CHESTER ZOO NEWS

AND GUIDE

May 1979

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The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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ILLUSTRATIONS

COVER

Hyacinthine Macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*)
By courtesy of J. Whitworth

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CONTROLLING THE TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES

Dr. Brambell, the Director, was one of the members of the United Kingdom delegation to the Conference in Costa Rica this March.

In the last half of March, I was in San Jose, Costa Rica, at the Conference of C.I.T.E.S. This is the Convention to control International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora & Fauna. It was signed in Washington in 1973 and came into force in 1975 after ten countries had ratified.

The United Kingdom was one of the original signatories but was slow to ratify for technical reasons. I say 'for technical reasons' because in fact Britian has been operating similar legislation to that required by the Convention since the middle sixties, the technical hitch to the changes being to get as many of our dependent territories (almost all independent in everything but name) to join too. As it turned out the Cayman Islands were three days too late, and the UK ratified on 2nd August 1976, which happened to be my birthday, so it was as good a present as anybody of my age could hope for, my having had so much to do with the Convention.

How the Convention works is very simple. It has two lists of animals and plants: Appendix I & Appendix II. A country cannot import animals, plants or their products which are on the appendices unless the exporting country has issued an export licence.

Appendix I animals and plants are 'endangered' and their wild population cannot stand commercial trade. The only way these animals can cross its international boundaries of countries in CITES is to have a valid export licence issued on the advice of the Scientific Authority of the exporting country. You cannot get an export licence until you have the import licence so the exporting country knows where the animal or plants are going to, and why they are wanted.

Appendix II are what is called 'threatened' and with these you will still need an export and an import licence but the tie up is not so close. In effect Appendix II is a means, the only effective means, of knowing what is going on, whilst Appendix I keeps trade to an absolute minimum.

Each country has a Management Authority which does all the paper work, and a Scientific Authority which gives the advice. In the United Kingdom there are three Scientific Authorities; the one for plants is the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. The Nature Conservancy Council provides the advice for everthing which covers both animals and plants, which in effect is not a lot. The third, the Scientific Authority for Animals, is made up of thirteen people recruited from a wide variety of organisations connected with animals. The largest contingent on it is provided by the British Museum (Natural History). The Royal Society is represented and so are several of the conservation bodies. There are two people from the Zoo world. Everybody is personally appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment; I am its Chairman and that is why I went to Costa Rica.

This was the Second Meeting of the Parties, a grand title to describe the fourth get-together. The point of the meeting is that at least every two years we can look at the Appendices and see if we have the right species listed. We can look at how the Convention is working and we can identify its weaknesses. All this kept us fully occupied over the fortnight.

Firstly, we had to sort out a lot of difficulties over the criteria used for animals and plants to be added to or removed from the appendices. It was very technical and took a lot of time. The important thing we had to remember was that it must be easier to put species onto the list than take them off. Several delegations with special axes to grind had to be persuaded of the wisdom of this policy.

Then we had to decide which species should go on. There were lots of special cases but the three important groups to be put into Appendix II, so we could know how much they were being traded in, were the diurnal birds of prey, the Falconiformes, proposed by

Sweden; the Owls, Strigiformes, proposed by Denmark; and the Cetacea, the Whales and Dolphins, proposed by the United Kingdom. I am happy to report that in spite of some argument, our entire Cetacea proposals were eventually accepted unscathed. It was very moving when, as the crucial moment passed, a whale well-wisher handed me a necktie with a whale design which he wanted me to have in gratitude for seeing the measures through. It will now not be possible for any countries in the Convention to trade in whale products without it being controlled and reported on. When we know what is happening exactly it will be possible to take any further action to save whales from being hunted to extinction.

