

pair of their large relatives, the Wallaroos, and their smaller cousins the Swamp Wallabies and Agile Wallabies.

Gaggles and Flights

Two Cassowaries (caught as chicks and hand reared in Sydney Zoo) strut in their paddock and there is a gaggle of geese and a flight of ducks — Maned Geese, Magpie Geese, Cape Barren Geese (or *Cereopsis* Geese), Black Ducks and Whistling Tree Ducks.

A rainbow of Parrots

The kaleidoscope of parrots, parrakeets and cockatoos, in pairs and flocks, total 87 birds. The rarest of them all, and indeed one of the rarer birds of Australia is the Blue-cheeked Rosella collected as a chick from the almost inaccessible territory 200 miles north of Cairns and hand-reared at Mona Vale.

Good housekeepers

The pair of rare Hooded Parrots also came from the Northern Territory. Commonly described as "the ant-bed parrots", at nesting time these predominantly blue and yellow birds burrow their way into the termite mounds which abound in this area. There they lay their eggs and their chicks grow up in this sheltered nursery where they live unmolested by the active white ants about them. They in their turn do not trouble the ants, for they live on a diet of seeds. There are two Gang Gangs, and six Galahs (pronounced to rhyme with cigars) whose flight fills the Australian sky with a shimmer of pink as the flocks rise and circle above the gum trees.

Protected Devils

The two Tasmanian Devils are a gift from the Tasmanian Protection Board at Hobart, who now guard these stocky little beasts from extermination. In the early days the Devils took a heavy toll of the settler's chickens and in the hard race for survival it was the settler who came off best.

The whole of the Australian collection travelled to England in two huge consignments under the care of Mr. Ernie Hargreaves of Sydney Zoo and was transported in the air-conditioned hold of a Qantas V-Jet.

The delicate Mammals

The tiniest animals in this collection are a mother marsupial mouse and her two offspring, which are so small that they would have fitted very comfortably into a matchbox apiece. These more delicate creatures are a little difficult to display in the wide open spaces of Whipsnade Park and are living at the London Zoo. Also a part of this collection, in London's South Mammal House where they can be kept in a sufficiently high temperature, are three Tree-climbing Kangaroos from New Guinea, and two Sugar Gliders — marsupials — which, like the flying squirrels, leap with an agile, almost floating ease.

FINE SUCCESS

Nine more Galapagos Tortoises (*T. elephantopus*) were hatched at the San Diego Zoo, California, U.S.A. on 9th August, 1963, from a clutch of 16 eggs.

This makes a total of 22 Tortoises hatched at San Diego, 18 of which are still living. Five were hatched in 1958, four in 1961, four in 1962 and nine in 1963.

(Clyde A. Hill)

WHITE RHINOS AT WEST BERLIN ZOO

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A generous donation enabled the Berlin Zoo to acquire a pair of South African Square-lipped Rhinos, the first to be seen in any German Zoo. Only the Hanover Zoo has a single specimen. Dr. Klös himself travelled to the Umfolozi Reserve, in order to collect the animals, and he arrived in Berlin on August 26th with a very good-tempered bull of about 5 years old, and a cow of 3-4 years old. The Rhinos, provisionally accommodated in the Elephant House, have settled down meanwhile very well and they are one of the main attractions in the Berlin Zoo. It is to be hoped, that they, the two Black Rhinos, and the Indian Rhino will move to the new Rhino and Tapir House, being still under construction, before the end of the year.

(Dr. Heinz-Georg Klös)

KOMODO DRAGONS

A pair of Komodo Dragons was placed on exhibit in the San Diego Zoo, California, U.S.A. at the end of August. The male is approximately eight feet long and weighs 139 pounds. His mate is smaller, weighing 90 pounds.

According to Charles Shaw, San Diego's Curator of Reptiles, these are the only Komodos currently in the United States and the first that San Diego Zoo has exhibited.

They arrived by air from the Zoo at Surabaya, Indonesia, where they were exchanged for a Giraffe.