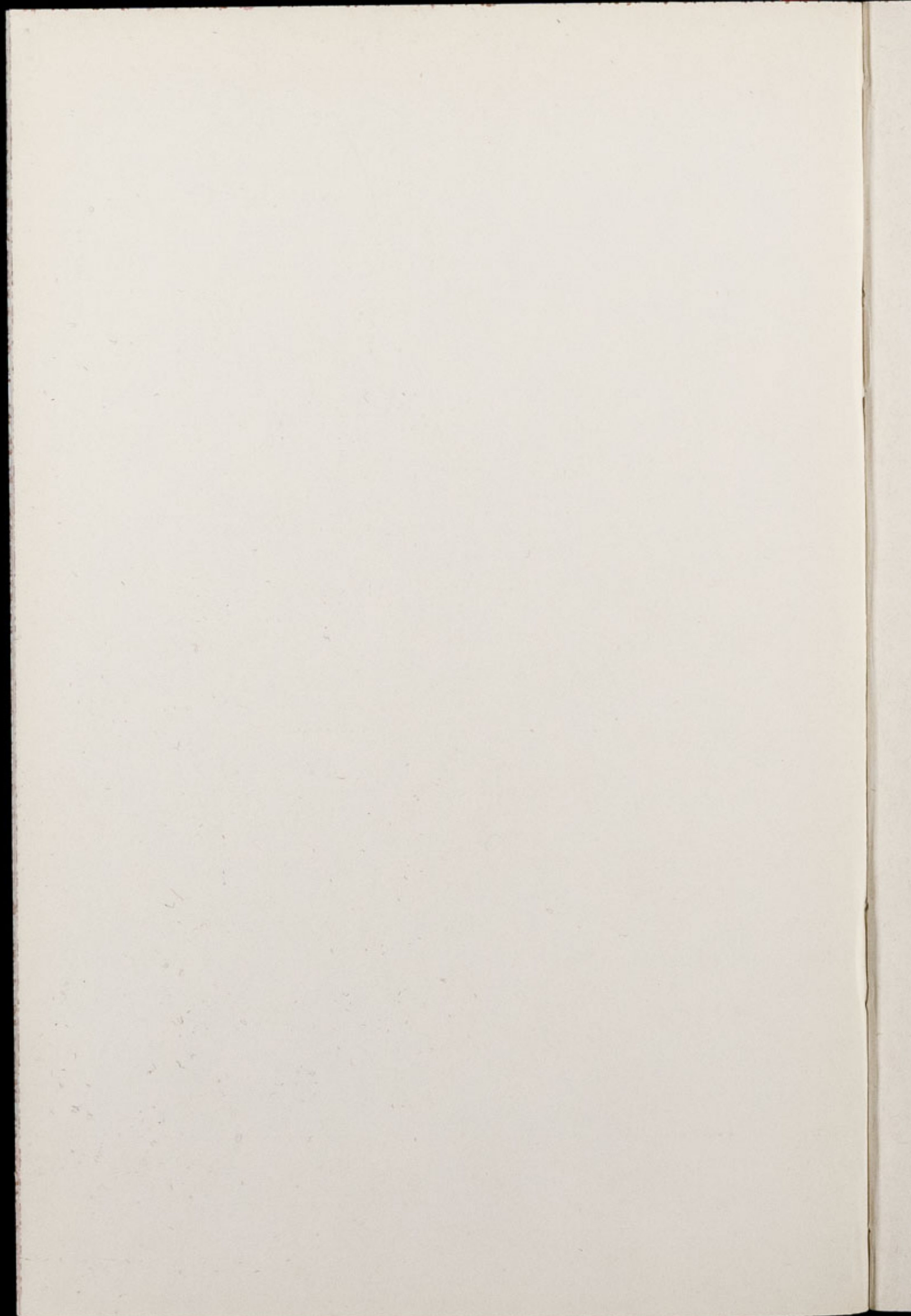


CHESTER ZOO NEWS
AND GUIDE

by
ks
June 1968

Price 1/-



The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

COUNCIL

MISS G. M. RUSSELL-ALLEN, O.B.E.
J. F. WILKINSON, M.Sc., Ph.D., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.I.C.
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
J. O. L. KING, Ph.D., M.V.Sc., B.Sc. (AGRIC.), M.R.C.V.S.
H. D. COOPER
A. K. MCGHIE
G. R. PRYOR, C.Eng., Hon.F.I., Prod.E., F.B.I.M.
G. S. MOTTERSHEAD, M.Sc., DIRECTOR-SECRETARY

CONTENTS:

page eight/nine Zoo Guide.
page eleven Reptile Notes, Spectacled Owl.
page fourteen Animal Importation and Quarantine.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

page four Talapoin Monkey
page six Giraffe and Mother.
page seven Orang-utan "Martha".
page twelve Spectacled Owl.
page thirteen Spectacled Owl.
page fifteen Ocelot.