We found that there were several things wrong. Far too many skins of Ocelots were getting into the United Kingdom on apparently legal documents and yet the countries of origin have no record of their exports. It will be our job to find out why but at least the Convention has highlighted the problem and allows us to check what are correct and what are incorrect documents. We found that several developing countries had reached a state where, to stop poaching, they had to persuade poachers to turn to ranching and as yet the Convention doesn't allow for ranching. It forgot to do so at the outset. It allows for genuine captive breeding on proper farms or in Zoos but ranching is rather different for here the animals are managed in the wild. By the next Conference we will be expected to have come up with a working proposal which prevents exploitation of the wild without more than compensatory protection.

By far the most trade in the world in wild species is in their products. In the plant world, wood is the most bulky item. In the animal world it is skins, except with the whales when it is meat and oils. The pet trade and the plant trade are important, but the Zoo trade and the herbarium trade are tiny compared to the other pressures most species face.

There are now fifty-two ratified countries and we are beginning to get blocks of countries inside the Convention. For example, Australia, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia cover a large area in

their part of the world. Thailand and Hong Kong are in. Japan is about to join and we need to get Malaysia and the Philippines to join and then the whole of the island fauna and flora of South East Asia will be protected. Stopping all trade does not fill hungry bellies and hungry bellies are not interested in the niceties of conservation. CITES allows the trade to be controlled so that it can continue, but not at the expense of making what is traded in extinct. Of course some aspects of the trade are objectionable on other grounds. The killing of whales and the trapping for furskins seem to me to be barbaric ways of acquiring what we want, but CITES is a trade Convention not a welfare one, and as such it is beginning to show it can work.

Dr. Michael R. Brambell

LATEST BIRTHS AND ARRIVALS

MAMMALS

1 Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) Birth
1 Grey Kangaroo (*Macropus fuliginosus*) Birth
3 Brown Bears (*Ursus arctos*) Birth
1 Chinchilla (*Chinchilla laniger*) Presented
2 White-bearded Gnu (*Connochaetes taurinus*) Belfast Zoo
2 Woodchuck (*Marmota monax*) Ravensden
1 Arabian Gazelle (*Gazella arabica*) Birth
1 Malayan Tapir (*Tapirus indicus*) Bristol Zoo
2 Lion-tailed Macaques (*Macaca silenus*) Bristol Zoo
5 Pere David's Deer (*Elaphurus davidianus*) Births
7 Soay Sheep (*Ovis aries*) Births
3 Ring-tailed Lemurs (*Lemur catta*) Births
2 Slow Loris (*Nycticebus coucang*) London Zoo
6 Tammar Wallabies (*Macropus eugenii*) (Quarantine) Sydney Zoo
1 Guanaco (*Lama guanicoe*) Purchased

BIRDS

2 Yellow-backed Lory (*Lorius garrulus flavopalliatus*) Purchased
4 Maroon-tailed Conures (*Pyrrhura melanura*) Purchased
1 Edward's Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haemotodus capistratus*) Purchased
1 Lesser Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*) Presented.
1 Pink-footed Goose (*Anser fabalis brachyrhynchus*) Presented
2 Cinnamon Teals (*Anas cyanoptera*) Purchased

REPTILES

5 Rhino Iguana (*Cyclura cornuta*) 1—Exchanged
4—Purchased
2 Haitian Giant Skinks (*Diploglossus costatus*) Purchased
9 Leopard Geckoes (*Eublepharis macularis*) Birth
3 Giant Spurred Tortoise (*Geochelone sulcata*) Birth
1 Carpet Python (*Morelia spilotes spilotes*) Exchange
2 Blue-tongued Skinks (*Tiliqua scincoides*) Exchange
6 Green Tree Frogs (*Litoria caerulea*) Exchange
2 Common Boas (*Constrictor constrictor*) Presented
1 Rainbow Boa (*Epicrates cenchris*) Presented

GARDENING NOTES

This month the rockeries will be at their best with the Spring bulbs and various plants. The severe Winter we have just had does not affect the bulbs except that they flower a week or so later.

The Crocus and Snowdrops flowered well and lasted longer this year, due to the lower temperatures; up to the beginning of April we never had a mild spell except for one day when the temperatures went up to 56°F.

