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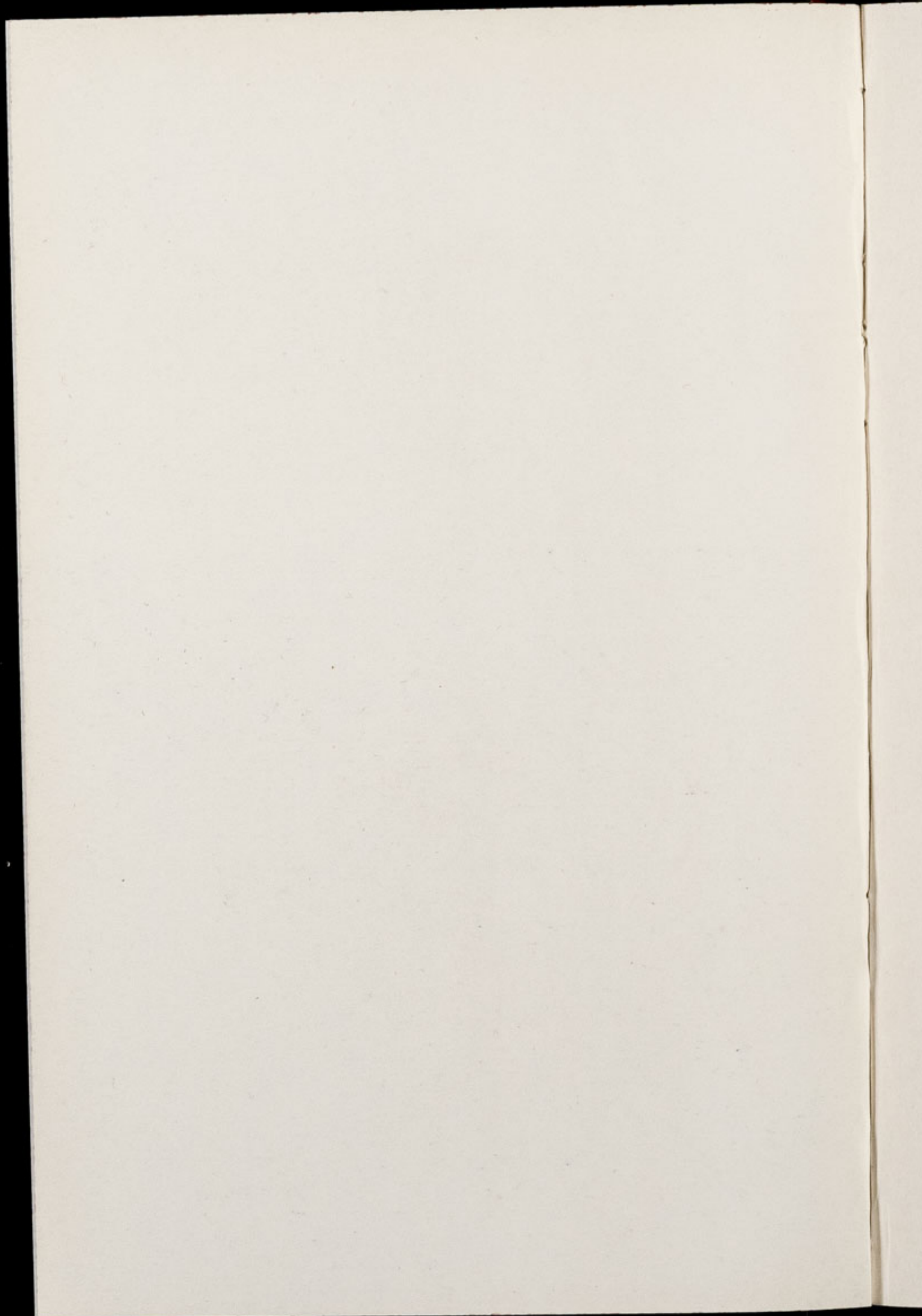
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

July 1966

Price 1/-



Editorial

The summer season is well under way and the Zoo is now very busy both at weekends and during the week. Of course, many extra staff have been engaged, especially in the catering departments and the Zoo shops.

Building work is still progressing but mainly behind the scenes.

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COVER: This month's cover shows "Kimbu" and "Martha" our two newly arrived Orang-utans.

