

EDUCATION REF.
DO NOT REMOVE

Spring 1998

MEMBERS' MEETINGS

Saturday 14 March '98

2.30pm in Lecture Hall
 Nick Ellerton, Curator of Mammals -
 'Can we afford to love our animals to death?'
 Managing for the future, and why we have to move some of our favourite animals. Are we right or wrong?

Saturday 25 April '98

2.30pm in Lecture Hall
 Dr Gordon McGregor Reid, Director of Chester Zoo, with members of staff 'Zoo Review'.

Saturday 30th May '98

2.30pm in Lecture Hall
Annual General Meeting.

To offset expenses there will be a fee of £1.00 at the door. Tea and biscuits are included.

MEMBERS' PRIVILEGE VOUCHERS

These are issued in addition to the allowance of 20 pre-paid half price tickets.

- New members of the Society receive four half-price vouchers on joining.
- Existing members who renew their subscriptions on time will be issued with eight vouchers
- Members who allow their membership to lapse by one month or more will be considered new members, and receive four vouchers only.

CHESTER ZOO

The winners of the monthly draws since the last issue are:

November '97

Mrs S. P. Jones	£100
Mrs M. F. Cordes	£100
Mr M. A. Shepherd	£50
Mr J. R. S. Akers	£50

December '97

Mr S. Kalischer	£800
Mr I. D. Ogden	£100
Mr & Mrs F. H. Wright	£50
Mrs E. Glover	£50

January '98

Mr & Mrs P. A. Mason	£100
Mr D. Gellvear	£100
Mr E. A. Cobb	£50
Ms C. J. Reynolds	£50
Mrs S. J. Wakefield	£50

Membership of the '100 Club' costs just £5.00 per month, and half the income goes to support the zoo's conservation work, and the other half is returned in prize money. Please contact Alan Sykes at the zoo if you would like to take part.

FAUNA AND FLORA INTERNATIONAL - SPRING PROGRAMME -



Friday 20th March '98

GLIMPSE OF A VANISHED WORLD - John Edwards

A rare chance to see some fascinating historic photos of zoos of the world, including photos of many animals now extinct, including the Quagga, Thylacine and Javan Rhino. John Edwards is author of 'London Zoo from old photographs 1852-1914' and some of the photos will originate from his research for this book. A historical view of captive breeding and enclosure design - not to be missed.

Friday 17th April '98

ON THE TRAIL OF WHALES AND DOLPHINS - Mark Carwardine.

We are delighted that Mark Carwardine has agreed to fit us in to his hectic schedule as a zoologist, writer and photographer, who frequently appears on radio and TV. Mark has written many books on wildlife and conservation and his talk will include adventures and stories from around the world, including aerial surveys of Blue Whales in Mexico; Humpback Whales building nests of bubbles in Alaska; last ditch efforts to save Yangtse River Dolphins in China; the return of Southern Right Whales in South Africa - and much more.

Friday 24th April '98

SOUTH ATLANTIC ALBATROSSES AND PENGUINS - John Croxall

Current threats and future prospects will be the theme, and the news John Croxall brings will be right up to date, as he will just have returned from South Georgia. John is a part of the British Antarctic Survey team, based in Cambridge and his illustrated talk should be fascinating.

We have had to arrange two talks in April, owing to the availability of the speakers. Our quality speakers are away for so much of the year, we have to welcome them when we can!

FFI evenings are open to everyone. They are held at the Zoo's Lecture Hall and doors open at 7.00pm, for a 7.30pm start. Ticket price is £6.00 for FFI members, £6.50 for non-members, and includes a light buffet with wine.

All funds go to specific FFI projects. Please ring Penny Rudd at the zoo for details - 01244 650215.

Whilst not usually vital, it is helpful for catering purposes if tickets are booked in advance.

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

As announced in the Autumn issue of Zoo Life, we are delighted that Sir David Attenborough has agreed to accept the Gold Medal of the North of England Zoological Society.

He will probably visit the zoo on Friday 22nd May but final details remain to be confirmed. It is hoped that Sir David will formally open the newly refurbished penguin pool during the afternoon, and also visit the Monkey Islands complex and the elephant house.

Due to space restrictions in the lecture theatre, the award ceremony will be restricted to members of staff and invited guests. Members and adopters will have the opportunity to see Sir David during his zoo 'walkabout'.

ELEPHANT EXPERIENCE EVENINGS

Wednesdays:

3rd June / 17th June / 1st July / 15th July / 5th August

£15.00 per person

Concession price for Members and Adopters: £12.00

(Maximum of two tickets per booking)

Please note that these evenings are not suitable for children under 14 years

Because of the huge popularity of these fundraising evenings, we have given priority this year to the waiting list of people disappointed last year, and to our elephant adopters.

There are now places still available on the above dates, and if you would like to attend, please contact the Group Sales Office (01244 650209) to check availability.

MEMBERS' CONCESSIONARY TICKETS - PRICE REVIEW -

These half price tickets are available to all adult members who wish to purchase them. The maximum amount per member is 20.

As the zoo entrance price will be increased in March, the new rates from 29 March are:

	Normal price	Members' concessionary price
Adults	£8.50	£4.25
OAPs	£6.50	£3.25
Children (3-15 years)	£6.00	£3.00

We ask that these special tickets are bought in advance of your visit, either from the Membership Office (postal applications only, enclosing a cheque and stamped addressed envelope for ticket return) - or from the Information Desk in the Ark Shop. We sometimes get requests from Junior Members for concessionary tickets. Sorry Juniors - they are only available to adults.

KEEPERS IN THE NEWS



Above: Vegetarian Upali is not interested in the meat and fish used by Fiona and James.

Left: Mike Crumpler and Horse Conch Snail admire the more modest Mud Snail.



■ *Tim and Elliott. Picture by Cliff Brett of the Daily Post - who captioned this picture 'Snog with a bog!'*



TELE-COOKS

THERE were a couple of familiar faces on the popular television programme 'Ready Steady Cook' in November. Chester Zoo keepers Fiona Nelson and James Thwaite were the guest 'assistant cooks' on the programme. Two chefs were challenged to make original dishes from the ingredients taken along by the guests. As Fiona's work is mainly with the penguins, she took along a variety of fish. James works on the big cat section, so his shopping bag included steaks! After a hectic half hour of carrying out instructions from the professionals, Fiona was declared the winner, and received a cheque for £100 - and James was awarded a hamper of luxury food items. The giant cuddly penguin and lion toys presented to the chefs were greatly appreciated!

SNAIL MAIL

THE latest issue of postage stamps features native endangered species - which is why the Royal Mail decided to use the zoo to launch the stamps. One of the species featured is the Shining Ramshorn Snail - not a creature we have in the zoo.

However, the aquarium staff are providing sanctuary for the rare British Mud Snail. One of the few remaining areas for this tiny creature is a pond close to the construction site of Manchester Airport's new runway, and there was concern that it might be wiped out. So a group of them have taken refuge in the zoo's aquarium, and will be returned - hopefully having bred - when the construction work is over.

Aquarist Mike Crumpler shows the mud snail - the speck on the palm of his hand - while the very much larger Horse Conch Snail displays the new stamp!

HOGGING THE LIMELIGHT

TIM Rowlands makes the close acquaintance of Elliott the Barbirusa! Elliott is the male of the pair of Barbirusa - wild pigs - who arrived at the zoo just before Christmas. The female is called Najar. This is the first time the zoo has had this endangered species, and (Tim apart, of course) only another Barbirusa could call them beautiful! The male has two pairs of tusks, which are used for foraging and fighting.

They can be found in the Cattle House, alongside the Anoa. Babirusa and Anoa are both endangered species from the island of Sulawesi.

Oh dear what can the matter be - Thelma and Sheila got locked in the aviary . . .

THELMA Ackroyd reveals an embarrassing incident.

Each year the Education volunteers have the opportunity to spend a week helping the keepers in certain sections of the zoo.

This year, on my first day, after cleaning out part of the Parrot House with Sheila, a new volunteer, we were moved on to one of the round aviaries, where we hosed down and cleaned the back areas of the cages.

When we had completed the work to our satisfaction - we were a conscientious pair - we discovered we could not open the heavy exit door. No amount of pushing and banging had any effect. But by peering out from the front of one of the adjacent aviaries, watched by two interested Conures, we could see that the door had a bolt slipped across the outside. We were indeed prisoners. I suppose this is one way of disposing of unwanted volunteers! Obviously we needed to call for assistance but unfortunately on a Tuesday morning in October the zoo is hardly teeming with visitors!

After some time, we espied the figure of a man in the distance. 'Hello there!' 'Hi' 'Help!' we called. Eventually he heard us and came to investigate, making remarks about the strange birds in the aviary, but he released us and we were free.

The episode did not deter me from future efforts, and I would like to thank all the keepers I have met in the various sections I have worked in, for their friendliness and help.

WILDLIFE PAINTINGS

PAM Coombes, the talented wildlife artist, will be holding an exhibition of her work in Oakfield House on Saturday evening, 18th April and all day Sunday, 19th April.

This will be Pam's first exhibition in the North of the country, and will include paintings of a wide range of species, including British wildlife, big cats, exotic birds - and some of Chester Zoo's favourite residents.

The preview will be on Saturday 18 April, from 7pm-9pm. Admission is free, but advance tickets will be needed. These are obtainable from the Marketing Office at the zoo. Please send a stamped addressed envelope, and state how many tickets are required.

