



CHESTER ZOO NEWS
AND GUIDE

May 1973

Price 6p

ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

We are pleased to report that the following mammals have been born:

- 1 Jaguar (*Panthera onca*)
- 1 Arabian Gazelle (*Gazella arabica*)
- 5 Pere David's Deer (*Elaphurus davidianus*)
- 1 Highland calf (*Bos taurus*)
- 2 Bagot Goats (*Capra hircus*)
- 3 Soay Sheep (*Ovis aries*)

The Jaguar cub has been suckled in the inside den for several weeks but henceforward, on fine days, the door to the outer enclosure will be left open. The parents of the cub are Sheba and Khan, a pair which has been at the Zoo for a number of years and has bred several times. The four Lion cubs born six weeks ago may also go outside on warm days but up to the time of writing they have not ventured from the security of the den.

With the birth of the latest Arabian Gazelle fawn there are eleven of these rare animals at the Zoo. The Pere David's Deer is another rare species and this year more fawns have been born than in any previous year. All appear in excellent health. The Pere David herd has eighteen individuals which may be seen in enclosure No. 103.

The arrival of a male Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*) as a mate for an unmatched female, means that there are now two pairs of this species on exhibition in the Cat House. The elder pair has been here since February 1965 and these animals are fairly advanced in years.



JUNGLE CAT (*Felis chaus*)

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

The younger female, bred here in May 1968, has accepted her new mate and with them lie our future breeding hopes.

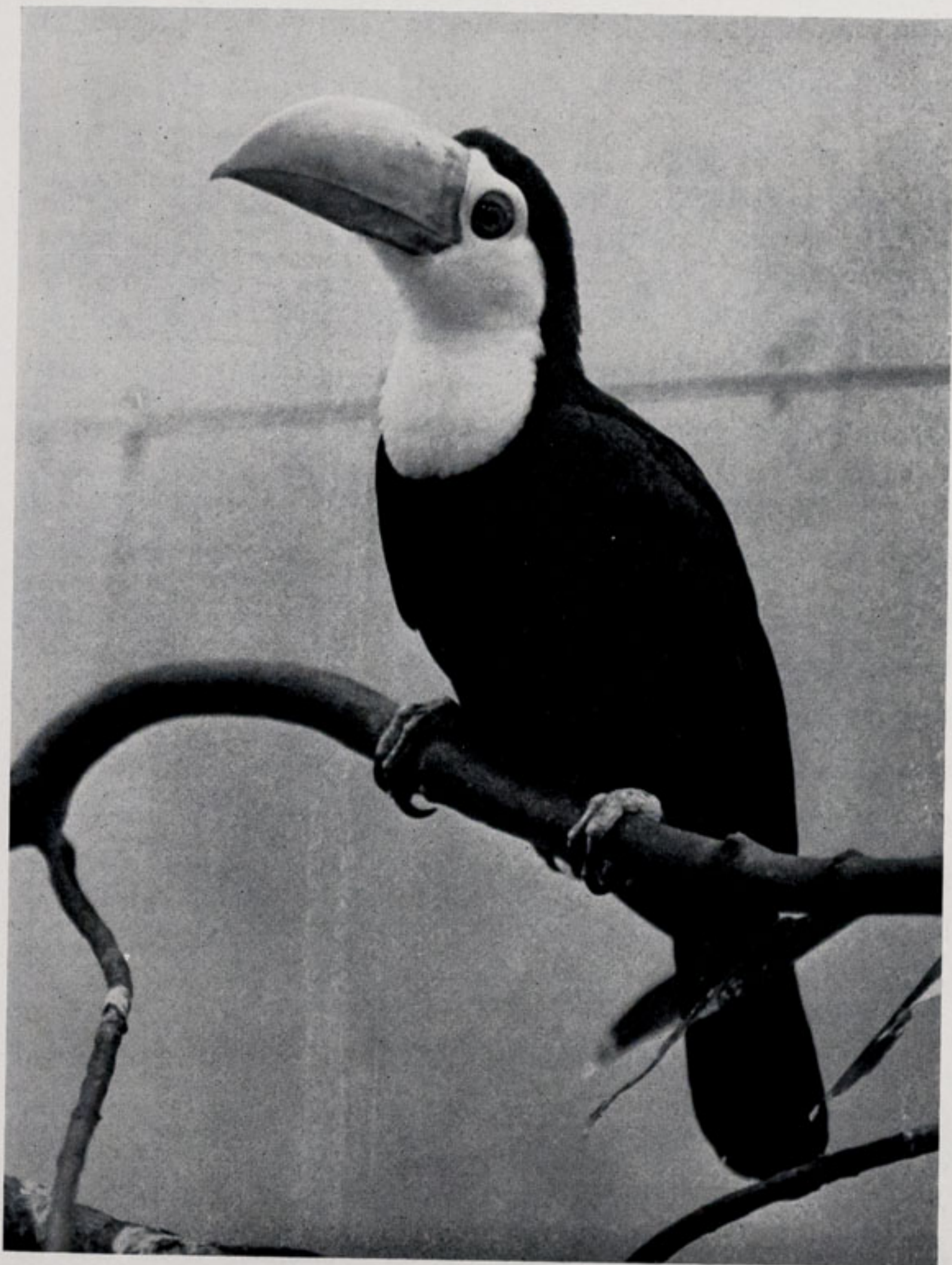
One of our Jungle Cats is shown in the photograph on the right. Somewhat bigger than a domestic cat, the Jungle Cat is from two to two and a half feet long and is either greyish or brownish with indistinct black rings on the tail. The range of the Jungle Cat is from Egypt eastwards to China, India, Ceylon and Indo-China.

