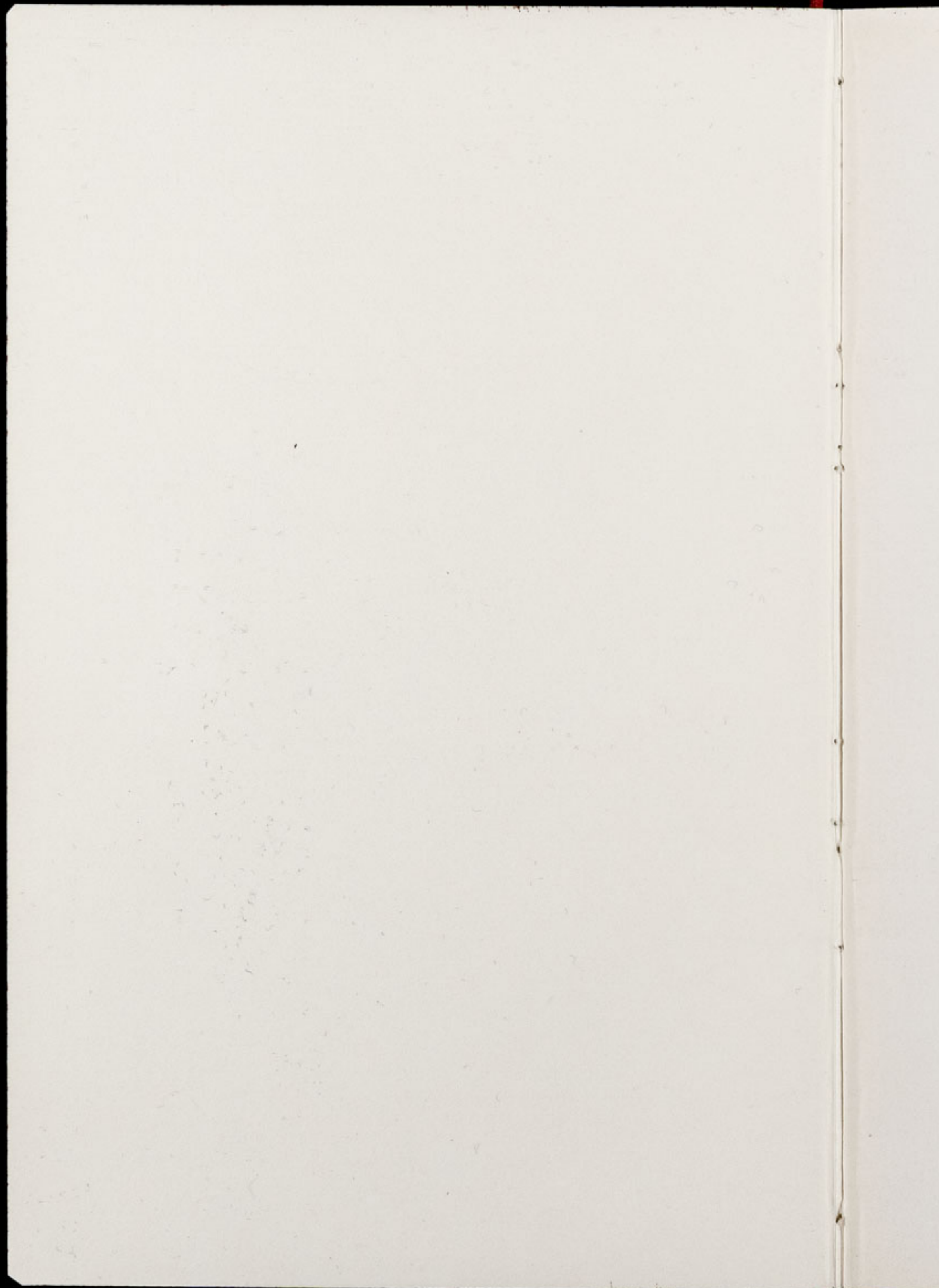




**CHESTER ZOO NEWS
AND GUIDE**

January 1971

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The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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

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BIRTHS

Two young Coatis (*Nasua nasua*) have emerged from their nestbox in the Small Mammal House. Keepers knew several weeks ago that a number of young had been born, since they could hear their hungry squeakings, but any disturbance would have resulted in the female abandoning them. At the present time these young Coatis measure barely 10 inches from head to tail and look like miniature versions of their mother. They are beginning to eat some of the solid food which is provided although much of this is merely tossed about or pounced on in play. However, they are already developing one of the feeding habits observed in Coatis. When presented with an item of food covered with hair or feathers, such as a dead mouse or chicken, a Coati rubs this against the ground to remove the fur, etc., from the body before eating it. By copying their mother our young Coatis are attempting to do this.

