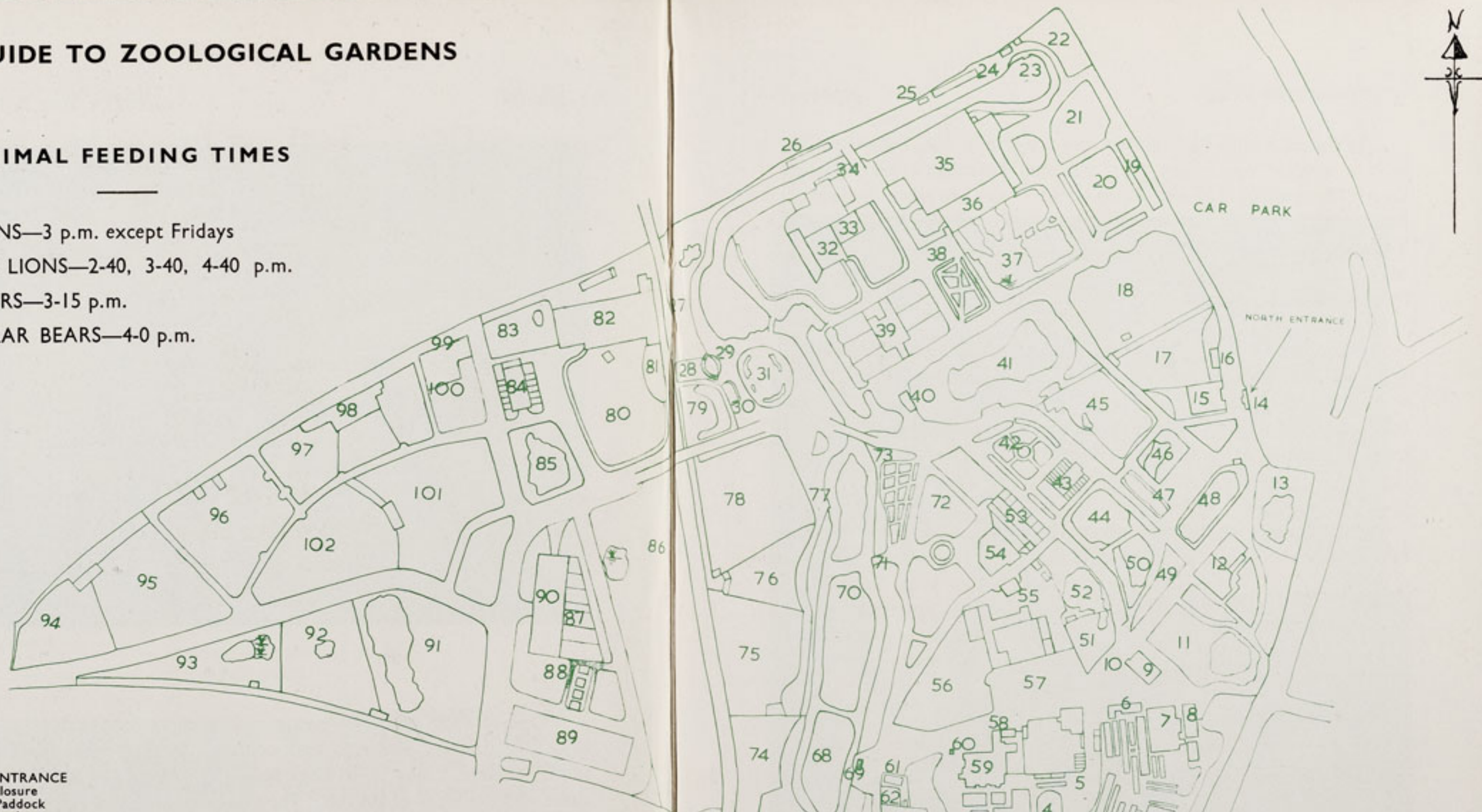
ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

