



By Courtesy of K. W. Green, A.R.P.S.

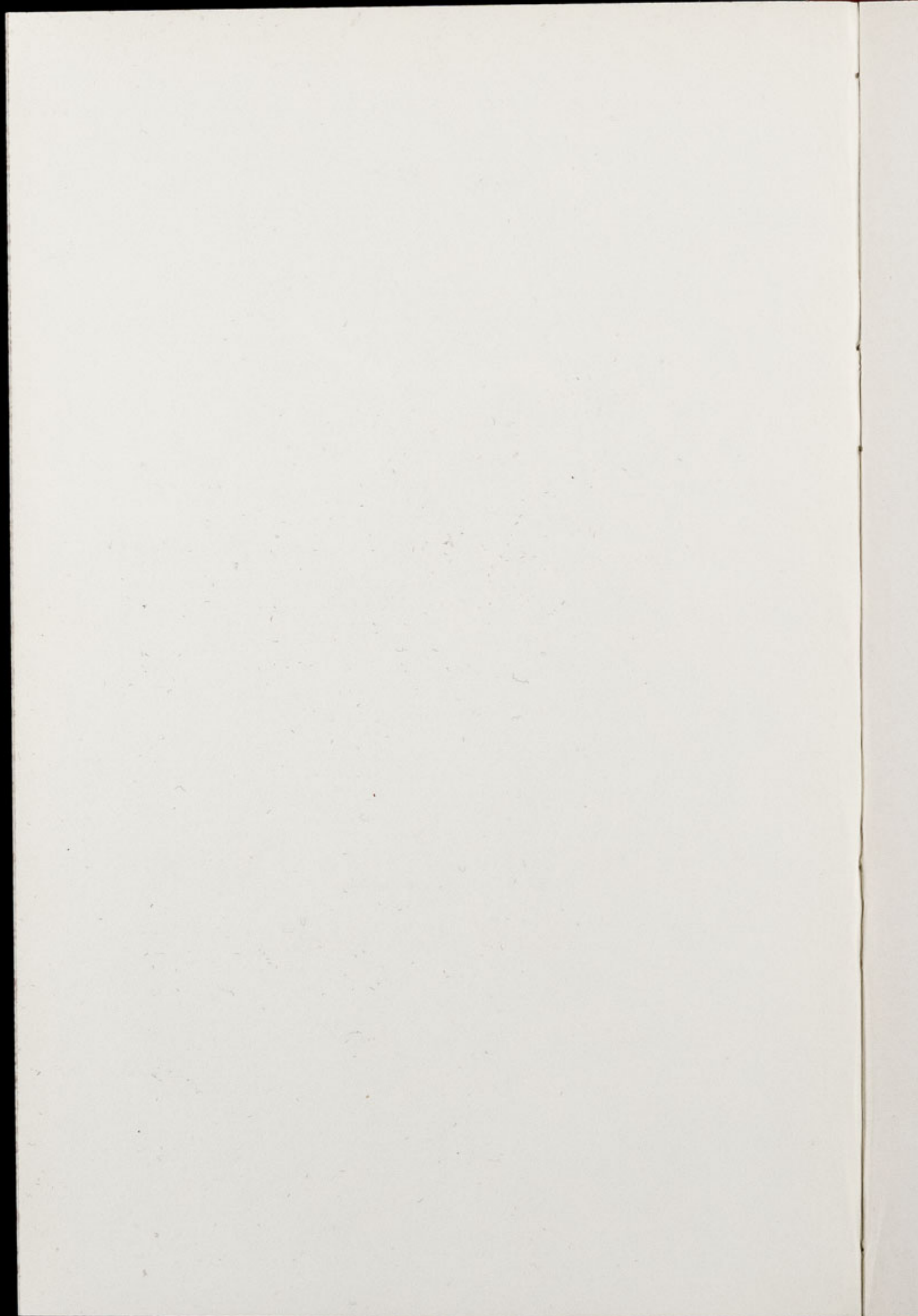
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