COVER: "Jackie" our baby male Giraffe can be seen on the Cover of this month's magazine and also with his mother "Debbie" in the photograph on page 6.

By Courtesy of R. Hicklin, Esq., 'Sun Newspaper'

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION SIXTEEN SHILLINGS POST PAID

TELEPHONE :: CHESTER 20106/7/8

The Annual General Meeting of the North of England Zoological Society was held at the Zoo on the 25th May and was attended by 54 members. This was a record for our Annual General Meeting and was very encouraging as it indicated the interest now being shewn by members of the Society.

At this particular meeting the only business permissible by the Constitution is to receive the Report of the Council and of the Auditors, discussions on matters arising therefrom and also to elect a third of the Council who retire annually.

Until 1967 there was no contest for vacancies on the Council but last year for the first time there was an election as members had nominated a candidate in addition to those members of the Council who were prepared to stand for re-election. This year three extra nominees were submitted and an election took place. Two of the retiring members were re-elected, Lord Tollemache and Mr. A. E. Smith, but the other three remaining Council nominees were defeated in the election by Messrs. McGhie, Cooper and Pryor.

A *Conversazione* was held prior to the meeting which gave members an opportunity to get to know each other. It was decided at the Meeting that in future, copies of the "*Chester Zoo News*" would be sent free to members of the Society so that they can be kept in close touch with what is taking place at the Zoo. This magazine first appeared as "*Our Zoo News*" in November 1937 and has been published continuously since that date; it was changed to its present form "*Chester Zoo News*" in September 1962. The "*Chester Zoo News*" is now sent all over the world and there is hardly any part of the globe where there are no subscribers.

Another effort is to be made to introduce a series of lectures and meetings for members. These took place many years ago but were discontinued because there were so few attendances; with the interest which is now being shewn in the Society, it is felt that they might be more popular.

"Barbar", the largest and oldest of our Elephants has lost a tooth. Elephants teeth are extremely large, weighing several pounds but only two are in use at one time. When a tooth decays a new one emerges and the old one drops out. The normal life span of an Elephant is 65 to 70 years and usually eight sets of teeth are grown.

The young American Tapir which is now six months old has lost almost all of its spotted markings and stripes and is now assuming adult colouration. All Tapirs have these stripes and spots when young which act as a camouflage. These markings disappear altogether when the Tapirs reach adult stage.

We have just built two large cages close to the Cat House into which we are going to transfer some of the more boisterous Baboons. They are at present accommodated in the other large cages close to the Monkey House, and these cages will be released for the Gibbons, giving them plenty of room to swing.

We still have Gibbons on Gibbon Island, but the vegetation is so dense that they are rarely seen. Occasionally one sees them swinging from tree to tree high up in the branches.

Some years ago we had several Gibbons on the island which bred, but suddenly an aggressive male murdered the whole colony and he alone survived. After a little while he was trapped and



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

TALAPOIN MONKEY
ONE OF THE SPECIES TO BE BRED IN THE MONKEY HOUSE

conveyed to a large cage and now we have transferred another pair to the island in the hope that they will breed and establish another colony.

There have been many births among the Monkeys and it is quite common when one wanders through the Monkey House to see mothers nursing their babies.

"Jackie" our baby Giraffe which was born on the 17th March is growing well and can be seen every day in the paddock. It is remarkable how quickly Giraffes grow and without actually measuring "Jackie", it is estimated that he must have grown a foot or two since he was born.

The Oriental Small-clawed Otters which arrived recently have now settled in their home in the new Otter Pool and they make a most interesting exhibit. On the opposite side is another enclosure with waterfalls which contains Rockhopper Penguins. At the moment, they are moulting rather heavily but once they are over this they should make a very exciting display.