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BIRTHS

Five Wapiti calves were born during June, the first on June 5th and the others on June 11th, June 14th, June 22nd and June 29th. We are pleased to record that all are females; their addition brings the herd to twelve.

Wapiti have always bred well at Chester Zoo, so that during past years we have exchanged or sold several youngsters to other Zoological Gardens.

The Wapiti (*Cervus canadensis*) is closely related to the Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*) found in the highlands of Scotland and on some private estates in this country. Wapiti are found in the mountainous areas of North America and are larger than our Red Deer.

Residents of houses close to Chester Zoo are well aware of the vocal power of the male Wapiti during the rutting season, as the rather high pitched call can be heard for some distance.

A young Ankole calf was born on June 22nd and brings the herd to ten.

In the Monkey House a very attractive Mona Monkey has been born and is thriving. Mona Monkeys come from West Africa and are quite often kept as pets when young but turn rather vicious as they grow older.

A Caracal Lynx was born in the Cat House on June 27th and the mother is looking after it at the time of writing. It will be remembered that her last youngster had to be taken away and bottle fed by the keeper; this was rather unusual as previously she had reared all her young. We are pleased to say she is giving the new baby every attention.

Several Gnus or Wildebeeste are expected and the first calf was born on the 27th June. The Gnus are to be seen in one of the large dry moated enclosures (No. 101, 102 on the plan) and many have been bred during past years at Chester Zoo.



MONA MONKEY WITH BABY

J. Gwyn Jones

The Gnus at the Zoo are normally regarded as a race of the Brindled Gnu and are referred to as White-bearded Gnus (*Connochaetes taurinus albojubatus*). They are found in East Africa where they congregate in large herds and migrate in search of water and food.

The Reptile House staff are very pleased to announce the birth of eight South American Rainbow Boas. These Boas, in common with some species of snakes and lizards, produce live young. In actual fact the eggs remain inside the mother's body until the young are fully developed and ready to emerge.

Both male and female have been at the Zoo for a year and were successfully mated in captivity.

Rainbow Boas live up to their name when it comes to colouration, especially in strong sunshine, when they have beautiful iridescent hues.

THE MAMMAL HOUSE

Frank Coles, Head Keeper of the Small Mammal House, has several tame animals at the rear of the building. They are provided with sleeping cages but are let out to have a run in the service passages at the back of the house; they also have the use of outside grass covered runs in the warm weather.

It is no surprise when visiting the food preparation area of the Mammal House to find a Grison chewing your ankle or a Mongoose climbing up one's leg.

The Grison was given to us as a mate for our adult female but on arrival the male was much smaller than his intended mate. At first we thought he would grow larger but he showed no signs of this and we finally realized he must be the rarer Lesser Grison (*Galictis cuja*). The two Grison were tried together but they fought and had to be separated very quickly.

Grison are found in Central and South America and inhabit various types of terrain from tropical forests to high mountains. They feed on any small animals they can catch and are very fast and cunning, being closely related to the stoat and weasel found in this country.



LESSER GRISON HELD BY HEAD KEEPER

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

An Indian Mongoose arrived in September 1965 and is very tame indeed. It sleeps in the Head Keeper's locker and patrols the whole building in search of mice. Sometimes it manages to slip through the door and into the yard but always returns in a short time. The Indian Mongoose is of course renowned for its fights against poisonous snakes but our animal is very valuable indeed in keeping down the mice, as being of such slender build he can reach into all corners and crevices.

A Cusimanses Mongoose is also kept at the rear of the Mammal House. This species is far larger and more robust than the common Indian species. One peculiarity is the very coarse, almost spine-like fur. At first he was very tame but of late has bitten several people so great care is now taken with him. This is often the trouble with tame animals as they bite when least expected.

BABY GIRAFFE COMPETITION

A competition was organised by the CHESTER CHRONICLE to select a name for our baby Giraffe, which was born on Good Friday.

After due deliberation the name of "Godfrey" was selected, and Susan Uttley and Gillian Spoor, who had chosen this name, and four other children, all with parents, were invited to the Zoo on the 18th June.

They were all escorted to the Giraffe House where they saw Godfrey with the other Giraffes and had their photographs taken for the Newspaper. Later in the afternoon the children and their parents had tea on the top floor of the Fountain Restaurant after which they dispersed for an unorganized tour of the Zoo and Gardens.

