



CHESTER ZOO NEWS
AND GUIDE

by
l.
orks

August 1970

Price 1/-



The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

COUNCIL

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

CONTENTS:

<i>page two</i>	Arrivals and Births.
<i>page three</i>	Bird Notes.
<i>page six</i>	Reptile Section.
<i>page eight/nine</i>	Zoo Plan.
<i>page ten</i>	Chimpanzees. Greater Kudu.
<i>page eleven</i>	General News.
<i>page thirteen</i>	Vaccinating the Leopard Cubs.
<i>page fifteen</i>	A Reminder.
<i>page sixteen</i>	"THE MATING GAME" by June Johns.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

<i>Page five</i>	Ashy-headed Geese and Gosling.
<i>page seven</i>	Chimpanzees Nicky and Wilson.
<i>page twelve</i>	De Brazza Monkey and baby.
<i>page fourteen</i>	Vaccinating the Leopard cub.

COVER: Leopard cub; for further details see page thirteen.

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

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION SEVENTEEN SHILLINGS POSTAGE PAID

TELEPHONE :: CHESTER 20106/7/8

ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

In view of the dismal state to which wildlife has been reduced by human "civilisation", it is heartening to find that some threatened species are breeding well in captivity. The Arabian Gazelle (*Gazella arabica*) is a beautiful little animal which has been brought to the verge of extinction in its natural habitat by ruthless hunting. A breeding herd was established here at Chester a few years ago and this has steadily increased in size. The birth of the first of this year's fawns brings the total to eleven animals. The mother is Cleo and the fawn is believed to be a male. Both can be seen in one of the enclosures marked No. 86 on the Zoo plan.

On the Brindled Gnu paddock, No. 102, there are now four calves, the last two being born on the 20th and 22nd July. As it is about three years since we last bred Brindled Gnu (*Connochaetes taurinus albojubatus*) owing to the death of the bull, we are particularly pleased that all the females have produced healthy offspring.

Two more Fallow Deer (*Dama dama*) have been born and can be seen in enclosure No. 78. One was born about noon on one of the Zoo's busiest days and the birth was watched by a very interested crowd. After about ten minutes, during which time it fell head over heels once or twice, the fawn finally managed to stand on four very wobbly legs and the spectators cheered.

A Highland Calf has been born in enclosure No. 91A bringing the herd to a total of ten animals.

In the Nocturnal House five Gerbils (*Tatera indica*) and two Ground Squirrels have been reared to maturity. With animals such as these it is impossible to know just how many have been born until they leave the nest. Keepers have to be content to listen to the hungry

squeakings of the young inside the nestbox. The Ground Squirrels have not been positively identified but are most probably the Japanese or Korean species (*Eutamias sibiricus*).

Last year a female Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*) was acquired for two males already at the Zoo, with the result that the first Nilgai ever to be born at Chester arrived this month.

The Nilgai is India's largest Antelope, standing to over 50ins. at the shoulder. The coat of the male is a bluish-grey colour while that of the female is brown. Both sexes have white markings below each fetlock and on the ears, nose and throat. The male also has a tuft of black hair below the white patch on its throat and short horns usually about 8in. in length. Mother and calf are on show in enclosure No. 76.

A male Palm Civet has been presented to the Zoo.

BIRD NOTES

We are very pleased to report the hatching of a Jackass or Black-footed Penguin (*Spheniscus demersus*). The chick is now over a month old and covered with fluffy grey down. It emerges from its nest in a rock cave, usually in the evening when the Zoo is quiet.

Jackass Penguins are found on the coasts of South and South West Africa where they live in colonies, nesting in burrows. Stretching their necks and pointing beaks to the sky they make a noise which sounds very much like a Donkey's bray and it is from this that the name Jackass is derived.

For many years their eggs have been collected by the local inhabitants and in earlier times both birds and eggs supplemented the rations of sailors passing round the Cape. However, recently a

far more serious threat to the Jackass Penguin has been brought about by the Middle East crisis. With the closure of the Suez Canal all ships including large oil tankers are compelled to travel around the Cape of Good Hope and oil pollution has suddenly become a problem in these waters. Many Penguins have already been found covered in oil and as the total Jackass population is not very large it would require only one major oil leakage to put the species in danger. A number of people in South Africa have undertaken to clean oiled birds but they would need a lot more help in the event of a big disaster.

