



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

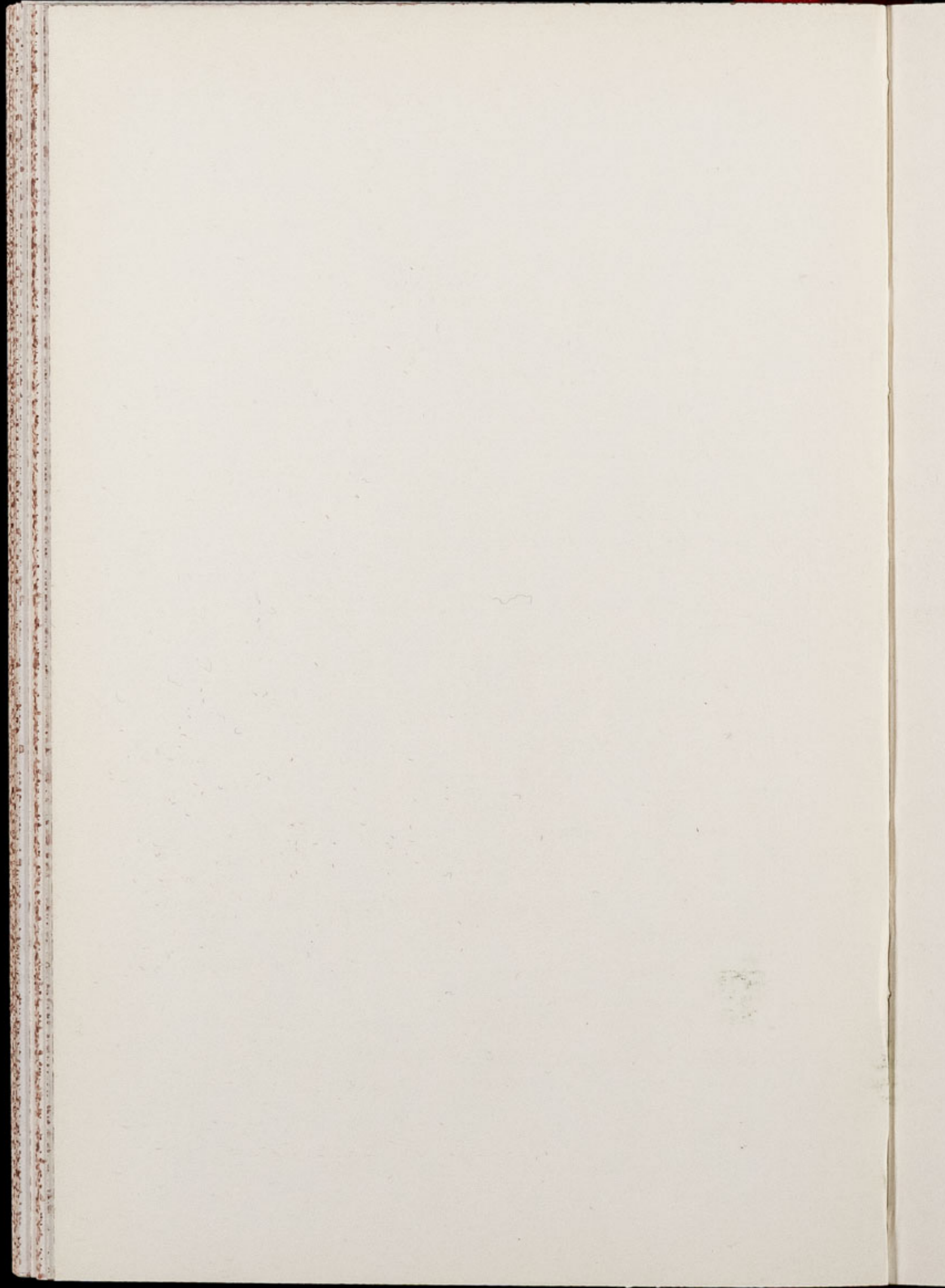
# Chester Zoo News

## **AND GUIDE**

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

July 1967

Price 1/-



# The North of England Zoological Society

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*COVER: This month's cover photograph was taken during a Waterbus Ride. For further details see page 16.*

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### ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

Three female and one male Wapiti fawns have been born in enclosure No. 3.