Coatis are natives of Central and South America and belong to the same family as the Raccoons and Kinkajous, specimens of which can also be seen at the Zoo. Female and young Coatis live in small groups, being joined by the adult males only in the breeding season. During the rest of the year the males, known as Coatimundis, are fairly solitary animals. The gestation period lasts for 11 weeks. Towards the end of her pregnancy a female Coati leaves the group and constructs a nest in a tree. Here the young are nursed for several weeks until they are old enough to forage and keep up with the main group. They become fully mature at about 2 years of age. In their natural habitat the Coatis' diet consists mainly of various small animals, insects and fruit.

For several years we have bred this species very successfully, the latest additions bringing the total number of animals to 15. In the



COATI (*Nasua nasua*)

J. Whitworth

summer the Coatis live permanently out of doors in a spacious enclosure planted with bushes and trees for climbing. For the last few summers they have actually built nests in the trees. These look rather like large Magpie nests but as yet no young have been reared in them. During the cold weather the Coatis require access to warm indoor quarters.

The Edible Dormice (*Glis glis*) have produced a litter of three young which can be seen in the Nocturnal House. The Edible Dormouse is the largest of the Dormouse family with a range in the southern half of Europe and in western Asia. It has long greyish fur and a thick bushy tail very similar in appearance to that of a Squirrel. The diet includes fruits, berries, nuts and leaves. Under natural conditions Edible Dormice hibernate in winter but at the Zoo they remain active, as the temperature is always warm and a constant food supply is available. By late autumn the wild Dormice have become very fat and have collected a store of food to tide them over until the following spring. Breeding takes place during the summer and there is usually only one litter each year. The gestation period is about 24 days and newborn Dormice are blind and naked. The young remain in the nest for about a month when their eyes have opened and their fur has grown. The nest may be in a hollow tree or burrow and is lined with plant material. A few Edible Dormice were introduced into this country at the beginning of the century and their descendants are flourishing in parts of Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. In some places they have become pests.

The ancient Romans regarded Edible Dormice as highly palatable, hence their name, and fattened them specially for the table. Fortunately for the Dormice this practice has died out.

A female Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) has been born to Jane and has been named Kate.

In captivity it sometimes happens that a female does not rear her first baby and when Jane bred for the first time in 1968 she refused to have anything to do with the new-born Chimp. The baby, Nicky, was removed and hand reared by the Curator and his wife until it was old enough to join other young apes in the Nursery. Nicky is now 2 years old and a very fit and active little Chimp.

Towards the end of her second pregnancy, Jane was put into an enclosure where Meg, another Chimpanzee, was rearing a baby. Meg is a very experienced mother and it was hoped that when her own baby arrived Jane would follow the older female's example. For the first two days after the birth it seemed as though the plan had not succeeded and preparations were made to remove the little Chimp for hand rearing. Then on the third day Jane was seen to suckle it properly and we are pleased to report that both are progressing normally.

At birth a Chimp weighs as little as 3lbs. and is helpless apart from its ability to cling to the mother's fur. We now have three baby Chimps, all of which are being reared by the females. Two of them, Saul and Sue, at 9 months and 5 months respectively, are already taking crushed fruit offered by their keepers. It will of course be some months before the latest baby can accept solids. Chimpanzees possess the same number of teeth as humans and grow an initial set of baby or milk teeth, as we do, which gradually are lost as the adult teeth are forced through. Their first teeth appear usually between the ages of 4 and 6 months and at 18 months they have almost a full set.