According to our observations the incubation period lasts for 36 to 38 days. The female has to be fed four times a day as the chick is taking so much food and both parents sit guard over the nest, furiously chasing away any of the other Penguins which become too curious.

The following species of Geese have been reared at the Zoo during this year:

3 Lesser Snow Geese (*Anser coerulescens*)

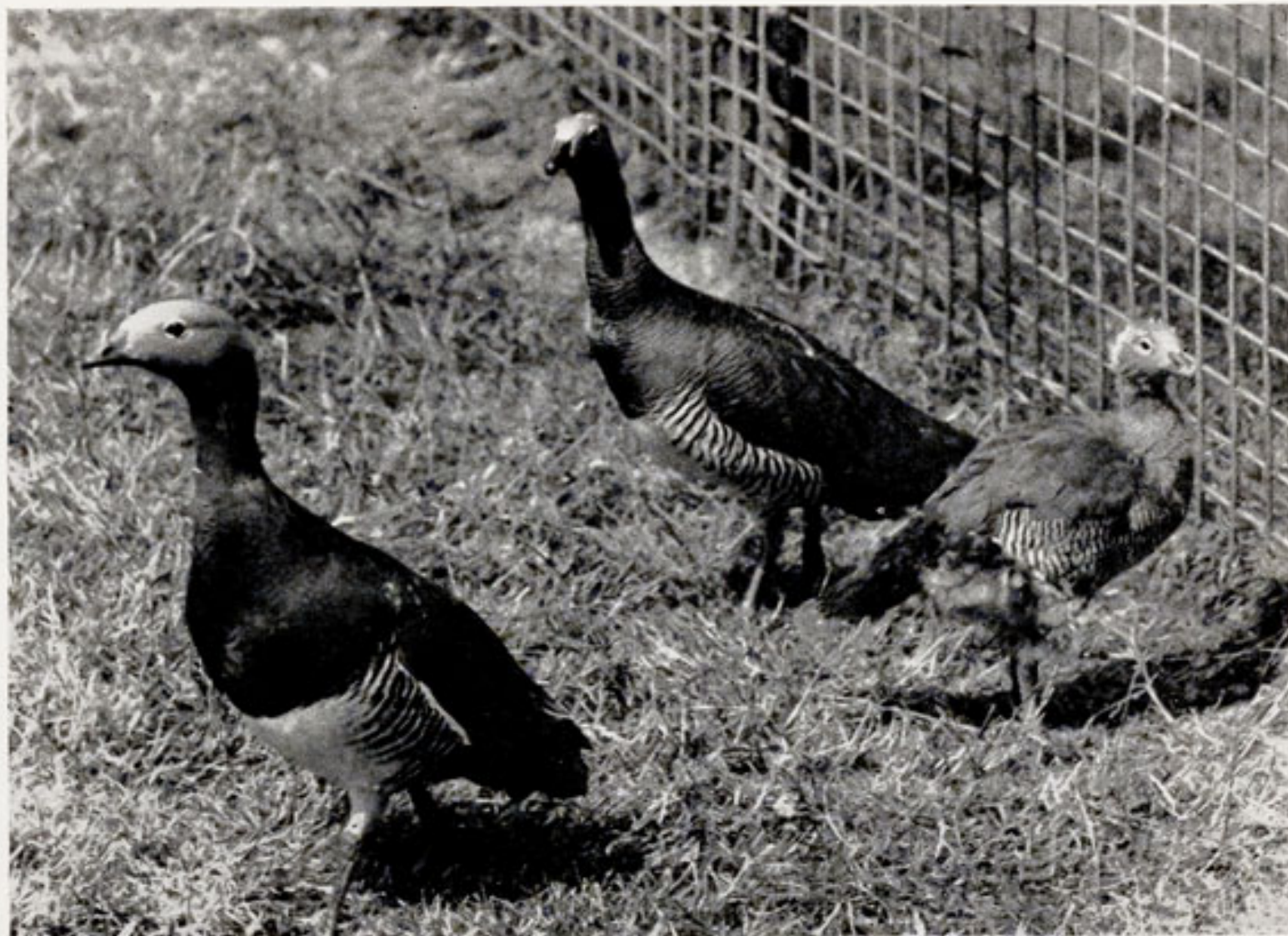
1 Grey Lag Goose (*Anser anser*)

2 Bar-headed Geese (*Anser indicus*)

1 Ashy-headed Goose (*Chloephaga poliocephala*)

Two Silver Pheasants (*Lophura nycthemera*) have also been observed.

