



*By Courtesy of Stewart of Rhyl (North Wales Press Agency, Prestatyn)*

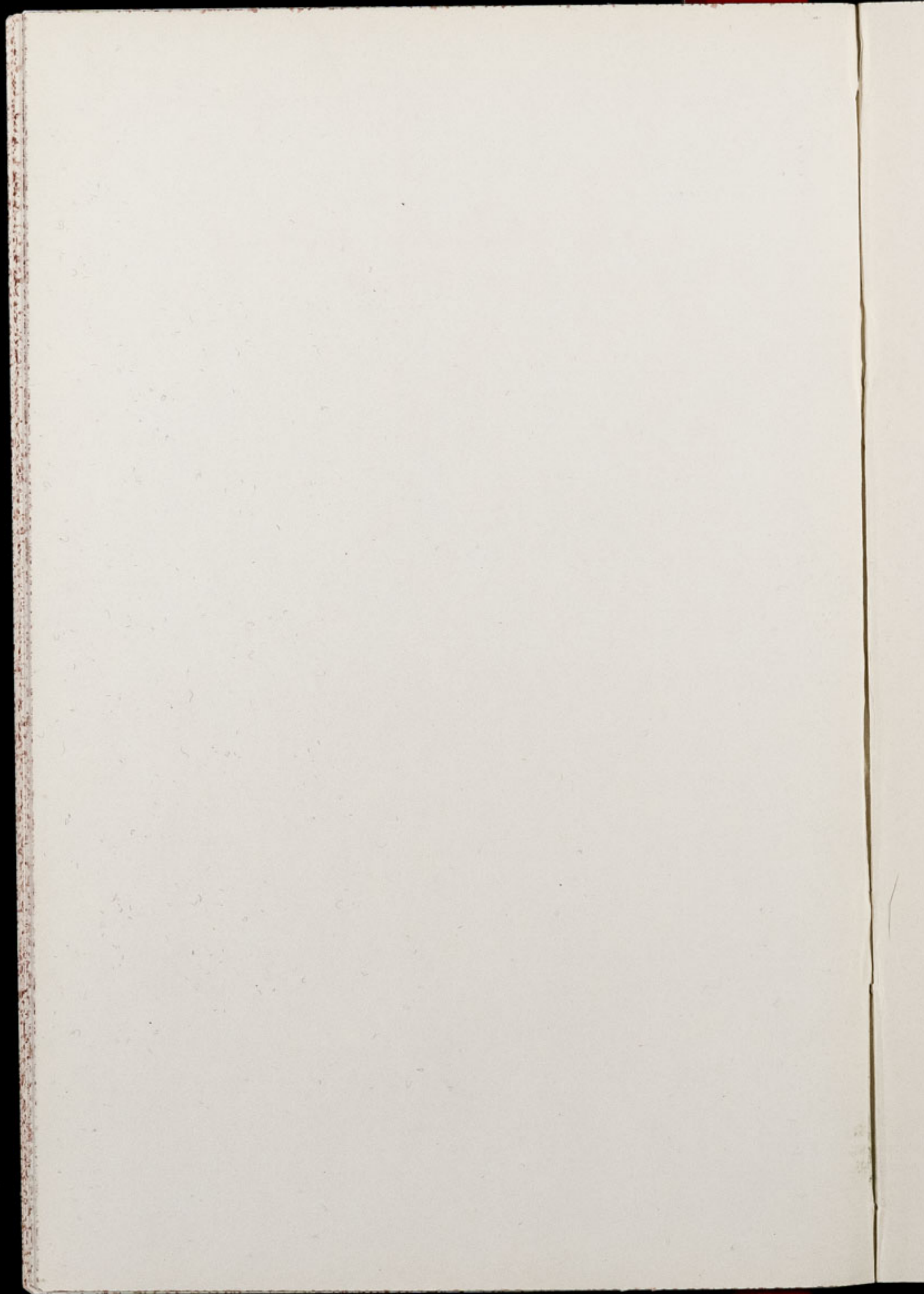
# Chester Zoo News

## **AND GUIDE**

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

April 1968

Price 1/-



# The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

## CONTENTS:

<i>page four</i>	Arrivals and Births.
<i>page six</i>	Rhinos and Mpila Snack Bar.
<i>page eight/nine</i>	Zoo Guide.
<i>page sixteen</i>	Bird Notes.