There have been a number of births recently in the Cat House, including a Jungle Cat; these animals are a little larger than the ordinary domestic cat, but have similar markings to the Tabby Cat. They are found in parts of Asia and North Africa, but despite their name do not come from Jungle areas.

Two American Martens have been born in the Small Mammal House and we noticed the other day that a young Kinkajou had been born in the Nocturnal House.



R. Hicklin, 'Sun Newspaper'

BABY MALE GIRAFFE "JACKIE" WITH MOTHER DEBBIE



Gary Talbot

ORANG UTAN

"MARTHA" WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO NEW HOUSE WHEN OPENED

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

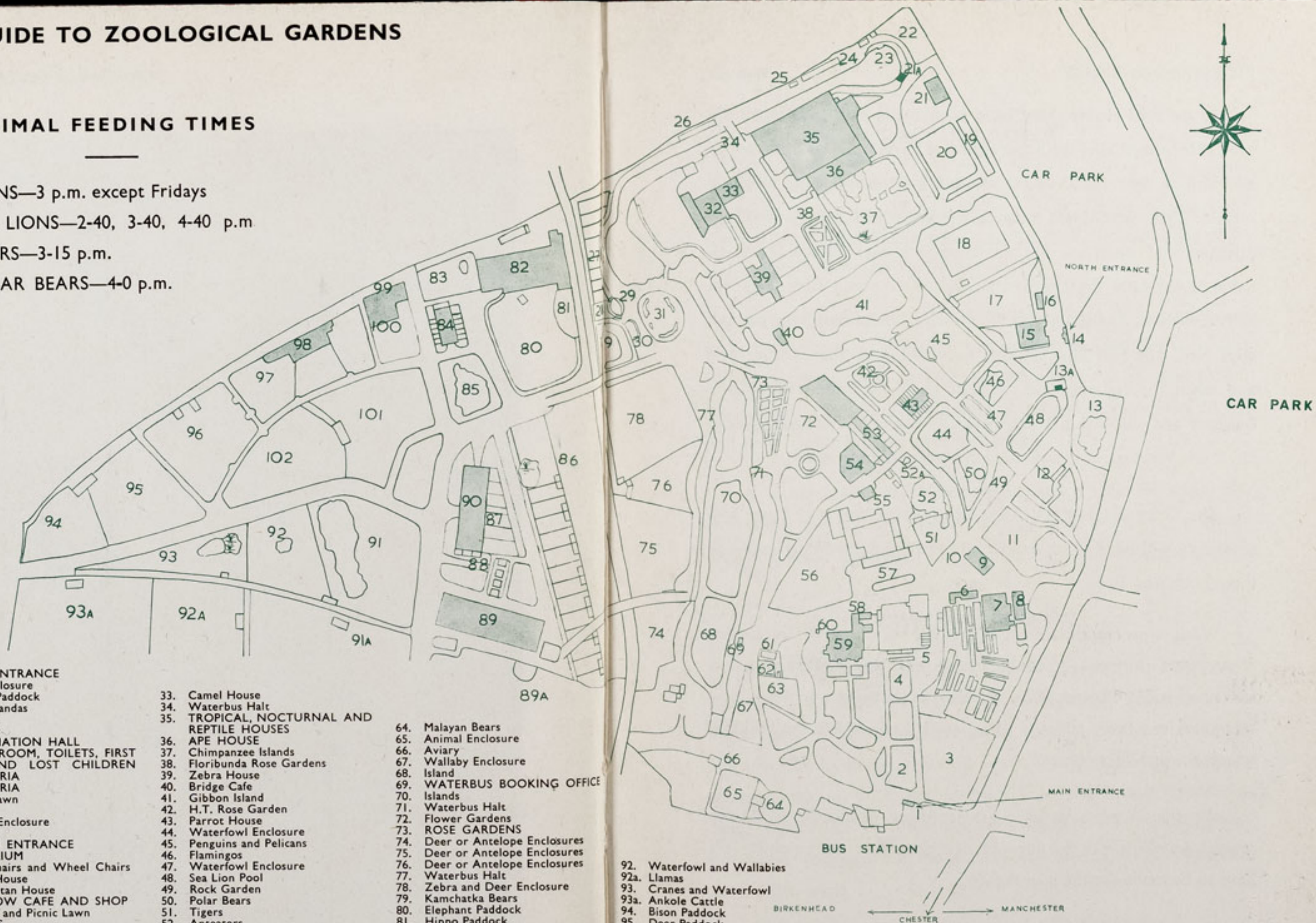
33. Camel House
34. Waterbus Halt
35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES
36. APE HOUSE
37. Chimpanzee Islands
38. Floribunda Rose Gardens
39. Zebra House
40. Bridge Cafe
41. Gibbon Island
42. H.T. Rose Garden
43. Parrot House
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Penguins and Pelicans
46. Flamingos
47. Waterfowl 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
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.