BIRD NOTES

During the past month a number of birds have been acquired and included in these are species new to the collection.

The photograph on the right shows one of two young Toco Toucans (*Rhamphastos toco*) which can now be seen in one of the upper aviaries in the Tropical House. The characteristic large yellow bill is not yet fully formed in either bird and they are estimated to be about five or six months old.

The Toco Toucan is found over a fairly wide range in South America from the Guianas through Brazil to Paraguay, Bolivia and northern Argentina. It lives in heavy lowland forest where fruit constitutes the main item in its diet though the Toco Toucan will also eat insects and fledgling birds. It is not a strong flyer but tends to hop along the branches. The nest site is a cavity in a tree and both parents undertake to incubate the clutch of two to four eggs. Like that of the old world Hornbill, the Toucan's bill is not solid but honeycombed with air sacs. (An X-ray of a Hornbill's beak was published in the February 1972 issue). The function of the Toucan's bill is something of a mystery. Certainly it does not appear to



YOUNG TOCO TOUCAN (*Rhamphastos toco*)

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

facilitate eating, as the bird has to manoeuvre each piece of food in its bill until it can be tossed easily to the back of the throat. The Toco Toucan is a fairly common bird in captivity and of course has been exhibited here before.

In the same house, but in one of the lower aviaries, there are three juvenile Boat-billed Herons (*Cochlearius cochlearius*). At first they were rather timid and tended to congregate behind a tree trunk in the enclosure. Gradually they are gaining confidence and moving about in front of the visitors. Some years ago there was a single specimen at the Zoo which became very tame.

At this stage the young Boat-billed Herons have rather drab plumage which is dark brownish on their backs and wings and lighter brown on the underparts, while the crowns of their heads are black. Except for its beak, the adult Boat-billed Heron is not unlike the Night Heron with white cheeks, breast and back and grey wings. The black feathers on the head form a crest. The most remarkable feature of this species is undoubtedly its bill which is broad and flattened, though the purpose of this unusual shape is not really clear. In colour the bill is mainly black with a narrow strip of yellow along the cutting edge. An adult bird may be twenty inches long.

The Boat-billed Heron is found over a wide area in South America from Mexico to Brazil, northern Argentina and Peru and also in Trinidad. Its habitat is dense, swampy vegetation and this is a rather secretive, solitary bird. Its natural diet consists of fish, worms, crustaceans, amphibians and some small mammals. At the Zoo we are feeding meat and fish.