## ILLUSTRATIONS:

<i>page five</i>	Giraffe and Baby.
<i>page seven</i>	Raccoon Dog.
<i>page eleven</i>	Mpila Snack-bar.
<i>page thirteen</i>	White Rhino's Head.
<i>page fifteen</i>	Black Rhino's Head.

*COVER: This month's cover photograph shows our herd of Red Lechwe with their young. For further details see page four.*

---

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION SIXTEEN SHILLINGS POST PAID

TELEPHONE :: CHESTER 20106/7/8

Mrs. Sorby, who together with her husband take a large number of the photographs used in the "Zoo News", has been busy re-painting the scenes on the walls of the Ape House and in the Nocturnal House. These scenes form a pleasing background to the animals and are most attractive. In the Nocturnal House the two Gerbil enclosures have been painted to resemble a desert scene, the natural habitat of these animals. Mrs. Sorby actually went inside some of the pens with the smaller animals when re-painting. The Dark-tailed Bushbaby was particularly friendly and spent most of its time on her shoulders, but Mrs. Sorby did object when the Bushbaby tried to remove her glasses!

Margaret Wild, one of the keepers who looks after the Wapiti, found a dead rook in the paddock and went to pick it up. She was immediately attacked by a flock of rooks, which are nesting in the trees overhead. Rooks are known to go to the aid of a dead or dying companion, but this is the first time we have observed this phenomenon at the Zoo.

Our Arabian Gazelles have been housed in the shippon at the rear of the Giraffe House during the winter but are due to be transferred back to their pens at the rear of the Monkey House in the near future. Although fairly hardy animals, these Gazelles deteriorated in condition as soon as the cold weather arrived and were therefore transferred to covered quarters.

The baby born to Chimpanzee "Julie" is now five months old and is doing extremely well. She has cut four teeth and is very lively indeed.

Maintenance staff were faced with a problem when the Elephants pushed the huge tree trunk in their enclosure into the ditch

surrounding the paddock. The tree trunk had been put there to amuse the Elephants and although too heavy for them to lift, they managed gradually to push it towards the ditch. The removal was necessary as "Barbar", the largest of the Elephants would have been able to step down from the paddock on to the log and escape into the Zoo. The Zoo crane was brought into action but "Sheba" an Indian Elephant came rushing over, tried to grab the pulley with her trunk and had to be held back by her keeper, Phil Mottershead. Apart from this incident the operation proceeded smoothly and the huge log was transported to the Zoo Farm.

During April, 1966, a Jackal pup was deserted by its mother. This youngster was hand-reared with the Caracal Lynx "Mitzi" also deserted by its mother and the two animals have lived side by side in the Cat House. It was decided that the two animals would have to be separated as the unnatural situation of the two species living together would not be good for them in the long run. The Jackal has therefore been moved to the Dog Pens (No. 27 on the Plan) where other similar species are housed.

Keepers are often faced with problems when it comes to trapping the more intelligent animals, to clean them out. Two recent cases were with the Gibbons, a very intelligent and agile species. Pam Logan is looking after the Lar Gibbon housed in the enclosure opposite the Waterbus Kiosk, and she is having great difficulty trapping him despite subtle ruses learnt by being a Zoo Keeper for the past 6 years. David Armitage and other keepers in the Monkey House are having similar difficulties with the newly arrived pair of Agile Gibbons, accommodated in one of the enclosures between the Monkey and Cat Houses. Eventually these Gibbons will be transferred to Gibbon Island, which recently has had much of the undergrowth cleared away to enable the public to see these animals to better advantage.

### ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

The most spectacular baby born during the past month was a male Giraffe born to "Debbie" who arrived at the Zoo during 1959. This is "Debbie's" third baby since her arrival and it is doing fine. When first born, baby Giraffes are very shaky on their long legs, but after a few hours can walk quite well. This youngster was born at approximately 7 o'clock in the morning and the Giraffe keeper, Les Nield, said that it was on its feet by 8 o'clock when the keeping staff arrived. At birth we estimated he was about six feet tall; his mother is in the region of 15 feet high and "George" the father, must be at least 18 feet high. It was decided to name the youngster "Jackie" after the Leeds United footballer, Jackie Charlton, whose nick-name is "the Giraffe"; Les Nield is a keen supporter of the Leeds United Football Team.