BIRD NOTES

The Bird Keepers have been very busy tending our incubator, which is kept in a room above the Parrot House. Chinese, Barnacle, Emperor, Snow and Ashy-headed Geese have been hatched and can now be seen in the outside Macaw Flight.

A number of clutches of eggs have been left with the Geese, but better results are normally obtained with artificial incubation and the birds will lay several broods. At Chester Zoo we are troubled with vermin such as Crows, Magpies, Foxes and Stoats, etc., which will eat eggs and young birds; the Zoo is bordered by Farmland and semi-rural areas which are a breeding ground for such animals.

During the past month our Golden-mantled Rosella Parrakeets have hatched and reared two youngsters and both are now fully flighted in the aviary. We generally rear several Golden-mantles and last year a pair even hatched and reared a Cockatiel in one of the Oakfield aviaries.

A small collection of Tropical Birds was presented to the Zoo and have been accommodated in the various Oakfield aviaries (No. 5 on the plan). The Cut-throat, Silverbill and Orange Weavers were transferred to the long flight aviary and the Fischer's, Peached-faced Lovebirds and Cockatiel were moved to adjoining aviaries.

Three Great-horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*) have been transferred from the Owl flight aviary to the newly constructed Owl and Hawk aviaries at the rear of the Oakfield Restaurant. It was a difficult task to catch these Owls in such a large aviary, with a height of 20ft. but with the aid of a large net this was accomplished. They have now settled well in their new home. We are hopeful that among these are a true pair but as with most other owls, they are very difficult to sex.

A pair of the Crested Bronzewing Pigeons, which were mentioned in the May issue of the *Chester Zoo News*, have gone to nest.

CAFETERIA REDESIGNED

The original Cafeteria was built during 1952 and was more than adequate at that time. However, with the enormous growth of the Zoo, it was decided to redesign and rebuild on the site.

The sandstone of the original Cafeteria has been used again as this material is so attractive. As can be seen in the photograph on

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.

