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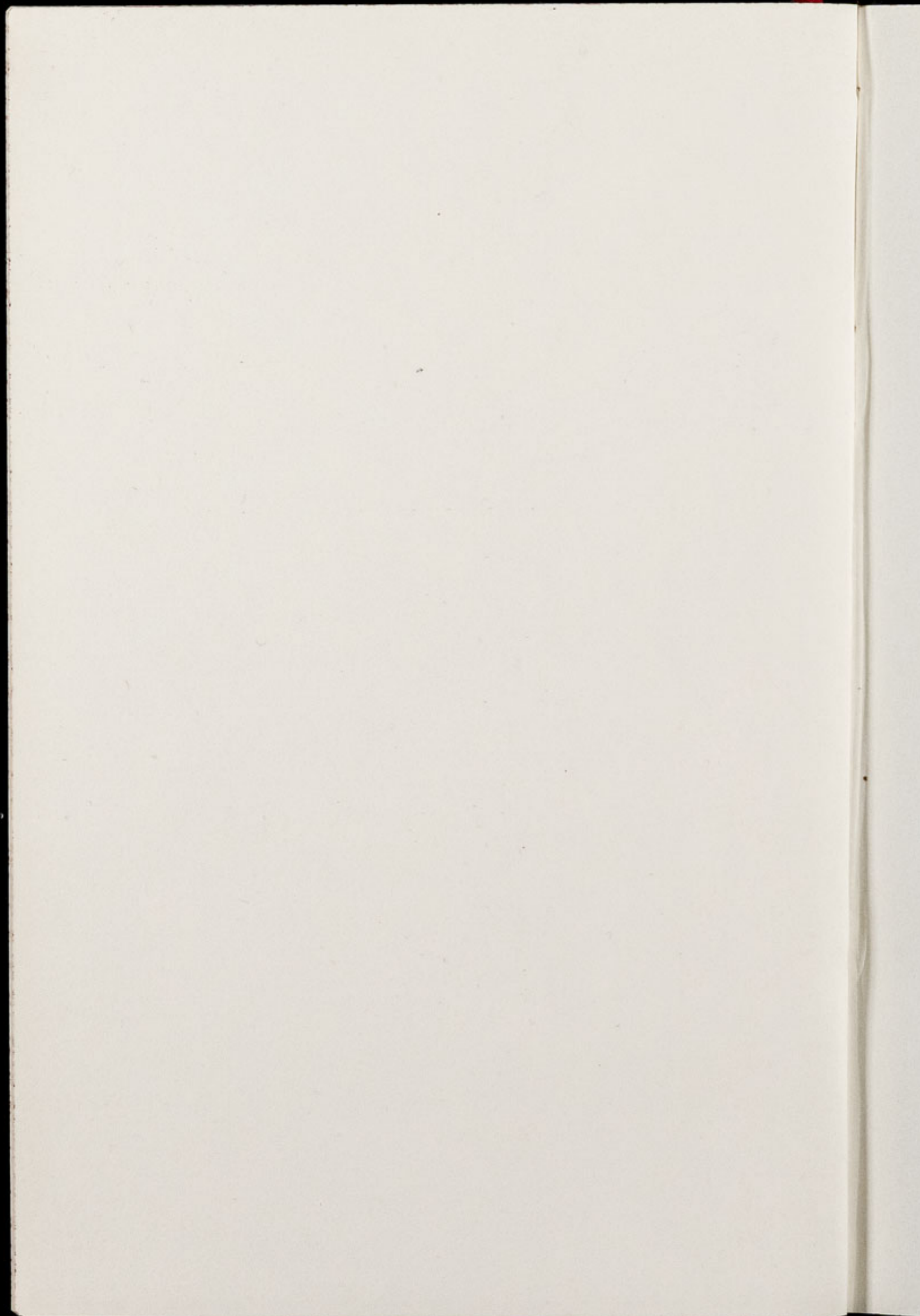
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

February 1966

Price 1/-



Editorial

Stocktaking is a time-consuming task which is undertaken at frequent intervals in the Zoo Shops, Restaurants, etc., and at the year end for the livestock. All Mammals, Birds, Reptiles and Fish have to be accounted for and this is especially difficult with the Birds in the Tropical House. With such a large collection some can die and some can breed without being noticed at the time.

The number of animals at the Zoo is given on page 10, also our attendance figures for 1965, the ever increasing cost of animal feeding and some of the amounts of food consumed.