New arrivals in the Bird Section are several Chilean Flamingoes (*Phoenicopterus ruber chilensis*) and Scarlet Ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*), a Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) and a Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*). The Flamingoes have joined the resident flock in their new enclosure, No. 45. The Curlew has been released in the large flight aviary, No. 17A, and the Buzzard is spending a short period in the Bird Hospital. The Scarlet Ibis are undergoing acclimatisation in a shelter in wildfowl enclosure, No. 93, before release in the flight aviary.



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

ASHY-HEADED GEESE AND GOSLING (*Chloephaga poliocephala*)

The Scarlet Ibis are juvenile birds and at the moment have dull reddish-brown plumage. This will become bright scarlet when they mature and should make a very colourful show in the large aviary. The species is found in northern South America with a distribution from Venezuela to Brazil. It lives in large colonies usually in swamps and mangroves along the coast. The nest is a platform of twigs in a tree and the bird feeds in shallow water probing in the mud with its long decurved beak for crustaceans, molluscs, fish, etc.

We reported in the June issue of "Zoo News" that the Red-masked Conures (*Aratinga erythrogenys*) had two chicks in the nest, so we were delighted when three eventually emerged. These are now about the same size as the parents but have not yet fully developed the characteristic red markings on the head.

The Gannet (*Sula bassana*), which was brought to the Zoo last month in a badly oiled condition, is still alive and apparently in good health.

REPTILE SECTION

In exchange for a selection of species we have acquired a Chinese Cobra (*Naja naja atra*), a Pope's Pit Viper (*Trimeresurus popeorum*) and a Broad-fronted Crocodile (*Osteolaemus tetraspis tetraspis*).

The adult Pope's Pit Viper is green above and pale green below with usually a reddish tinge towards the tip of the tail. Young specimens have a white stripe bordered below with red along the lowest row of dorsal scales. The specimen we have obtained was collected in Malaya where they are common in the mountains above 3,000 feet but they are found throughout Indonesia. Their diet consists of small birds, mammals and lizards.

The *Trimeresurus* fall into two quite natural ecological groups—the brown or green varieties with prehensile tails, evidently having arboreal habits, and the brown, spotted or variously coloured kinds that are primarily ground dwelling and do not have prehensile tails. One species, the much feared Habu (*Trimeresurus flavoviridis*) became famous in World War II when American troops occupied its native Okinawa Island. Large numbers of another species, the Wagler's Pit Viper (*Trimeresurus wagleri*), are kept at the "Snake Temple" in Penang, Malaya and in Sumatra and Borneo this snake is kept in trees near houses as it is believed to bring good luck.

The Chinese Cobra was collected in Formosa but is the same species as that found on the mainland. It has been reported that in China there are snake restaurants where several species of Snake including the Chinese Cobra are eaten. Live snakes are hung up outside the restaurant and skinned as required. The blood from the snakes is collected in small bowls and served immediately to customers, as fresh blood is thought to be an aphrodisiac.

Three Black and White Cobras (*Naja melanolenca*) have been presented.



CHIMPANZEES NICKY, LEFT, AND WILSON (*Pan troglodytes*)