July 1971

Price 5p



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

COUNCIL

MISS G. M. RUSSELL-ALLEN, O.B.E. (CHAIRMAN)
HER GRACE SALLY DUCHESS OF WESTMINSTER
THE RT. HON. LORD TOLLEMACHE, M.C., D.L.
W. P. BLAND
A. C. JOHNSON
H. F. PARKER
J. N. WILSON
J. A. KILPATRICK, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.E.
A. E. SMITH
F. MOSFORD
PROF. J. O. L. KING, Ph.D., M.V.Sc., B.Sc. (AGRIC.), F.R.C.V.S.
H. D. COOPER, F.I.M., F.I.F.F., A.I.B.
A. K. McGHIE, A.I.B.
G. R. PRYOR, C.Eng., Hon.M.I.Prod.E., F.B.I.M.
E. SORBY, M.A. (OXON)
G. S. MOTTERSHEAD, M.Sc., DIRECTOR-SECRETARY

CONTENTS:

<i>page two</i>	Arrivals and Births.
<i>page six</i>	Aquarium News.
<i>page eight/nine</i>	Zoo Plan.
<i>page ten</i>	Bird Notes.
<i>page eleven</i>	Gardening Notes.
<i>page twelve</i>	Shearing Alpacas.
<i>page fourteen</i>	Reptile Section.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

<i>page five</i>	Grevy Zebra and foal.
<i>page seven</i>	Talapoin Monkeys with baby.
<i>page thirteen</i>	Rose Garden, No. 74.
<i>page fifteen</i>	Alpacas.

COVER: White Red Lechwe Calf; see page two.

ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

During the past month the following mammals have been bred:

- 3 Red Lechwe (*Kobus leche*)
- 1 Greater Kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*)
- 2 Brindled Gnu (*Connochaetes taurinus albojubatus*)
- 1 Wapiti (*Cervus canadensis*)
- 2 Grevy Zebras (*Equus grevyi*)
- 1 Arabian Gazelle (*Gazella arabica*)
- 1 Blesbok (*Damaliscus dorcas*)
- 1 Ankole calf (*Bos taurus*)
- 1 Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*)
- 1 Talapoin Monkey (*Cercopithecus talapoin*)
- 3 Pumas (*Felis concolor*)

Our herd of Red Lechwe is accommodated in two large grassy enclosures, Nos. 75 and 76. Recently, while one of the keepers was on his way to cut grass at the farthest end of the enclosures, he saw what he thought was a newspaper in the adjoining ditch and made a mental note to collect it on his return. However, when later he approached the 'newspaper', it stood up and walked away! To his astonishment it was a pure white Red Lechwe calf.

Red Lechwe inhabit marshy regions in Africa and are well adapted to a semi-aquatic existence, able to move quickly through water-logged land and being good swimmers. They are fairly uncommon in captivity and the birth of a white calf is therefore an unusual event. In fact so far as we know a white specimen of this species has never been recorded.

When it was discovered the calf was estimated to be about two days old and had escaped detection by remaining hidden in the undergrowth in the ditch. As can be seen from the cover photograph, it has now joined the rest of the herd. Although its

coat is pure white, the calf is not a true albino as it has normal eyes. The mother seems unaware that her offspring is different and is feeding it regularly. However, in the wild state a white calf would not survive for very long, especially when it became more active, as it would be too conspicuous and therefore easy prey for both the large cats and eagles.

The two other Red Lechwe calves born during the past month have normal colouration. We now have 14 specimens of this species in the collection.

The Greater Kudu calf is the first ever born at Chester Zoo and as far as we can judge at present is a male. Its parents arrived in the collection last year after spending twelve months at our quarantine station in Birkenhead.

The Greater Kudu is one of the largest antelopes and has magnificent spiralled horns which may measure up to 5 feet from base to tip. It is found in the open bush country of Africa. The gestation period lasts for about 212 days and in the wild state the single calf lies hidden in the undergrowth during the early days of its life. The mother rests nearby and only approaches the calf to suckle it.

The Kudu calf at the Zoo is gradually becoming more active, especially in the late evening, but at first also spent most of the time lying quietly by itself in the long grass near to the fence. The white stripes present along its back served to break up the shape of the calf against the background so well that at times it was difficult to spot immediately. The Greater Kudu may be seen in enclosure No. 92.

The two Brindled Gnu calves, the first born this year, can be seen in enclosure No. 93. These animals roam in large herds across the plains of Africa and, unlike the two species of antelope already mentioned which rely on concealment for protection, the newborn Gnu calves must be able to move with the older animals as quickly

as possible or else fall prey to the numerous carnivores which accompany the herds during calving. Many are singled out but a sufficient number always survives to reach maturity. The will to survive is not lost because animals are in captivity and within minutes of birth the Gnu calves were struggling instinctively to stand.