Iris reticulata flowered in April; this is a dwarf Iris with the flowers having a combination of violet purple and yellow together with a lovely violet scent. This bulbous rooted Iris increases rapidly. It originates from the Caucasus. The name Iris come from the Greek, a rainbow, in reference to the many colours and *Reticulata* meaning netted, with reference to the pattern on the bulb.

Scilla siberica and *Chionodoxa luciliae* are very much alike and come up in the Spring and grow to 6 inches high; *Scilla* has sky-blue flowers and as its name suggests comes from Siberia. *Chionodoxa* has pale blue and white flowers. Two Greek words make up the name *Chionodoxa*; *Chion*, snow and *Doxa*, glory. Not surprisingly, its common name is Glory of the Snow.

Erythronium dens-canis, common name Dog's Tooth Violet, has beautiful rose-coloured flowers with broad, mottled leaves. The bulb grows to about 6 inches high but does not last very long and the attractive foliage dies down early in the Summer.

Flowering late is the *Narcissus Bulbocodium conspicuus:* the attractive flower of this plant gives it the very pretty common name of Yellow Hoop Petticoat. The golden-yellow flowers have a hooped cap. This bulb, like the *Iris reticulata*, spreads rapidly.

Among the plants on the rockery are:—

Sempervivum browni—this plant grows in the form of rosettes with coppery coloured leaves. This plant will grow for years without being disturbed and new rosettes spread out each year. The name *Sempervivum* comes from Latin, *Semper* means always, and *Vivo* alluding to the long life of the plant.

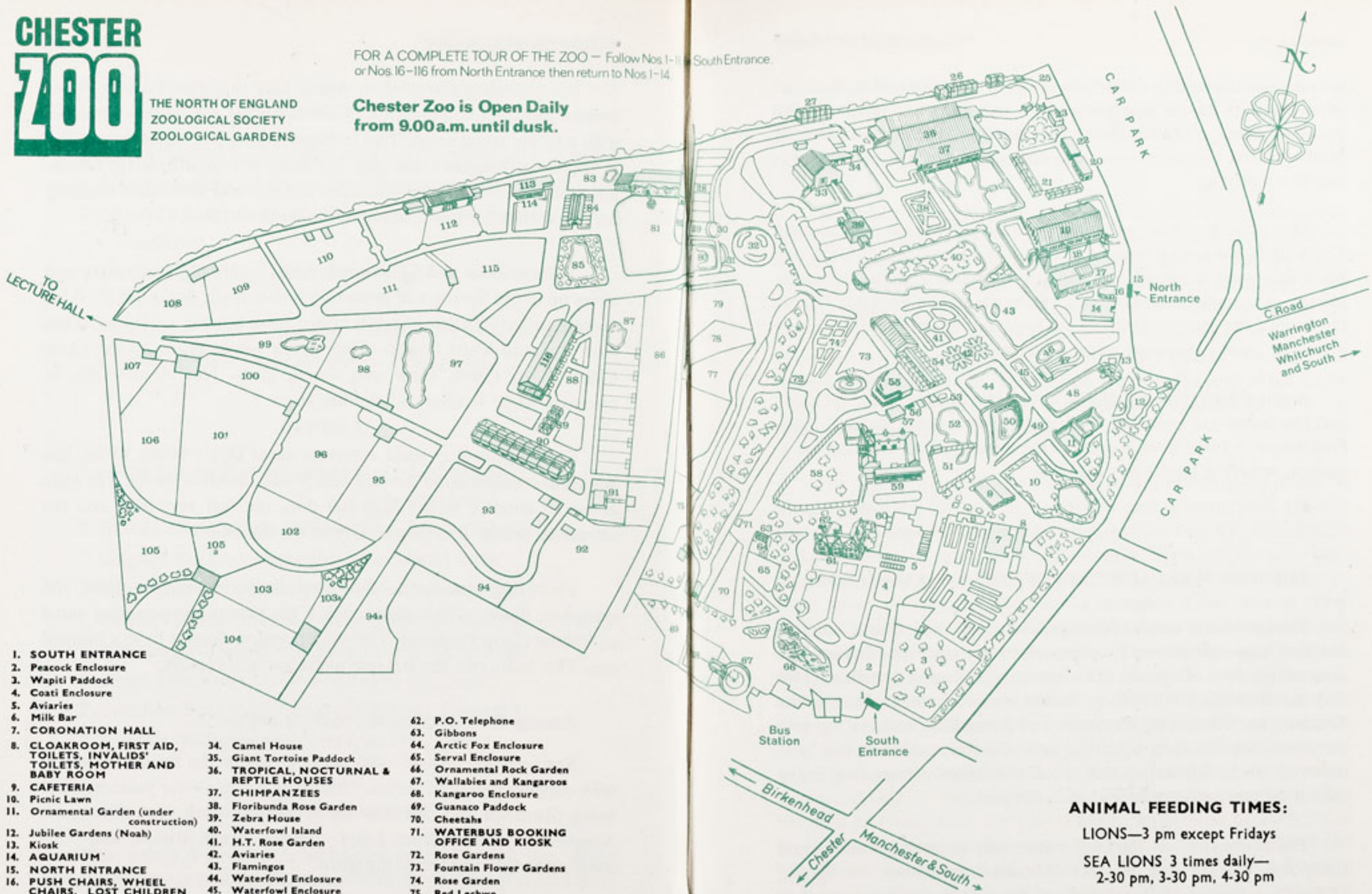
Sedum spathulifolium, Variety purpureum—is a low spreading plant with purple stained leaves and a yellow flower on stems about 4 inches long. This plant belongs to a large family, the most common one being *Sedum acre*, the Stonecrop, which will survive on walls for long periods without water.

CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

FOR A COMPLETE TOUR OF THE ZOO — Follow Nos 1–115 from South Entrance or Nos 16–116 from North Entrance then return to Nos 1–14.

Chester Zoo is Open Daily from 9.00 a.m. until dusk.



1. SOUTH ENTRANCE
2. Peacock Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Coati Enclosure
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, FIRST AID, TOILETS, INVALIDS' TOILETS, MOTHER AND BABY ROOM
9. CAFETERIA
10. Picnic Lawn
11. Ornamental Garden (under construction)
12. Jubilee Gardens (Noah)
13. Kiosk
14. AQUARIUM
15. NORTH ENTRANCE
16. PUSH CHAIRS, WHEEL CHAIRS, LOST CHILDREN
17. PARROT HOUSE
18. Free Flight Aviary
19. APE HOUSE
20. Shop and Kiosk
21. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
22. CLASSROOM
23. TOILETS
24. TUATARA EXHIBIT
25. Peccaries
26. Birds of Prey Aviaries
27. Condor Aviary
28. Jackal and Hyaena Enclosures
29. Animal Enclosure
30. Porcupine Enclosure
31. Coypus
32. Beavers
33. Giraffe House
34. Camel House
35. Giant Tortoise Paddock
36. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL & REPTILE HOUSES
37. CHIMPANZEES
38. Floribunda Rose Garden
39. Zebra House
40. Waterfowl Island
41. H.T. Rose Garden
42. Aviaries
43. Flamingos
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Waterfowl Enclosure
46. Waterfowl Enclosure
47. Penguins
48. Sealions
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Big Cat Enclosure
52. Waterfowl Enclosure
53. Anteaters
54. BIRD HOUSE
55. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT
56. Ape Nursery
57. TOILETS
58. Lions
59. SOUVENIR SHOP
60. TOILETS
61. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT & G. S. Mottershead Memorial Gds
62. P.O. Telephone
63. Gibbons
64. Arctic Fox Enclosure
65. Serval Enclosure
66. Ornamental Rock Garden
67. Wallabies and Kangaroos
68. Kangaroo Enclosure
69. Guanaco Paddock
70. Cheetahs
71. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE AND KIOSK
72. Rose Gardens
73. Fountain Flower Gardens
74. Rose Garden
75. Red Lechwe
76. Red Lechwe
77. Deer or Antelope Enclosure
78. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
79. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
80. Brown Bears
81. ELEPHANTS
82. Hippos
83. Tapirs
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Ankole Cattle
87. Emus, Cranes and Flamingos
88. Outside Monkey Enclosures
89. Baboon Pens
90. Cat House
91. Tiger Enclosures
92. Antelope Enclosure
93. Antelope Enclosure
94. Reindeer Enclosure
94a. Llamas
95. Antelope Paddock
96. Antelope Paddock
97. Waterfowl Enclosure
98. Waterfowl & Axis Deer
99. Waterfowl Enclosure
100. Blackbuck
101. Wallabies
102. Ostrich
103. Wallabies
103a. Animal Enclosure
104. Pere David's Deer Paddock
105. Przewalski's Horses
105a. Onager
106. Arabian Gazelles
107. Musk Oxen
108. Bison
109. Pere David's Deer Paddock
110. Prairie Marmots, Alpacas
111. Antelope Enclosure
112. RHINOS
113. TOILETS
114. Mpila Snack Bar
115. Antelope Enclosure
116. MONKEY HOUSE