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COVER: This month's cover shows one of our rare Malayan Tapirs.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION SIXTEEN SHILLINGS POST PAID

TELEPHONE: CHESTER 20106/7/8

PRESENTATIONS

Asiatic Ground Squirrels have been brought over to this country in considerable numbers over the past year and many have been presented to the Zoo. The latest to arrive brought the number in residence to seven, all of which are accommodated in the Small Mammal House.

A newcomer to the Monkey House was a male Squirrel Monkey which has settled down well with the other fourteen.

Squirrel Monkeys come from Northern areas of South America and spend most of their time in thick undergrowth at the sides of rivers and streams. Their food consists mainly of flowers, fruits and insects caught on the wing. The Squirrel Monkey is a small species of Monkey, having a body length of about twelve inches. They are, however, attractive animals, being mainly yellow in colour, tinged with green on the back and with white markings round the face and ears.

Four new arrivals to the Reptile House were three Greek Tortoises, the species most often kept as pets and one Brazilian Tortoise.

Bushbabies are commonly kept as pets in this country and we are presented with specimens from time to time. A Senegal Bushbaby arrived recently and was taken to the Nocturnal House. Senegal Bushbabies are found throughout tropical Africa and are the commonest species of Bushbaby found in captivity. Although they are charming to look at with large dark eyes and soft fur, they do not make the best of pets, as they are nocturnal and are not too hardy, requiring a constant temperature of 60-70°F. In our Nocturnal House the Bushbabies and other nocturnal animals are provided with simulated night light during the day and bright lights at night. This enables members of the public to watch them during the day when the animals think it is night.



SENEGAL BUSHBABY

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

Animals which have valuable fur always come in for a great deal of persecution, and in the case of the Chinchillas of South America this has brought them almost to extinction. Two Chinchillas joined the others in the small Mammal House where they have spacious glass-fronted accommodation. Chinchillas breed well in captivity and are now protected in the wild state, the demand for their fur pelts being met from the captive bred stock.

At Chester Zoo we often have contact with people who have strong accents and are difficult to understand — this sometimes leads to difficulties. A recent case was when we were offered a gift of a pair of Sunbirds, the transaction taking place over the telephone. Of course we were delighted to accept them and said that they would be released in the Tropical House.

Imagine our surprise when a lorry arrived, containing not two small Sunbirds but two large Sunbears. Fortunately we were able to accommodate these animals (but not in the Tropical House!) and it is hoped eventually to introduce them to the Sunbears already in stock.

The Sunbear is a small species of Bear which is found in the hot tropical forests of Southern Asia. They are expert climbers and spend a great deal of time in the trees, where they feed on fruit, lizards, nestling birds and small vertebrates. They are extremely fond of honey, often raiding the nests of wild Bees; their thick short coats protect them from the Bees' sting.

BIRTHS

It will be remembered that last April we received a pair of Black Panthers. We hoped that we would be able to breed from them, but at the same time felt very doubtful, because so far as we were aware very few Black Panthers have previously been bred in this country.



MALAYAN SUNBEARS

Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

However, we are delighted to say that on the 21st December, two Black Panther cubs were born and at the time of writing they are thriving.

Black Panthers are of course a melanistic form of the Common Leopard and are found most frequently in South East Asia. A Black Panther baby can occur in the same litter as the Common Leopard but they are rare even in the wild state. Black Panthers are renowned for being ferocious and our adult pair are far more vicious than the Common Leopards.

Despite such cold weather the young Red Lechwe born recently is thriving and has settled down extremely well with the rest of the herd. At Chester Zoo we have been most successful in breeding Lechwe but have had setbacks in building up a really large herd, due to the preponderance of males born. Only recently we sent three away in exchange, as the males will fight each other if kept together. The herd now numbers eight and it is hoped to breed more females in the future. Red Lechwe are particularly attractive antelopes, the males having long curved horns; both sexes have brownish-red fur. They are found in Central Southern areas of Africa and are particularly common in parts of Rhodesia.

A male Ankole calf was born during the month. At Chester Zoo we have always been proud of our fine herd of these Cattle. They are most impressive animals with longer horns than any other species of cattle; those of the bulls can reach over four feet in length. Most Ankole Cattle are found in East Africa but smaller populations are also found in other parts of Africa; in the Belgian Congo they are known as Watussi Cattle. The origin of these cattle is rather obscure although they are depicted on ancient tombs in Egypt. The Masai tribe of East Africa keep many Ankole Cattle and they are considered a measure of their wealth; one of their favourite foods is a drink of Ankole Cattle blood taken from the jugular vein.

