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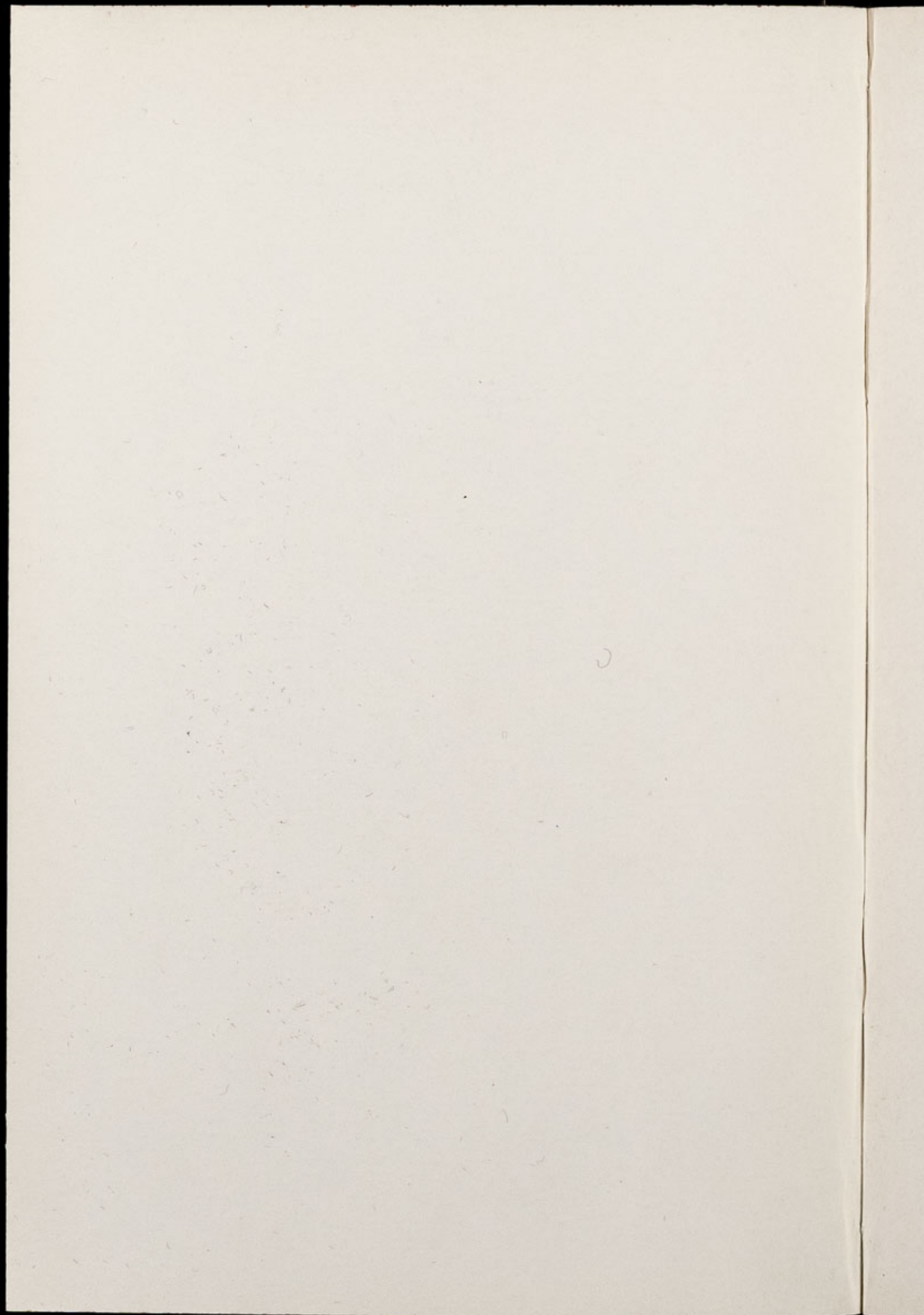
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

September 1968

Price 1/-



The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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The first of the members lectures will be held on Saturday, 9th November, 1968, at 3 p.m. in the Oakfield Restaurant.