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES:

LIONS—3 pm except Fridays

SEA LIONS 3 times daily—
2-30 pm, 3-30 pm, 4-30 pm

ANIMALS MAY BE MOVED FROM TIME TO TIME

Alyssum saxatile—dotted all over the rockeries, is a mass of yellow when in flower. It is about a foot high and often referred to by its other name of Gold Dust. The common name of *Alyssum* is Madwort and this plant was once considered to be a remedy for a bite by a mad dog.

One of the hardy *Geraniums lancastriense* flowers in the Summer. This variety has a pink flower and grows to about 6 inches high; one plant can cover a square foot but it is compact and has attractive foliage. The name *Geranium* comes from the greek *Geranos*, a Crane, the fruit of the plant resembling the head and bill of that bird which gives the plant's common name of *Cranesbill*.

A dwarf *Pentstemon pinifolius* has scarlet flowers in the Summer and the leaves are pine-like. This plant grows about 6inches high. *Pentstemon* is two Greek words, *Pente* meaning five, and *Stemon* a stamen, referring to the five stamens.

W. Worth.

THE 1978 WALLACE EXPEDITION TO AMAZONIA

Though rich in species of mammals (nearly 600), South America has few large herbivores in comparison with African fauna. The greatest number of species is found in two groups, the Bats (140) and the Rodents (340). Many bizarre species have evolved in the Southern continent with Anteaters and Armadillos contrasting with the more familiar rats, squirrels, cats and foxes. Marsupials have survived, as in Australia, and the fossil record shows that many extinct endemic groups flourished in the past.

The commonest of the larger mammals around our camp and study area was the Red Brocket (*Mazama americana*), the largest of the four species of Brocket deer found in South America; they stand 27 inches at the shoulder with antlers 5 inches in length which are dropped at any time of the year, some animals retain them for more than 12 months and there is no definite rut. They are usually reddish-brown, the throat, underparts and the underside of the short tail are whitish. The Brockets live singly or in pairs and can swim

very well; from a dug-out canoe I watched an adult male swim across the Rio Sinho and disappear into dense jungle on the opposite bank. Brockets feed at night at the forest edge and it was reported that they caused considerable damage to cultivated areas.

According to people in and around Carauari, young are said to be born from December to April, although in mid-August I did see one fawn only about one month old running across a narrow forest trail with its mother. The Red Brocket is the most abundant of the South American deer and is much hunted, particularly during the wet season when large areas of forest are flooded and the deer may be forced to congregate on small areas of dry ground. They are the second greatest source of animal food after the Peccary in the upper Amazon regions. Thousands of skins are exported annually to Manaus and Leticia in Columbia.