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 | 34. Waterbus Halt | 64. Malayan Bears |
| 2. Bird Enclosure | 35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES | 65. Animal Enclosure |
| 3. Wapiti Paddock | 36. APE HOUSE | 66. Lynx Cage |
| 4. Lesser Pandas | 37. Chimpanzee Islands | 67. Kangaroo Enclosure |
| 5. Aviaries | 38. Floribunda Rose Garden | 68. Animal Island |
| 6. Milk Bar | 39. Zebra House | 69. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE |
| 7. CORONATION HALL | 40. Bridge Cafe | 70. Islands |
| 8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS AND FIRST AID | 41. Gibbon Island | 71. Waterbus Halt |
| 9. CAFETERIA | 42. H.T. Rose Garden | 72. Flower Gardens |
| 10. Shelter | 43. Parrot House | 73. ROSE GARDENS |
| 11. Picnic Lawn | 44. Waterfowl Enclosure | 74. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 12. Bears | 45. Penguins and Pelicans | 75. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 13. Animal Enclosure | 46. Flamingos | 76. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 14. NORTH ENTRANCE | 47. Waterfowl Enclosure | 77. Waterbus Halt |
| 15. AQUARIUM | 48. Sea Lion Pool | 78. Zebra and Deer Enclosure |
| 16. PUSH CHAIRS AND WHEEL CHAIRS | 49. Rock Garden | 79. Kamchatka Bears |
| 17. Animal Enclosure | 50. Polar Bears | 80. Elephant Paddock |
| 18. Animal Enclosure | 51. Tigers | 81. Hippo Paddock |
| 19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP | 52. Waterfowl Enclosure | 82. PACHYDERM HOUSE |
| 20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn | 53. BIRD HOUSE | 83. Tapir Paddock |
| 21. †TOILETS | 54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT | 84. Small Mammal House |
| 22. Peccaries | 55. TOILETS | 85. Waterfowl Enclosure |
| 23. Waterbus Halt | 56. Lions | 86. Ankole Cattle |
| 24. Birds of Prey Aviary | 57. NEW ZOO SHOP | 87. Stork Enclosures |
| 25. Birds of Prey Aviary | 58. TOILETS | 88. Monkey Enclosures |
| 26. Owls | 59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT | 89. †Cat House |
| 27. †Animal Enclosure | 60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk | 90. MONKEY HOUSE |
| 28. Wolverines | 61. Animal Enclosure | |
| 29. Racoons | 62. Jackals | |
| 30. Coypus | 63. Cheetahs | |
| 31. Beavers | | |
| 32. Giraffe House | | |
| 33. Camel 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.

In common with Parrots, Macaws are able to talk, but generally have a smaller vocabulary than Amazon Parrots or the African Grey. Our pair of Red and Blues shout "hello" to passing visitors but, apart from this, only make raucous squawks. The Blue and Yellow Macaw — *Ara ararauna* — is reputed to be the best mimic of all the Macaws. Plumage is medium blue on the back and bright yellow on the breast.

Very similar to the Red and Blues are the Red and Yellow Macaws — *Ara macao* — but the latter are a brighter red and have a broad yellow band on the wings. Military Macaws — *Ara militaris* — are slightly smaller than the preceding species and are mainly green in colour, with a red crown and red, central tail feathers.

The largest of the Macaws are the Hyacinthines — *Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus* — of which we have a pair. They are deep blue in

colour, with a large black bill. Our smallest species is the Severe's Macaw — *Ara severa* — which is mainly green in colour.



Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorly
"CLAUDE"

THE IBIS AND THE DUIKER

The latest in the long line of odd animal friendships at Chester Zoo, was struck up recently between a Wood Ibis (rejoicing in the name of "Claude") and "Frisby" a Maxwell's Duiker.

For the past few months they have shared an enclosure behind the Monkey House. Instead of using the shelter provided, Frisby now prefers to sleep out of doors, whilst her tall friend stands guard. The Ibis has even been observed grooming the Duiker. Frisby came to the Zoo in 1961 and Claude in 1963.



"POO" AND A YOUNG COMPANION

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

CAPUCHINS

Perhaps the most intelligent of the South American Monkeys are the Capuchins, of which we have five at Chester — three Brown — *Cebus apella* — and two White-fronted — *Cebus albifrons*. Unfortunately all five are males. In the wild Brown Capuchins have a wide range through Brazil, the Guianas and Columbia. White-fronted Capuchins are also found in many parts of South America, but particularly in the Upper Amazon region.