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COVER: This month's cover photograph is of Orang-utan "Rajang" with Bradley and Craig Timmis, sons of the Curator. For further details see page 12.

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NEWS FROM VARIOUS SECTIONS

Two Mute Swans bred during 1967 were despatched to Wellington Zoo in New Zealand. These birds although very common in this country are considered rarities in New Zealand. Unfortunately they had to undertake a rather arduous journey; a direct flight via Australia was not possible due to the strict importation laws pertaining in that country. The Swans were taken to Ringway Airport, Manchester, where they were flown to Amsterdam, then to Vancouver on to Auckland and finally to the Wellington Zoo. Despite this lengthy journey, we are pleased to report that both Swans arrived in excellent condition.

The Lesser Pandas to be seen in the enclosure close to the Main Gate recently had an unexpected feast. The trees which are incorporated in their enclosure are pear trees which bear a very sweet variety of pear. The Pandas were able to gorge themselves on this fruit and required very little of their normal diet. In the photograph on page 3, Keeper Carol Williams can be seen feeding one of the Pandas.

Our Fallow Deer have been transferred back with our herd of Grant's Zebras. This move was to make room for our Nilghai, which as mentioned in last month's *Zoo News* had been housed at the rear of the Giraffe House as a temporary measure. The Nilghai have settled down very well in this paddock; they take little notice of the public but strangely enough are still rather wary of their keepers.

The two Pigmy Hippos which arrived to be mated with our



Mel. Grundy, Deva Press Agency, Chester
KEEPER MISS CAROL WILLIAMS FEEDING A LESSER PANDA

male have settled down well and mating has taken place. "Phyllis" our female Hippo is still rather temperamental and even attacks the others through the gate separating the two enclosures.

At the rear of the Monkey House we have a series of paddocks in which we have housed our collection of Arabian Gazelles. These animals with their sandy coloured fur and short, curved horns are greatly admired by our visitors. The latest baby was born on the 20th June and is progressing very well; although occasionally still feeding from his Mother, the majority of his diet consists of solids.

"Reginald" the Black Rhinoceros born during September 1967 is fast catching up in size with his mother. He still feeds from her, but due to his large size, she has to be lying down before he can suckle. Most text books agree that young Rhinos are suckled for at least a year. Of course Reginald also eats the normal Rhinoceros diet of tree branches supplemented by corn, vegetables and hay.

"Barbar" our 37 year old Indian Elephant recently had her toes trimmed by her keepers, Phil Mottershead and Les Hills. This is a job which has to be undertaken periodically as her fore-feet catch together when she is walking. "Barbar" is now quite used to having a pedicure; she puts her feet on a tub provided and her keepers trim her nails with a Surform Plane. The other Elephants do not require this pedicure treatment but wear down their nails naturally; perhaps as they become older they will require more attention. In the June issue of "*Chester Zoo News*" we mentioned that "Barbar" had lost a tooth. We are still waiting for the tooth on the opposite side of her mouth to drop out; usually the two are lost within a short time of each other.

The Ring-tailed Lemur twins born at the Zoo on June 25th

are a very popular exhibit in the Monkey House. For the first few weeks they cling to mother's fur most of the time, but are now at the stage where they are running about exploring their enclosure. We are very pleased with our breeding record of Ring-tailed Lemurs and now have eight of these animals on show in the Monkey House. Although the Ring-tailed is the most commonly exhibited of all the Lemurs, they are still rare animals and their exportation from their native Madagascar is banned. Unlike most other Lemurs, the Ring-tailed is often found on the ground in rocky terrain but is also very agile when climbing through trees and thick vegetation.