HAPPY RETIREMENT



He started work in 1962 under the then Head Gardener Philip Gallup.

ZOO staff said good-bye to Colin Pritchard in January, when he retired after an amazing 35 years service in the Gardens Department!

More cartridges and currency please!

DEBBIE and David Wall have been delighted with the response to their request for those items they are able to use for fund raising for the elephant house extensions. To remind you, these are:

- Used inkjet and laser toner cartridges
- Used postage stamps
- Used phone cards
- Left over coinage from foreign holidays.

These items can be left in the elephant house, or collection can be arranged. Please contact Debbie or David on 01270 628289, or write to them at 85 Birchin Lane, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6JZ.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

NORMALLY the Spring issue of Zoo Life carries the results of the previous year's photographic competition. This year, we delayed the judging, so that it would coincide with the visit of the acclaimed wild-life photographer, Heather Angel, who agreed to be a judge.

The winners have now been chosen, and a selection of the winning photographs will be included in the Summer issue.

The competition will be held again this year, and entry forms will be available at the zoo shortly.

THEME EVENINGS 1998

MAKE A NOTE OF THESE DATES FOR OUR POPULAR THEMED MEALS IN THE OAKFIELD RESTAURANT



FRIDAY 20TH MARCH
KOREAN EVENING
£15.95

EXPLORE ONE OF THE ORIENT'S GREATEST CULINARY SECRETS AND TASTE THE RICH VARIETY OF FLAVOURS WHICH INCLUDE SWEET, SOUR, HOT, SALTY AND BITTER. CHOPSTICKS, ANYONE?



FRIDAY 12TH JUNE
MALAYSIAN EVENING AND TROPICAL EXPERIENCE
£18.50

ENJOY CANAPES IN OUR TROPICAL REALM WITH THE ALLIGATORS, EXOTIC BIRDS, REPTILES AND ARACHNIDS! FOLLOWED BY AN ARRAY OF EASTERN DELIGHT IN THE OAKFIELD RESTAURANT.



FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER
LEBANESE EVENING
£19.50

A RARE INSIGHT INTO ONE OF THE MIDDLE EASTERN CUISINES THAT HAS BEEN A SECRET FOR SO LONG - WITH A HINT OF THE AROMATIC AND DISCREETLY SPICED - TOGETHER WITH A DUO OF ARABIC MUSICIANS TO ADD SOME MORE FLAVOUR.



SATURDAY 25TH APRIL
SPANISH EVENING
£18.50

LOOK FORWARD TO A TOE-TAPPING EVENING WITH GYPSY GUITARISTS TO PLAY OUT THE RHYTHM - ACCOMPANIED BY A FIESTA OF REGIONAL DELIGHTS FROM THE LAND OF PAELLA AND RIOJA.



SATURDAY 4TH JULY
MONKEY ISLANDS TOUR AND FRENCH MENU
£18.50

A WONDERFUL CHANCE TO VISIT OUR NEW 'MONKEY ISLANDS' EXHIBIT - THE BEST OF ITS KIND IN EUROPE - AND HAVE A CHAT WITH THE KEEPERS. ON RETURNING TO THE OAKFIELD YOU WILL BE SERVED A TRADITIONAL FRENCH MEAL.



SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER
TURKISH EVENING
£19.50

DELIGHT IN TURKISH CUISINE, BOTH CLASSICAL AND POPULAR, SERVED WITH AN EQUALLY DELIGHTFUL BELLY DANCER AND HER ACCOMPANIST TO ENTERTAIN YOU!



SATURDAY 16TH MAY
BIG CATS TOUR AND AFRICAN MENU
£17.95

BY POPULAR DEMAND, ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE A GUIDED TOUR OF OUR 'BIG CATS' INCLUDING LIONS, TIGERS, CHEETAHS AND SERVALS FOLLOWED BY A PURRR-FECT MEAL, FULL OF THE FRAGRANCES AND TEXTURES FROM THIS COLOURFUL CONTINENT.



FRIDAY 31ST JULY
GARDEN TOUR AND ITALIAN MENU
£18.50

TOUR OUR MAGNIFICENT AWARD WINNING GARDENS WITH A GUIDE TO TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THE HUGE VARIETY OF PLANTS AND SHRUBS ON DISPLAY. THEN WINE AND DINE ITALIAN STYLE IN OUR CHARMING OAKFIELD RESTAURANT.



SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER
AUSTRIAN EVENING
£19.50

JOIN IN THE FESTIVITIES TO THE SOUNDS OF A TRADITIONAL 'OOMPAH' BAND, WHILST FEASTING ON AUTHENTIC DISHES FROM THE VARIOUS REGIONS OF THIS PICTURESQUE COUNTRY.

Dinah, Lady Tollemache

Michael Brambell, retired Director of Chester Zoo, writes a tribute to a Vice-President of the North of England Zoological Society, who died on 10th January.

EARLY in the year came the very sad news that Dinah Tollemache had died. She joined the Council of the North of England Zoological Society in 1975 taking the place which had been filled for several years by her late husband, Lord Tollemache. Members of longer standing may remember the occasion when she inaugurated the Noah fountain in the then new Jubilee Garden. There was a torrential downpour in keeping with the subject of the occasion and the noise of the rain beating on the forest of umbrellas drowned out all the speeches. She was greatly amused at there having been such appropriate and timely divine intervention!

On Council, her knowledge of farming on the heavy Cheshire soil was a great help in deciding how best to make use of the land surrounding the zoo. She stepped down from Council in 1983 but continued to take great interest.

In 1986 she suffered a grave illness, which resulted in her having to have both legs amputated. It was a blow which would have defeated most of us, yet she reacted by involving herself in her many interests in the city and the county with renewed vigour. She was active as President of the Grosvenor Museum Society, and President of the Cheshire Conservation Trust, and in 1987 she became one of the zoo's two Vice-Presidents.

I particularly well remember how, on the very eve of her first operation, at a time when the zoo was facing very great difficulties, she wrote to me such an encouraging personal letter, that I regarded it as the most significant turning point to the better in the years of my directorship. As Vice-President, she was always ready to do what she could for the zoo. When we rebuilt the terrace outside Oakfield House to make a ramped access to the restaurant area, she enthusiastically inaugurated it by propelling her wheelchair in and out of the building for the press cameras. At home, she stitched on the group of kneelers for the Cathedral which were presented on behalf of the Society.

She continued to come to Members' Meetings, driving herself, until about two years ago, when it eventually became too much for her. Away from the zoo, she greatly enjoyed joining my wife, Patricia and myself, with a group of friends, at opera evenings at Clonter Farm, only giving up these expeditions a little more than 18 months ago.



■ Dinah, Lady Tollemache, shows her skill as a needle-woman, with the exquisite Chester Zoo kneeler she designed and stitched for Chester Cathedral's 900th birthday in 1992.

When, in the Autumn of 1996, she could no longer manage to live on her own at Peckforton Home Farm, she realised that, much as she loved Cheshire, she should move to Stowmarket in Suffolk, to be nearer to her family. Dinah Tollemache's brave and warm personality will be greatly missed by the very great number of her friends.

Dr John Douglas Kelly

1946-1997

Director and Chief Executive of the Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales and Chief Executive Officer of Taronga and Western Plains Zoos