"Poo", the oldest member of the group and a Brown Capuchin, came to the Zoo as long ago as February, 1948. He had been a house pet for many years prior to that date and is now over thirty years old. Despite his years Poo is still extremely active and a



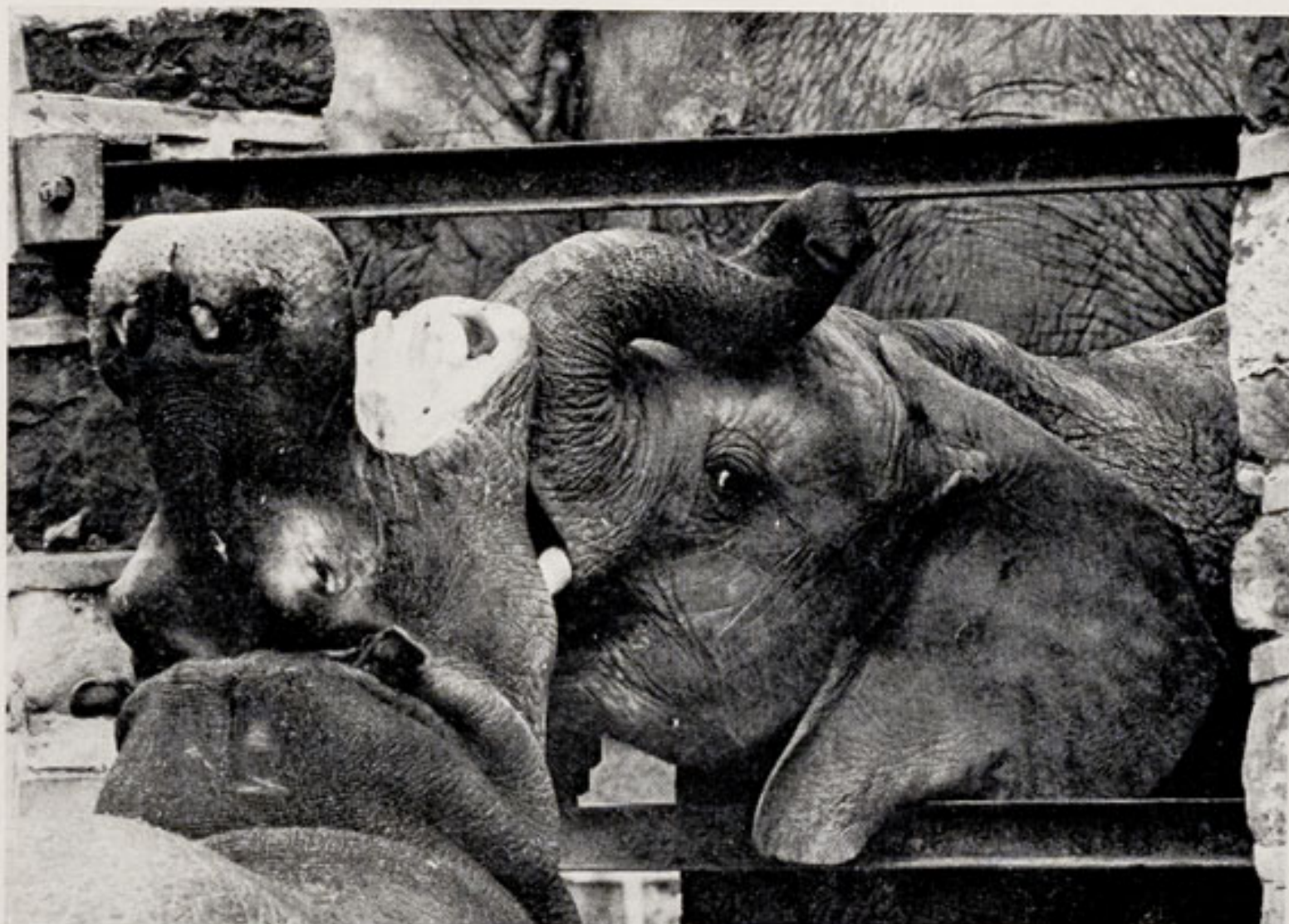
K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

THE YOUNG BROWN CAPUCHINS TAKING A NAP

great favourite with his Keepers. Whenever he wants extra attention he feigns illness, clutching his chest and whimpering pathetically. This never fails to have the desired effect.