In the Mammal House, the American Martens born this year have been moved into another enclosure away from their mother. The male and female have been moved back together in the hope that they will breed again.

ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

Another Wapiti calf has been born, bringing our total this year to five. Last year we also had five calves, but they were all born in June; this year the first youngster arrived in May and the others in June, July and August.

Six young Coatis can be seen with their mother in the Small Mammal House. At first we thought there were only four babies, but Coatis give birth in a hollow log or box and the young only venture outside when five weeks old. At the time of writing our young Coatis are still rather shy but can often be observed with their mother. Coatis are closely related to the Raccoons, have long pointed noses, furry tails and reddish-brown fur; the youngsters are

exact replicas of the adults. Coatis are found in Central and South America, feed principally on fruit and berries but also eat insects, eggs, birds, small mammals and lizards.

Two of the very attractive Asiatic Ground Squirrels were recent presentations and have been accommodated with the others of this species in our Nocturnal House.

The Red Lechwe have done particularly well this year and the addition of two recent youngsters has brought our total to five bred this year. Chester is the only Zoo in this country to exhibit a herd of these rare and beautiful animals. As their name implies, the Red Lechwe have reddish-coloured fur; the male has long curved horns but these are lacking in the female. It is hoped to remove the chain link fence from around the Lechwe paddock in the near future and introduce the Aha method to confine these antelopes. This will give members of the public a completely unimpaired view of the animals and although considerable excavation and wall building has to be undertaken, maintenance costs are very low when compared with a mesh fence which has to be replaced every few years.

The most exciting birth in the past month was that of a beautifully marked baby Giraffe. As is normal when a nervous youngster is born, the house was closed to members of the public for several days to enable it to settle down. This baby, a female, was born to "Maud", who arrived at the Zoo during August 1950. Several times in the past Maud has had young, but unfortunately she only reared one successfully — a male, during 1964. We are extremely pleased that this latest baby is a female as so many of the Giraffes born have been males.



Stewart of Rhyl (North Wales Press Agency, Prestatyn)