Two recent Red Lechwe births have brought our total of these animals to ten. The Red Lechwe can be seen in their spacious enclosures (No. 74 and 75 on the Plan). These animals have been slaughtered in huge numbers in their native Central Africa and are not very often seen in Zoos. Chester Zoo is the only Zoo in this country to exhibit a breeding herd of these attractive antelopes.

A recent birth in the Monkey House is a Vervet Monkey, a rather attractive species from East and South Africa. When young, this species makes a very good pet, but when older can be extremely vicious, and for this reason we do not recommend them as pets.

Two rather unusual new arrivals were a pair of Raccoon Dogs (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) which can be seen in the Small Mammal House. These Asiatic animals have markings on the head similar to the Raccoon which comes from America. They also have a very squat looking body with thick fur like a Raccoon, but rather dog-



*Gary Talbot*

BABY GIRAFFE BORN TO "DEBBIE"

like legs. Raccoon Dogs originate from Eastern Russia and Northern China, but have been introduced into many other parts of Russia. This species is hunted for its fur which is known in the fur trade as Japanese Fox or Ussurian Raccoon. Raccoon Dogs are unique among the dog family as they become very fat during the Autumn and hibernate during the worst of the Winter. In the wild state they feed on frogs, fish, rodents, shellfish and a little fruit; captive specimens do well on a diet of meat, a little fruit, with the addition of chickens and some mice.

The Bennett's or Red-necked Wallabies which occupy the central paddock past the Monkey House have young. Keepers have up to now observed four babies looking at the outside world from their mother's pouches. This species breeds very well in captivity and last year five babies were reared at Chester Zoo.

A Black-backed Jackal pup has been born in enclosure No. 27 on the Plan. The adult Jackals arrived at the Zoo during 1964 but this is the first time young have been born. As the name implies, Black-backed Jackals have a saddle of black hair on the back, the rest of the body being a fawnish brown colour. They are found in grassland areas of East and South Africa, are principally scavengers, but will also kill small animals for themselves.

### **RHINOS AND MPILA SNACK-BAR**

The area of the Zoo around the bridge has developed to such an extent in the last year or so that it became essential for some provision to be made for light refreshments for visitors.

With this in mind, we constructed a snack bar between the Pachyderm House and the Rhino House. This is a large building



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

RACCOON DOG

# GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

## ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

SEA LIONS—2-40, 3-40, 4-40 p.m.

BEARS—3-15 p.m.

POLAR BEARS—4-0 p.m.

1. MAIN ENTRANCE
2. Bird Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Lesser Pandas
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS, FIRST AID AND LOST CHILDREN
9. CAFETERIA
10. CAFETERIA
11. Picnic Lawn
12. Bears
13. Animal Enclosure
- 13a. Kiosk
14. NORTH ENTRANCE
15. AQUARIUM
16. Push Chairs and Wheel Chairs
17. Parrot House
18. Orang-utan House
19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP
20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
21. TOILETS
- 21a. Tuatara House
22. Peccaries
23. Waterbus Halt
24. Birds of Prey Aviary
25. Birds of Prey Aviary
26. Owls
27. Jackal Enclosures
28. Wolverines
29. Porcupines
30. Coypus
31. Beavers
32. Giraffe House