The White-lipped Peccary, (*Tayassu albirostris*) could often be heard rampaging through distant forest and uttering loud pig-like squeals, and making a noise like castanets clicking by chafing their tusks together—a most unpleasant sound. They are vicious, bad-tempered animals; total length is around 30 inches with a tail so short as to be unnoticeable from a distance. They possess sharp tusks several inches long growing straight down from the upper jaw that make them dangerous adversaries. The coat is a greyish-black and a mane of long, black bristles runs along the back of the neck and shoulders which can be raised when the animal is alarmed or angry. The snout and eyes are pig-like and there are three toes on the hind feet and four on the front feet. The large herds, numbering up to thirty animals, often came close to the camp and their strong odour was noticeable at some considerable distance, lingering long after the herd had moved on. Both sexes have a large musk or scent gland on the back near the rump; when the animals become agitated the hair on the back is erected, exposing the gland. When a Peccary is killed for food, the gland is removed immediately as the meat would become tainted and unpalatable. The hides are also used as they make very good leather.

Peccaries are the American equivalent of the wild pigs of the Old World from which our domestic pigs have been developed. They

are distinctly pig-like in many of their ways, but have certain differences that set them apart from the true pigs. One of the most important is the number of young; the Peccary normally bears only two youngsters whilst a true pig will give birth to several times that number.

The Peccary is one of the smallest of the cloven-hoofed mammals native to South America; the feet are small in proportion to the size of the animal, and as already mentioned, they have four toes on the front and three on the hind feet. Hooves are essentially nothing but modified toes; their greatest evolution is illustrated by the horse and its close relatives, which may be described as having only one toe on each foot. Cloven hooves represent two toes equally developed into load bearing hoofs. Dew claws are vestigial remnants of the outer toes of each foot. The Peccary has two dew claws on the front feet and one on each hind foot.

The heavy head and neck typical of the Peccary also are unique among South American mammals. The silhouette presented by a Peccary is ridiculously like a child's drawing of a pig, with its rectangular body, head strongly tapered to a pointed nose, and short straight legs. The thick neck prevents their rooting to any great depth without dropping to the knees of the forelegs, a habit that usually results in the hair being worn off in these places. On old individuals a heavy callous pad is often formed over the 'knees'. The Peccary is omnivorous, feeding on nuts, berries, fruits, roots and also carrion, worms and insects; they are reputed to hunt larger prey occasionally. The herds of Peccary in the study area were most active in the mornings and late afternoon. These nearsighted animals depend to a large extent on their sense of smell to detect danger. Normally, during feeding, they scatter across an area of forest in loose groups, the young keeping close to their mothers. At the first scent of possible danger they all freeze, while the musky odour released from the scent glands on the back floats on the air, transmitting a warning to all members of the herd. I found that if they believe themselves discovered, their behaviour was unpredictable. They may form a straggling group and charge the object they fear, or they may take flight in all directions, scattering so thoroughly that it sometimes takes hours for them to come together again; the latter

By courtesy of E. Kirkland, F.R.P.S.

COATIS (*Nasua nasua*)

is the usual course. Local hunters told me many accounts of the extreme viciousness of the Peccaries, when molested; others decried these lurid tales and depicted Peccaries as gentle and timid animals. Probably the truth lies somewhere between these two extremes; most authentic records point to Peccaries actually attacking human beings only under the most extreme provocation. Probably many of the "attack" stories arise from the fact that when these short-sighted animals are alarmed they scatter in all directions in wild confusion, and if a person happens to be in the way he will be all but run down. On the other hand, the Peccary is equipped with most formidable teeth and tusks, and in an encounter with one, serious injury, even death, could result.

Quite close to camp a Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) was heard battling with a group of Peccary; we could hear the latters' castanet-like clicking of tusks and loud squeals intermingled with loud roars from the Jaguar, suggesting that it was trying to kill one of the Peccaries; after some twenty minutes the sounds gradually subsided, leaving us wondering if the Jaguar had managed a kill or if the herd had eventually succeeded in fighting off the predator.