Capuchins are so named because a patch of hair on the head of some species is reminiscent of a monk's cowl. An adult Capuchin's body length is almost seventeen inches and the tail slightly less. Unlike the Spider and Woolly Monkeys, they do not have truly prehensile tails.

As a general rule Capuchins are affectionate, even-tempered monkeys and adapt readily to captivity. There are many species in a variety of colours and sizes. The colour of both species exhibited



"GENERINO" AND "BUBBLES"

S. L. Hobden

at Chester is basically brown — the White-fronted Capuchins being a medium to light brown, whilst the others have very dark coats.

Their diet in the wild is largely composed of fruit. Chester's Capuchins are particularly fond of their daily ration of hard-boiled eggs and if it arrives late they soon protest.

For the two young Brown Capuchins, a favourite sport is splashing in the tiny pools left behind when their enclosure has been hosed down, or they pat the trickles of water on their newly washed windows, covering the glass with a mass of streaks and smudges.

"Alex", the White-fronted Capuchin (*see Presentations*), has been introduced to "Pepe", referred to in last month's "Zoo News". The two have settled down happily together, so the problem of finding a suitable companion for Pepe is now solved.

PACHYDERMS AT PLAY

Visitors to Chester Zoo are often entertained to an amusing exchange between the Elephants and our pair of Hippos. Most mornings, as soon as they are allowed into their outdoor paddock,

the Hippos make straight for the division between the two enclosures. If the elephants don't come over immediately they are turned out, "Generino" (the male Hippo) bellows until they do.

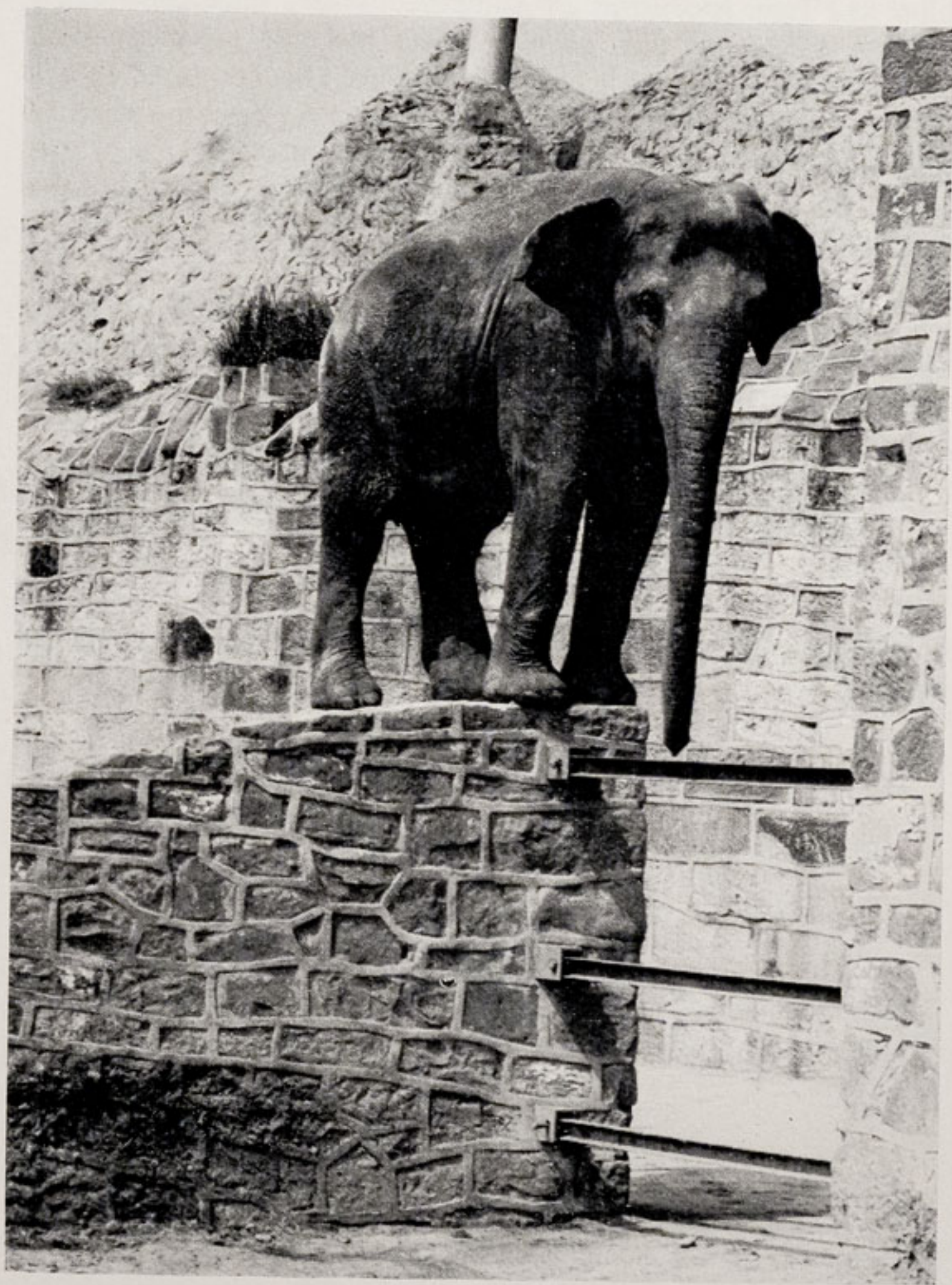
"Bubbles", the young African Bull, is the Hippos' particular friend but all the elephants take a turn at playing with them. At first we were rather alarmed to see a trunk or a foot disappearing into a Hippo mouth. However, it all seems to be part of the game and even when, as in the picture on page thirteen, Bubbles digs a tusk into Generino, he never retaliates. In the picture opposite, "Sheba" was the first to arrive at the dividing barrier and waits patiently for the Hippos to appear. Perhaps she thought she would get a better view from the top of the wall.