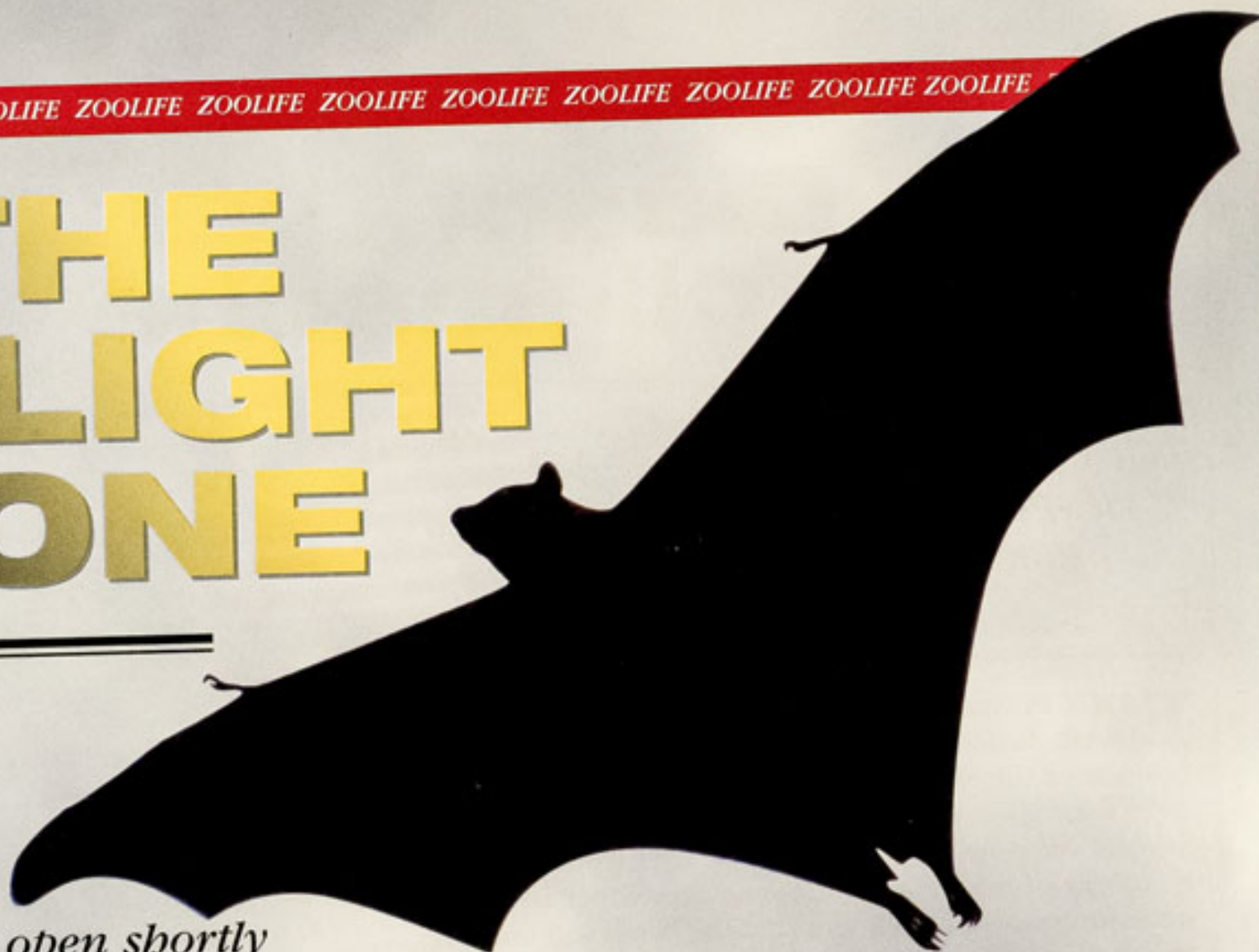
The world wide zoo community was saddened to hear of the death of Dr John Kelly on October 25th 1997, at the age of 51. He had been Chief Executive Officer of Taronga and Western Plains Zoos since October 1987. He was admitted to the Order of Australia in January 1995 for services to conservation and the environment, particularly in the field of wildlife preservation and zoo administration.

Chester Zoo's Director, Dr Gordon McGregor Reid who was a personal friend said: *John was a truly great Zoo Director, and his contribution to the international zoo conservation movement will be very much missed.*

Dr Kelly is survived by his wife, Suzanne and their four children.

THE TWILIGHT ZONE

*Chief Curator,
Chris West,
introduces the
zoo's newest
attraction, due to open shortly*



I WOULD like you to imagine that you are walking through boulders and luxuriant vegetation beside a curving pathway - to an entrance to a dark cave, in which there are Hissing Cockroaches, Imperial Scorpions (which glow under the ultra violet light) and Cave Crickets.

These characteristic cave-dwelling invertebrates are all in large tanks set into rock faces. Microphone links bring the sounds of crickets and cockroaches to your ears. Information panels, with touch-button lighting, describe the number, variety and bizarre appearance of bats, their adaptations to flight, nocturnal feeding, how they benefit man and the environment, how they have inspired myths, literature and film.

Beyond the cave, through an opening by a curtain of water, is a twilight flying area - the largest in Europe - shared by endangered Rodrigues Fruit Bats from Mauritius, together with the smaller, also fruit-eating, Mexican Sebas Bats. (At this point, anyone who wants to look at the bats but not walk in with them, can look in through large windows, before taking an alternative exit.)

Walking along a gentle pathway you look up at bats flitting or flapping (depending on size!) overhead.

You can approach feeding stations closely and observe the 'table manners' of fruit bats - not refined! Enter a rock tunnel and look at Mexican Blind Cave Fish in a tank to one side and look out

through an aperture at a pool inhabited by giant catfish on the other.

The bats roost in trees. Other vegetation festoons the rockwork, waterfalls and stream. Either stop and simply feel part of a twilight, tropical clearing or look at more information panels. Towards the exit, learn about Britain's bats and the work of local conservation groups to protect and nurture them.

Leave behind a unique experience and pass down a leafy pathway to explore what is round the next bend . . .

Well that is our vision of how the *Twilight Zone* will seem to visitors to the zoo from Easter time. As I write, in the early days of January, surveying the waterlogged site and being distracted by storm damage concerns, the vision of a warm, still, tropical twilight has a certain appeal! Like any project, the transition from building site to finished article seems almost mystical. But the hum of activity from specialist rock simulators, theatrical lighting experts, pool and waterfall creators and others, allows for confidence.

Please visit for yourselves - see how the building site looks now - feel the freshly finished bat experience at Easter and keep returning to see how we encourage growth to provide a 'tropical' pathway to the entrance and find other unusual nocturnal creatures to inhabit our twilight home . . .

SUMMER EVENING GUIDED TOURS

Education Division's Linda Davenport gets quite lyrical about summer walks in the zoo!



As we pull out of winter's grey gloom and the days lengthen with the approach of spring, our thoughts turn to those long lazy summer evenings to come when we leave the huddle of the fireside behind and stroll through warm open spaces amongst fragrant blooms under a languid sky...

With this in mind, our Education Volunteers run accompanied summer evening tours. A stroll around the gardens after the daytime crowds have left, is an ideal opportunity to make the most of summer. Groups are escorted around selected tours, all linked with the common theme of the role of the zoo in conservation.

The tour includes a wide variety of mammals, (for example cheetahs, sea-

lions, tigers, otters) birds (for example condors, owls, flamingos, penguins) and reptiles, inside the *Tropical Realm*. Animals in houses which close overnight - eg elephants and chimpanzees - are not included in the tours. Your well-informed guide will talk about the animals and answer questions. The guides will also have visual and tactile aids - such as camel hair and penguin feathers.

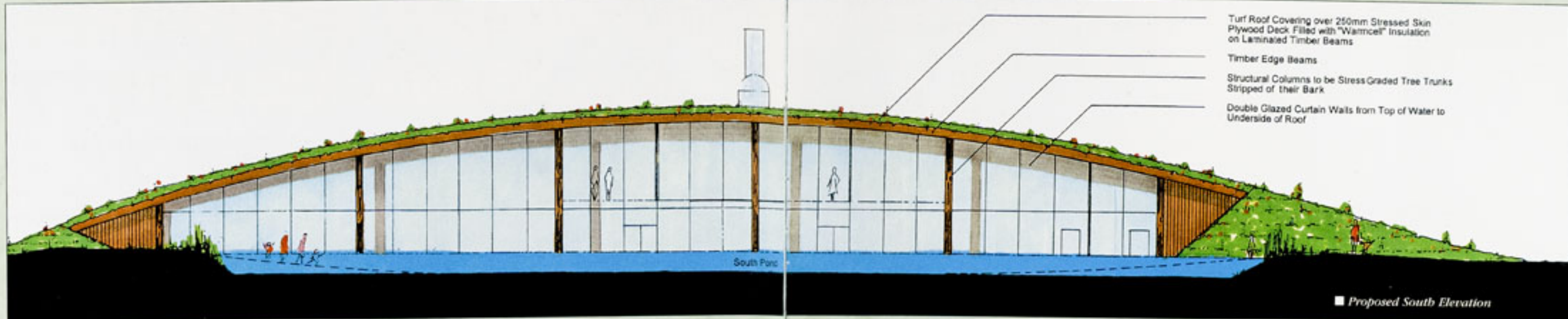
The leisurely tour also features some of our award winning gardens, with seasonal displays of both native and overseas plants. In summer the colours and fragrances - especially the rose gardens - are worth a visit in themselves. There are over 15,000 bush and standard roses and new

varieties are added regularly.

A pause for light refreshments half way through is included in the tour, which can cost as little as £7.50 per person. Bookings from adult groups of ten or more people are available throughout the summer season. We welcome bookings from wheelchair users, or our motorised scooters may be booked in advance.

For more information or booking forms, please contact Linda in the Education Office, on 01244 650205, or send an sae to:

Linda Davenport,
Evening Guided Tours,
Education Division, Chester Zoo,
Upton-by-Chester,
Cheshire CH2 1LH.



National Pond Life Centre

As reported in the last issue, the application from Liverpool John Moores University, in association with Chester Zoo, for almost £2 million from the National Lottery Millennium Fund for this centre, was approved last November. Here, Pat Cade goes into more detail about this exciting project.

CHESHIRE has the highest density of ponds in Britain, and perhaps Western Europe, so it is entirely appropriate that the National Pond Life Centre should come to the county. The project team, led by Dr Andrew Hull at Liverpool John Moores University, also feel that it should be built at Chester Zoo. The proposed centre will complement the work of the zoo, and have the same ethos of conservation, research and education, including a stimulating public exhibition area and main feature for zoo visitors.

The grant approval has given the project an enormous boost, and increased the confidence of the team that the remaining funding will be found. If all goes to plan, the centre will open in time for the new millennium.

The Concept

Ponds were once a common feature in our rural landscape. Sadly, following the increase and intensity of farming activities and methods, this is now a rapidly disappearing feature. It follows that a rich diversity of plants and wildlife is also disappearing. The concept of the National Pondlife Centre

is to establish a programme to conserve, protect and manage existing ponds; to stimulate awareness and understanding of this important resource and to create new, sustainable pond landscapes. *It will be the first institute of its kind to be established anywhere in the world.* The centre will operate as an independent organisation, but there will be close liaison and synergy with the zoo.