OUR HERD OF RED LECHWE WITH THEIR YOUNG

GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

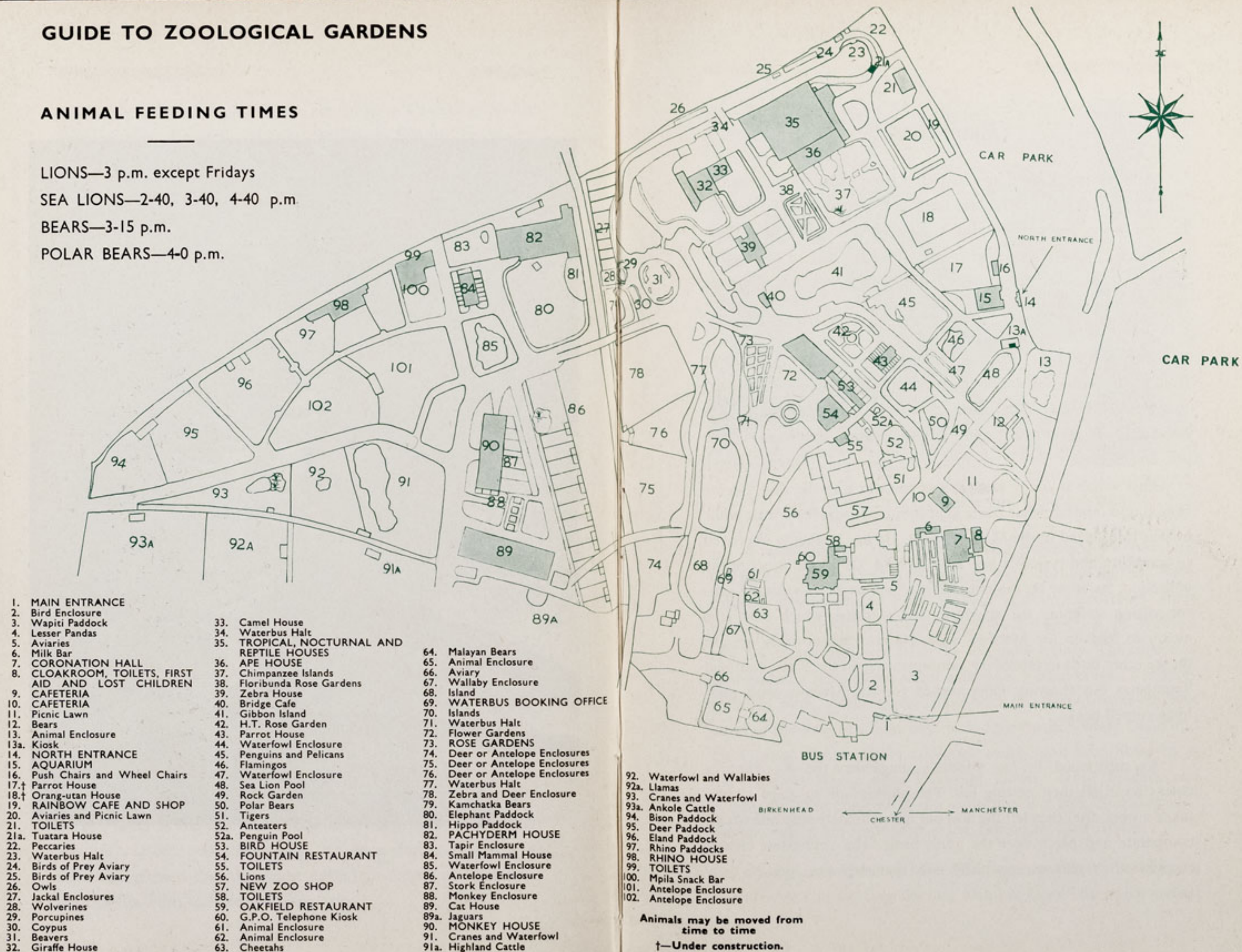
ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

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.