AQUARIUM NEWS

Many of the new varieties of aquatic plants, recently introduced to the Aquarium, have established themselves remarkably quickly. From single plants they have grown with such rapidity that a large proportion of the tanks in the Aquarium now contain cuttings from these new species. The most successful has been Water Wistaria — *Synnema triflorum* — which has grown in such profusion in the Discus tank, that it has required thinning out twice already.

Large quantities of Giant Hygrophila — *Nomophila stricta* — have been exchanged for various other plants, the most recent addition being the Water Hyacinth — *Eichornia crassipes*. This is an attractive, surface dwelling plant with large erect leaves and beautiful light blue flowers. It produces large quantities of trailing roots which, as they mature, turn deep purple and provide a refuge for any small fry in the tank. Another floating plant which is growing very well is Riccia — *Riccia fluitans* — which again provides both shade and cover for the young fry, although it never produces roots.

Without exception all the fish in the Aquarium are in the best of health. Many of the Barbs are spawning periodically and there is a further increase in the number of livebearers. We are also pleased to report the continued health and steady growth in size of our specimens of Triggerfish and Chocolate Clown Fish.



"SHEBA" WAITS FOR THE HIPPOS

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

THE OLD ZOO IMPROVED

At last the improvements in the area of the Zoo between the Lion and Tiger enclosures are complete. Where once there was a Monkey House we now have a flower bed and cat cages have been replaced by a large, modern Zoo Shop. This new building will ease the pressure on the old shop, which has long been too small to cope with Chester Zoo's ever increasing flow of visitors. As "Zoo News" goes to press, toys and souvenirs are being moved into the new Shop.

The Husky Dog enclosure has also been removed from this area, leaving a plaque at the foot of the Lion enclosure observation platform clearly visible. The plaque reads:—

THIS FOUNDATION STONE WAS LAID BY
THE RT. HON. THE VISCOUNT LEVERHULME
ON 19th OCTOBER, 1937.

Visitors remembering the Zoo then would hardly recognize it today.





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