The Location

The proposed site is the currently unused former car park at the old zoo entrance. This area will be used for the centre buildings, together with demonstration ponds and associated landscaping. Other zoo ponds may be available for the purposes of research, nature conservation and education.

The Design

The building - designed by award-winning architect Richard Cass - is conceived as an integral part of the landscape, and is intended to be a leading example of ecologically based architecture. Its basic form is of a graceful shallow arch, which rises from the ground at either end, and is

covered with grass and wild flowers. Beneath the arch, the walls are simply glazed, allowing light, space and landscape to flow through the building. Its facades are curved and angled, on the south side to maximise solar gain and to shield the building from the road, and on the north side to maximise the view over the open countryside.

Inside - as presently conceived, but subject to modification - there will be three main areas: education facilities and an exhibition area on the ground floor and a centre for research and administration on the first floor.

The Functions

The specific functions of the new centre will include:

Nature Conservation - actively promoting pond conservation and establishing best practice guidelines for use throughout the UK and beyond.

Education Opportunities - a broad-based programme, addressing primary, secondary, tertiary and adult education. Facilities will include classrooms and a laboratory, and the development of NVQ and GNVQ courses will be an integral part.

Research Opportunities - providing facilities for advanced study of small freshwater bodies, and the establishment of external field stations associated with the regional and specialist pondlife centres throughout Britain and, indeed, Europe.

Important elements of the design are the North and South ponds. South pond will provide the visual setting for the building, with a footpath descending below the water level as it approaches the building. Zoo visitors will have a separate access from the west.

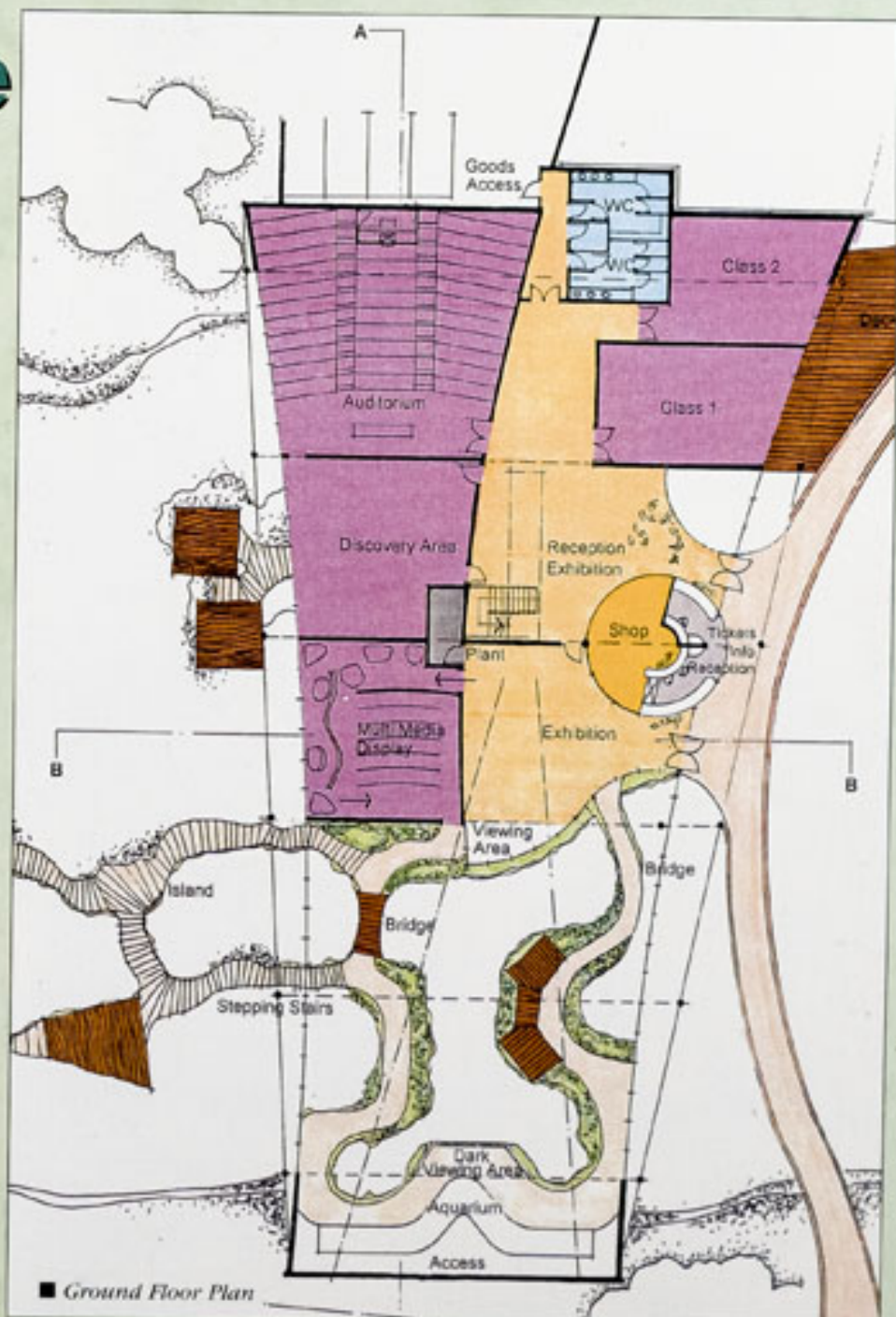
The North pond forms an integral part of the exhibits, with decks and boardwalk access from within the building. New woodland planting will screen the site.

This world-class Centre will be an exciting and stimulating experience for the zoo's visitors, and we wish the team every success as they continue to raise matching funds for its completion.

Information Base - housing the National Pond Archive, with the storage of site biological records relating to ponds throughout the country. It will include the Pond Information Network, with on-line access and incorporate a learning resource centre.

Consultancy - providing a service to external bodies, including ecological survey work, design, creation and restoration of ponds and the development of management programmes.

Visitor Attraction - providing an appealing and imaginative venue, with interactive displays, touch pools and walk through aquarium. The exhibits will include a Natterjack Toad vivarium, freshwater fish gallery, and tropical pond life. There will also be a multi-media theatre.



Sithami, born Chester Zoo, 31st December, 1997



■ Congo Peafowl with Chick



BIRD REVIEW '97

Curator of Birds, Dr Roger Wilkinson, reports on the work of the Bird Division during last year - illustrated with his own photography.

CHESTER Zoo is well known for its parrot collection. Our most important breeding in 1997 was that of the endangered Red-tailed Amazon. These birds are part of the European Endangered Species (EEP) breeding programme co-ordinated from Dresden Zoo by Dr Hubert Lückner. Chester's pair of Red-tailed Amazons arrived in 1995, the male from Paradise Park, Cornwall and the female from Loro Parque, Tenerife.

This was their first breeding attempt and we were delighted when two strong chicks fledged in late July. Unfortunately one died shortly after fledging, post mortem indicated a most unusual parasite *Besnoitia* as being the cause of death. This is the first time Red-tailed Amazons have been bred at Chester and to our knowledge the first breeding in any zoo on public display.

Another parrot bred in 1997 for the first time at Chester was the Illiger's Macaw, now considered vulnerable in the wild, which hatched and reared two excellent chicks. Other parrots bred included four Red-fronted Macaws, three Green-cheeked Amazons, four Cuban Amazons, three Blue-eyed Cockatoos, one Thick-billed Parrot, four Derbyan Parakeets, one Splendid Parakeet and two Yellow-backed Chattering Lories.

Blue-throated Conures, Black-winged Lories and Stella's Lorikeets all hatched chicks but this year none were successfully reared. Important new arrivals to the collection included a pair of endangered Red and Blue Lories and two male Mount Apo Lorikeets (to join our two females) received on loan from Loro Parque. Both species have European ESB Studbooks co-ordinated from Loro Parque by Roger Sweeney. One of the newly formed pairs of Mount Apes spent time in a nest log but no eggs were laid. Other welcome arrivals to the collection were a pair of Leadbeater's Cockatoos and two Black-cheeked Lovebirds.

Mountain Peacock Pheasants are another EEP breeding programme species which were bred for the first time at Chester in 1997 with one chick



■ Red Tailed Amazons

being foster-reared by a bantam. Other pheasants bred either by foster-parents or hand-reared included two Palawan Peacock Pheasants, two Himalayan Monals, two Golden Pheasants and six Lady Amherst Pheasants.

Three Satyr Tragopans were reared by their parents. A young male Congo Peafowl reared by its parents was allowed to remain with them whilst they incubated a later clutch of eggs. Three chicks were hatched which the half-grown male helped to look after.

The Common Peafowl reared five chicks. Two Rouloul Partridges were parent-reared in their aviary in the *Tropical Realm*. Sixteen Red-legged Partridge were hand-reared from eggs laid by birds in *'Europe on the Edge'*. The Red-legged Partridges hatched chicks in the enclosure but these failed to survive. Chinese Painted Quail successfully reared a chick in the mixed *'Finch Flight'*. The Red-crowned Cranes hatched and reared one chick and two West African Crowned Cranes were foster-reared by bantams. Our Blue Cranes laid for the first time but the single egg was infertile. We were devastated when later in the year we lost the male of this pair and are more than grateful to the Tropical Bird Gardens, Rode, for the loan of their

male. The Demoiselle Cranes again had infertile eggs and a new male has been received on loan from Dr Martin Bourne. Little Egrets in *'Europe on the Edge'* were unsuccessful in rearing chicks in 1996 so we elected to take eggs for artificial incubation and hand-rearing. Two chicks were hand-reared before one of the pairs of Little Egrets successfully hatched and reared their own chick. Other species bred in *'Europe on the Edge'* included Waldrapp Ibis which reared four chicks (and another three Waldrapp were bred in the Big Flight). Eight Dalmatian Pelicans were received from Villars Les Dombes, France, to increase our flock to ten.