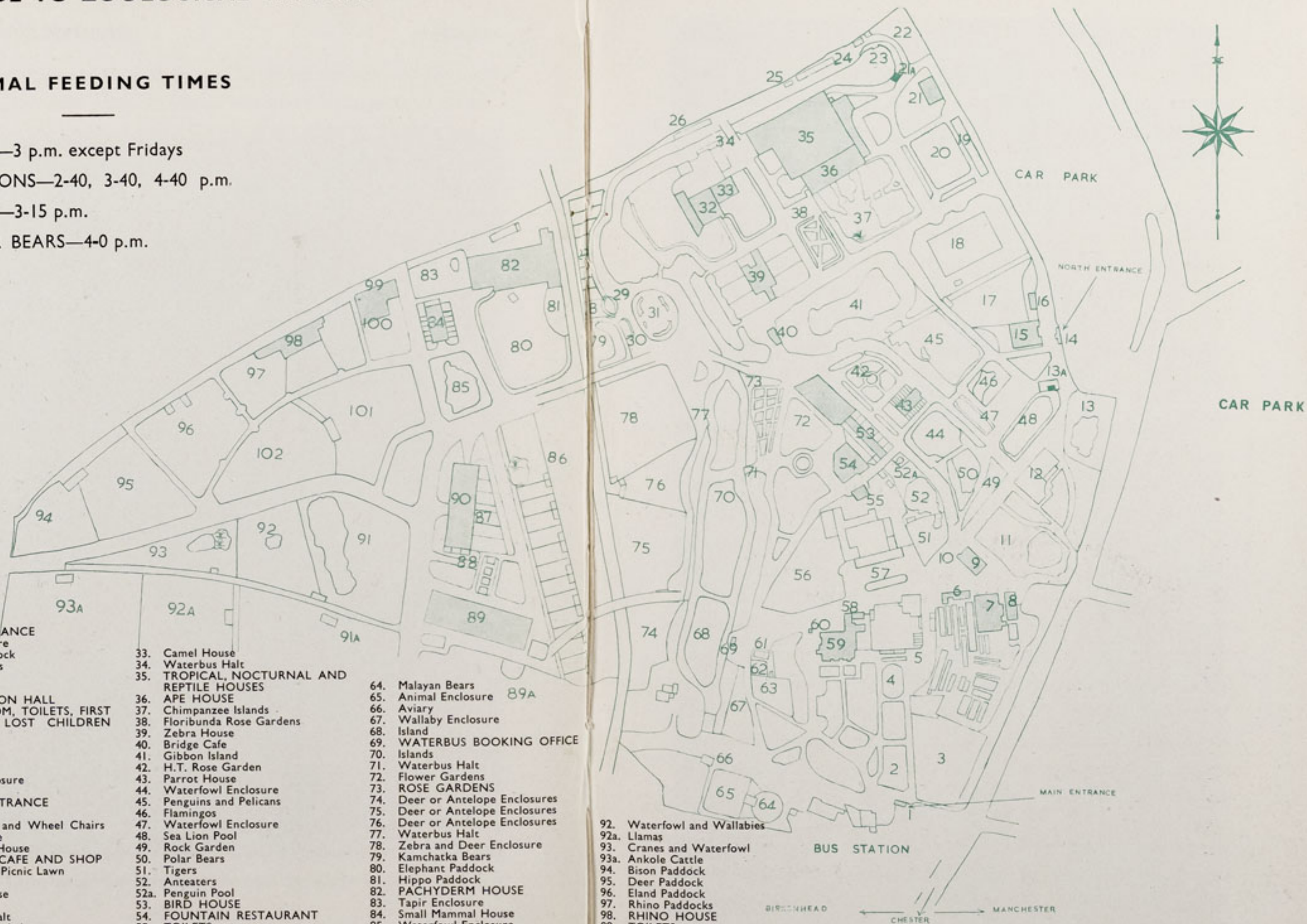
33. Camel House
34. Waterbus Halt
35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES
36. APE HOUSE
37. Chimpanzee Islands
38. Floribunda Rose Gardens
39. Zebra House
40. Bridge Cafe
41. Gibbon Island
42. H.T. Rose Garden
43. Parrot House
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Penguins and Pelicans
46. Flamingos
47. Waterfowl Enclosure
48. Sea Lion Pool
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Tigers
52. Anteaters
- 52a. Penguin Pool
53. BIRD HOUSE
54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT
55. TOILETS
56. Lions
57. NEW ZOO SHOP
58. TOILETS
59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT
60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk
61. Animal Enclosure
62. Animal Enclosure
63. Cheetahs

64. Malayan Bears
65. Animal Enclosure 89A
66. Aviary
67. Wallaby Enclosure
68. Island
69. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE
70. Islands
71. Waterbus Halt
72. Flower Gardens
73. ROSE GARDENS
74. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
75. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
76. Deer or Antelope Enclosures
77. Waterbus Halt
78. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
79. Kamchatka Bears
80. Elephant Paddock
81. Hippo Paddock
82. PACHYDERM HOUSE
83. Tapir Enclosure
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Antelope Enclosure
87. Stork Enclosure
88. Monkey Enclosure
89. Cat House
- 89a. Jaguars
90. MONKEY HOUSE
91. Cranes and Waterfowl
- 91a. Highland Cattle

92. Waterfowl and Wallabies
- 92a. Llamas
93. Cranes and Waterfowl
- 93a. Ankole Cattle
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

Animals may be moved from time to time

†—Under construction.