News that the two Grevy Zebra foals were both females was very welcome as up to the present time there have been more males than females of this species in the collection. The Grevy Zebra is the largest of the three species of Zebra and has a range in Central East Africa. The stripes on its body are much narrower than in the other species and there is a single dark stripe which extends from the mane along the centre of the back to the tail. The gestation period is about 13 months. Our herd of Grevy Zebras is accommodated in the Zebra House where visitors can also see the Asiatic Wild Ass foal which is growing rapidly and was mentioned in last month's 'Zoo News'.

The rare Arabian Gazelles are now in their usual summer accommodation at the rear of the Monkey House, where the latest fawn is on show.

The Blesbok calf is the first born this year into our small herd of 7 in enclosure No. 108. Last year's two calves are almost fully grown and virtually indistinguishable from the adults.

The sex of the baby Talapoin Monkey is not yet known as the female clasps it to her at all times. Talapoins are small monkeys measuring from 12 to 13 inches long. They are found along the banks of the Congo River and on Mount Ruwenzori in Central West Africa but information about their habits in the wild is not extensive. The gestation period for this species is about 7 months. At Chester the breeding record for Talapoin Monkeys has been good with 6 babies being born over the last 5 years.

A young female Talapoin Monkey, born last year to the same



GREVY ZEBRA (*Equus grevyi*) AND FOAL

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

parents, has been left with them and their latest offspring so that she can observe a female rearing a baby. When she is more mature she will be introduced to another male Talapoin which we hope will result in a second unrelated breeding pair.

In the Cat House the three Puma cubs are too young as yet to be on show but the two Leopard cubs born last month are now being carried into their outer enclosure by the mother, Twink. During the next few weeks the young Leopards will be vaccinated against Feline Enteritis, at which time we will be able to determine their sexes.

AQUARIUM NEWS

Species of fish we have been successful in rearing recently include 200 Jewelled Cichlids, 50 albino Zebra Cichlids and 200 Paradise Fish. In each case the eggs were removed from the tanks containing the parent fish shortly after spawning and were hatched in nursery tanks. All these species had been reproducing regularly in our Aquarium but the fry had been mistaken for food by the parents.

The two Electric Eels on exhibition grew too long for their original tank and have been transferred to a much larger one. Most fishes tend to regulate their growth according to the amount of space around them and the Eels are expected to put on another spurt of growth in the new tank. They now measure about 3 feet but wild specimens can attain a length of almost 9 feet.

A new supply of salt water for the Aquarium is expected to arrive shortly and it will then be possible to transfer our three young Green Turtles to a larger tank. These are now over 10 inches long and have gained sufficient weight to enable them to swim to the bottom of the tank with ease. When they first arrived they measured about 3 inches and could only paddle about on the surface. The Turtles are thriving on a diet of fish, meat and lettuce. In addition they are fed seaweed when this is available and live prawns are released into the tank for the Turtles to catch.