We were asked to assist with collecting Lapwing eggs from Hawarden airport where there was a particular problem with these nesting waders presenting a hazard to the planes using this airport. A number of clutches of set eggs were rescued and returned to our Incubation and Rearing Unit. Most of these were hatched and reared and although we had some difficulties in establishing these in the vast *'Europe on the Edge'* habitat at the year end we held a total of nine Lapwings. This total included an additional two rescue birds which were received from Gronant Bird Help together with a Golden Plover.

The European Black Vultures again spent weeks extending to months sitting on their nest but again no eggs were laid. A pair of European Griffon Vultures were received on loan from Bristol Zoo this winter and have already settled well into 'Europe on the Edge'. Perhaps their arrival may stimulate the European Black Vultures into reproductive activity next year. Other new arrivals included an Egyptian Vulture, which has been housed together with the Secretary Birds and four Turkey Vultures, one American Black Vulture and a Crested Caracara to add to the new 'Condor Cliffs' exhibit.

Caribbean and Chilean Flamingos were both very late in starting to nest. A dry spring which did not encourage nesting behaviour was followed by a June so wet that when eggs were laid they sat in small pools of water in the nest depressions. This necessitated our removal of some eggs for artificial incubation replacing them with dummy eggs and then returning them prior to hatching. Although two Caribbean Chicks were hatched neither survived and of four Chilean Flamingos hatched only one survived giving us our poorest year with flamingos since 1990.

Our successes in breeding Humboldt's Penguins over the last few years has

resulted in them being so well represented in other European Zoos that we agreed not to hand-rear any chicks in 1997. All chicks were left with their parents resulting in three parent-reared youngsters. Six penguins were collected by Amneville Zoo in France and three birds, representing new bloodlines were received from Emmen Zoo, Netherlands.

Waterfowl reared in 1997 included Hawaiian Geese, Ruddy Shelduck, Cuban Whistling Ducks, Red-crested Pochard, Laysan and Marbled Teal, Chiloe Wigeon, Common Shelduck, Mandarin Ducks and Smew. We also hatched, but this year were not successful in rearing, White-headed Ducks and for the first time at Chester were successful in rearing Meller's Ducks, Falcated Teal and Garganey.

Fourteen Speckled Pigeons, six Crested Bronzewing Pigeons and one Rock Dove were bred. Although we had foot problems with newly fledged Luzon Bleeding Heart Doves we eventually reared six youngsters from our two pairs. Two pairs of Nicobar Pigeons each fledged a chick but this was soured by the loss of two of the breeding adults in the same period. Four Red Turtle Doves were received from the Tropical Bird Gardens, Rode at the year end and

released into the free-flight area of the *Tropical Realm*.

Two Spectacled Owls and one Barn Owl were reared. Our pair of White-faced Scops Owls have reared fifteen youngsters over the last five years and are thought to now be more than adequately represented in the managed British Isles zoo population. We followed the studbook co-ordinator's request to split this pair resulting in no breeding in 1997. A new female was introduced to the breeding male but these showed little interest in each other. Two Tawny Frogmouths were hand-reared and two Kookaburras were reared by their parents.

We had a less successful year with hornbills. The Great Indian Hornbills muddled up but the female emerged without evidence of egg laying. Wrinkled and Trumpeter Hornbills both hatched chicks but these failed to fledge successfully and only one African Grey Hornbill was reared. The Turacos were more successful with three Schalow's Turacos and one Violet Plantain-eater reared. The White-cheeked Turacos were late in breeding and although chicks hatched none were fledged. Four Red-billed Magpies were reared by their parents but this year neither pair of



■ Luzon Bleeding Heart Dove



■ Mountain Peacock Pheasant

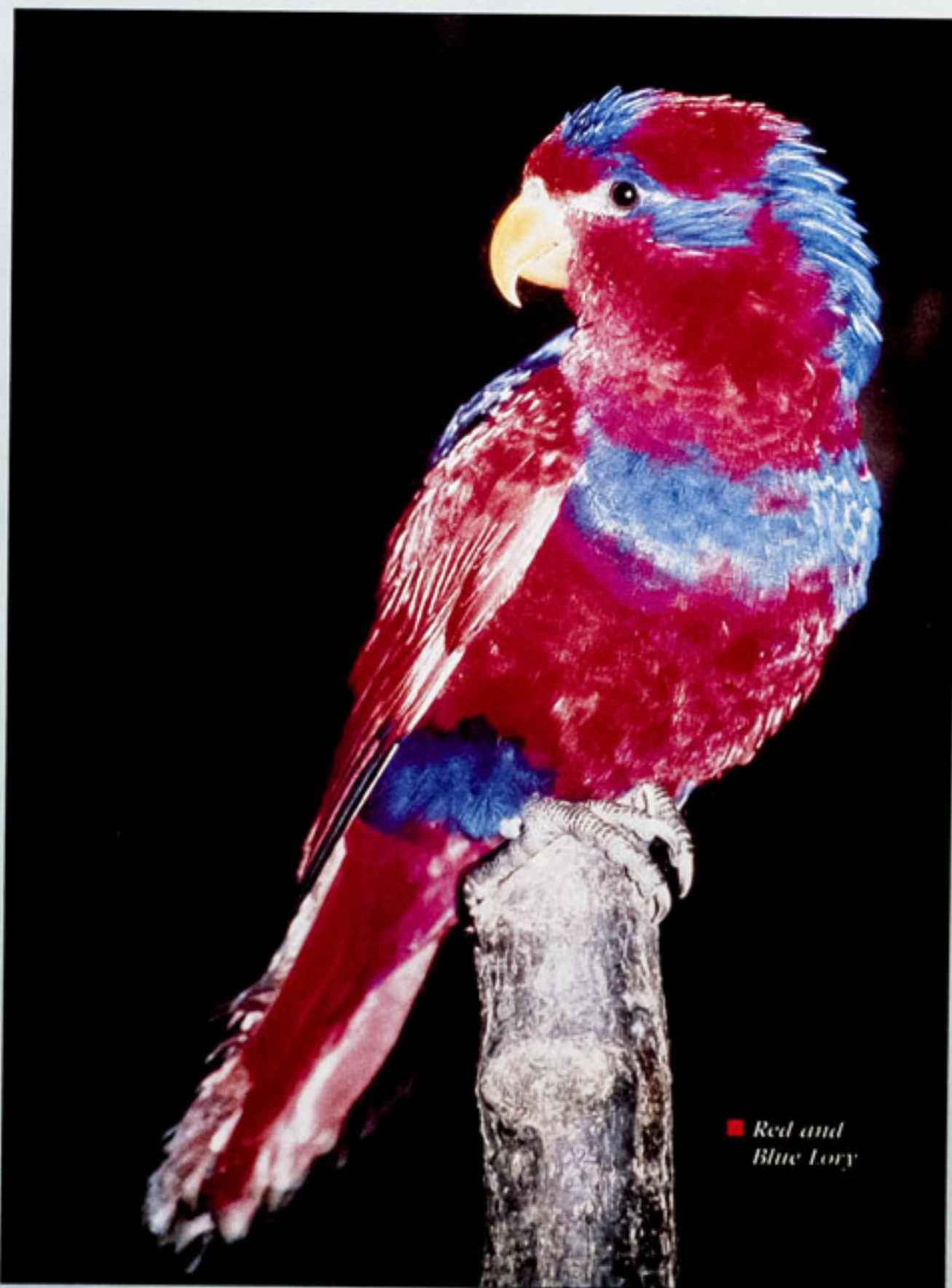


■ White-rumped Shama

Superb Spreeo Starlings were successful in raising young. All four of our Superb Spreos have been in the collection between 13 and 14 years and were adult when received. Our longest living passerine in the zoo is a Red-billed Quelea received as an adult in 1978 which must now be at least 20 years old.

In the *Tropical Realm* the Emerald Starlings fledged two chicks but these disappeared before the year end; possibly having escaped for no bodies were discovered. Red-eared Bulbuls, Pekin Robins and Silver-beaked Tanagers also fledged chicks. One pair of White-rumped Shammas fledged several broods of chicks and a Plumbeous Redstart was hand-reared. Leaving the smallest birds to the end, Mexican House Finches, Zebra Finches and Red-cheeked Cordon-Bleus reared chicks in the Finch Flight. New species recieved included Omei Shan Liocichlas, Red-legged Honey Creepers, and Grosbeak Starlings all of which have been high-lighted for co-operative management in European zoos.

Postscript from Roger Wilkinson: A number of bird enclosures suffered serious damage during the ferocious storm that hit Chester on Christmas Eve. We have been incredibly fortunate to have suffered so few losses as a result of this, thanks to a small number of people who gave up their Christmas to help repair these areas and ensure that losses were kept to a minimum. To all those people who helped, many of whom spent most of Christmas Day on the Tropical Realm roof - 'THANK YOU' - your efforts are very much appreciated.