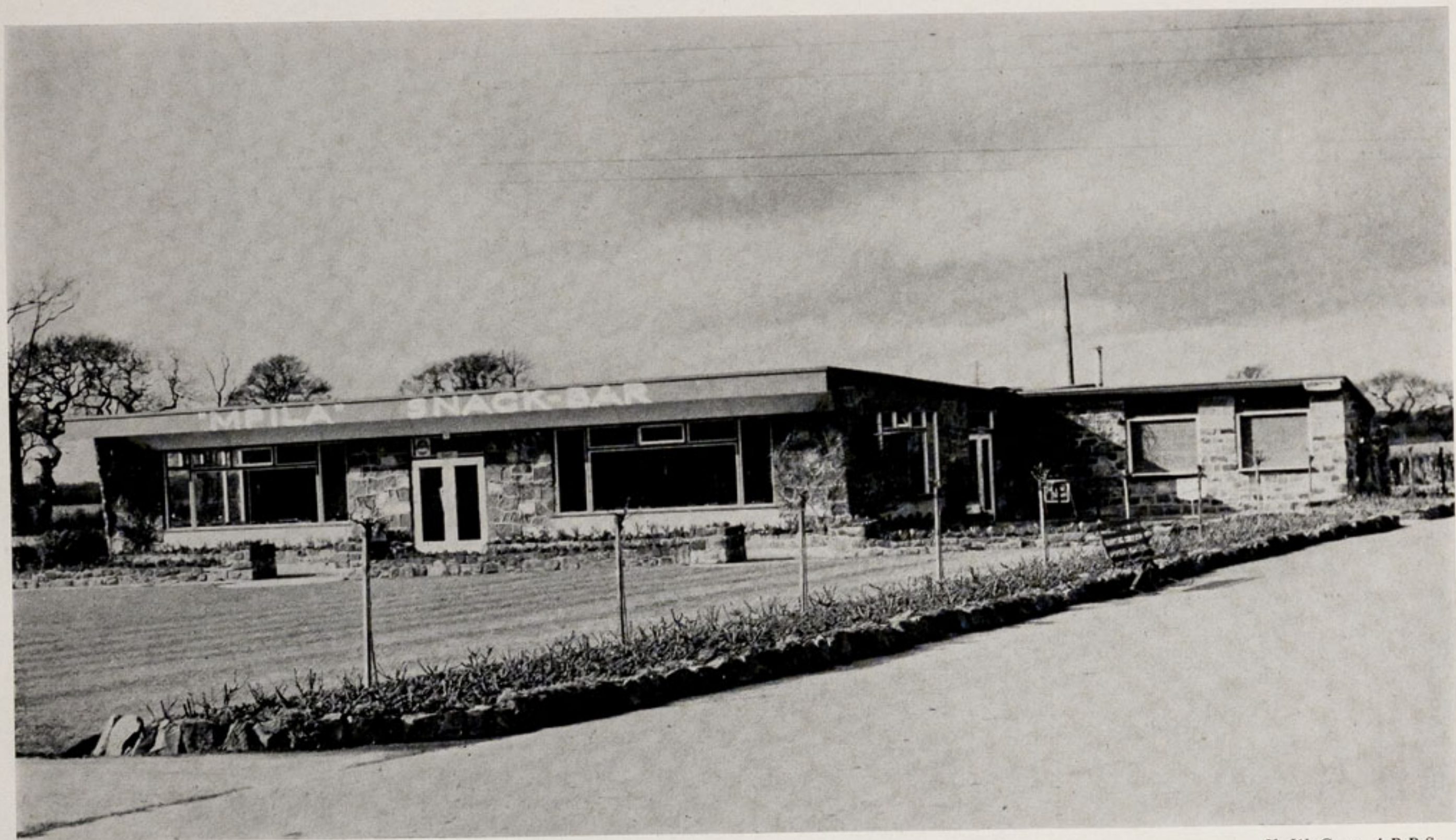


with attractive picture windows and with a verandah in front where on fine days visitors can partake of their refreshments. Inside the building one has a wonderful view of the Zoo particularly the White Rhinos.

It was necessary to provide this snack-bar with a name to identify it from all the other catering establishments in the Zoo and after receiving many suggestions the name Mpila was decided upon, after the game reserve in Umfolozi where the White Rhinos came from. It was said jokingly that when the White Rhinos looked up at the sign over the snack-bar they could imagine they were back in Zululand!