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

GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

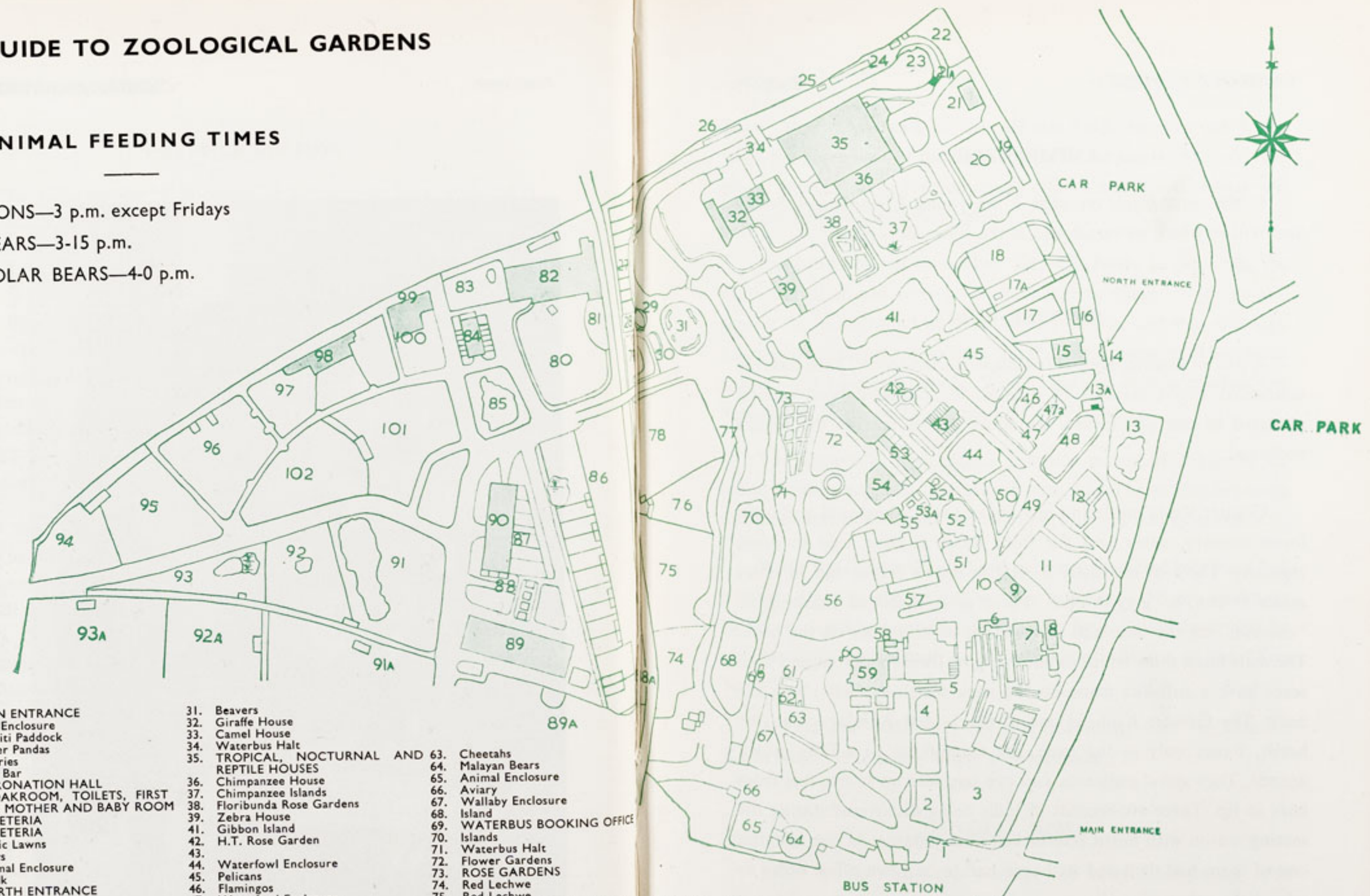
ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

BEARS—3-15 p.m.

POLAR BEARS—4-0 p.m.

- | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. MAIN ENTRANCE | 31. Beavers | 63. Cheetahs |
| 2. Bird Enclosure | 32. Giraffe House | 64. Malayan Bears |
| 3. Wapiti Paddock | 33. Camel House | 65. Animal Enclosure |
| 4. Lesser Pandas | 34. Waterbus Halt | 66. Aviary |
| 5. Aviaries | 35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES | 67. Wallaby Enclosure |
| 6. Milk Bar | 36. Chimpanzee House | 68. Island |
| 7. CORONATION HALL | 37. Chimpanzee Islands | 69. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE |
| 8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS, FIRST AID, MOTHER AND BABY ROOM | 38. Floribunda Rose Gardens | 70. Islands |
| 9. CAFETERIA | 39. Zebra House | 71. Waterbus Halt |
| 10. CAFETERIA | 41. Gibbon Island | 72. Flower Gardens |
| 11. Picnic Lawns | 42. H.T. Rose Garden | 73. ROSE GARDENS |
| 12. Bears | 43. | 74. Red Lechwe |
| 13. Animal Enclosure | 44. Waterfowl Enclosure | 75. Red Lechwe |
| 13a. Kiosk | 45. Pelicans | 76. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 14. NORTH ENTRANCE | 46. Flamingos | 77. Waterbus Halt |
| 15. AQUARIUM | 47. Waterfowl Enclosure | 78. Zebra and Deer Enclosure |
| 16. PUSH CHAIRS, WHEEL CHAIRS, FIRST AID, LOST CHILDREN | 47a. Penguins and Otters | 79. Kamchatka Bears |
| 17. Parrot House | 48. Sea Lion Pool | 80. Elephant Paddock |
| 17a. Large Flight Aviary | 49. Rock Garden | 81. Hippo Paddock |
| 18. APE HOUSE | 50. Polar Bears | 82. PACHYDERM HOUSE |
| 19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP | 51. Tigers | 83. Tapir Enclosure |
| 20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn | 52. Waterfowl Enclosure | 84. Small Mammal House |
| 21. TOILETS | 52a. Anteater | 85. Waterfowl Enclosure |
| 21a. Tuatara House | 53. BIRD HOUSE | 86. Antelope and Cattle |
| 22. Peccaries | 53a. Nursery | 87. Storks and Ostriches |
| 23. Waterbus Halt | 54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT | 88. Monkey Enclosures |
| 24. Birds of Prey Aviary | 55. TOILETS | 88a. Lion and Tiger Enclosure |
| 25. Birds of Prey Aviary | 56. Lions | 89. Cat House |
| 26. Owls | 57. NEW ZOO SHOP | 89a. Jaguars |
| 27. Jackal and Hyaena Enclosures | 58. TOILETS | 90. MONKEY HOUSE |
| 28. Animal Enclosure | 59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT | 91. Waterfowl |
| 29. Porcupines and Raccoons | 60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk | |
| 30. Coypus | 61. Animal Enclosure | |
| | 62. Animal Enclosure | |



- | |
|-----------------------------|
| 91a. Highland Cattle |
| 92. Waterfowl and Wallabies |
| 92a. Llamas and Alpacas |
| 93. Cranes and Waterfowl |
| 93a. Zebroids |
| 94. Bison Paddock |
| 95. Deer Paddock |
| 96. Eland and Marmots |
| 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

CHIMPANZEES

In the photograph on page 7 are young Chimpanzees Nicky and Wilson which we mentioned in the June "Zoo News".

GREATER KUDU

A pair of Greater Kudu (*Tragelaphus strepsiceros*) have recently completed twelve months in quarantine and have been accommodated in one of the new paddocks at the rear of the Jaguar enclosure.

Greater Kudu are found in Africa in rocky bushveld and open forest country, never very far from water as they need to drink regularly. The coat is usually a reddish-brown colour but in older males it can be greyish-blue. There is a V-shaped marking or "chevron" on the nose and several thin white stripes on the back. The male has a thick fringe of hair hanging from the throat and both sexes have a tuft-like mane on the neck which extends along the back. The Greater Kudu is one of the largest Antelopes and the horns, found only in the male, are magnificent in a fully grown animal. They spiral outwards and can measure up to five feet from base to tip. There are records of bulls being discovered during the mating season with horns interlocked after fighting. In one instance one of them had died and its horns had to be sawn off in order to release the other.

These Antelope move about either in small groups or singly, the solitary animals usually being males though these may also join up to form small bands. Other groups consisting of young animals and females are joined by the males in the mating season. Like

many other inhabitants of the African bush, the Greater Kudu avoid the fierce heat of the day and rest in the shade. At night, the group spreads out to feed on young shoots, wild fruits, leaves and the seed pods of leguminous plants.

They can conceal themselves very effectively in the bush, the white dorsal stripes serving to break up the shape of the animal against the background of shadows and bushes, and they will take cover in this manner rather than run if danger threatens. Their main enemies are Lions, Leopards, Wild Dogs and of course Man, the magnificent horns being regarded as great trophies.