In the Bird House there have been many new hatchings, the most rare being that of the Superb Bird of Paradise. The hen went to nest and as there has been no previous experience of the breeding of these birds, we allowed the male to remain with her. He was very attentive and when she left the nest he always chased her back again. Eventually the egg hatched but after about four days the little chick was found on the floor having been mutilated by the cock bird. The pair built another nest on top of the existing one and when the egg was laid we shut the male bird in the inside quarters and allowed the hen to sit on her own. Eventually the chick was hatched; it is now fully fledged and quite active.

The Great Eagle Owl chicks are now getting very large and soon they will have to be removed to the big flight where many of these birds now live.

Work is proceeding as fast as possible on our new Orang-utan House, but unfortunately suitable labour for this type of construction is very scarce in Chester. This of course is delaying our work considerably, but every effort is being made to complete the building before the end of summer.

We shall now have to construct more paddocks as shortly several Antelope will be due out of Quarantine and a place will have to be made for them in the Zoo.

Recent presentations in the Bird Section were two Masked, one Peach-faced and two Fischers Lovebirds, which are very welcome new arrivals to the collection.

REPTILE NOTES

New arrivals in the Reptile House were two Mississippi Alligators which are thought to be a pair. These Alligators are about 4 feet long and have been accommodated in one of the pools just inside the Tropical House Entrance.

Another new arrival is a young Reticulated Python estimated to be 5 feet long. This Python was exchanged for a Rainbow Boa which had been bred here at the Zoo and was surplus to our requirements. The Reticulated Python can attain a length of 30 feet and ranks as the longest species of snake.

A recent consignment from West Africa included some very interesting species, *i.e.*, Beauty Snakes, Nile Monitors, a Bosc's Monitor, Black and White Cobras and Hinged Tortoises.

SPECTACLED OWL

In the August 1967 edition of "*Chester Zoo News*", we published a picture and a short account of our newly arrived Spectacled Owl. These birds are noted for their rather spectacular plumage-changes and so it was decided to include a recent photograph of our specimen as well as the one taken last year, as a comparison. It is not difficult to see why the natives of South America thought that the young were a different species from the adults — so dissimilar in appearance are the two birds.

Our Owl still has some way to go before it attains its adult plumage, when the white markings above the eyes will be far more pronounced. It is thought that five years is the normal age when



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

SPECTACLED OWL
A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH



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

SPECTACLED OWL
AUGUST 1967

adult plumage is acquired but very little is known about these Owls. Our specimen is rather shy and secretive, spending most of its time at the far end of the aviary, well away from the public.