White Rhinos are classified as one of the World's rare animals and the population is very limited. Up to the present time the only White Rhino to be born in a Zoo is the offspring of a female which was pregnant when captured: the youngster was born in the Pretoria Zoo. Apart from this incident the species has never bred in captivity. The reason is no doubt due to the fact that the males and females have a cycle and unless there are a number of these animals living together it is difficult to find a male and female with a cycle occurring at the same time. The solution is no doubt that there should be predominance of one or the other sex in Zoos which would help to mitigate some of the problems and for this reason we would like to enlarge our herd at the Zoo so that we would stand a better chance of reproducing the species and thus help to maintain the breed in captivity.

In the October 1962 edition of "*Chester Zoo News*", a full description of the capture and transportation of our pair of White Rhinos was included. The two White Rhinos actually arrived at the Zoo during July 1962 and were accompanied on their journey by Mr. and Mrs. F. Williams, who are on the staff at the Zoo.



MPILA SNACK-BAR

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

Rhinos are not especially delicate, but require some heat during the Winter and their house is provided with hot air blown into the dens from under the public passage way. The building has been provided with flowering plants and shrubs which gives a more natural appearance and the added advantage of masking the natural odour of the animals.

White Rhinos are only a shade lighter in colour than the Black Rhinos. The name White Rhino was probably derived from the Afrikaans word "Weit" meaning wide and referring to the shape of of the mouth.

Both our White Rhinos have Zulu names which were given to them whilst still in Africa. The male is called "Madagiwe" 'the drunken one', as he staggered when let out of his crate due to the effect of the tranquilizing drugs which were used to capture him. The female is called "Madageni" which means 'stuck-in-the-Mud'. The Rhinos are now fully grown and must weigh in the region of 3 tons as the White Rhino ranks second in weight to the Elephant, the heaviest of all the land mammals.

The Black Rhinos are somewhat smaller than the White, reaching a maximum weight of 2 tons. They are not black coloured, but more of a dark brownish grey. Black Rhinos are considerably more common than the white, a recent census putting the numbers in Africa at 11,000-13,500. They have a very large distribution area being found throughout most of the Savannah areas of Africa. At the Zoo we have three Black Rhinos — "Susie" a rather small specimen who came direct from Africa during 1959, "Roger",



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

WHITE RHINO  
SQUARE FLAT MOUTH

bred at Bristol Zoo in 1958, and "Reginald", who was born at Chester Zoo last September.

Apart from actual size, the main fundamental difference between Black and White Rhinos is their mode of life. The White is essentially a grazer with the broad flat mouth adapted for eating grass and other vegetation. The Black is a browsing animal; the pointed mouth with the prehensile upper lip is perfectly adapted for a diet of leaves and shoots of shrubs and bushes.

Many visitors comment that the two horns on the end of our Rhinos noses are not as long as those in the wild state. This is true, as the horn is constantly worn away by being rubbed against the walls of their enclosure. For the record, the maximum length reached is  $53\frac{1}{2}$  inches for the Black and  $62\frac{1}{2}$  inches for the White. Rhino horn is actually a compressed mass of fibres, and a small quantity, finely ground, is said to act as an aphrodisiac. This is one of the reasons for the decline in number of all five species of Rhinos, the horn being sold for vast sums of money in South East Asia.

Other species of Rhinos are the Great Indian, the Sumatran and the Javan. At the last census there were 740 Great Indian Rhinos in reserves in North India and Nepal. This species has a single horn and extremely thick armoured looking skin, is a little larger than the Black Rhino, but not so large as the White. The Javan Rhino is found only in very small numbers mainly in the Ujung Kulon Reserve. It is a small species with a single horn. Sumatran Rhinos are the smallest species of all and the World population is thought to be 100-170. They have two horns, a smoothish skin and when born, the young are covered with hair.