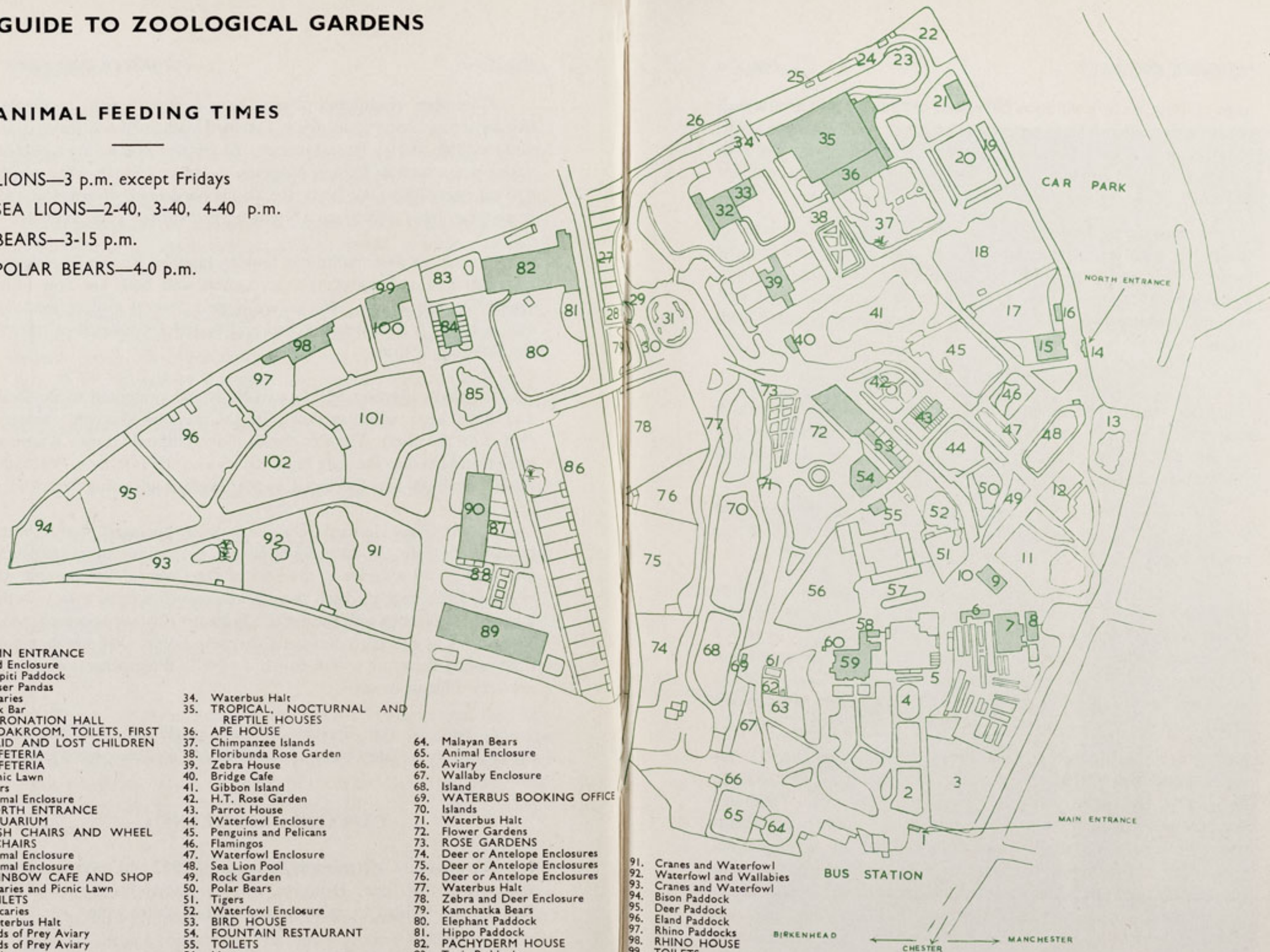
1. MAIN ENTRANCE
2. Bird Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Lesser Pandas
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS, FIRST AID AND LOST CHILDREN
9. CAFETERIA
10. CAFETERIA
11. Picnic Lawn
12. Bears
13. Animal Enclosure
14. NORTH ENTRANCE
15. AQUARIUM
16. PUSH CHAIRS AND WHEEL CHAIRS
17. Animal Enclosure
18. Animal Enclosure
19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP
20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn
21. TOILETS
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 Garden
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. Waterfowl Enclosure
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 Enclosures
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 Paddock
84. Small Mammal House
85. Waterfowl Enclosure
86. Ankole Cattle
87. Stork Enclosures
88. Monkey Enclosures
89. Cat House
90. MONKEY HOUSE

91. Cranes and Waterfowl
92. Waterfowl and Wallabies
93. Cranes and Waterfowl
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.



CAR PARK

NORTH ENTRANCE

MAIN ENTRANCE

BUS STATION

BIRKENHEAD

CHESTER

MANCHESTER

page 11, large picture windows have been introduced and a verandah has been provided at the front of the building, overlooking a lawn; visitors can thus have a meal outside even in poor weather. The roof is of translucent S-lon sheets and gives the impression of permanent sunshine.

Changes from the original structure have taken place both in the public area and in the kitchen and food preparation departments. Use has been made of some of the latest construction techniques, the whole effect resulting in an extremely light and modern building which has already proved very popular with visitors.