In captivity an adult male Chimpanzee can weigh up to 200lbs., and a female 150lbs., although individuals vary a great deal. The largest adult male at the Zoo is Bimbo who probably weighs almost 200lbs., while the smallest, Prince, is nearer 150lbs. Babu is the

largest adult female at 150lbs. and Meg the smallest, weighing about 100lbs. Both Meg and Babu have been at Chester Zoo for over 20 years; between them they have produced 18 babies, although not all of these were reared.

The Chimps have a varied diet. Daily each is fed quantities of fruit and vegetables consisting of bananas, oranges, apples, pears, carrots, cabbage, onions, parsnips and kale when it is available. Wholemeal bread specially baked in the Zoo is also part of the daily diet. A mixture of peanuts, dates and grapes is given three times a week and during the summer months, willow branches are cut for them. Banana leaves from the Tropical House are also available in summer. As a further part of their daily diet the Chimps are given 2 pints of a special milk mixture. This mixture, which contains malt, sugar, salt, Bovril and eggs, is an important part of their food intake and one which they enjoy very much.

Any deviation from a balanced diet, such as feeding by the public, can upset an animal's health very quickly. For this reason, some years ago a 'No Feeding' rule was introduced.

Chimpanzees can be dangerous animals in captivity as they combine intelligence with strength — an adult male is about three times as strong as a man. They are full of cunning tricks and the keepers have to be constantly on their guard. Some of the Chimps have developed the habit of spitting and often hit their targets, much to the disgust of the keepers. Many of them have good throwing ability. Prince is the most accurate shot and usually throws grass sods at the public when he is annoyed. Chi-chi, a young female, is also a fair shot but frequently she dips the sods into the moat before throwing them!



GROUP OF CHIMPANZEES (*Pan troglodytes*) ON ISLAND

Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

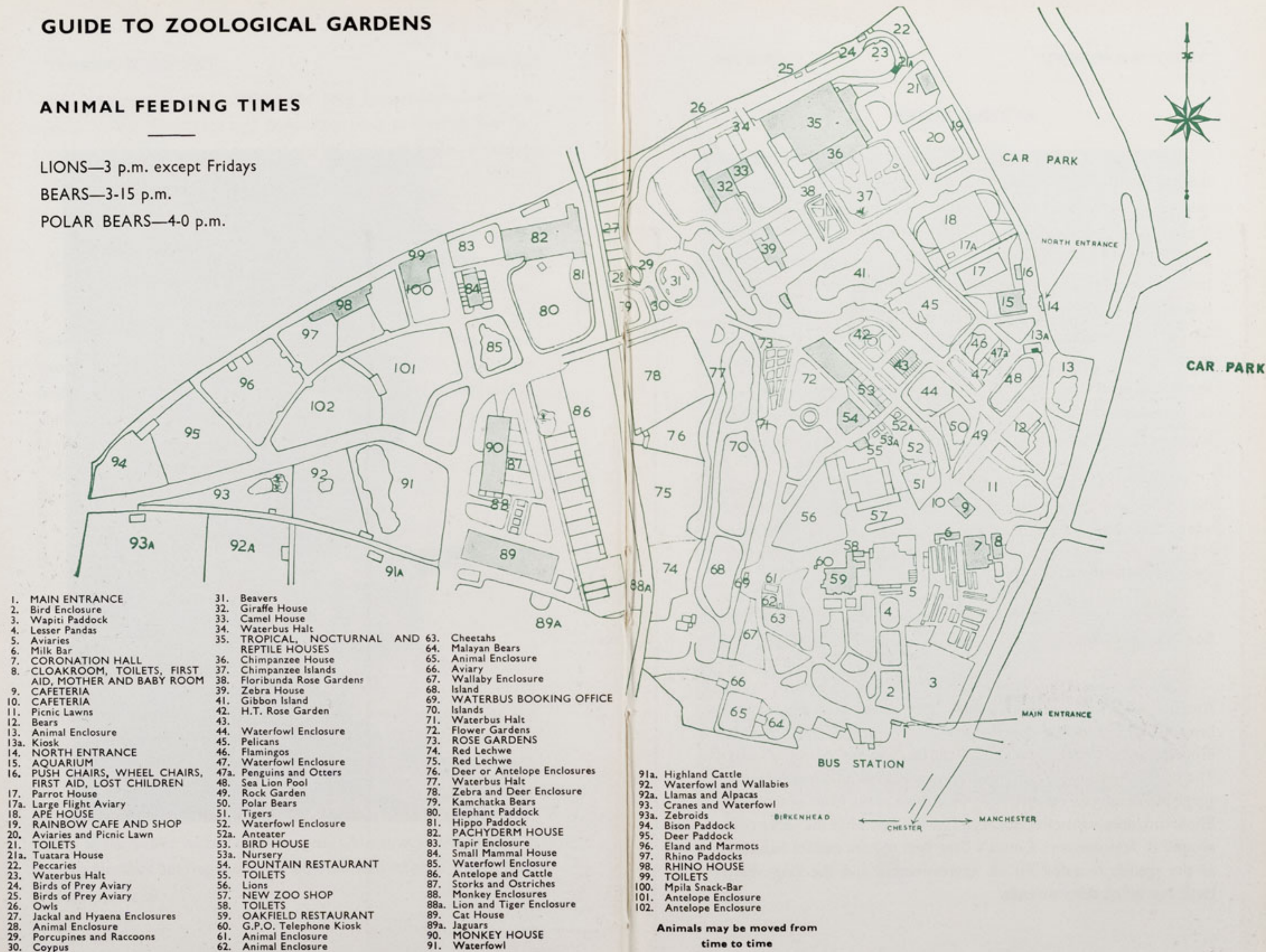
GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