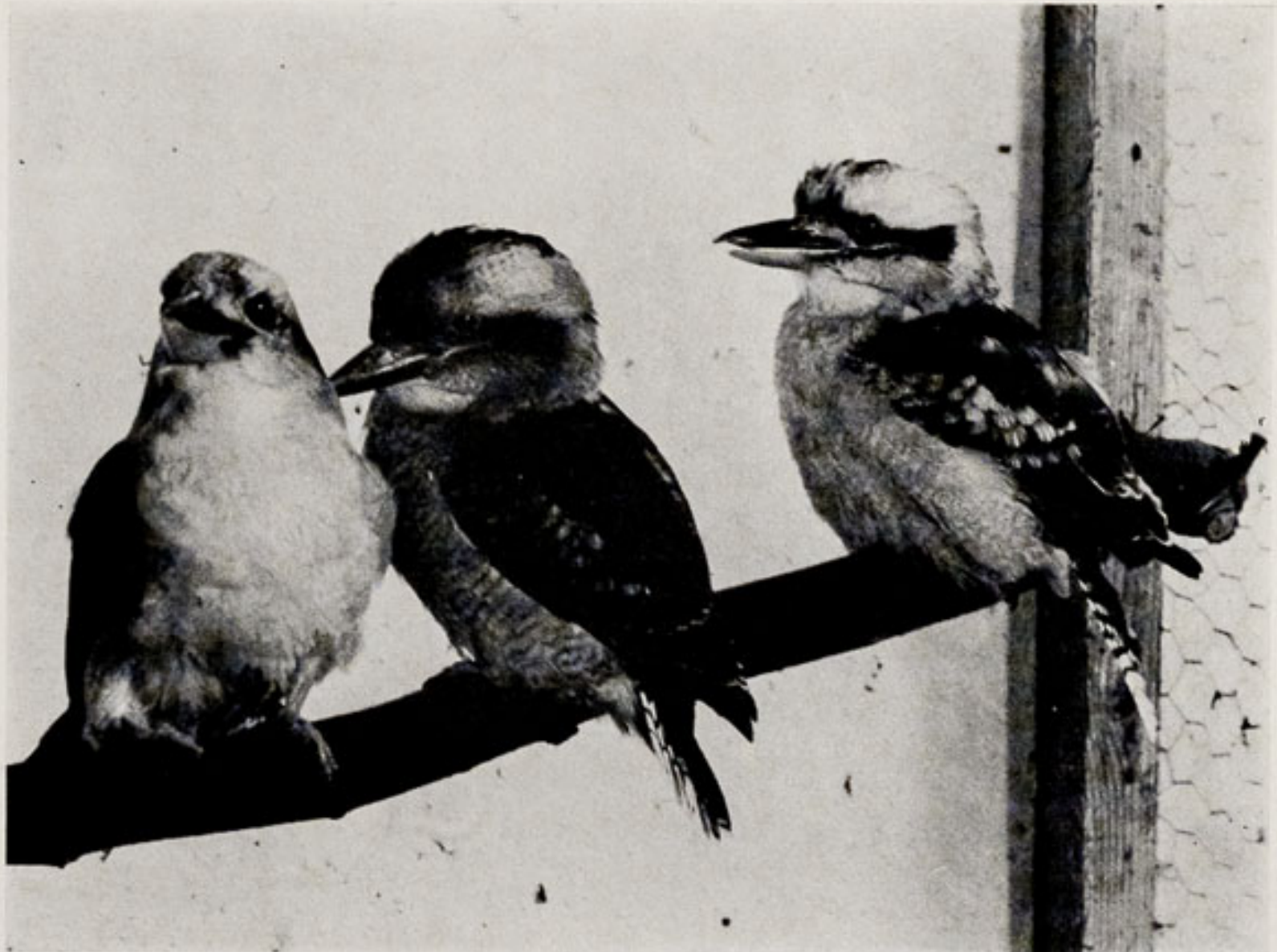
BIRD NOTES

A Brahminy Kite, a species found from India to Australia, is now living with our Kestrel and Little Owl in one of the aviaries at the rear of the Oakfield Restaurant. Another species of Kite, a Black Kite from central Asia was also introduced recently to this aviary. All these birds have settled amicably despite the fact that the Black Kite is so much larger than the others.

Four Eagle Owl chicks hatched this year have been taken away from their parents and are now accommodated in an aviary near the Sun Bear enclosure. These birds grow very quickly and it is very difficult to tell them apart if left with the parents too long.

Last winter a young Kestrel was brought into the Zoo, having been found injured. After being kept in the hospital for a little while he was transferred to the Macaw Flight. He has gradually improved in condition and is now a fine looking bird. Of all the birds in the collection, he must be the cheapest to feed as he is virtually self-supporting, catching the sparrows and starlings which enter the aviary to feed on the Macaws' seed. He also makes mock attacks on the other birds in the aviary, concentrating on the Weka Rail and Trumpeter but showing more regard for the Macaws with their huge curved beaks.

As mentioned in last month's magazine, the Kookaburra chicks have left their nesting log. The photograph on page 11 was taken a week after they left the nest but unfortunately only one would co-operate and perch near the adult birds. The youngsters closely resemble their parents, especially now that they have grown their tails.



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

MALE AND FEMALE KOOKABURRAS WITH YOUNG (CENTRE)

A collection of Tropical Birds was purchased for our long Oakfield Flight aviary. The species were Rufous-necked, Half-masked, Red-billed and Palm Weavers and Java Sparrows. These birds have been joined in this aviary by a collection of Weavers and Whydahs transferred from the Rainbow Aviary. The collection now makes a magnificent show with such a wide range of brightly coloured birds. Other species have been transferred from different parts of the Zoo to this aviary, including the Bob-white Quail and the Ground Doves. Other additions which have been liberated in the Tropical House were Diamond Doves, Zebra Finches and Avadavats. The choicest of this collection is a pair of Red-headed Barbets, which are to be seen in the Temperate Bird House.