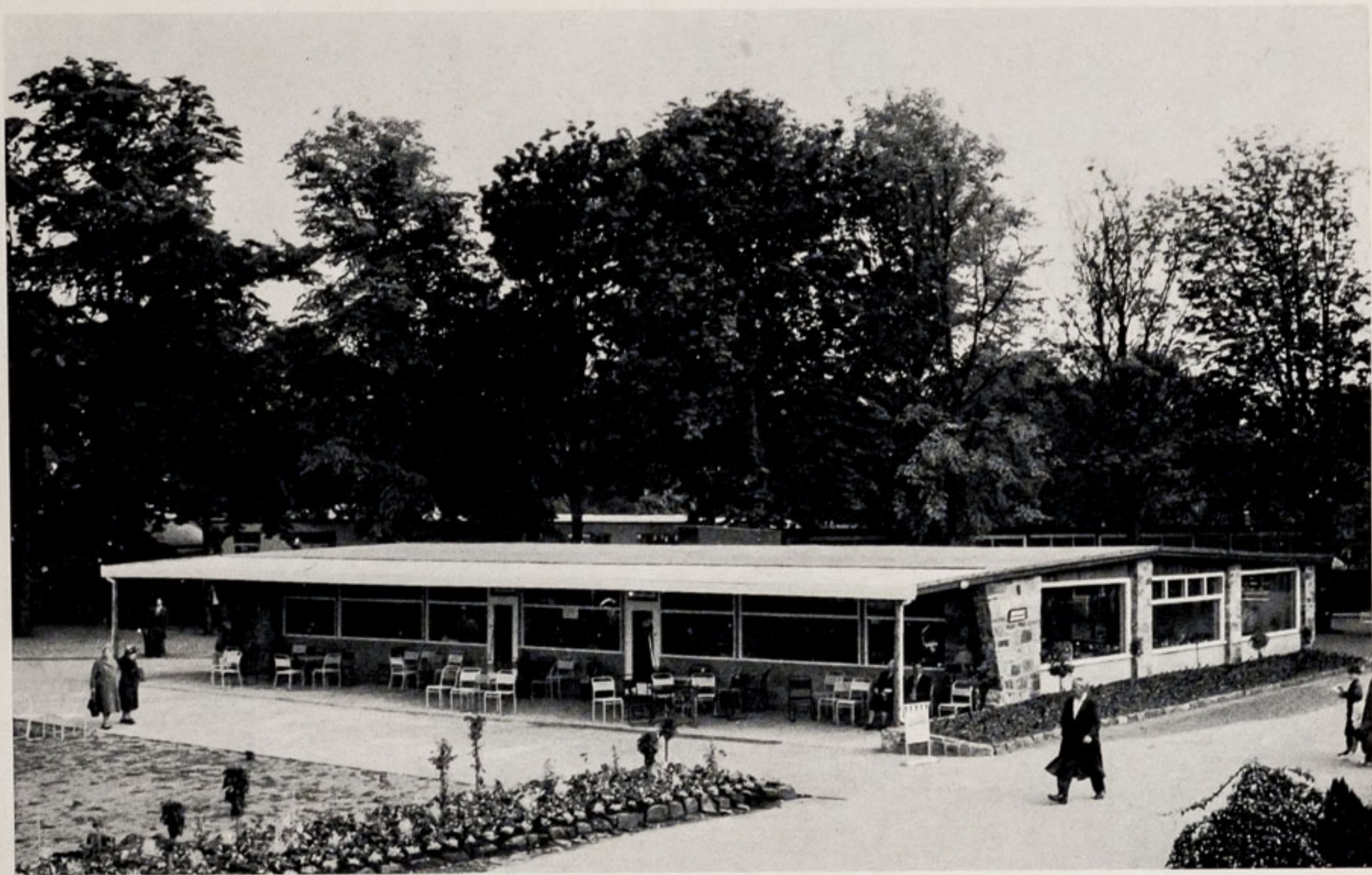
WILD BIRDS AT THE ZOO

Many visitors are amazed at the variety of wild birds which frequent the Zoo. A considerable number are attracted by food put out for our own birds, but a good proportion make use of the various environments created for the animals.

Of course all the normal garden birds are to be seen and Sparrows and Starlings have found their way into many of the animal houses.

This summer we have been pleased to see pairs of Yellow Wagtails, Spotted Flycatchers, Reed Buntings, Skylarks, Willow Warblers, Chiffchaffs and many species of Finches, etc., around the Zoological Gardens and farm. Tawny Owls, Rooks, Magpies and Woodpigeons all nest within the confines of the Zoo. Many Mallards, Moorhens and Coots nest on the ponds; the Mute Swans breed most years.

In winter a number of unusual visitors drop into the Zoo for a free billet; during 1963 large flocks of Oyster Catchers were to be seen on the fields of the Zoo farm and most years Fieldfares and Redwings abound. Last year considerable numbers of Wheat-ears were seen and Kestrels hunt frequently over the larger animal enclosures. During the colder weather the flocks of Mallard increase enormously and the Black-headed, Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls come to the Waterfowl Enclosure and Penguin Island at feeding time. A Heron can sometimes be seen fishing in the Waterfowl Enclosure (No. 91 on the plan) and causes a great commotion amongst the Geese and Cranes when flying in and out.