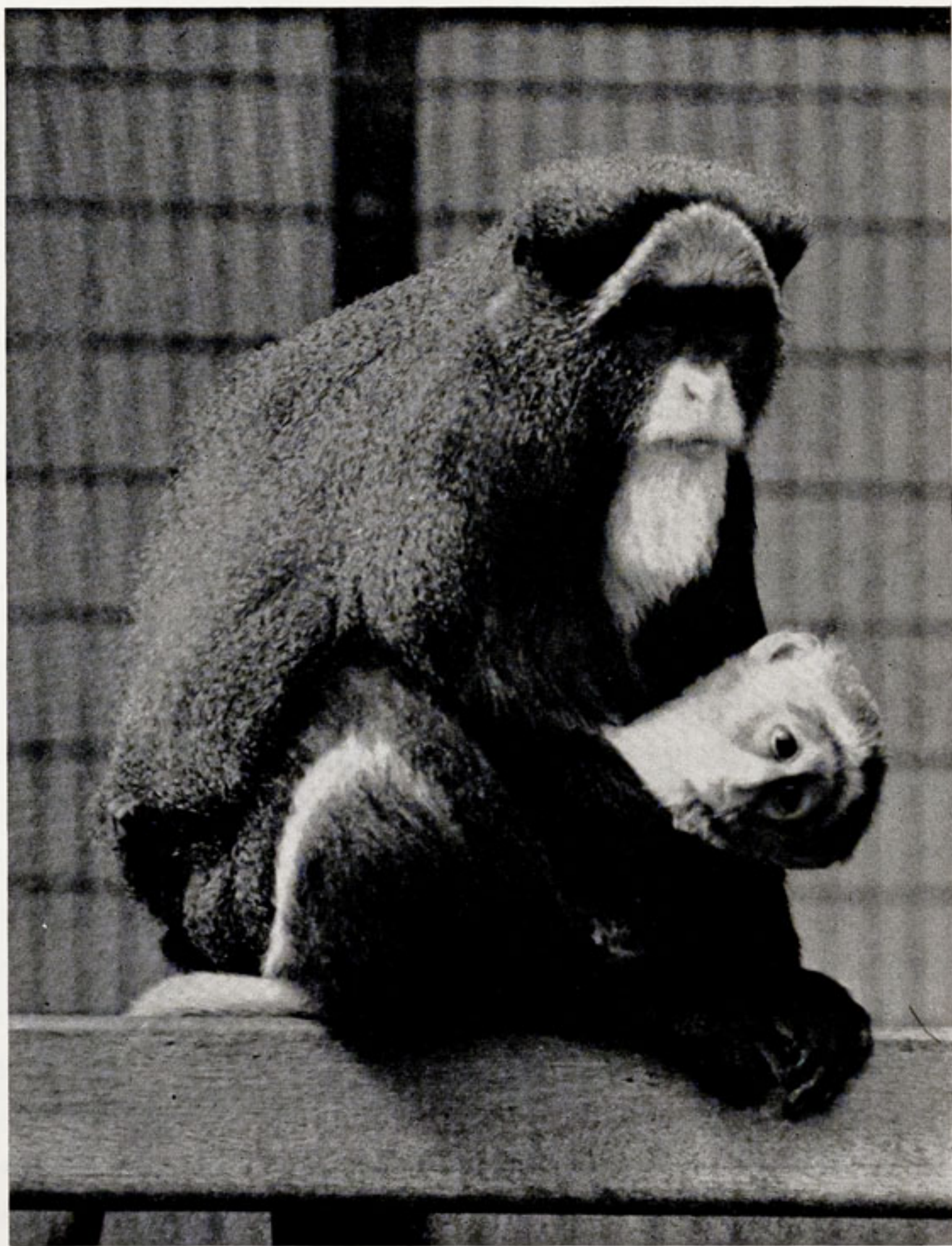
The single calf, born after a gestation period of 212 days, lies hidden in the undergrowth during its early life. The mother lies some distance away but in sight and will approach the calf to suckle it.

While the Greater Kudu have been in quarantine they have had contact with only one person, so their transfer to the new enclosure has been a gradual process. Once they have settled in it will be possible for a photograph to be taken for inclusion in the "Zoo News".

A Guanaco which has been in quarantine with the Greater Kudu has gone to a new home at Whipsnade.

GENERAL NEWS

Much to the delight of visitors the baby Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*), Saul, has been making several excursions around the island sitting on his mother's foot with his arms clasped around her leg. This is the usual mode of transport for a baby Chimpanzee. We have received one or two anxious letters from the public complaining that mother, Judy, is very rough with the baby. However, if visitors do see him being carried "like a handbag" they may rest



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

DE BRAZZA MONKEY AND BABY (*Cercopithecus neglectus*)

assured that this is quite normal and Saul does not suffer in the slightest. In fact he is often sound asleep at the time.