FIRST HATCHINGS OF THE YEAR

Ten newly hatched Mallard Ducklings were seen on the 1st February, in the vicinity of the island at the side of the Rose Garden, No. 73 on the plan. The incubation period for the Mallard is 28 days so this means that laying commenced at the beginning of January.

The Mallard at the Zoo are free flying and come and go as they please. During the winter a large number of wild birds join our resident flock and can prove quite an expensive feeding proposition. Although many Mallard nest in the Zoo grounds a large number prefer the small pools which are a feature of the Cheshire countryside.

ARRIVALS

For some time now we have been trying to find a mate for our Siberian Lynx (*Felis lynx wranglei*) which arrived during February, 1965. It was only recently that we managed to locate a female and two members of the staff collected her at Ringway Airport. The newcomer is estimated to be eight months old and is identical in colouring and markings to the male, although only half his size at the moment.

Siberian Lynx are one of the largest and most powerful of the Lynx family but very little is known about them in the wild state due to the remoteness of their habitat. Our two Lynx are in separate enclosures at the moment as the female has to undergo six months quarantine. She is able to use the inside sleeping den and an outside glass-fronted enclosure, but it was some time after her arrival before she ventured outside. The male Lynx spends most of his time out

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. Shelter
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. Racoons
30. Coypus
31. Beavers
32. Giraffe House
33. Camel House

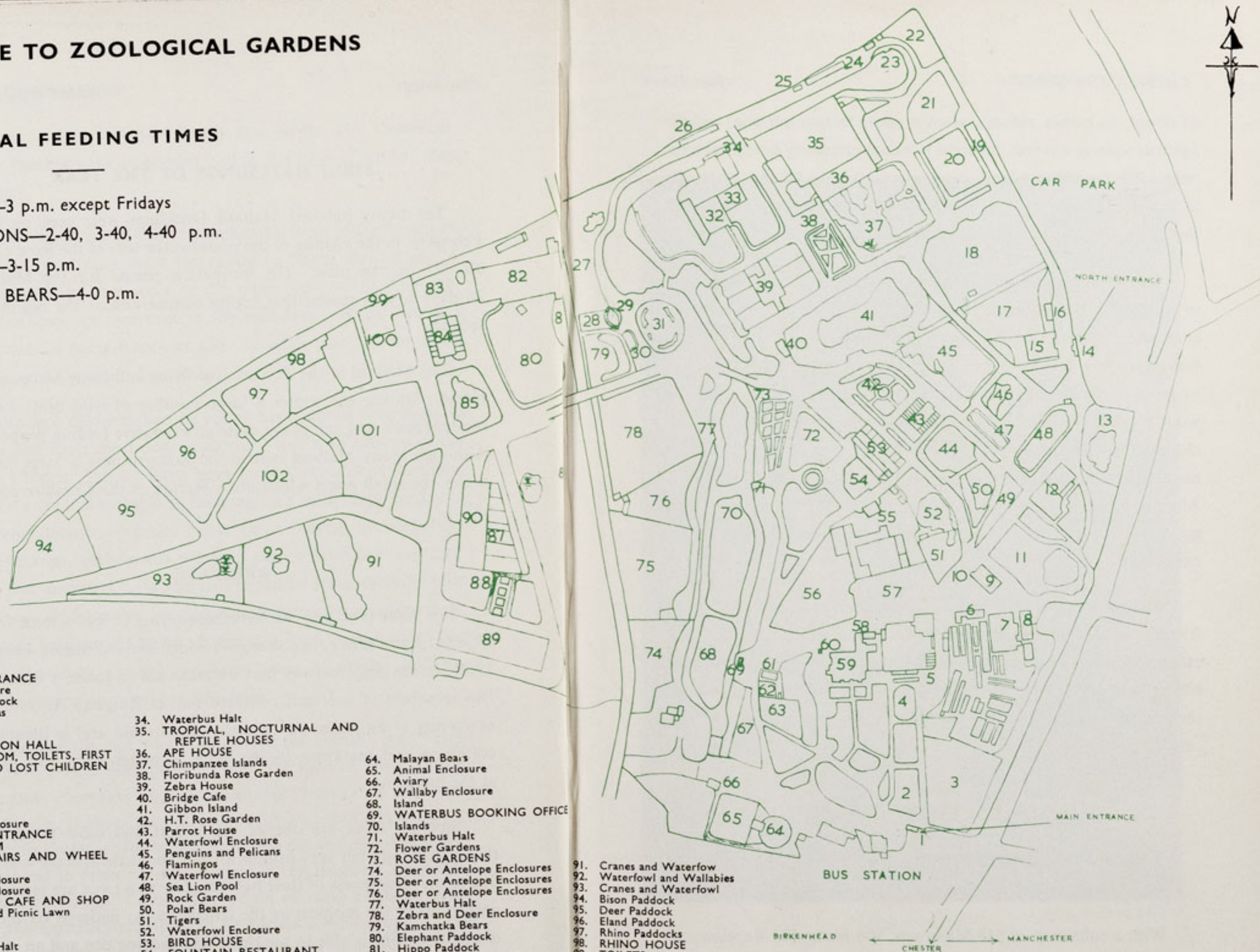
34. Waterbus Halt
35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES
36. APE HOUSE
37. Chimpanzee Islands
38. Floribunda Rose Garden
39. Zebra House
40. Bridge Cafe
41. Gibbon Island
42. H.T. Rose Garden
43. Parrot House
44. Waterfowl Enclosure
45. Penguins and Pelicans
46. Flamingos
47. Waterfowl Enclosure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