BEARS—3-15 p.m.

POLAR BEARS—4-0 p.m.



1. MAIN ENTRANCE
2. Bird Enclosure
3. Wapiti Paddock
4. Lesser Pandas
5. Aviaries
6. Milk Bar
7. CORONATION HALL
8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS, FIRST AID, MOTHER AND BABY ROOM
9. CAFETERIA
10. CAFETERIA
11. Picnic Lawns
12. Bears
13. Animal Enclosure
- 13a. Kiosk
14. NORTH ENTRANCE
15. AQUARIUM
16. PUSH CHAIRS, WHEEL CHAIRS, FIRST AID, LOST CHILDREN
17. Parrot House
- 17a. Large Flight Aviary
18. APE 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 and Hyaena Enclosures
28. Animal Enclosure
29. Porcupines and Raccoons
30. Coypus

31. Beavers
32. Giraffe House
33. Camel House
34. Waterbus Halt
35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES
36. Chimpanzee House
37. Chimpanzee Islands
38. Floribunda Rose Gardens
39. Zebra House
41. Gibbon Island
42. H.T. Rose Garden
- 43.
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Pelicans
46. Flamingos
47. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 47a. Penguins and Otters
48. Sea Lion Pool
49. Rock Garden
50. Polar Bears
51. Tigers
52. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 52a. Anteater
53. BIRD HOUSE
- 53a. Nursery
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. Red Lechwe
75. Red Lechwe
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 and Cattle
87. Storks and Ostriches
88. Monkey Enclosures
- 88a. Lion and Tiger Enclosure
89. Cat House
- 89a. Jaguars
90. MONKEY HOUSE
91. Waterfowl