CAFETERIA (Nos. 9 and 10 on the plan)

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

BITTERN AND EGRET

A friendship between a Variegated Bittern and a Snowy Egret has developed in the Temperate Bird House. Both birds are at liberty within the confines of the building and are our only examples of each species.

They have both taken part in building a rather untidy nest in a tree at the far end of the building at a height of about seven feet. The Bittern spends most of the time on the nest and the Egret carries large twigs to her which she places on the nest.

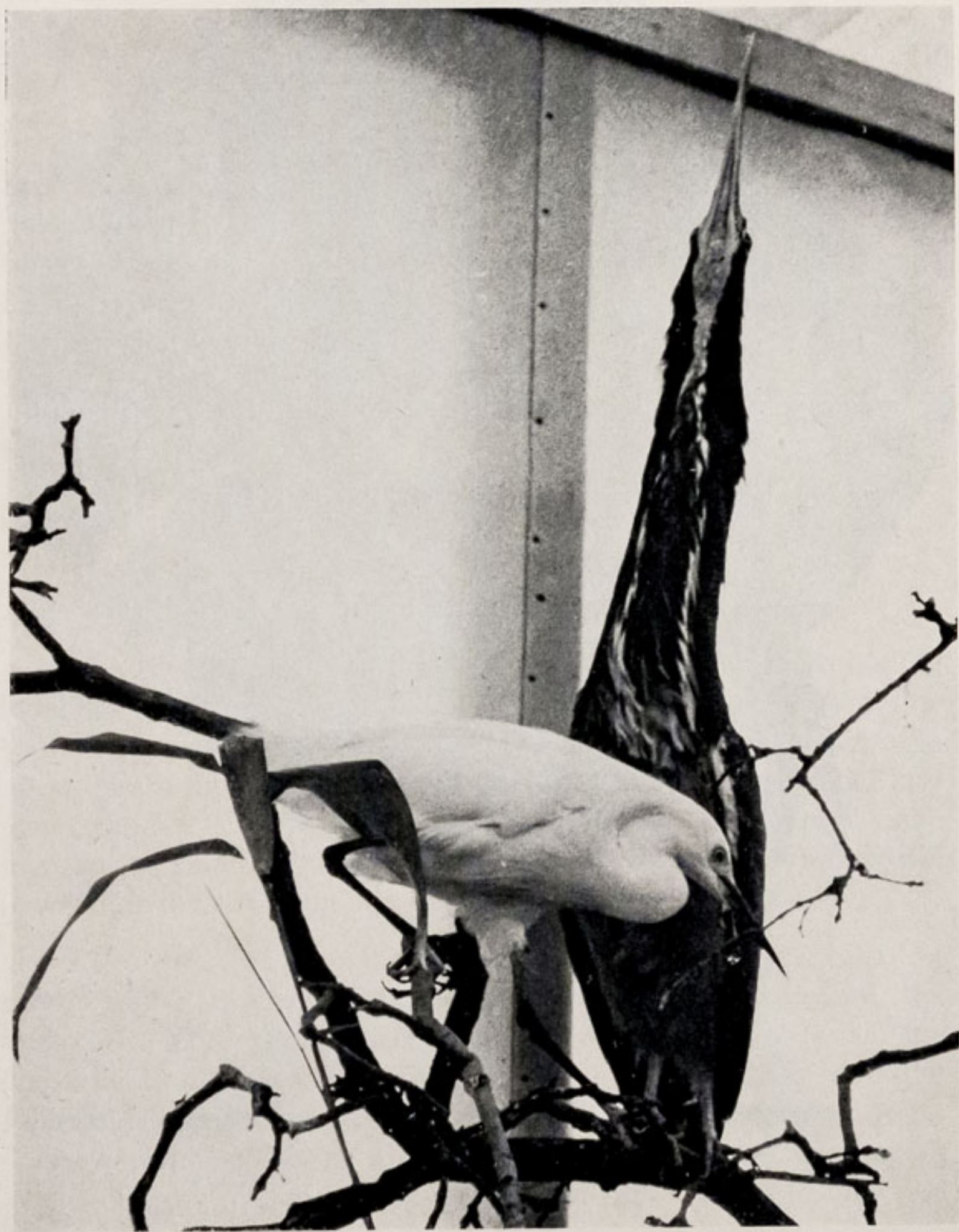
The two birds have mated and the Bittern laid an egg on the floor. This was broken but we do not expect any subsequent eggs to be fertile, as the species are too dissimilar, although both belong to the Heron family and come from South America.