†—Under Construction.

Animals may be moved from time to time.



of doors; he comes indoors when it starts to rain but goes outside again as soon as it is fine. Siberian Lynx are extremely hardy animals, being able to withstand sub-zero temperatures. All the other cats in this house sleep on specially made wooden sleeping boards but the Siberian Lynx will only sleep on the concrete.

Two pairs of Alpacas have been accommodated temporarily in the Zebra House, where they have an indoor and an outdoor enclosure. Alpacas have been domesticated since the third and fourth century B.C. and live at an altitude of ten thousand feet or more in the Andes of Peru and Bolivia, where they are used as wool producers. The Indians in this area obtain most of their clothing from these animals and much cloth is exported. The cloth made from Alpaca wool is very strong and weather resistant; Alpacas have to withstand hard weather at high altitudes. They graze in the open, only being brought to the Shearing Station every other year.

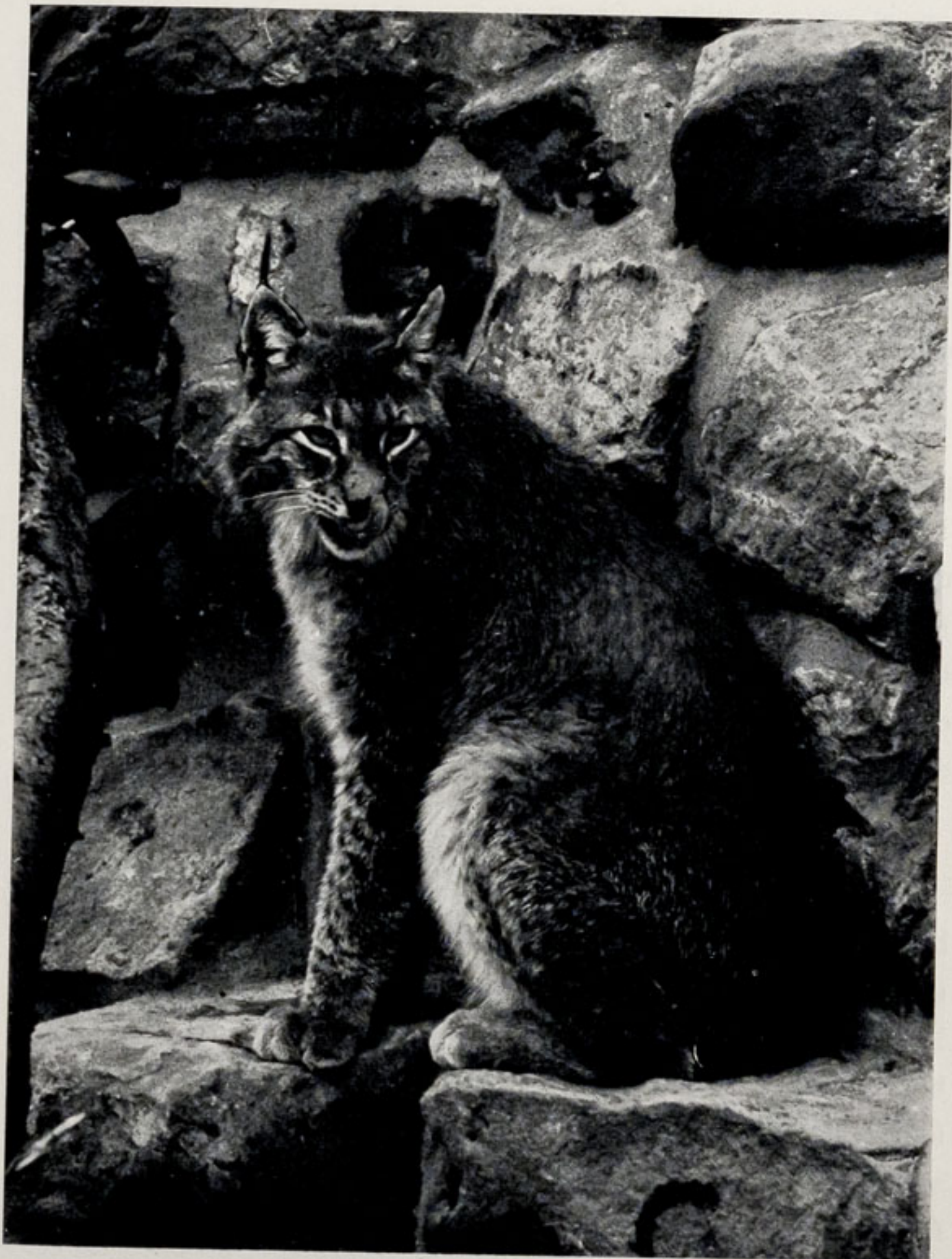
All four Alpacas have settled down extremely well and are on friendly terms with their keeper. They are only youngsters; we estimate them to be about eighteen months old. Three of the Alpacas can be seen on the photograph on page 13 taking their first walk in their outside enclosures; the fourth was less venturesome on this occasion.