One much awaited new arrival was a male White-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus funereus baudinii*). In August 1966 we

received a pair of these birds but unfortunately the cock died in 1970. He had been displaying to the female and since his death we have been seeking another mate for her.

The White-tailed Black Cockatoo is found in south western Australia and is closely related to the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, a pair of which can also be seen at Chester. The White-tailed grows to over twenty inches in length and is brownish black with a white bar across the tail and a white patch on each ear covert. White edges the feathers on the underside, producing a scalloped effect. Wild White-tailed Black Cockatoos live in forested areas and, as they consume considerable quantities of wood larvae, their presence is welcomed by the foresters. Few of these birds are seen in captivity in this part of the world and they have never been bred in this country. The new cock has been introduced to the hen and the pair may be seen in the Parrot House, No. 17.

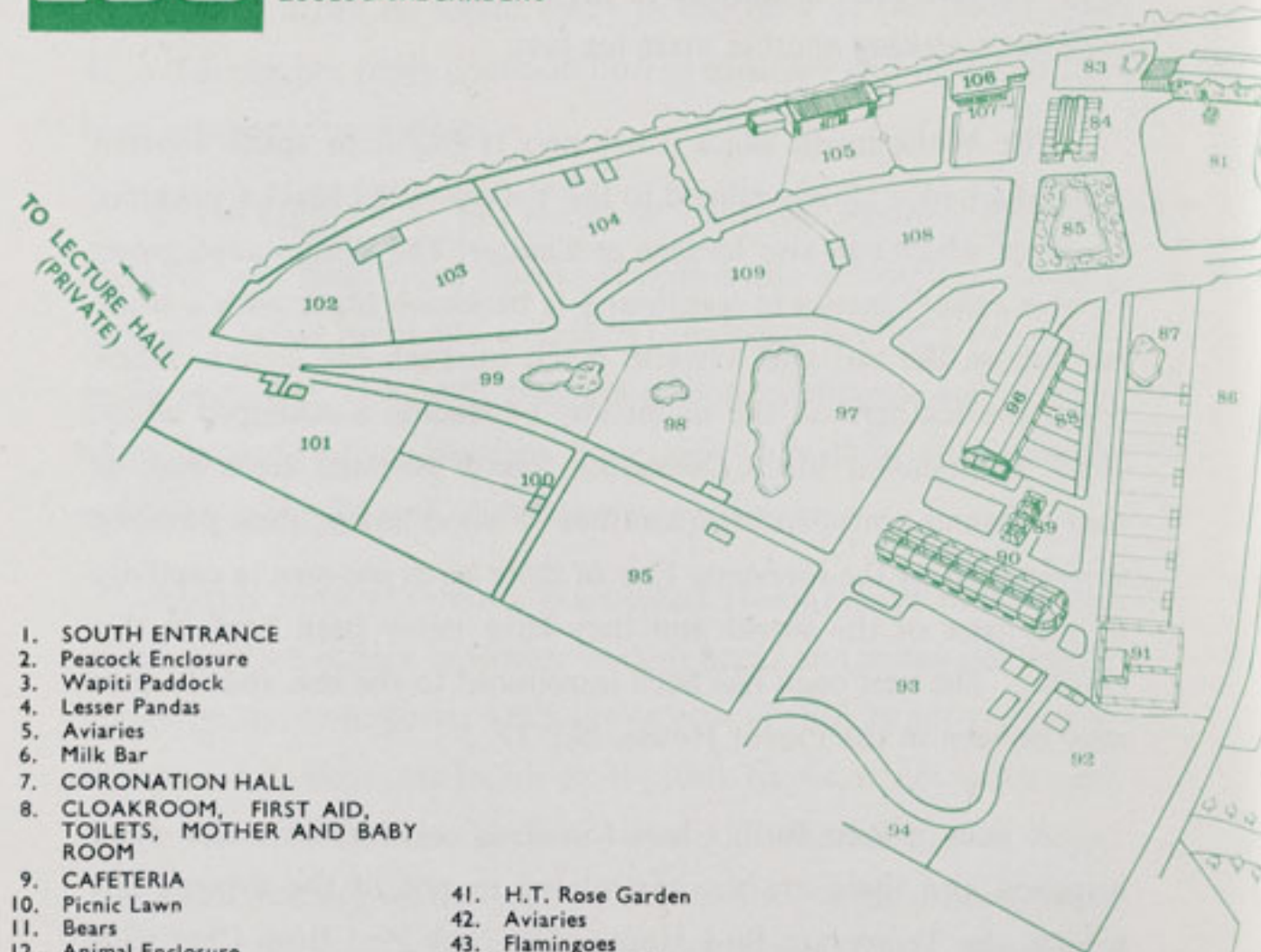
A pair of Pied Bush Chats (*Saxicola caprata*) have also been acquired and these are accommodated in one of the aviaries adjoining the Temperate Bird House. The cock Pied Bush Chat with black and white plumage is the more striking bird, while the female is dark brown with a reddish brown patch at the base of her tail. Neither sex grows to more than five and a half inches long. The range of the Pied Bush Chat is from Afghanistan through Persia, India, Ceylon and Burma to the Phillippines and Java.