The Wapiti originates from North America and is very similar to our native Red Deer but is far larger. Wapiti is the Indian name for this species; a large number of people refer to it as the American Elk but this causes confusion with the Elk from Northern Europe.

At the Zoo we have 6 hinds or females and one stag or male Wapiti; the male grows huge antlers which are shed annually. Visitors to the Zoo are sometimes worried if they see blood on the Wapiti's antlers and a short account will explain this.

Each spring the stag loses his antlers; they drop off and this sometimes causes slight bleeding. New antlers are grown but have blood vessels and nerves and are covered with a soft skin known as velvet. At the time of writing, our stag Wapiti's antlers are almost fully grown but covered with velvet and are not very hard. When the antlers are at this soft stage they are very vulnerable and if the animal catches them on a hard surface they will bleed. During late summer the antlers harden into solid bone and the stag rubs them against hard objects to remove the velvet. This rubbing often causes some blood on the antlers and the Wapiti looks rather untidy at this time as it takes a little while to remove all the velvet.

An Arabian Gazelle has been born and can be seen in one of the Antelope enclosures, No. 86 on the plan. Unlike the youngster mentioned in last month's magazine, this one is being cared for by its mother. A label giving its date of birth has been positioned in front of the paddock but even so many visitors say it is not in there. In fact, this is just natural camouflage and when the Gazelle lies down it is almost impossible to see it.

A Red Lechwe calf was born during the month, the first this year.



WAPITI

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

Red Lechwe or Lechwe Waterbuck are natives of Zambia and to a large extent feed on aquatic plants, often standing in the water to do so. They thrive in captivity, which is fortunate as they are becoming increasingly rare in the wild state.

A Vervet Monkey was born recently in the Monkey House. This latest youngster is thriving and can be seen with both parents in one of the spacious glass-fronted enclosures. Vervet Monkeys breed well in captivity and four have been reared in the Monkey House over the past two years. They originate from Africa and are often brought to this country.

A pair of Indian Giant Squirrels were received during the month and have been accommodated in the Small Mammal House. This species is also known as the Malabar Squirrel and can reach a length of 3 feet from nose to tip of tail. They are attractively coloured being deep chestnut brown, black and cream. Their local Indian name is "tree dog" and the natives believe that these Squirrels always build seven nests. In fact they are said to build and use several large nests resembling a huge Grey Squirrel drey.

### REPTILE NOTES

The Nile Crocodile has been transferred from the pool just inside the entrance of the Tropical House to the newly constructed pool next to the Pigmy Hippos. Mississippi Alligators have been accommodated in the old Crocodile pool.

A Gaboon Viper was flown over from Ibadan, Nigeria, during the past month. The Gaboon is probably the most sinister in appearance of all the Vipers, having a very thick body, boldly marked with dark red, purple and pale tan. This bizarre colouration looks out of place in captivity but in the wild state among dead leaves, these Vipers are very difficult to see. Gaboon Vipers are extremely dangerous, their venom being both haematotoxic and neurotoxic in action. Their venomous fangs can measure more than an inch in length and they produce great quantities of venom.

Other new arrivals include an Alligator, Grecian Tortoise and Red-eared Terrapin. Another recent arrival in the Reptile



MALABAR SQUIRREL

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

House was a Red-tailed Boa, a very rare species from South America. It is hoped to include further information on this species in next month's "Chester Zoo News".

### GARDENING NOTES

Summer bedding has once again been completed; this is a major operation which we try to carry out in the minimum length of time and entails the full time employment of all our staff of 28 gardeners, working from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

We blitz this bedding task, so as to get all planting done as soon as possible, to allow the plants to become established early, resulting in a longer summer display of flowers.