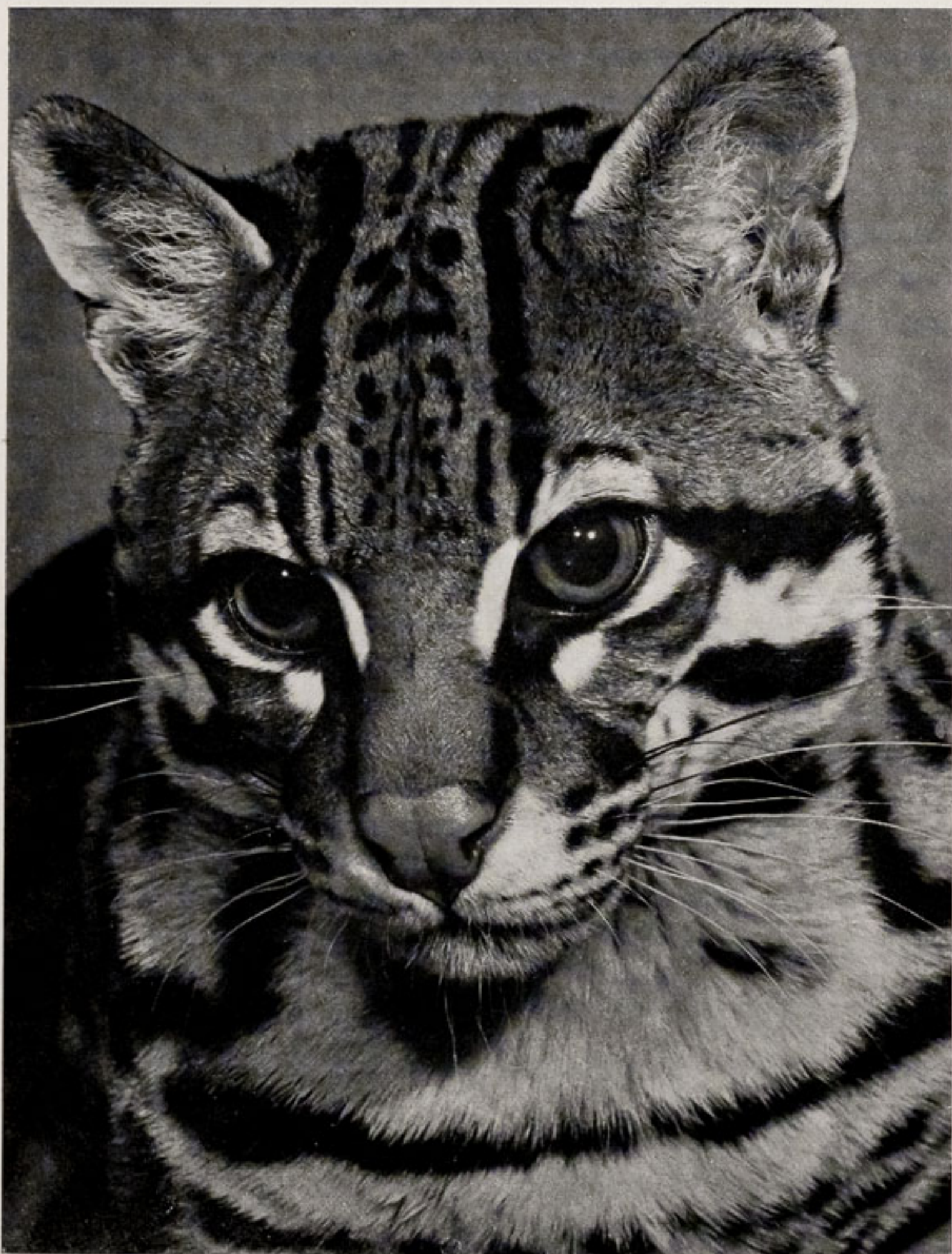
The Spectacled Owl (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*) is found in the forest areas of Central and South America and although seen in open woodlands, generally inhabits thick rain forests and nests in trees. The diet has not been investigated properly but insects have been found in the gizzard; a vernacular name is Crab Owl, which might give some indication of food. Another name for this species is Knocking Owl, as the call has been likened to the continuous tapping of woodpeckers.

ANIMAL IMPORTATION AND QUARANTINE

Many people are interested in the importation and quarantining of animals in this country. This is rather a complex subject and laws can be altered to suit the requirements prevailing at the time.

In recent years it has been comparatively easy to transport animals by plane from remote parts of the World, with the result that many rare animals have been sold to unscrupulous dealers and animal research organisations; in this and many other countries legislation has been introduced to stop illicit trading of this type.

During June 1960 the International Union for Conservation of Nature at a meeting sponsored by the Survival Service Commission urged all governments to restrict the importation of all rare animals.