In an aviary not far from the Pied Bush Chats, there is a pair of Sikkim Red-crowned Jays (*Garrulus bispecularis interstinctus*), a species being exhibited here for the first time. The state of Sikkim in north west India is the home of this Jay.

Other new arrivals include a pair of Fairy Blue Birds (*Irena puella*) and a pair of Orange Ground Thrushes (*Geokichla citrina*).

CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

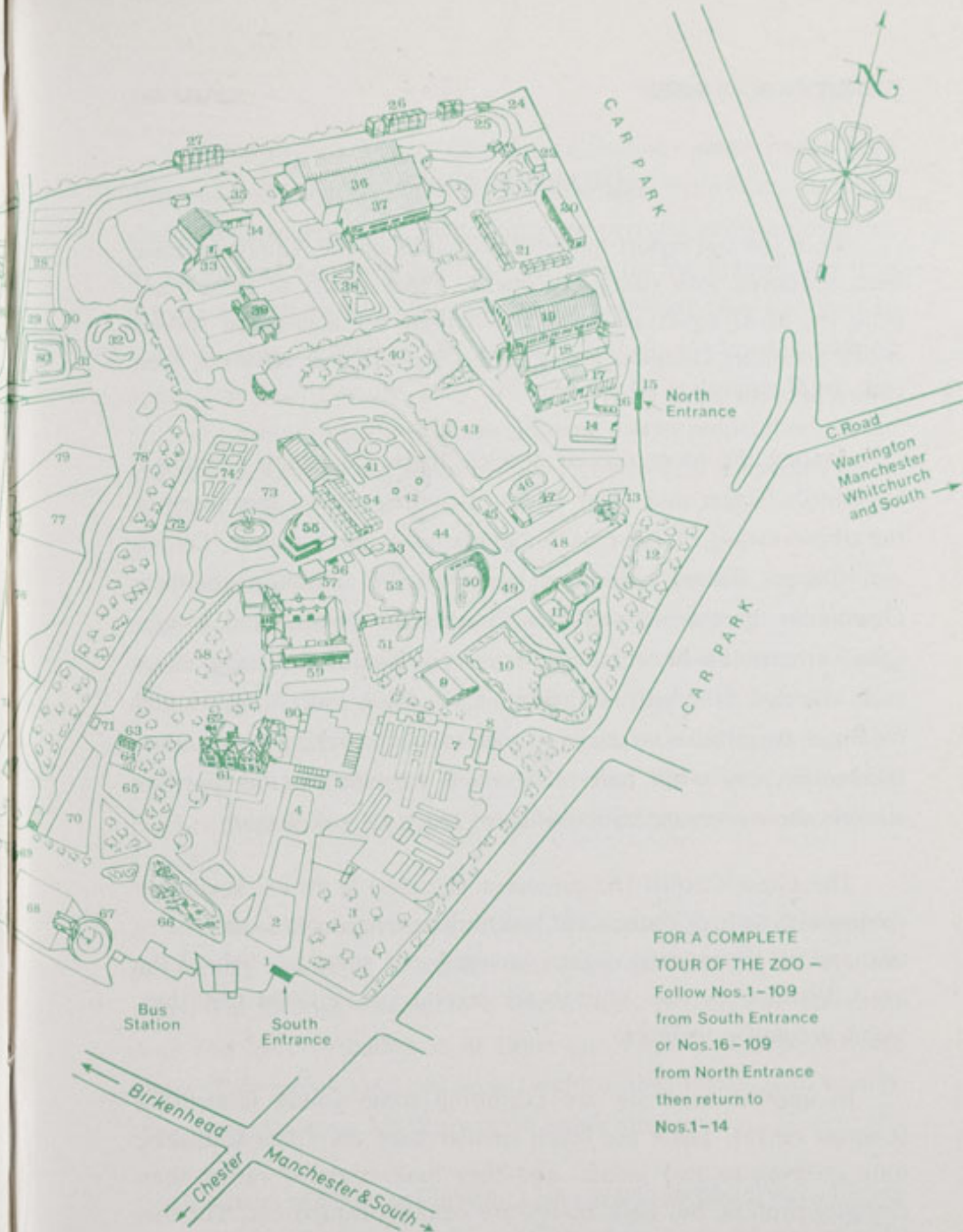


1. SOUTH ENTRANCE
2. Peacock Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Lesser Pandas
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, FIRST AID, TOILETS, MOTHER AND BABY ROOM

9. CAFETERIA
10. Picnic Lawn
11. Bears
12. Animal Enclosure
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. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP
21. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
22. TOILETS
23. Tuatara Exhibit
24. Peccaries
25. Waterbus Halt
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. Waterbus Halt
36. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES
37. CHIMPANZEES
38. Floribunda Rose Garden
39. Mammal House
40. Gibbon Island

41. H.T. Rose Garden
42. Aviaries
43. Flamingoes
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Waterfowl Enclosure
46. Capybara and Waterfowl
47. Penguins
48. Sealions
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Tigers
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
62. G.P.O. Telephone
63. Gibbon Pen
64. Animal Enclosure
65. Cheetahs
66. Ornamental Rock Garden
67. Malayan Bears