- 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

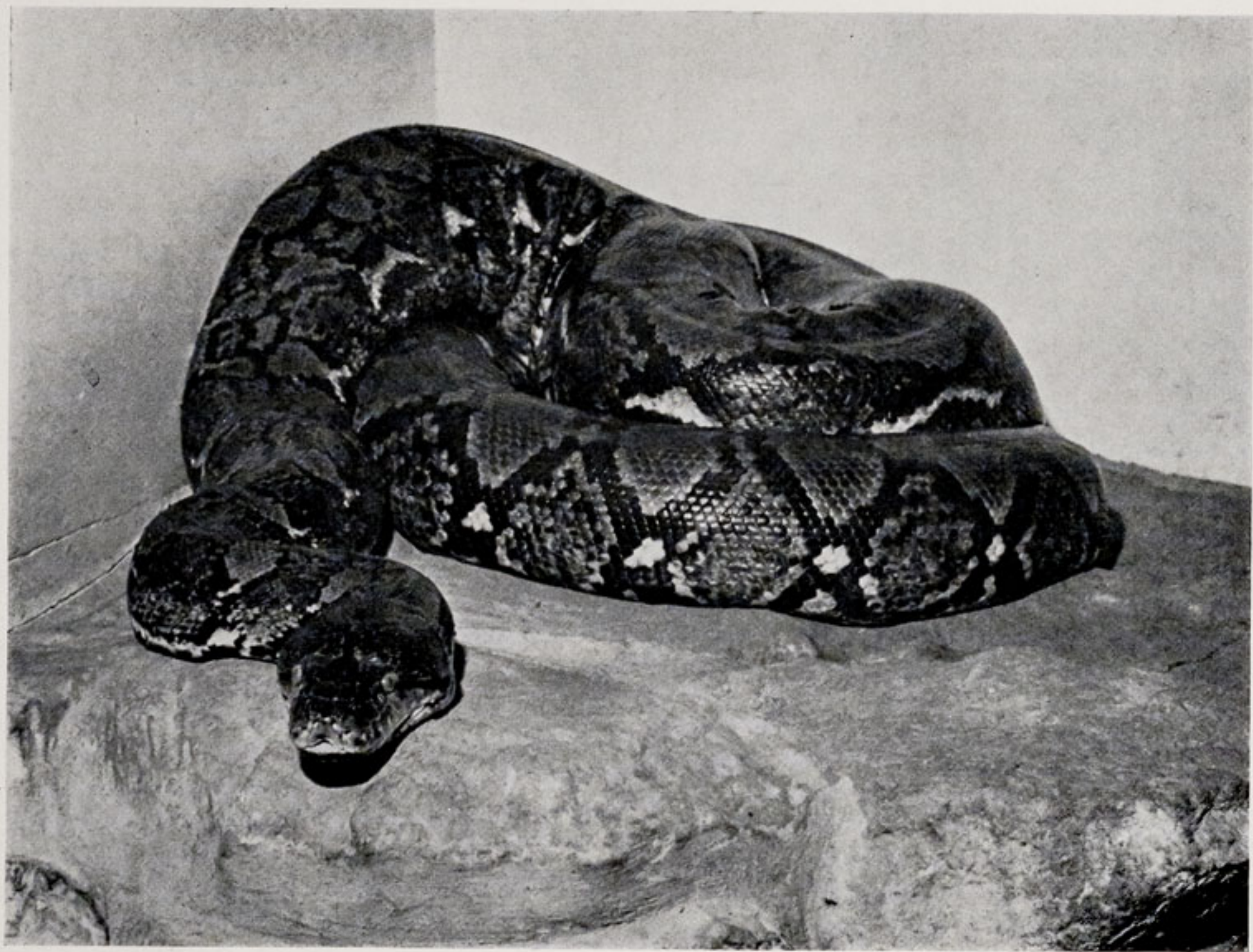
REPTILE NOTES

The chief electrician of a ship which docked in Liverpool recently contacted the Zoo to ask if we would be interested in acquiring a snake that had been discovered in a cargo of timber from Malaya. The reptile was said to be about 3 feet long, have blackish-grey colouration with white spots and a slender body with a large head. From this description Zoo officials thought that it might possibly be a species of Tree Snake. However, when the box was opened it was found to contain a fine specimen of a young Reticulated Python (*Python reticulatus*). Very bright and alert, the Python was apparently none the worse for the long journey. Snakes can exist for comparatively long periods without eating and the timber cargo had been stored in the ship's hold where it was probably quite warm.

Reticulated Pythons are found in south east Asia, Indonesia and the Philippines. The species is considered the longest snake in the world, specimens having been recorded at over 30 feet. Their prey is killed by constriction and a large Python is capable of swallowing an animal the size of a pig or small deer.

Presentations to the reptile collection include a Cooke's Tree Boa (*Corallus cookii*) and a Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*).

The Cooke's Tree Boa has a distribution in northern South America and the Windward Islands. It is a non-venomous snake, brownish in colour, which may grow to a length of 6 feet. Entirely arboreal, it has a prehensile tail and the diet consists mainly of birds. The prey is killed by constriction but as an aid to catching birds the snake has developed exceptionally long teeth at the front of the jaws. These sink deeply into the victim and hold it fast while the snake coils around it. Specimens of Cooke's Tree Boa require careful handling as the species is noted for its aggressiveness and the long sharp teeth can inflict deep wounds.