ORANG-UTANS

The two Orang-Utans featured in the cover photograph are "Kimbu" and "Martha", and were mentioned in the May issue of the "*Chester Zoo News*". We are pleased to be able to report that they have both settled down extremely well and are great favourites with their keepers. On sunny and warm days they are allowed outside into one of the paddocks at the rear of the Monkey House.

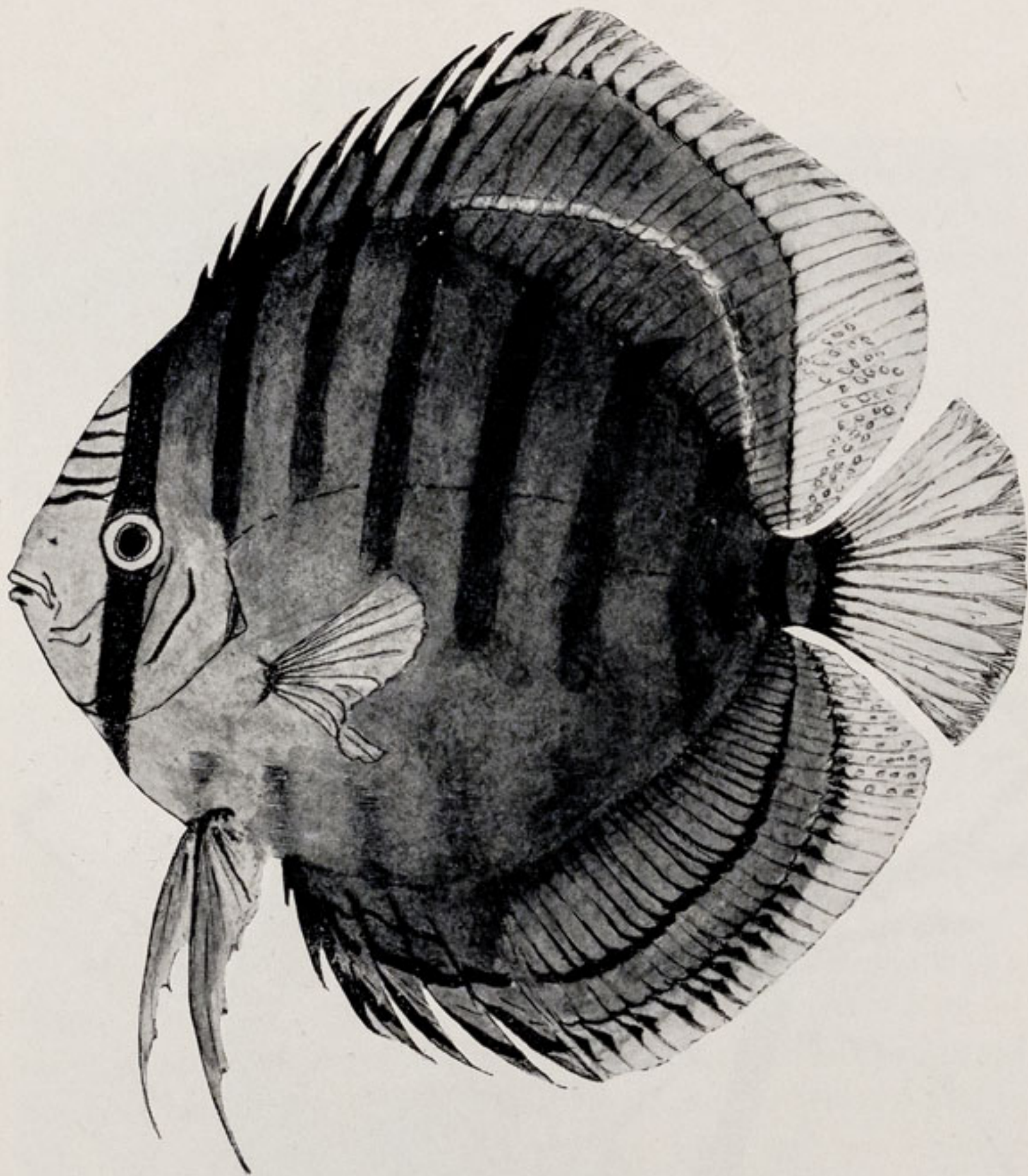
AQUARIUM NEWS

Among the latest additions to the Aquarium this month are two adult specimens of the much sought after Green Discus (*Symphesodon aequifasciata aequifasciata*). Apart from colour, this species is very similar to the more common Brown Discus shown in the illustration on page 14. Other South American arrivals include various Tetras and Catfish, always a welcome addition to the collection.



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

SNOWY EGRET (*left*) AND VARIEGATED BITTERN



BROWN DISCUS FISH

M. D. Murphy

An almost record batch of young Jack Dempsey Cichlids (*Cichlasoma biocellatum*) have been born in the last few weeks; these are on display with the parents at the time of writing.

As readers of the April *Zoo News* will know, we acquired some inch long specimens of Arowana (*Osteoglossum bicirrhosum*) on 31st March, 1966. We are pleased to report that they have increased in size so rapidly over the past months that they have all been moved into larger tanks and now measure approximately 6½ ins. We have

been able to train these youngsters to leap out of the water and take small pieces of raw meat off the edges of the tanks—a thing we were never able to do with the original adults.

AVICULTURAL SOCIETY VISIT

Miss Russell-Allen, Chairman of the North of England Zoological Society welcomed over one hundred members of the Avicultural Society on their annual visit to the Zoo on the 29th June. Lunch was served in the Fountain Restaurant and Canon J. R. Lowe thanked the Zoological Society on behalf of the Avicultural Society members.

Of particular interest to all members was the Temperate Bird House, which was not open on their last visit and of course the Tropical House, where the vegetation has grown profusely since last year.

PELICANS AND PENGUINS

Visitors to the Zoo will notice that the flower bed surrounding the Penguin Enclosure has been removed and replaced by a low wall. The main reason for this alteration is that the Penguins have been able to find their way out of the water across the border and thus to escape into the Zoo. However, the low wall will now make it easier for small children to view these Aquatic Birds and we feel it will not detract from the appearance of the enclosure.