68. Animal Enclosure
69. Aviary
70. Wallabies
71. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE AND KIOSK
72. Waterbus Halt

73. Fountain Flower Gardens
74. Rose Garden
75. Red Lechwe
76. Red Lechwe
77. Deer or Antelope Enclosure
78. Waterbus Halt
79. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
80. Kamchatka Bears
81. ELEPHANTS
82. Hippos
83. Tapirs
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Ankole Cattle
87. Gazelle Paddocks
88. Storks and Ostriches
89. Baboon Pens
90. Cat House
91. Lions and Tigers
92. Antelope Enclosure
93. Antelope Enclosure
94. Antelope Enclosure
95. Zebra Enclosure
96. MONKEY HOUSE
97. Waterfowl Enclosure
98. Wallabies and Waterfowl
99. Cranes and Waterfowl
100. Llamas and Alpacas



101. Zebroids
102. Bison Paddock
103. Pere David's Deer Paddock
104. Eland and Marmots
105. RHINO HOUSE
106. TOILETS
107. Mpila Snack Bar and Kiosk
108. Antelope Enclosure
109. Antelope Enclosure

Animals may be moved from time to time

FOR A COMPLETE TOUR OF THE ZOO - Follow Nos.1-109 from South Entrance or Nos.16-109 from North Entrance then return to Nos.1-14

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES:

LIONS—3 pm except Fridays
BEARS—3-15 pm
POLAR BEARS—4 pm
SEA LIONS 3 times daily—
2-40 pm, 3-40 pm, 4-40 pm

AQUARIUM NEWS

Since the last report many of the tanks in the Aquarium have been restocked with young specimens. The majority of these comprise the usual aquarium exhibits but there are also a few species which are either completely new to the Aquarium or have not been shown here for some time.