From time to time we have difficulty in positively identifying a new arrival. This has been the case with two Grey Teal which arrived

recently. There are three sub-species of Grey Teal which are virtually identical; the only positive way to identify them is to find out the exact area from which they came or to hold them and compare measurements and markings with one of the handbooks on this subject. Since we do not want to catch hold of these Ducks now that they have settled down we are endeavouring to find out their exact place of origin but think the most likely sub-species is the East Indian Grey Teal (*Anas gibberifrons gibberifrons*).

The latest arrival in the Bird Section is a young Spectacled Owl which was sent to us by our good friends Lt. Col. and Mrs. Rubenstein from South America. This bird has been accommodated with our other Spectacled Owl which was also sent to us by the Rubensteins. In the June 1968 issue we published two pictures of our Spectacled Owl — one taken when young and another when about one year old. These birds undergo spectacular plumage changes and our latest arrival is almost identical with the original bird photographed during August 1967. Unfortunately, Spectacled Owls are very difficult to sex, so we will have to wait until they become adults before we will know whether we have a breeding pair.

ORANG-UTAN "RAJANG"

As mentioned in last month's 'Zoo News', "Rajang" is being brought into the Zoo for a few hours each day and put on show in the Ape Nursery. In the photographs on pages 14 and 15 his journey from the Curator's home to the Zoo and his final placing in the Nursery can be followed. The photograph on the opposite page shows a 'film star like' Press Day when newspaper photographers were invited to the Curator's home to take pictures of "Rajang". We are pleased to report that "Rajang" is still very fit and well, is growing rapidly and taking more interest in his surroundings than ever before.