Since the completion of our bedding-out we have had three weeks of very hot sun, which has meant continual watering every evening and for two hours each morning, before the sun becomes too scorching. We are fortunate in having plenty of water in the Zoo Waterway. By using a high pressure pump, we can use two hosepipes at once and really soak the beds well, but due to the vast area of beds and borders and number of plants used (80,000) it means that by the time the last borders are watered in rotation, the first ones have to be watered again. Even then, large borders, *i.e.* Antirrhinums, etc., will have to wait for rain, as it is impossible to water everywhere.

At the time of writing (*mid-June*) our Roses are just coming into flower; as usual, they look very promising and we look forward to the colour which they always give us. An extra 1,000 bushes were planted last winter; the newest varieties of H.T. and Floribundas were used. Many new plants have been introduced into the Tropical House this spring; all have been labelled and will add to the horticultural interest of this House.

We had early trouble again with the birds taking the buds of the Hibiscus, but suddenly they have left them alone and each day now the trees are covered in flowers.

The Bougainvilleas are now coming into flower in both the

Tropical and Monkey Houses, Our collection of Orchids has been increased once again by the gift from a member of the Council, of Cattlyas and Cymbidiums.

### THE MEAT STORE

A rather unusual aspect of a Zoo Keeper's daily work is on the Lion Section, where all the meat arrives and is stored for distribution to the various sections of the Zoo. Between 1,800 and 1,900 lbs. of meat arrives each Friday, which is weighed accurately and placed in the fridge at a temperature of 30°F. This meat has then to be cut into portions for the various large carnivores, *e.g.*, Lions and Tigers, and into amounts for daily use for collection by the Keepers in other Sections of the Zoo. For example, the Bird House uses 13½lbs. of meat per day, the Cat House 70lbs., the Aquarium 10lbs. per week and the Reptile House 40lbs. per week. The Tropical House Bird Section uses 4lbs. a day and the Small Mammal House 15½lbs. each day.

All this large quantity consists of horse meat which is normally chilled but not deep-frozen. The required amount varies a little according to the number of chickens, rats, mice and rabbits bred at our own animal breeding unit.

The meat is cut into portions the day before it is required and placed on shelves in the fridge, which are labelled for each Section. The following morning it is removed from the fridge and placed on stone shelves in the Meat Store to thaw out before being fed to the animals.

### NEWS FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE ZOO

The Grant's Zebras have been transferred to their outside paddock, No. 78 on the Plan. They are moved to indoor quarters at the rear of the Giraffe House during the winter as they would mutilate the turf and there would be little grazing left for the summer. The Fallow Deer which share this paddock remain outside throughout the year but are very hardy animals.

# GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

## ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

SEA LIONS—2-40, 3-40, 4-40 p.m.