Among the more regular species, there are young Cuming's, Six-zoned, Nigger and Tiger Barbs, including several specimens of the albino variety of Tiger Barb. Numerous Neon, Cardinal, Lemon and Copper Tetras have been acquired and amongst the new Gouramies there are the Golden, Snakeskin, Opaline and Moonlight varieties, all of which are extremely beautiful. Young Silver and Marbled Hatchetfishes, Blind Cave Fish and Marbled and Common Angelfishes were all included in the restocking programme. Incidentally our adult pair of Marbled Angelfishes (*Pterophyllum scalare*) show every indication of being ready to spawn again.

The Glass Catfish (*Kryptopterus bicirrhis*) is an extraordinary species with its long transparent body, up to four inches from nose to tail, and all the internal organs enclosed in a silver sac behind the head. Visitors are now able to see several young Glass Catfishes, which are native to India.

In another tank we are exhibiting some young Glassfishes (*Chanda ranga*). These are much smaller than the Glass Catfishes, only growing to two inches, and they have rounded rather than elongate profiles, but their bodies are equally transparent. The distribution of the Glassfishes is in India, Burma and Thailand. However, there are several other species of Glassfish living in South East Asia and at the moment it seems probable that one or two of these other species may have been included with the recent consignment of *Chanda ranga*.

A dozen or so Bronze Catfishes (*Corydoras aeneus*) have been distributed through the tanks. These little fishes from South America reach no more than three inches long but perform a valuable service by scavenging for discarded food particles on the bottom and thus help to keep the tanks clean. In the natural state they can exist in water lacking in oxygen, by means of their modified breathing apparatus. Furthermore, they are capable of travelling short distances over land using their spiny pectoral fins to propel them along. The Bronze Catfish has a reddish brown body with a greenish sheen on either flank.

Several Florida Flag Fishes (*Jordanella floridae*) are now on exhibition in a tank with the Glass Catfishes already mentioned. Adult specimens were acquired and it is hoped that these will breed in the near future. A single male Florida Flag Fish was the only other representative of the species to be kept in the Aquarium and this died shortly before the new stock arrived. The Florida Flag Fish reaches three inches long and originates from ponds and marshes in Florida.

We have also acquired a number of Orange Chromides (*Etroplus maculatus*), a species which has not been exhibited here for some years. The Orange Chromide is one of only two cichlids found in Asia and its distribution is in India and Ceylon. Adults measure about three inches long and have bright orange bodies with usually three irregular large black spots on either side.

Six pairs of Siamese Fighting Fish (*Betta splendens*) were among the recent acquisitions. A pair was taken off show almost immediately for breeding and at the time of writing they have produced eggs. Whilst the remainder of the females could be kept together in a tank, the five males had to be segregated. These popular aquarium fishes are renowned for the pugnacity displayed by the males. Occasionally

one of the males catches a glimpse of its own reflection in the glass and immediately erects its long trailing fins. We have blue, purple and red males.

Restocking the Aquarium involves not only the purchase of new fishes but also of new plants and one of the species acquired was Cabomba, a popular plant with attractive feathery leaves, which is found in America. As the plant spreads, cuttings will be taken for introduction into other tanks.

The local marine section of the Aquarium is attracting considerable interest at present. A recent trip to Anglesey resulted in the addition of several small starfishes, Edible and Common Crabs, Hermit Crabs, Gobies, Blennies, Cottas, several flatfishes and a Green Wrasse. It is pleasing to observe that visitors are particularly interested in the life which can be found around our own shores. Certainly, the longer one looks into one of these community tanks, the more one is rewarded by the discovery of yet another of its occupants—a crab that has been hiding under a rock or a flatfish which is buried in the bottom sand with only its eyes visible.