A FEW FACTS AND FIGURES

A question asked many times by members of the Public is:—

How much does it cost to feed the animals at Chester Zoo?

With a collection of 538 Mammals, 906 Birds, 171 Reptiles and over 2,000 Fish, the food bill amounts to a considerable sum over a twelve month period — in excess of £25,000 last year.



SIBERIAN LYNX

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

With such a cosmopolitan collection of animals, food items are extremely varied. For example 40 tons of meat, $13\frac{1}{2}$ tons of fish, 17 tons of oats and 10 ton of bran are used in a year. During one week the Stores Department distributes to the various animal sections:— 70 gallons of milk, 7 cwt. of apples, $3\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. of bananas, 2 cwt. of pears, over 1 cwt. of grapes, 43 dozen eggs and over 1,000 loaves of bread, as well as many other items. All bread used for the animals is baked in our own Bakery; in the summer this department is kept extremely busy providing the confectionary needed for the Restaurants.

Apart from the animal food purchased, many commodities are grown on the Zoo Farm, which comprises about 70 acres. Swedes, Turnips, Kale, Cabbage and Comfrey are grown extensively and are used as food for many animals especially the Ruminants, Elephants, Rhinos, etc. A quantity of hay is also grown, but despite this large amounts still have to be purchased. During the spring and early summer freshly mown grass is given to the livestock and is of course a valuable food.

Another little known aspect of animal feeding is the breeding of animals for food. At Chester Zoo we have our own animal breeding unit, which is being replaced by a new building at present under construction. The building now in use is working to capacity. Last year, 6,000 fowl, 900 rabbits, 6,000 rats and 5,500 mice were bred for animal food. Most carnivorous animals will not remain in good health if fed exclusively on meat and require freshly killed animals as often as possible, obtaining valuable dietary benefits from the fur, bones and intestines.

Many members of the public are amazed when we tell them the number of visitors who come to the Zoo each year. The attendance figures have increased rapidly over the past few years and in 1963 the



ALPACAS

Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby

figure of one million visitors was surpassed. We had gradually been approaching the figure for the past few years and were in fact so near that our average attendance since 1961 has been over a million visitors per year. In 1965 our attendance figures were increased still further and 1,095,548 people paid for admission to the Gardens.