■ Red and Blue Lory

A taste of TANZANIA

- PART 2 -

Julie Whitear continues her account of the Zoo Members' safari to Africa last Autumn. In the Winter issue of Zoo Life, we left the adventurers setting off on the long drive to Ngorongoro Crater...

AFTER leaving Migration Camp we drove south towards Seronera, stopping at a huge hippo pool. Later we saw a pool of water with about 40 Marabou Storks waddling around and were treated to a very entertaining little episode. One of the storks jabbed a large catfish which it couldn't pick up with its chopstick-like beak and a Monitor Lizard swam through the water and took the fish off the stork then dragged it out onto the bank and hid behind a log eating it!

We arrived at Naabi Hill Park Gate (where we had to obtain permits to enter the Ngorongoro Conservation Area). I started chatting to a group of people on an overland truck, one of whom turned out to be from Perth Zoo - it's a very small world!

After that we drove down a straight dusty track trying to gain some time. The terrain was very flat and yellow and the few animals spotted were mainly Thompson's Gazelles, Jackals and Warthogs. The scenery was quite breathtaking with the crater hills ahead of us. As we neared the end of the plains towards a more lush area we saw elephants and the best sighting of the day, a pair of Bat-eared Foxes, nicely lit by the backdrop of evening sunlight. We started to climb the hill off the plains and saw several Masai and their cattle. At dusk, as we stopped at the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater to pull the cover onto the roof, we had our first glimpse into the crater floor which looked quite magical with a milky, silver lake in the bottom and the night clouds coming down.

Next day we woke to a tremendous view across the crater in daylight - like

looking down from a plane. The Ngorongoro Conservation Area is called such because it is not a national park. It is recognised as a biosphere which is shared by people, wildlife and livestock. The whole conservation area covers around 8300 sq km and the crater itself takes up 260 sq km. Wild animals and plants are all protected within the NCA and the crater itself is reserved totally for wildlife. Only 30 years ago 108 rhinos were living within the crater walls, today there are fewer than 20. The NCA Authority and Frankfurt Zoological Society are running a joint long-term conservation project to protect this unique population of black rhino.

The crater is world renowned and whilst we could appreciate the natural splendour of the area, it was a little disconcerting sharing it with seemingly hundreds of other commercial safari vehicles. We did experience an abnormally dusty day and the animals seemed almost 'tame' - they were obviously so used to human company. This made for an excellent photographic opportunity but after the wildness of Serengeti seemed like a safari park! In fact, one amusing incident involved a view of several lions lying against some old concrete drums, which looked not unlike some of the original wartime enclosures at Chester Zoo!

The next day a small group drove with Deo back to see Olduvai Gorge with its famous archaeological sites and the rest of us carried on to Lake Manyara. As we passed signs of civilisation, we saw street markets with colourful stalls and there were children dancing and chasing the vehicles all the time, holding their hands out shouting for biros! We arrived

at the Serena lodge around midday and had a lovely lunch enjoying spectacular views over the rift valley.

In the afternoon, we drove into Lake Manyara National Park (it is named after the tree *Euphorbia Manyara* which we saw growing in several places). We saw huge troops of baboons and had several close elephant encounters. Other sightings included Yellow-billed Egret, Giraffes, Wildebeest, Zebra, Thompson's Gazelles, Hornbills (Ground, Red-billed and Grey), Bushbuck, Waterbuck, Warthogs and a mouse! Although Lake Manyara is a fairly small park (318 sq km) it has such diverse terrain that the species lists are quite impressive. There are large areas of ground water forest with giant fig and mahogany trees that give way to acacia woodland and open areas, all well watered.

After an all too short stop at Manyara we were moving on again, this time to Tarangire, our last port of call. Our vehicle stopped at a place called Mto Wa Mbu (which translates as Mosquito Creek!) to refill the fridge with cold drinks and we had a quick scout round the town. Everyone got back in the land rover exhausted after ten minutes 'shopping'! We then gave two little boys a lift to their school as they were late and going to walk the 15km. We dropped them off having shared lessons in primary colours and counting to 20 and gave them some pens and English coins which caused huge smiles!

Once in Tarangire National Park we stopped for our picnic lunch on top of a hill overlooking a beautiful cool river filled with elephants. There were well over 100 in the group. There are an average of 3000 in the park and since



The River of Baboons in Tarangire

The next day was our last full day and was already very hot by 7.45 am. We set off on an all day drive hoping to see the elusive leopard! We saw all the usual animals plus some of the lesser seen species such as Dwarf Mongoose, Kirk's Dikdiks, Unstripped Ground Squirrel, Marshall Eagle, Monitor Lizard, Banded Mongoose and Brown Snake Eagle. We watched a small group of lions, sleeping under the shade of a tree and could see the remains of their kill in the edge of the swampy area a short way from them. A vulture came down to take some pickings and the male lion ran over to the carcass and chased him off!

We struggled to find any shade for our picnic that day and settled for a couple of sparsely leaved trees with a good view across the swampy plains with a vast herd of elephants in the distance. As I sat writing my notes over lunch, one of our group looked skywards and spotted a large snake in the tree above one of our vehicles! We got some excellent pictures of the python who decided to come down the trunk and take a closer look at us.

On the way back we spent hours gazing up into trees and were finally rewarded minutes from getting back to the lodge - the elusive Leopard! It was quite a way back from the road, but none the less worth seeing.

So, by the skin of our teeth, we 'ticked' the big five!

On the final day, Friday 17th, we were up early at 5.45 am to go on a final game drive (well, some of us were!). We didn't drive far but the early morning sun was lovely and amongst sightings were a group of Dwarf Mongoose peacefully sunning themselves, and a close encounter with a pair of lions.

Back at the hotel for brunch and packing, we then sat and mulled over our adventures before the drive back to the airport around midday. When we rejoined the tarmac road to Arusha it seemed quite strange not to be bumping around and covered with dust all the



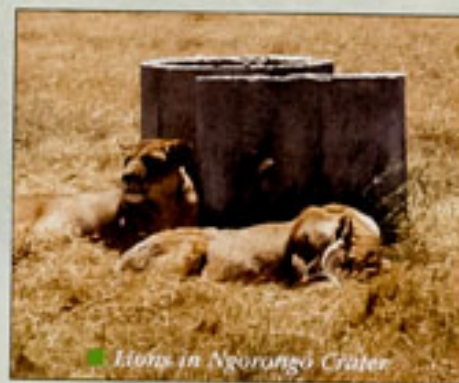
Lizard spotted high in a tree

time - there were even white lines on the roads in places! It was an interesting drive with the hills still in the background and huts and goat herds along the roadside, intercepted by occasional small villages and eventually through the bustle of Arusha before we stopped at Mountain Village (where we had begun our adventure). We tasted our last safari beer and enjoyed African evening sun accompanied by Masai chanting.

We had covered about 1800 km during our whole tour, all on really interesting dusty, pot-holed roads. We arrived on the vast and magical Serengeti Plains and drove through huge areas of grassland to the dustiest day on earth in the Crater, then drove down through rainforest past miles of farmland and interesting villages to the greenery of Lake Manyara and the Rift Valley. Then finally to Tarangire - land of acacias, baobabs and thousands of elephants! Our final lion count for the week ended up at 79 (some people claimed a few more!). Other achievements included drinking Migration Camp dry of Safari Beers and the Sopa Lodge out of Chardonnay on the last night! Our thanks go to *Diplomatic Travel* in the UK and *Let's Go Travel* in Arusha for providing an excellent service and a truly memorable experience.



Hippos in Lake Manyara



Lions in Ngorongoro Crater

Join us in South Africa in May - book your place now - we are also planning a 1999 trip to Namibia. Contact Julie at the Zoo on 01244 650201

A ZOO ENTHUSIAST'S HOLIDAY

JUST to the south of Holland, Belgium rather strangely does not have nearly as many zoos. The main one is at Antwerp right next to the city's magnificent railway station! It is, however, well worth a visit with its beautiful ornamental gardens and historic animal houses.

If you do not believe that the latter can exist, then take a look at Antwerp's elephant and giraffe house, constructed in 1856 in the style of an ancient Egyptian temple. Quite amazing - and more to the point, serviceable to this day. Planckendael Zoo near Mechelen, is Antwerp's country home and is similar in size to Chester, Antwerp Zoo itself, being somewhat reminiscent of Bristol in this country.

Germany is not a country that is an enormously popular holiday destination for the British, but as it is sometimes called 'the land of zoos' we must certainly feature it here. Many of its most famous zoos are located within cities which are not particularly tourist destinations, but all I can say is that a visit to them is worth the effort. Berlin does not fit into the non-tourist category however, and is among Europe's greatest collections of living animals. Tierpark (East) is not far behind.

The reason why the city has two zoos is obvious, given the modern history of Germany. Both zoos are now run by the same authority and between them attract 3-4 million visitors per year.

Zoo Berlin has a long and famous history and despite almost total devastation in World War II, has restored its buildings and collection to brilliant effect. I cannot emphasise how highly I rate this place; suffice it to say that it has almost too many interesting species to mention.