E. Kirkland, F.R.P.S.

OCELOT

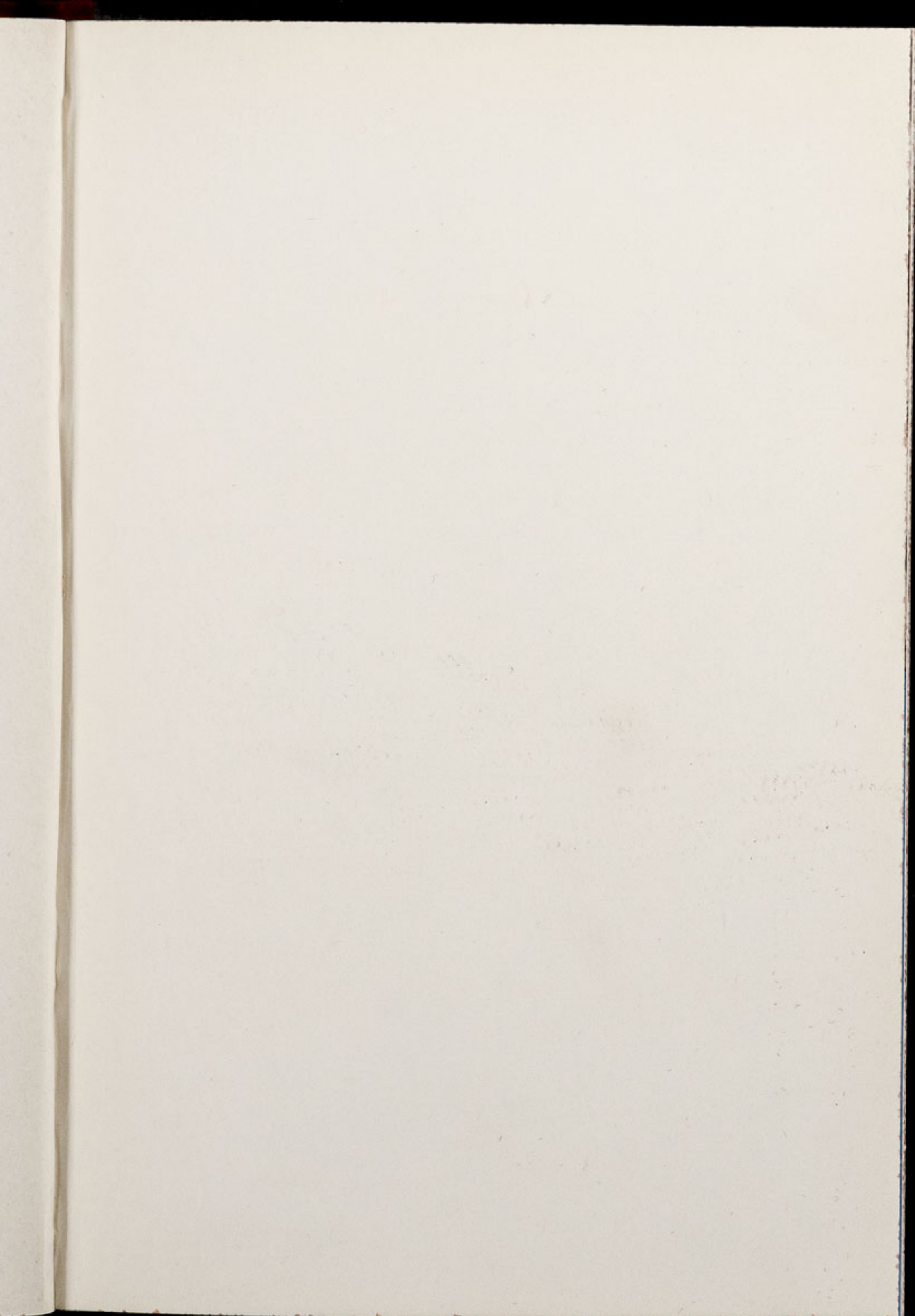
A SPECIES WHICH CAN BE QUARANTINED IN THE CAT HOUSE

On 16th January, 1965, the Animal (Restriction of Importation) Act, came into operation and now a licence has to be obtained for the importation of a large proportion of animals.

The quarantine periods of animals vary with the different species — for instance Ruminants and Swine can only be quarantined at an urban zoo. For this reason we have a quarantine station at Birkenhead, a town about twelve miles from Chester. As a precaution against Foot and Mouth Disease and Rinderpest, Ruminants are detained under close veterinary supervision for the first twenty-eight days and afterwards remain in quarantine for a year. Since 1961, Ruminants from countries where Blue Tongue Disease is endemic are quarantined for the first fifty-six days in quarters fly-proofed with nylon mesh. The Blue Tongue Disease is transmitted by flying insects and is prevalent in the African Continent.

All felines and canines have to undergo a six month quarantine period and we have special quarters at the Zoo where the quarantine can be carried out. Most animals do not require a quarantine period by law, as they do not carry dangerous infectious diseases. All new-comers to the Zoo are isolated for a time to make sure they are in perfect health before being allowed to come into contact with our other animals.





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