The second litter of Leopard cubs (*Panthera pardus*) is now being taken outside on warm days by the mother. The two cubs were born on the 6th July.

The female Jaguar (*Panthera onca*), Sheba, has been reunited with the male, Khan. Her two cubs born in March are growing rapidly and can be seen in the adjacent enclosure. When fully grown the female of this litter will be paired with another male which is in quarantine in the Cat House at present.

The pair of Binturong (*Arctictis binturong*) has been moved to a much larger enclosure on the opposite side of the Mammal House where it is hoped they will breed.

The photograph on the left shows this year's baby De Brazza Monkey (*Cercopithecus neglectus*) which is a female.

VACCINATING THE LEOPARD CUBS

Photographers were present when three Leopard cubs (*Panthera pardus*) born at the end of May were vaccinated against Feline Enteritis, an extremely contagious viral disease with a high death rate. This disease, which is found in many parts of the world, affects not only domestic Cats but also most of the Cat family in the wild. The mortality rate amongst infected animals is often as high as 65% and has been known to be 90%. Both adult and young Cats are affected, the younger animals being more susceptible, although there is also a theory that cubs under three months of age do not contract the disease.

Healthy Cats are given a single injection with a live vaccine at



VACCINATING THE LEOPARD CUB (*Panthera pardus*)

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

ten weeks old to induce immunity for life. This live vaccine has many advantages over the earlier dead type which required the animal being given two booster shots in addition to the initial injection and a further booster shot each year thereafter. As can be imagined, injecting a fully grown Leopard or Jaguar was no easy task!

With mother Susie locked outside, the three little cubs sat together in a corner of the den and spat and snarled viciously. Despite their size they have claws capable of tearing open flesh with a single swipe and were handled with appropriate respect. Two of the cubs were vaccinated inside the Cat House while the third was taken outside onto a lawn where the photographers were waiting. The pictures appeared later in the local press.

Keepers had also taken this opportunity to sex the cubs and were pleased to find that there were two females. As they had suspected, the most aggressive and liveliest of the three was the male.

A REMINDER

August is the busiest month of the year and the Zoo is filled with people in a holiday mood. However, it is a time which means a great many headaches and unnecessary extra work for the Zoo Staff, often through the thoughtlessness of a minority. Unfortunately there are some visitors who blatantly ignore the "No Feeding" notices. This No Feeding rule was introduced by the North of England Zoological Society some years ago for a very good reason — namely that feeding by the public was known to be injurious to the health of the animals. Obviously we want the public to enjoy their visit and to this end we provide every facility that will be required but the welfare of the animals will always be our first consideration.

The Notice on the inside rear cover of this issue will be printed in all subsequent copies of the Zoo News, to explain to the Public our NO FEEDING RULE.

Another problem for Zoo staff is litter, not only on the pathways and gardens but also in the actual animal enclosures and pools.

After a busy day, the Polar Bear Pool in particular is a mass of floating sweetpapers, cigarette packets, ice lolly sticks and countless other debris. It is most unsightly and costly to remove. The grounds are swept from end to end every morning before the visitors arrive, so we certainly do our best to ensure that the Zoo is kept clean. There are numerous litter baskets dotted around the Zoo and it takes such a little effort and thought to drop waste into these instead of onto the path. We urge you please to help us to keep the grounds tidy and under no circumstances drop anything into any of the enclosures.

The animals at Chester Zoo are exhibited in some of the finest conditions in the world — don't spoil their freedom by **your** thoughtlessness.

"THE MATING GAME"

A third book by June Johns will be published by Peter Davies Ltd., on 21st September. "THE MATING GAME" is about the love life of captive animals. Illustrated by cameraman Jack Smith, husband of Miss Johns, the book has already been accepted for publication in America by the St. Martin's Press (the U.S. branch of Macmillan's) and it will be brought out in paperback by *Pan* in 1971-72.

This was the most difficult of all three books for Jack Smith to illustrate. Armed with a rough draft of the manuscript describing the why's and how's of courting and mating behaviour, he spent many months in Chester Zoo, where most of the research was done, trying to get photographs that told the truth without shocking the public.

The two earlier books by the same authoress, "ZOO WITHOUT BARS" published by Gollancz last year and "LITTLE BROTHER", published by Peter Davies Ltd., earlier this year, are both still selling steadily.

"THE MATING GAME" will cost 45s.

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.

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