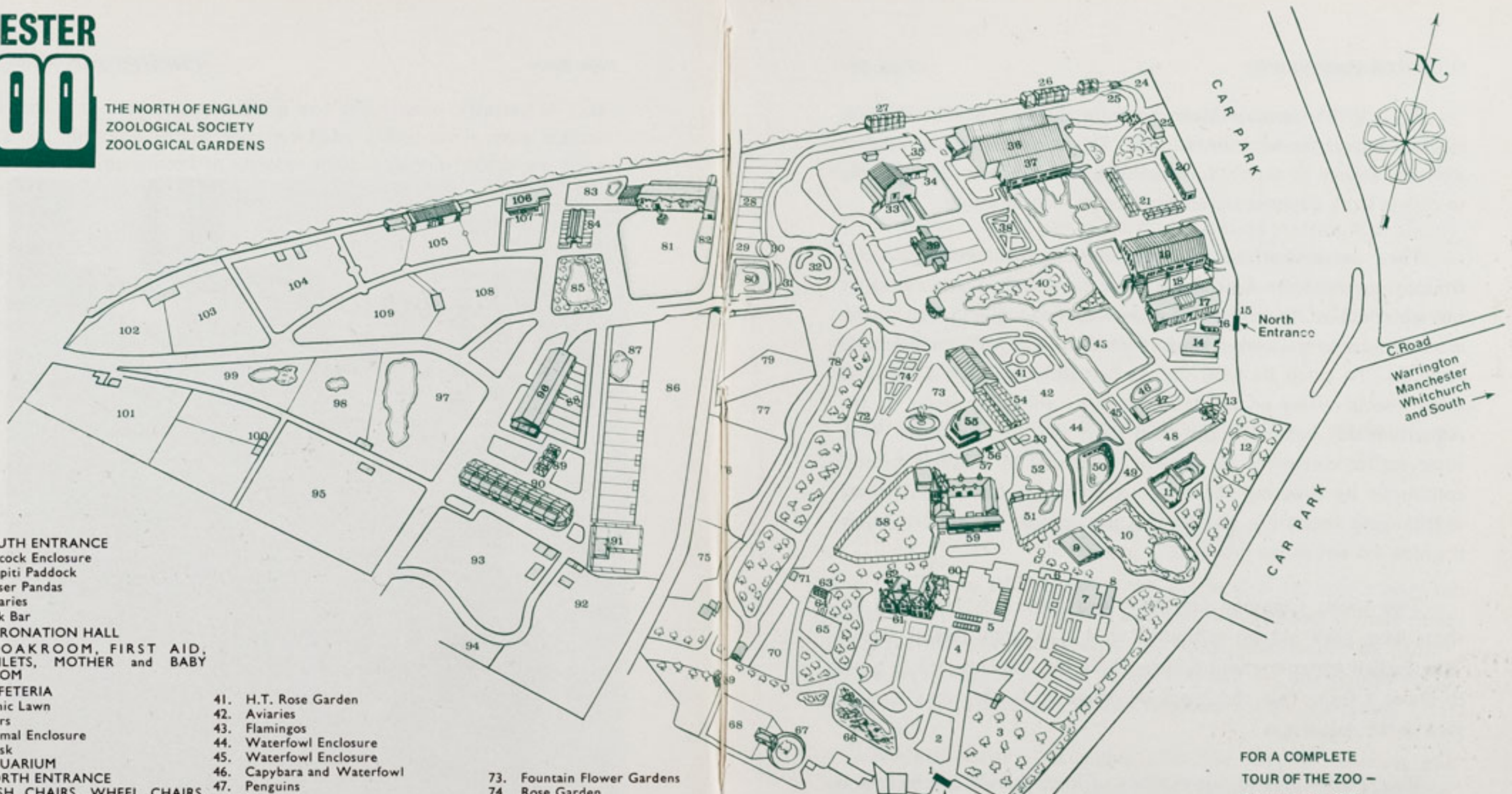


TALAPOIN MONKEYS (*Cercopithecus talapoin*) WITH BABY

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

CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. SOUTH ENTRANCE | 41. H.T. Rose Garden |
| 2. Peacock Enclosure | 42. Aviaries |
| 3. Wapiti Paddock | 43. Flamingos |
| 4. Lesser Pandas | 44. Waterfowl Enclosure |
| 5. Aviaries | 45. Waterfowl Enclosure |
| 6. Milk Bar | 46. Capybara and Waterfowl |
| 7. CORONATION HALL | 47. Penguins |
| 8. CLOAKROOM, FIRST AID,
TOILETS, MOTHER and BABY
ROOM | 48. Sealions |
| 9. CAFETERIA | 49. Rock Garden |
| 10. Picnic Lawn | 50. Polar Bears |
| 11. Bears | 51. Tigers |
| 12. Animal Enclosure | 52. Waterfowl Enclosure |
| 13. Kiosk | 53. Anteaters |
| 14. AQUARIUM | 54. BIRD HOUSE |
| 15. NORTH ENTRANCE | 55. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT |
| 16. PUSH CHAIRS, WHEEL CHAIRS,
LOST CHILDREN | 56. Ape Nursery |
| 17. Parrot House | 57. TOILETS |
| 18. Free Flight Aviary | 58. Lions |
| 19. APE HOUSE | 59. SOUVENIR SHOP |
| 20. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP | 60. TOILETS |
| 21. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn | 61. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT |
| 22. TOILETS | 62. G.P.O. Telephone |
| 23. Tuatara Exhibit | 63. Gibbon Pen |
| 24. Peccaries | 64. Animal Enclosure |
| 25. Waterbus Halt | 65. Cheetahs |
| 26. Birds of Prey Aviaries | 66. Ornamental Rock Garden |
| 27. Owl Aviary | 67. Malayan Bears |
| 28. Jackal and Hyaena Enclosures | 68. Animal Enclosure |
| 29. Animal Enclosure | 69. Aviary |
| 30. Porcupine Enclosure | 70. Wallabies |
| 31. Coypus | 71. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE
AND KIOSK |
| 32. Beavers | 72. Waterbus Halt |
| 33. Giraffe House | |
| 34. Camel House | |
| 35. Waterbus Halt | |
| 36. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND
REPTILE HOUSES | |
| 37. CHIMPANZEES | |
| 38. Floribunda Rose Garden | |
| 39. Zebra House | |
| 40. Gibbon Island | |