At the present time the following species of Penguins are on exhibition:— Emperor (*Aptenodytes forstei*) the largest of the Penguins; King (*Aptenodytes patagonica*) which breeds on the coast of South Georgia, Kerguelen and other islands and the Humboldt's (*Spheniscus humboldti*) from the coast of South America.

In addition to the Penguins in this enclosure are Pelicans which make a very spectacular show.

The species of Pelicans to be seen are:— Crested or Dalmation (*Pelecanus crispus*), White (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) and American White (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchus*). Crested Pelicans are widely distributed from the Balkans, part of Africa, eastwards through Asia to China; the White Pelicans range from Southern Europe,

Africa to North India. American White Pelicans are found in North and Central America and can be distinguished during the breeding season by the horny growth on the bill.

This enclosure has been in use for many years and on the whole the birds have done very well; we feel it is much nicer for the Pelicans and Penguins to be exhibited in this way rather than behind a wire netting fence.

We have lost a small proportion of Penguins, particularly new arrivals due to Aspergillosis but in the main the losses during the past twenty years have been due to marauding foxes which are a menace to the Zoo; this necessitates us having to drive the Penguins and Pelicans into a fox-proof enclosure during the night, particularly in the winter.

The Penguins and Pelicans are provided with a swimming pool; although the water appears murky, it is in fact running water and the discolouration is due to the fact that "CHESTER ZOO" is on clay, which of course tends to discolour the water.

STOP PRESS

Latest births at the Zoo include two Brindled Gnus to be seen in the enclosures (Nos. 101 and 102) and a Fallow Deer in enclosure (No. 78 on the plan).

The recent hatchings include two Peacocks which have been transferred with their mother to the outside Macaw Flight.

Amongst the new arrivals are Red-headed Buntings, a Splendid Parrakeet, a White-faced Tamarin and a Brown King Snake.

Margays, Trumpeters, Tamarins, Doves and Reptiles from South America arrived on the 11th July, 1966.

Further details of these animals will be found in the August edition of the "Chester Zoo News".



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