Another question asked is:—

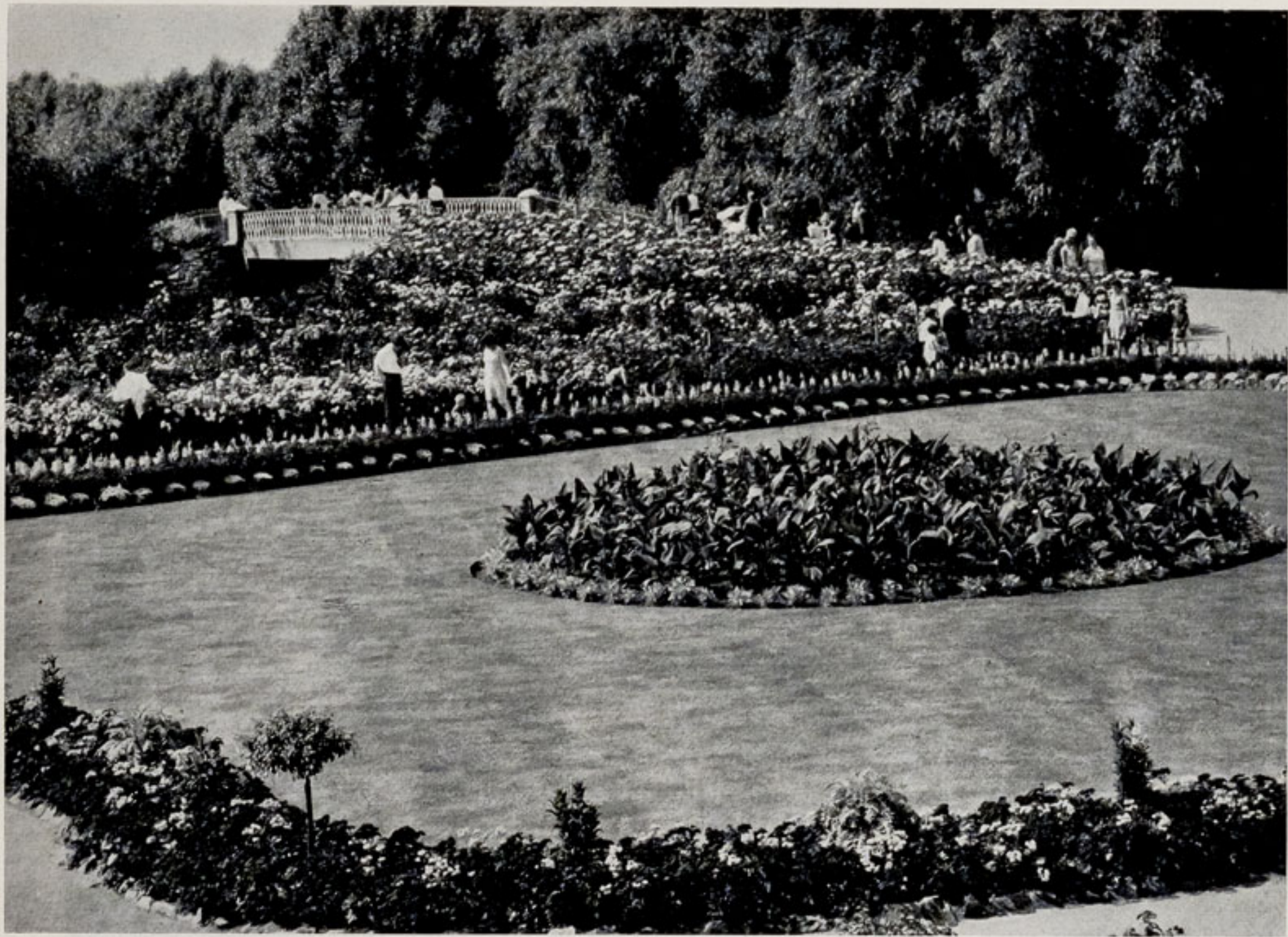
How many people does it take to run Chester Zoo?

This of course varies throughout the year as during the winter many catering establishments are closed. At the height of the summer approximately 400 people are employed at the Zoo. Of these approximately 50 are employed looking after the livestock and about 30 in the Gardens. In addition we have groundsmen who are responsible for keeping the Zoo tidy; their number varies considerably according to the season of the year. Approximately 50 members of the staff are employed as electricians, mechanics, blacksmiths, joiners, builders, painters and labourers.

The administrative side has not to be overlooked and includes typists, clerks, accountants, telephonists and approximately 20 are engaged in this capacity. The balance is made up of catering staff who are employed in the various cafes, etc., situated throughout the Zoo.

During the winter just under 200 are employed but the number of administrative, maintenance, keeping and gardening staff is usually the same throughout the year.

We were very pleased to hear that our Director-Secretary, Mr. G. S. Mottershead was elected an Honorary Member of the Royal Zoological Society of Ireland at the 134th Annual General Meeting held in Dublin on 29th January, 1966.



VISITORS ENJOYING SUMMERTIME AT THE ZOO

Mr & Mrs. E. Sorby



CHERRY-CROWNED MANGABEY

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

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