Tierpark, or East Berlin Zoo, was a product of the old Communist regime, and is much more open-plan in a parkland setting. As a result it has fabulous collection of ungulates. Nonetheless, the zoo has two of the largest animal houses I have ever encountered.

The elephant house includes accommodation for hippo, rhino,

House, for small mammals, including a nocturnal area.

Tim Brown, founder of the Independent Zoo Enthusiast's Society, concludes his impressions of European Zoos. In the last issue, he'd just left Holland, and was entering Belgium . . .

both species of elephant, and a pool for West Indian manatees in the middle! The Alfred Brehm House for big cats (named after a famous German naturalist of the last century) is just as vast, but now a little dated in places.

The Ruhr Valley is one of Germany's main industrial areas, yet here is a concentration of major zoos unequalled in such a small geographical area anywhere in the world.

Cologne is famous, yet nearby is Dortmund with its brilliant tropical house, and breeding record for giant anteaters and giant otters.

Duisburg has become known for koalas and also for its success with unusual cetaceans (whales and dolphins.) Wuppertal is fast becoming a top-flight collection after years of relative anonymity and Krefeld is another excellent place. Not too far away are the large zoos at Munster and Rheine as well! This may not be Germany's top beauty spot but who cares with zoos such as those to visit!

Heading towards the more southerly regions of Germany we would first come to Frankfurt Zoo, which became famous in the 1950's and 60's under the directorship of Dr Bernhard Grzimek, who was Germany's equivalent to a Gerald Durrell or a Sir Peter Scott. Probably the best exhibit is the Grzimek

House, for small mammals, including a nocturnal area.

The Bird House, from 1961, pushes it close with its glass-fronted, planted aviaries quite undated to this day. The Exotarium is well known as a pioneer of zoo exhibitry - it's a kind of glorified aquarium and reptile house combined.

Stuttgart and Munich are further out still. The former is best known as Wilhelma after the 19th century king, whose residence the zoo once was. Wilhelma is a marvellous combination of ornamental gardens and more recently constructed zoo buildings, built when the zoo was expanded in the '60s. 1991 saw the completion of a quite fantastic 'Bear Mountain' for three species of bear, rocky mountain goats, beavers and more.

Munich is a park-type zoo, opened in 1928 under the direction of Dr Heinz Heck - a famous zoo name. It is still a major breeding centre for rare species. If we were to head back north via Nuremberg and Hannover zoos, we would eventually come to the famous Carl Hagenbeck's Tierpark at Hamburg, one of a very small number of German zoos which are privately owned rather than municipal.

We referred in the last issue to the unique panoramic style of animal exhibition which Hagenbeck pioneered. Not too far away is Walsrode, the world's largest collection of birds, with over 800 species.

We must not forget Austria and its Schönbrunn Zoo in Vienna, the oldest zoo in the world still open to the public.

Founded in 1751 in the grounds of the Royal Palace, it has recently been redeveloped and new popularity has emerged as a result. A last mention - the Alpenzoo at Innsbruck, with a unique collection of Alpine flora and fauna.

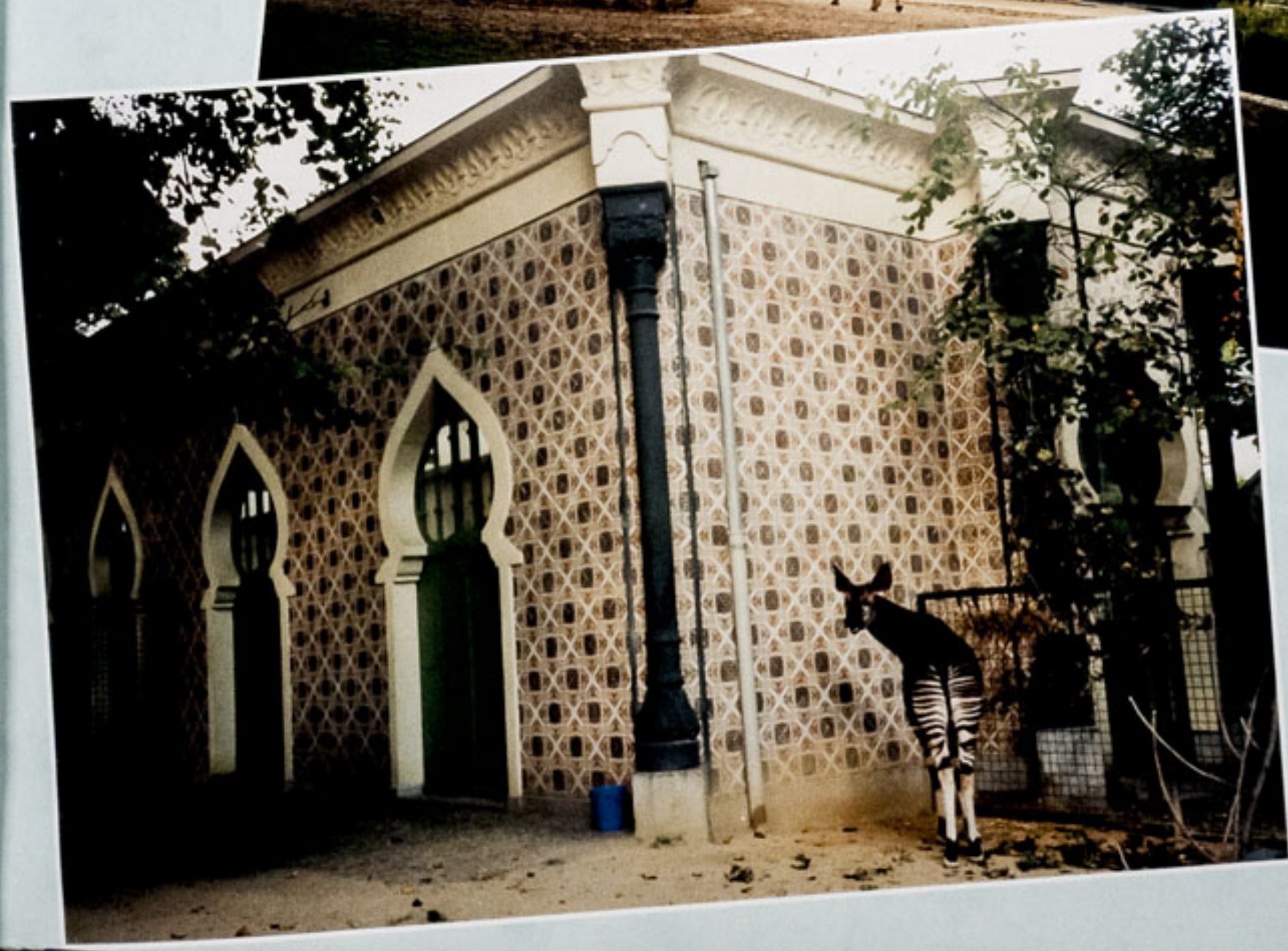
That's it - a whistle stop tour of Europe's finest zoos (with apologies to some in Scandinavia and Eastern Europe). Maybe another time we shall take a look at North America's best.



■ *The Elephant House at Antwerp Zoo*



■ *Giraffe and Defassa Waterbuck, West Berlin*



■ *Okapi at Antwerp Zoo*

JUNIOR MEMBERS

MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS

TRACKS AND SIGNS

Saturday 28th March '98

A messy, muddy day, making plaster casts - so old clothes to-day please! Meet outside the Oakfield at 11.00am, collection at 4.00pm. Picnic lunch needed. (Over 8's)

WENLOCK EDGE - FOSSIL HUNTING

Saturday 25th April '98

A lovely walk along the Wenlock escarpment, with the chance of finding some brilliant fossils. Bus will leave the staff car park at 9.30am, returning 5.00pm. Good shoes, warm clothes and a picnic needed! (Over 8's)

THE WIRRAL WAY WILDLIFE WALK

Saturday 23rd May '98

A chance to enjoy our local flora and fauna. The walk starts at Parkgate, and seven miles further along at Thurstaston Country Park, we'll be collected by bus. Meet in the staff car park at 9.30am, returning at 4.30pm. Picnic needed. (Over 8's)

TREE GUARDIAN DAY

Saturday 27th June '98

A day in a woodland in Vale Royal,

learning about trees and woodland habitat conservation. A fun day, with quizzes and discovery games. Bus leaves staff car park at 10.30am, returning at 5.00pm. Bring a picnic and wear your wellies! (Over 8's)

DAY WITH A KEEPER

Wednesday 22 July '98

A strenuous day for over 12's only. Come prepared for hard work, wearing wellies and equipped with an energy-packed picnic! Meet outside the Oakfield at 10.30 am, finishing at 4.00pm.

SUMMER BARBEQUE

Friday 20th August '98

Lots of fun, food and a few surprises! Arrive at the staff entrance at 7.00pm, and walk through the zoo to the Jubilee Restaurant. Parents are asked to collect Juniors at 9.45 pm.

LOGGERHEADS NATURE TRAIL

Saturday 26th September '98

A trip to Loggerheads Country Park in North Wales. The bus will leave the staff car park at 11.00am, returning at 4.00pm. Bring a picnic. (Over 8's)

MANCHESTER NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Saturday 24th October '98

A fascinating day at this excellent museum. The bus will leave the staff car park at 10.30am, returning at 4.00pm. Picnic needed. (Over 8's)

LEIGHTON MOSS - SILVERDALE

Saturday 21st November '98

A journey to the RSPB Reserve near Carnforth in Lancashire for a very special day. The bus will leave the staff car park at 9.00am returning around 5.00pm. Warm clothes, waterproofs and wellies needed, together with a picnic. Over 10's only for this trip, as it is a long day.