- | |
|--------------------------------|
| 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. Gazelle Paddocks |
| 88. Storks and Ostriches |
| 89. Baboon Pens |
| 90. Cat House |
| 91. Lions and Tigers |
| 92. Antelope Enclosure |
| 93. Antelope Enclosure |
| 94. Antelope Enclosure |
| 95. Highland Cattle |
| 96. MONKEY HOUSE |
| 97. Waterfowl Enclosure |
| 98. Wallabies and Waterfowl |
| 99. Cranes and Waterfowl |
| 100. Llamas and Alpacas |

- | |
|--------------------------------|
| 101. Zebroids |
| 102. Bison Paddock |
| 103. Pere David's Deer Paddock |
| 104. Eland and Marmots |
| 105. RHINO HOUSE |
| 106. TOILETS |
| 107. Mpila Snack-bar and Kiosk |
| 108. Antelope Enclosure |
| 109. Antelope Enclosure |

Animals may be moved from
time to time.

FOR A COMPLETE
TOUR OF THE ZOO -
Follow Nos.1-109
from South Entrance
or Nos.16-109
from North Entrance
then return to
Nos.1-14

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

To help to maintain clear water in the new Sea Lion Pool, stocks of daphnia were introduced. This means there is another welcome source of supply for the Aquarium keepers who are able to collect fresh daphnia for all their tanks each morning.

There are now Archerfish on exhibition, an interesting species which originates from Australasia and can be kept in either fresh or salt water tanks. By means of a groove in the tongue the Archerfish is able to discharge a jet of water from its mouth with considerable accuracy. To catch its food the Archerfish shoots down flies and other insects resting on vegetation growing above the water. In the Aquarium the Archerfish are given meat and young locusts. With some earlier specimens an attempt was made to simulate natural conditions by lowering the water level in the tank, establishing overhanging vegetation and feeding live insects, but unfortunately the idea did not prove practical.

Two young Common Garfish which previously had been off show have been put on exhibition in a tank with Tinfoil Barbs. The Garfish measure about 6 inches long but are expected to grow to about a foot. Two specimens of Alligator Garfish may also be seen in the Aquarium.

Recent additions to our exhibits of local marine life include a small Starfish, Pikefish, Blennies, Flat-fish, Snakelock Anemones and a Cowrie.

BIRD NOTES

Several species of birds have been acquired during the past month to stock various aviaries around the Zoo. Among these are five Egrets which having undergone acclimatisation in the Temperate Bird House have been released in the large flight aviary. Their introduction to this outdoor enclosure was hindered by the poor weather experienced in June.

A Purple Gallinule has joined another three of this family in the large flight and a pair of Crakes has been released in one of the soft-bill aviaries in the Parrot House.

With the construction of the new parrakeet aviaries, the original breeding aviaries adjoining the Temperate Bird House are now being stocked with mainly soft-billed birds. Species introduced recently include Jerdon's Starlings, Bank Mynahs, a Pied Mynah and a Rufous Tree Pie. A Black-tailed Conure is a new exhibit in the Temperate Bird House.

Presentations to the Bird Section include a Common Grey Heron and an Amazon Parrot.

GARDENING NOTES

The various Rose Gardens around the Zoo are now a blaze of colour with upwards of 20,000 Roses in flower. These include some of the newer varieties, plantings of which were made last winter. Roses do so well in the soil at the Zoo and are appreciated by so many of our visitors that we feel we cannot show too many.

We had many cold nights after the summer bedding was completed and for the first time since records have been kept frost was experienced on two or three nights in June. In fact on the 13th June we registered 3 degrees of frost which affected such plants as Begonias and Heliotrope that had already been planted out. The resultant loss of some of the foliage is taking time to be replaced.

As usual with the summer bedding we have made a feature of some of the borders with mass plantings of Begonias, Heliotrope, etc. The Fuchsia border is in its usual place at the end of the H.T. Rose Garden and contains some 550 plants made up of 110 varieties. There are many more varieties of Fuchsia than this but we do try to keep to distinct and worthwhile varieties, creating a blend between the large American and the smaller-flowered English types.