RETICULATED PYTHON (*Python reticulatus*)

J. Whitworth

The Garter Snake is found over a wide range in the eastern United States. It is a common species which often lives near human populations. The females grow to a length of 3 feet, somewhat larger than the males. They bear live young and a single litter may contain up to 30 snakes. Reports that the female Garter Snake swallows her young to protect them in times of danger are not accepted by most authorities. These snakes are excellent swimmers, many living in the vicinity of streams and ponds, and their diet includes frogs, tadpoles and other cold-blooded animals. A Garter Snake should be handled carefully as it is liable to release an unpleasant-smelling fluid from glands situated at the base of the tail.

A litter of Rainbow Boas (*Epicrates cenchris*) has been born. This is the fifth successive year that the species has bred and a photographer was on hand to record the female with her young shortly after the birth. Since 1966 a total of 59 Rainbow Boas have been bred from one pair.

BIRD NOTES

We have been presented with two Red-faced Lovebirds (*Agapornis pullaria quineensis*). These birds have a range in Africa from Sierra Leone southwards to northern Angola and eastwards across Central Africa as far as Lake Albert.

On this month's cover is a photograph of a male Moluccan or Salmon-crested Cockatoo (*Kakatoe moluccensis*) which has also been presented. This species is found on two islands, Ceram and Amboina in the Moluccas. It inhabits wooded areas and has a diet of fruit and seeds. The plumage is mainly whitish with long salmon-pink feathers in the crest.



RAINBOW BOA (*Epicrates cenchris*) WITH YOUNG

Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

The Moluccan Cockatoo adapts well to captivity but tends to be aggressive towards other birds. It is fairly rare in collections but we will endeavour to obtain a mate for the cock we have acquired, in the hope of establishing a breeding pair.