*J. Gwyn-Jones*

BLACK RHINO  
POINTED MOUTH WITH PREHENSILE UPPER LIP

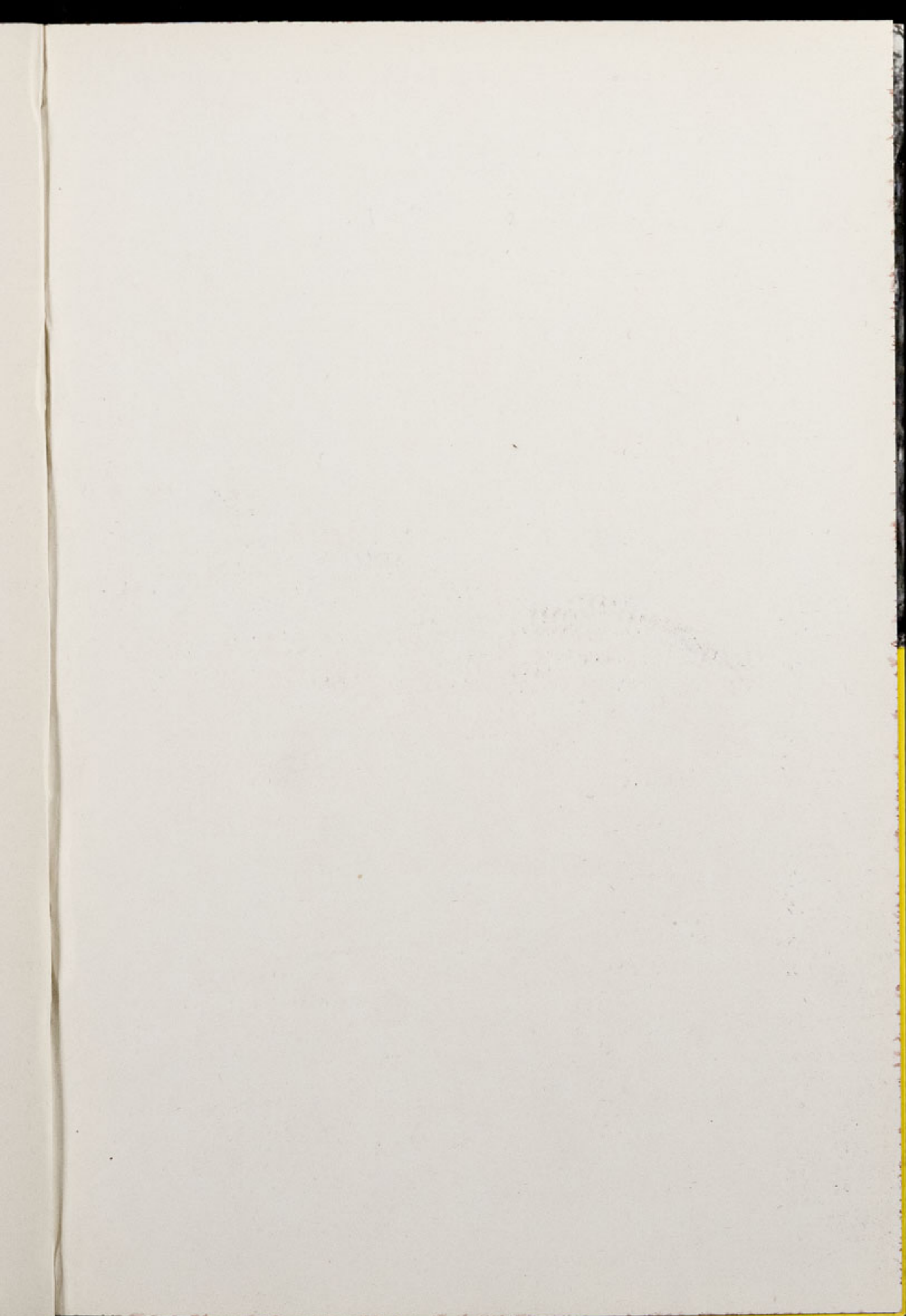
### BIRD NOTES

A new arrival in the Bird Section is a Rain Quail — a species widely distributed in India, Ceylon and Burma. At the moment this bird is being accommodated in the Bird Hospital but will be transferred to an aviary at a later date.

Keepers have been busy supplying nesting boxes and re-furnishing aviaries for the forthcoming season. The island in the pool (No. 44 on the Plan) has been enlarged so that the Swans can nest there, but a pair of Yellow-billed Ducks have taken over for the time being.

The pair of Sarus Cranes have been transferred to the enclosure previously occupied by our Siatunga. The enclosure has a large reed-covered pool and a good area of grass so it is ideal for these birds. Last year the Sarus Cranes displayed to each other but did not breed; we are hoping for success in the new quarters.

A Snow Goose has arrived in the Zoo and has joined our other Geese on the Green End Paddocks close to the Monkey House. This bird is fully flighted, wanders from enclosure to enclosure and must have escaped from a waterfowl collection as this species is not found wild in this country. The Snow Goose breeds in the Arctic and winters in America as far South as California and in Asia as far South as Japan.



---

Printed in England by  
G. R. Griffith Ltd.  
Castle Printing Works  
Chester