The Rock Gardens have been very colourful this spring with alpine bulbs and alpine plants which have now become well established. These are mostly spring-flowering plants and to keep the Rock Gardens in colour during the summer months we introduce many plants that are not true alpines, such as Violas, Gazaneas, Mesembryanthemums, etc. These were planted out in early May and had been grown from cuttings taken last September.

As always the gardener has to look well into the future and during the third week of June, Pansies for next year's spring bedding displays were planted out in our nursery, joining the Polyanthus planted there in April. With the greenhouses being relieved of the summer bedding plants, we have now given more room to the plants which require greenhouses in which to grow and have filled the large houses with tomatoes and cucumbers.

Plants in flower at the present time in the animal and Tropical Houses are Passifloras, Bougainvilleas, Plumbago capensis, Hibiscus, Hoyas, Stephanotis, Gardenias, Daturas, Brunfelsias, etc. These are subjects which will continue to flower all summer.

Two climbers planted recently in the Tropical House, Aristolochia grandiflora and Lapageria rosea, are flowering for the first time. The flowers will become more profuse when the climbers are better established.

SHEARING ALPACAS

In South America where Alpacas have been domesticated for as long as man can remember, their wool is an important product to the inhabitants of the Andes. The Alpacas are allowed to roam freely on the mountain slopes, where their dense coats provide necessary protection against the bitter winds and snow, and are rounded up for shearing about every two years.



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

ROSE GARDEN, No. 74 ON PLAN

At the Zoo our group of four Alpacas, a male and three females, had not been clipped for almost two years and their coats had become extremely long and thick. The shearing was carried out by a professional sheep shearer who used electric clippers worked from the Zoo's portable generator. Asked beforehand if he thought he could control an animal such as an Alpaca, the shearer replied that if it had wool, he could shear it!

The Alpacas had been confined to their indoor quarters and were brought out individually for clipping. Visitors crowded round and watched with interest as first the shearer held the Alpaca firmly to prevent it from struggling and then commenced clipping, first the hindquarters and then the head, neck and foreleg regions, taking only about 8 minutes to complete each animal. However, his job was not a pleasant one, as the Alpacas spat vehemently, their usual method of showing annoyance, which is also characteristic of Llamas and Camels. Each having parted with about 4lbs. of wool, the Alpacas trotted back into their enclosure, No. 100, looking totally different animals.

REPTILE SECTION

We have been presented with two young Colombian Horned Frogs (*Ceratophrys calcarata*). Until a little larger, the frogs are being kept off show in a small glass vivarium where they prefer to lie half hidden in the earth and leaves on the bottom. They are feeding well on a diet of small rudd but the keepers have to be careful when handling the frogs, even though at present they are small, as their jaws have a vice-like grip and in common with other South American Horned Frogs, this species is readily disposed to attack. At rest, Colombian Horned Frogs have a rounded shape and when adult will be about the size of a saucer. Their bodies are brightly patterned and their horns merely raised flaps of skin on the upper eyelids.



ALPACAS (*Lama pacos*) SHORTLY AFTER SHEARING

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

Other new arrivals in this section are two Common Iguanas (*Iguana iguana*), two Common Boas (*Constrictor constrictor*) and an Emerald Tree Boa (*Corallus caninus*).

The Emerald Tree Boa is a species we have not exhibited in this collection before. It is found in Brazil and the Guianas and attains a maximum length of 4 feet. The dorsal scales are emerald green while the ventral surface is pale yellow. In addition along the length of its body the snake has broken white markings which aid camouflage in a forested habitat, blending in the shape of the snake with the background of foliage. At the Zoo the vivarium for the Emerald Tree Boa is furnished with several branches which enables visitors to observe the peculiar coiled position adopted by these snakes when resting.

SUBSCRIPTION FORMS

New readers of the '*Chester Zoo News*' who would like to receive the magazine regularly may like to know that subscription forms are on display in the souvenir shops. An annual subscription (12 issues) costs 95p postage paid, which can be either handed over the counter or posted with the completed form to The Director-Secretary, Chester Zoo, Chester.



Due to rising production costs, the price of a single copy of the "*Chester Zoo News*" has been increased to 6p. However, the annual subscription rate remains unaltered i.e. 95p, postage paid.

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.

PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP OUR COLLECTION OF ANIMALS NOT ONLY ALIVE BUT IN FIRST CLASS CONDITION.