Many family groups of Coatis (*Nasua nasua*) were observed in the study area. They are medium sized animals with a rusty brown coat, ringed tail and long pig-like snout. Their total adult length is around 4 feet, two feet of this being the tail. The face has a dark mask with lighter spots above and below the eyes. The nose is very long and flexible and terminates with a pig-like pad of gristle. The feet are plantigrade, that is, with the weight distributed between sole and toes as with the human foot and not borne on the toes alone. The front feet are armed with long strong claws; the hind feet also have claws but they are shorter.

Coatis are highly gregarious, roaming the forests in groups of from several to as many as 200 members. Sometimes they travel in single file, but more often they progress in a scattered formation, searching for food as they go. The females retire from the band to bear their young, but as soon as they are old enough to travel, the family joins the closest group. Several females often join forces and travel together for a while with their families. One large tree nest

of sticks and vines was kept under observation for some three weeks; a pregnant female had isolated herself from one of the groups and was using the nest which was about 20 feet up in the fork of a tree. During the third week young could be heard calling but were not actually visible. Considering their gregarious nature I would not be surprised that they might care for each others offspring. Such a theory was given credence by a report of a local hunter who had seen a female with 14 young, whereas the normal number is 3 to 6.

The young are a source of great confusion to the band, for they are forever wandering away and getting lost. Small Coatis appear to have a poor sense of direction, and they can become thoroughly "turned around" although within 50 feet of their mother. When this occurs, there is a hysterical outburst of high piping calls from the youngster and a series of worried, coughing grunts from the mother until the "lost" one is again by her side. Little is known of the regullations of their community life, but occasionally a single old male is found who never travels with a band. Whether these are outcasts or merely rugged individualists is not known, but it is such unusual Coati behaviour that the local people have given such animals a special category; they call them "solitarios", the solitary ones.

Coatis can be considered omnivorous; the staple diet throughout the year is of small rodents, worms, insects, and tubers unearthed by their rooting in the beds of leaves and soft soil on the forest floor. It is varied in season by berries, and small fruits, birds' eggs, young birds, and whatever small mammals may come their way. Coatis, from my rather limited field experience, are not predacious to the extent that they actively hunt and stalk other species of mammals and birds. Rather they catch such prey when the opportunity offers during their search for insects or plant food.

A few minutes of observation as a group of Coatis hunt for food reveals how marvellously they are adapted to making their living. The long, hind feet that have the appearance of being "turned under" too far, from a solid base that bears the animals' weight as it crouches down close to the ground, and the tail serves to balance the weight as the nose and long front claws search through leaf litter. Worms and crawling insects are rooted out by the muscular

nose, and flying insects are either batted down or caught between the front paws with amazing dexterity. The front claws are also used to turn over rotten and fallen logs, sometimes several times the body weight of the animal. Around our camp many disturbed logs were seen, under which Coatis must have often found lizards and small snakes as well as the usual insect life.

As if such efficiency on the ground were not enough they are equally at home in trees. At the first indication of danger a Coati will freeze in an attempt to evade discovery; failing in this, it will make a dash for the nearest tree and scamper up the trunk as easily as a cat. They are able to descend head first or tail first, jumping to the ground some six or eight feet from the trunk. Coatis have few natural enemies, but in our study area Man was the main hunter, pursuing the animal with guns and dogs. I was told that they often become embroiled in battles with hunters' dogs; in these contests they usually emerge victorious. However, Coatis are still widely hunted as food throughout Amazonia.

W. H. TIMMIS

W. H. TIMMIS—NEW APPOINTMENT

We would like to congratulate Mr. Timmis on his new appointment as Director/Curator at Harewood Bird Gardens, Leeds, which he will be commencing later this month. We are very sorry to lose him but hope that he and his family will be very happy in their new home. Mr. Timmis has told us that he hopes to be able to provide further articles about the 1978 Wallace Expedition to Amazonia and we look forward to hearing more about his trip.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

CHESTER ZOO NEWS is at present being produced every month and readers who would like to receive the magazine regularly can obtain subscription forms at the Souvenir Shops. The current charge for 12 issues, including postage, is £2.70 per year. Completed forms can be handed in to the Souvenir Shops or posted to Chester Zoo News, Chester Zoo, Chester.

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

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