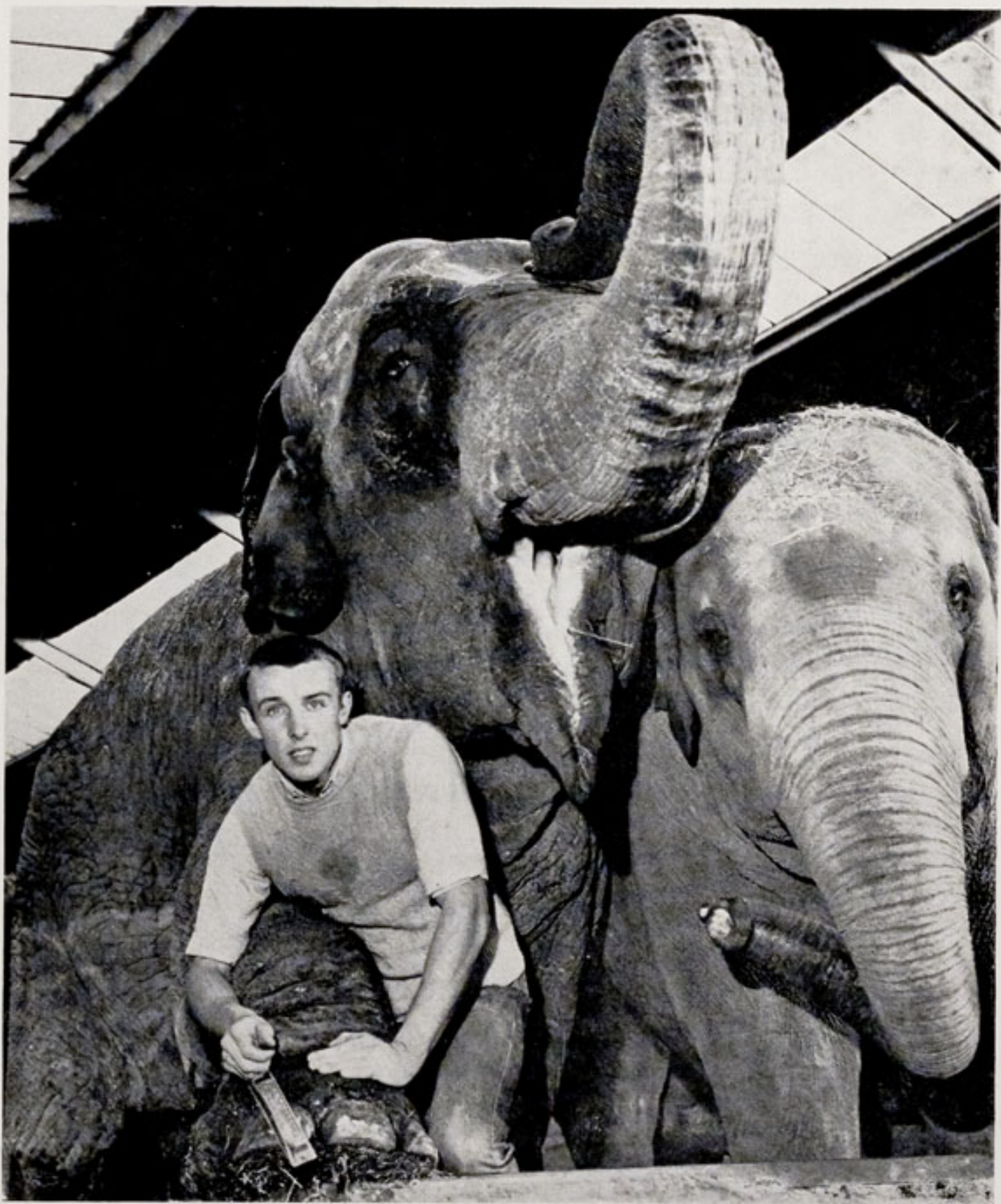
CARE OF ELEPHANTS

In the photograph on the right the keeper is trimming the nails of Barbar, our largest female Indian Elephant. Trimming is carried out once a month to prevent the nails from becoming deformed. In their indoor quarters at the Zoo the Elephants are kept on concrete floors which are much harder to the feet than the grassy plains of their native habitat and without corrective treatment the nails may be forced out of shape.

A regular brushing of oil on the feet helps to keep the skin and nails soft and supple. If a crack occurs in a nail, it is first cleaned and then filled with Stockholm tar. The tar sets, binding the damaged nail until it grows out and can be filed away.

Frequent bathing is another important factor in maintaining the Elephants' health and one which they enjoy thoroughly. They have two pools, one in the Pachyderm House and the other in the outside enclosure. The inner pool is quite deep and allows each of the Elephants to immerse itself and roll about in the water, accompanied of course by a considerable amount of splashing. The keeper scrubs and hoses them and then brushes their feet with soap and water.

During the winter, yellow paraffin is applied around the Elephants' eyes. This solution acts as a lubricant and prevents the skin from becoming dry and cracked by the cold winds which sometimes blow across the paddock. In the photograph the dark circle of skin around Barbar's eye shows where the paraffin has recently been applied.



R. Broster, Liverpool Daily Post and Echo

KEEPER TRIMMING ELEPHANT'S NAILS

'ANIMAL MAGIC' SERIES

A BBC film unit spent two days at Chester Zoo collecting material for their 'Animal Magic' series. In one of the sequences Johnny Morris, who presents the series on television, was filmed making bread for the animals in the Zoo bakery. Film was also taken of the Elephants, Ankole Cattle and Chimpanzees.

WINTER QUARTERS

A number of birds have been transferred from the new flight aviary to indoor quarters for the winter. The Grey-winged Trumpeters, which are probably the least hardy of all the birds in this aviary, were moved to the Tropical House two months ago. However, as the really cold weather did not set in until late in the year, it was possible to leave many other species outside until December. The Sacred and Glossy Ibis, Herons, Gallinules and Egrets have now been released in the Temperate Bird House where there are also some young Scarlet Ibis. These birds are still in juvenile plumage with the scarlet feathers just beginning to appear.

CAPYBARA ENCLOSURE

The Capybara enclosure is now completed. As it has a fox-proof fence, the Black-necked and Coscoroba Swans, together with various other specimens of waterfowl have been transferred to this enclosure. The Capybaras which arrived from Montevideo in September will be transferred to this enclosure when the weather becomes warmer.

MEMBERS' MEETING

Members of the Society may like to note that a Members' Meeting will be held on Saturday, 27th March. Details will be forwarded at a later date.

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.