PRESS DAY FOR ORANG-UTAN RAJANG

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



"RAJANG" BEING
PREPARED FOR THE
JOURNEY BY
MRS. TIMMIS

WALKING ACROSS
THE CAR PARK WITH
CRAIG, BRADLEY AND
FRIEND IN TOW



HIM
TH



THROUGH THE
ZOO TURNSTILE

*Photographs by
Mel. Grundy,
Deva Press Agency, Chester*

MR. W. H. TIMMIS,
CURATOR, PLACING
HIM IN THE NURSERY —
VISITORS VIEWING
THROUGH PLATE-GLASS
WINDOW



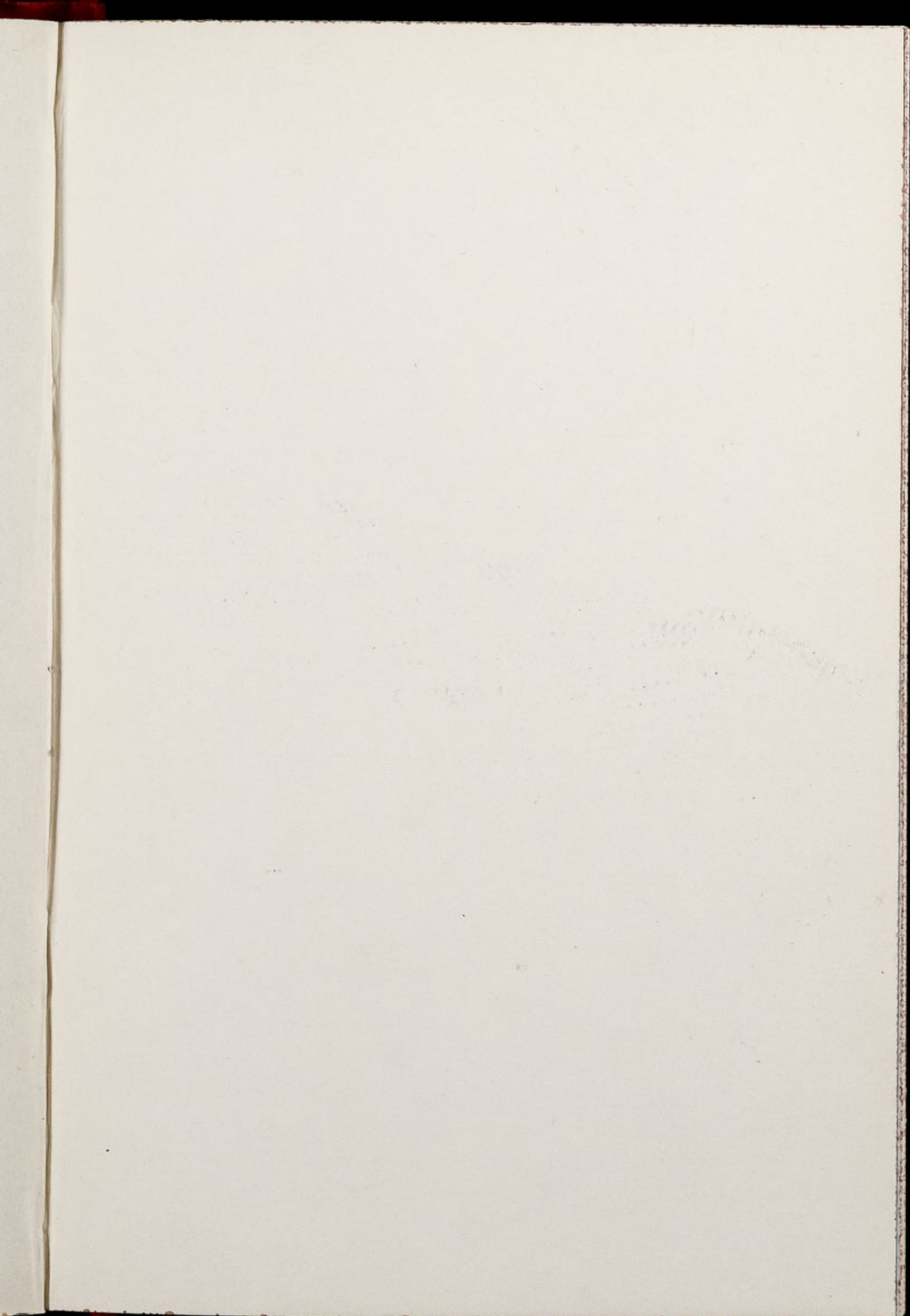
"BARKAH THE CAMEL"

It is always rather sad when an old favourite dies at the Zoo. Animals generally live longer in captivity than in the wild state due to a proper diet and lack of enemies. "Barkah", our male Arabian Camel or Dromedary had been at the Zoo since 1951 and previously lived at Bristol Zoo. He was thought to have been about 40 years old when he died.

Although he had been at the Zoo for so long, "Barkah" could never be described as friendly and trustworthy but he was a definite character in his own way. On several occasions his anti-social behaviour nearly ended in trouble, but he surpassed himself in January, 1963. The keeper entered the enclosure to clean out "Barkah" — a task performed each morning and previously without any trouble whatsoever. This particular morning "Barkah" awaited his opportunity and when the keeper turned away, came behind him, caught hold of his head and lifted him off the ground. Fortunately the Head Keeper was close at hand to make "Barkah" release his prisoner; the man was not hurt badly due to the anatomical formation of a Camel's mouth.

After suffering this sort of ordeal, most people would never look another Camel in the face but we are pleased to say that this keeper is still looking after animals at another leading Zoo in this country.

Some members have complained that they have not received their August Magazine. These were sent out from the Zoo but somehow went astray. We do apologise for any inconvenience caused and also for the lateness of publication of this issue due to holidays, etc.



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