In another part of the marine section we are exhibiting some very beautiful fishes which have not been seen here for some time. The Electric Blue Damsel (*Pomacentrus coeruleus*) is a brilliant blue coral fish. The specimens we have are young but are not expected to grow to more than two to three inches long. When adult their brilliant blue colouration will fade a little but they will still be a marvellous display.

The Common Garfishes (*Xenotodon cancila*) bred in recent months have been put on exhibition. Another nine have been bred since the last report and these are progressing satisfactorily.

GENERAL NEWS

In the March issue we reported the birth of a female Chimpanzee which was having to be hand reared at the home of the senior keeper from the Chimpanzee House. Since then Rosie, as she was named, has been progressing very well.

She was abandoned by her mother at birth and when, at a few hours old, she was put into the keeper's care, Rosie was a very weak animal indeed and weighed a little over $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Now at five months old, she weighs 7 lbs. and has five or six feeds a day with an average intake of $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ oz. each time. She no longer requires feeding during the night and sleeps from twelve o'clock midnight until seven in the morning. She is growing particularly fond of liquidised fruit but feeding her is still a very messy job. At this stage also she has cut two front teeth.

Rosie has started to crawl about fairly competently but she is still very nervous and tends to cry more than crawl. Her foster parents noticed that she first began to "hoot" at about four weeks old. Her hooting now is frequent and she recognises people she has met before. She will also laugh and tries to play. When awake, she will no longer remain in her box but prefers to be sitting in a chair. In addition Rosie likes to be carried round as much as possible which creates a lot of problems. Further reports on her progress will be published from time to time.

Another young female Chimpanzee is being reared at the present time. Named Heidi, the baby was born to Judy in June of last year and for several months was suckled by her mother. Unfortunately Judy became rather neglectful and so it was decided that Heidi should be removed to complete her growth under human supervision. She is accommodated in the nursery, No. 56, where a balanced diet and plenty of attention are showing benefits.

The loud whooping call of the Gibbons is a familiar sound in Chester Zoo. Like their wild counterparts, our Gibbons are heard most frequently in the morning and evening. A total of seven Gibbons are exhibited here, comprising two Agile (*Hylobates agilis*), four Lar (*Hylobates lar*) and a Siamang (*Hylobates syndactylus*).

A photographer happened to be in the Monkey House recently when the Siamang began calling and thus was able to photograph its distended throat sac. Only male Gibbons possess this sac and are capable of calling. The hollow whooping sound is produced by the animal vocalising in the inflated laryngeal sac whilst its mouth is closed. As can be seen from the photograph on the cover, when inflated, the sac is almost as large as the Siamang's head. When the animal is not calling, its throat sac is visible as a patch of naked, wrinkled skin below the chin.

In the wild state the function of the call is to advertise territory. Gibbons live in groups in dense forest and the range and loudness of the call of each group denotes the boundaries of its territory. The males begin calling early in the morning before the groups move away from their resting places to feed and the chorus begins again in the evening. At these times the forests and valleys are said to resound with the calls from the various groups.

All the Gibbons are found in South East Asia, the Siamang being confined to Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula. The single male Siamang in the collection arrived in June 1969 and at present lives in an enclosure in the Monkey House with a Crab eating Macaque.

Various transfers of interest within the collection include the introduction of the male Siberian Lynx to the female European Lynx. The arrival of the female Lynx was mentioned in the March issue.



SIBERIAN LYNX (*Felis lynx wranglei*)

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

These animals belong to races of the same species and it is hoped that they will prove a breeding pair.

Both the male and the female Red Birds of Paradise have been moved to the outer aviaries of the Temperate Bird House but at the time of writing they have not been introduced. The cock is still calling and displaying to the hen and when eventually they are put together, a photographer will be present, as it is believed the close proximity of the hen will result in a full display by the cock; to have a record of his actions would be of considerable value.

SUBSCRIPTION FORMS

New readers of the CHESTER ZOO NEWS who would like to receive the magazine regularly may be interested to know that subscription forms can be obtained from the souvenir shops. An annual subscription (12 issues) costs 95p, postage paid, which can either be handed over the counter at the shop or posted with the completed form to the Director-Secretary, 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.

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