Bookings must be made for all events. Please ring 01244 650215 not more than two weeks before the event.

It's 'first-come-first-served' and places may be limited.

A small charge will be made to cover costs for events involving transport, materials or food. This list is provisional and in exceptional circumstances we may have to alter dates and venues.

These changes will be printed in Zoo Life - not by individual letters - so keep up-to-date by reading your pages each issue!

KEEPING IN TOUCH

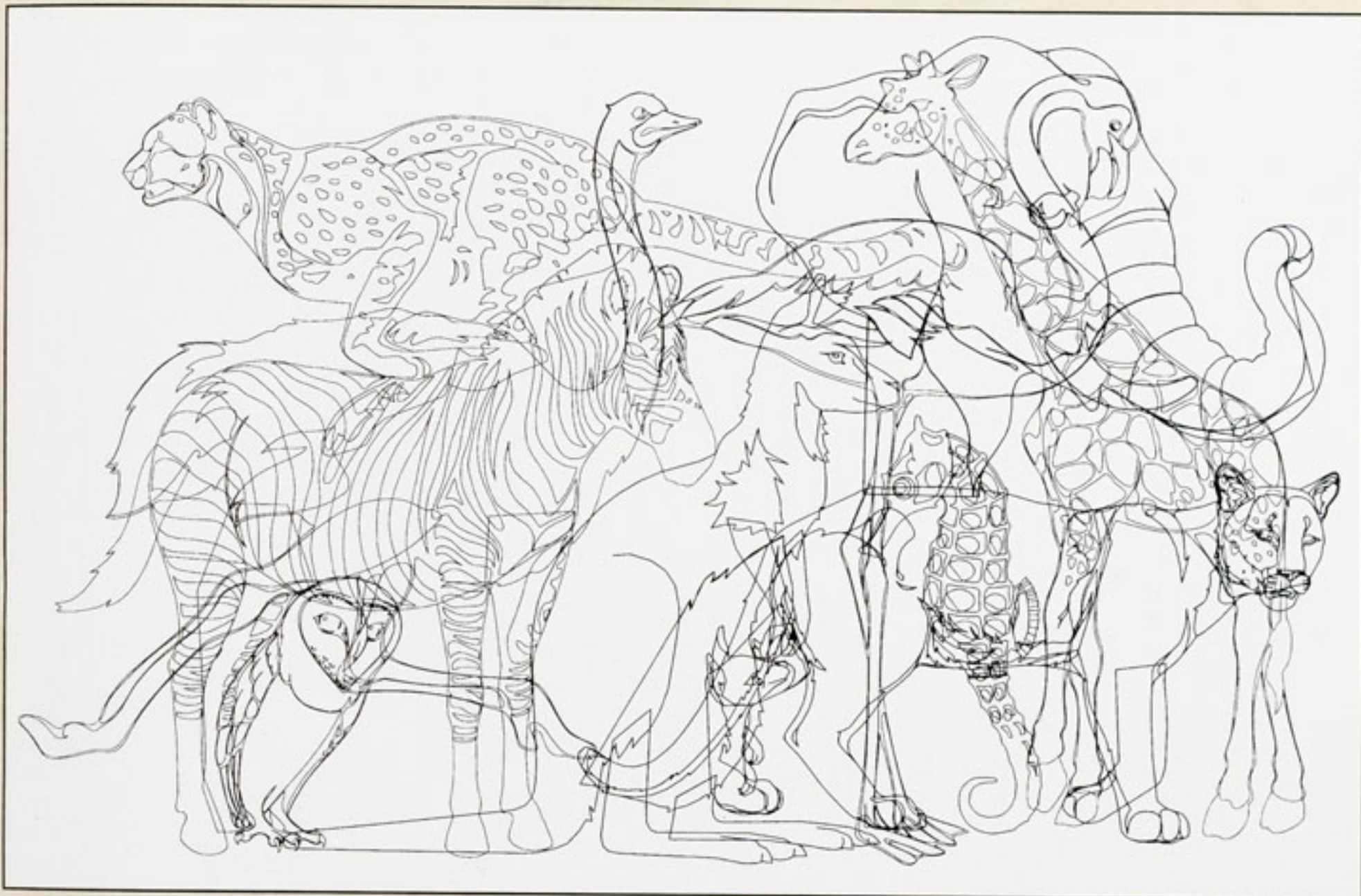
The annual 'touch session' is one of the most popular of Junior Events, and this year more than 160 of you turned up, to get close to some of our friendlier inhabitants. Granada Television were also there, filming a few minutes for the week-long 'Zoo Watch' feature they ran in January.

Pictured Below: Left: The chicks are a favourite with everyone!

Right: Which end is which?



- ANIMAL JUMBLE -



There are **TEN** animals mixed up in our picture – and this issue's competition is to identify them all!

Answers, please, to: Junior Puzzle, Marketing Office, Chester Zoo, Upton-by-Chester, CH2 1LH.

First correct answer opened on the closing date – 15th April – will win a £10 gift voucher to spend in the zoo shops.

1998 FIELD TRIP

The dates mentioned in the last magazine – 3rd or 4th week in August – are no longer possible for our proposed few days away. Therefore, if we are going away this year, alternative dates be issued shortly, at forthcoming Junior Members' events. Sorry about the change of plan!

JUNIOR CLUB LEADER

We're sure that all our Junior Members will join the zoo staff in wishing Penny Rudd and her husband David every happiness with their new instant family – an eight-year-old son and a three year old daughter who joined them just after Christmas. Two extra pairs of hands to help care for the menagerie of animals at the Rudd home!

TAIL ENDS PUZZLE

Zoo Life Winter Edition

The answers are: 1. Bongo 2. Zebra 3. Amur Tiger 4. Coati 5. Black Spider Monkey 6. Common Iguana 7. Kangaroo 8. Lion.

No totally correct answers to this one! Nearly everyone thought the stripey tail – number 4 – was a ring-tailed lemur.

Two entries had six correct answers, so we have decided, as it was the Christmas issue, they both should have a prize! Jessica Owen of Northop and Michael Kerr of Hoole have both received gift vouchers.

FRESHFIELD RED SQUIRREL RESERVE

Junior Members – pictured below – had a wonderful day at the Ainsdale Nature Reserve, near Southport, making a close acquaintance with some of the appealing Red Squirrels in the Freshfield Reserve there. The day included an exploratory walk along the Ainsdale sand dunes.



Arrivals ● Births ● and ● Hatchings ●

NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 1997 and JANUARY 1998



■ Bactrian Camels with calf

MAMMALS				BIRDS continued			
Western Grey Kangaroo	<i>Macropus fuliginosus</i>	0.0.1	Birth	Speckled Pigeon	<i>Columba guinea</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
*Rodrigues Fruit Bat	<i>Pteropus rodncensis</i>	0.0.1	Birth	*Luzon Bleeding Heart Pigeon	<i>Gallicolumba luzonica</i>	0.0.3	Hatched
*Lion-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca silenus</i>	2.0.0	Arrival	Red Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	0.0.4	Arrival
Grivet Monkey	<i>Cercopithecus aethiops</i>	2.1.0	Arrival	*Cuban Amazon	<i>Amazona leucocephala</i>	0.0.4	Arrival
*Asiatic Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	0.1.0	Birth	Fairy Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	1.0.0	Arrival
*Babirusa	<i>Babyrousa babyrussa</i>	1.1.0	Arrival	Golden-breasted Waxbill	<i>Amandava subflava</i>	1.0.0	Arrival
*Bactrian Camel	<i>Camelus bactrianus</i>	0.1.0	Birth	Zebra Finch	<i>Poepbila guttata</i>	0.0.2	Hatched
*Guanaco	<i>Lama guanicoe</i>	0.1.0	Birth	White-headed Buffalo Weaver	<i>Dinemellia dinimelli</i>	0.0.2	Arrival
Axis Deer	<i>Cervus axis</i>	0.1.1	Birth				
Sitatunga	<i>Tragelaphus spekei</i>	0.0.1	Birth	REPTILES			
*Blackbuck	<i>Antelope cervicapra</i>	1.2.3	Birth	Tokay Gecko	<i>Gecko gecko</i>	0.0.1	Hatched
*Arabian Gazelle	<i>Gazella gazella arabica</i>	1.3.0	Birth	*Cuban Boa	<i>Epicrates angulifer</i>	0.0.6	Hatched
BIRDS				AMPHIBIA			
*Scarlet Ibis	<i>Eudocimus ruber</i>	1.0.0	Arrival	*Black & Gold Poison Arrow Frog	<i>Epipedobates truncatus</i>	0.0.5	Bred
*Laysan Teal	<i>Anas laysanensis</i>	1.0.0	Arrival				
*Marbled Teal	<i>Marmaronetta angustirostris</i>	1.1.0	Arrival	FISH			
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	0.0.2	Arrival	Panda Catfish	<i>Corydoras panda</i>	0.0.77	Bred
Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	0.1.0	Arrival				

Key: Col. 1=Male. Col. 2=Female. Col. 3=Young or unknown. *Rare/Endangered.