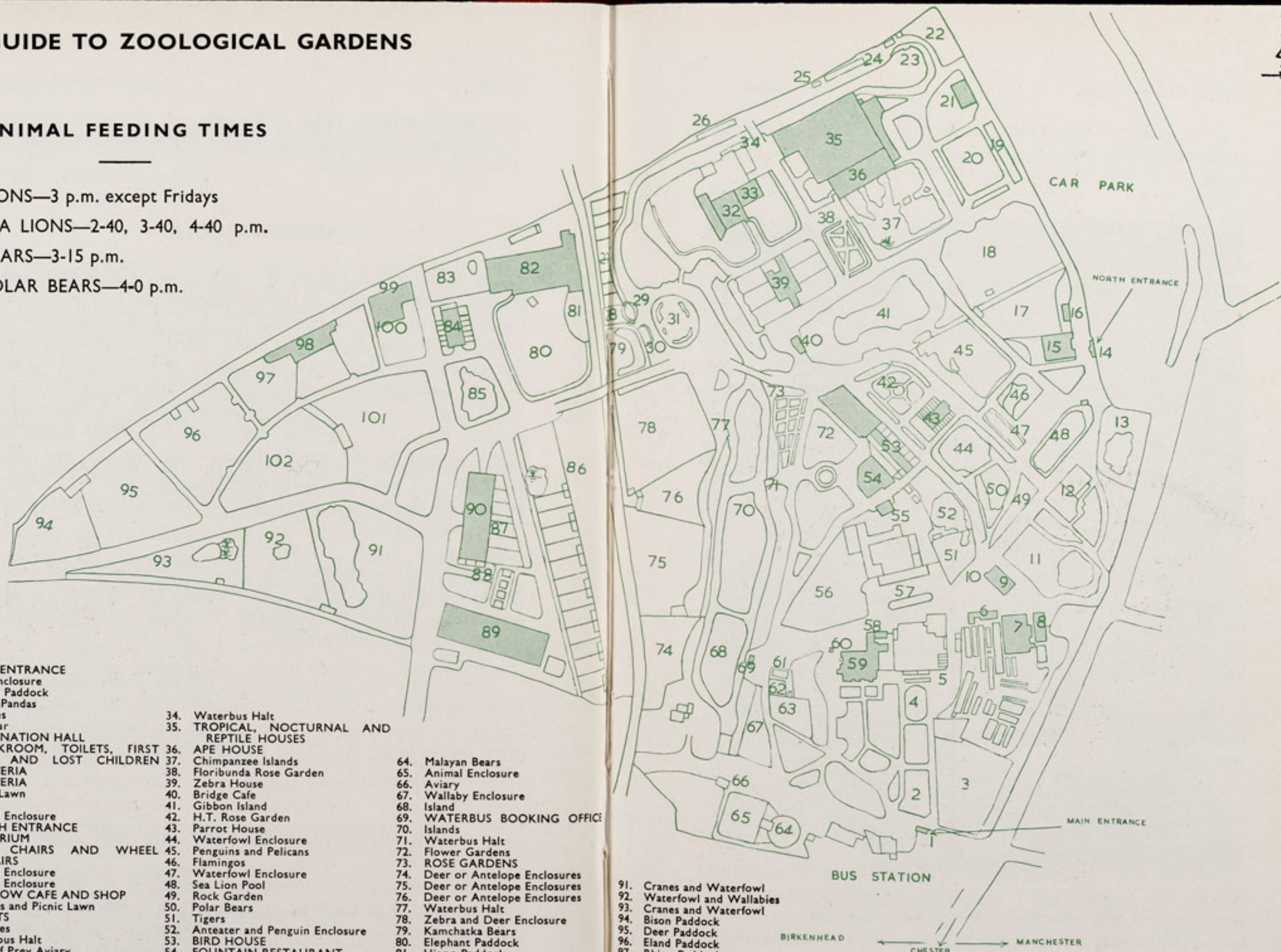
BEARS—3-15 p.m.

POLAR BEARS—4-0 p.m.

- |  |  |                                 |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. MAIN ENTRANCE                                   | 34. Waterbus Halt                          | 64. Malayan Bears               |
| 2. Bird Enclosure                                  | 35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES | 65. Animal Enclosure            |
| 3. Wapiti Paddock                                  | 36. APE HOUSE                              | 66. Aviary                      |
| 4. Lesser Pandas                                   | 37. Chimpanzee Islands                     | 67. Wallaby Enclosure           |
| 5. Aviaries  | 38. Floribunda Rose Garden                 | 68. Island                      |
| 6. Milk Bar  | 39. Zebra House                            | 69. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE     |
| 7. CORONATION HALL                                 | 40. Bridge Cafe                            | 70. Islands                     |
| 8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS, FIRST AID AND LOST CHILDREN | 41. Gibbon Island                          | 71. Waterbus Halt               |
| 9. CAFETERIA                                       | 42. H.T. Rose Garden                       | 72. Flower Gardens              |
| 10. CAFETERIA                                      | 43. Parrot House                           | 73. ROSE GARDENS                |
| 11. Picnic Lawn                                    | 44. Waterfowl Enclosure                    | 74. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 12. Bears  | 45. Penguins and Pelicans                  | 75. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 13. Animal Enclosure                               | 46. Flamingos                              | 76. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 14. NORTH ENTRANCE                                 | 47. Waterfowl Enclosure                    | 77. Waterbus Halt               |
| 15. AQUARIUM                                       | 48. Sea Lion Pool                          | 78. Zebra and Deer Enclosure    |
| 16. PUSH CHAIRS AND WHEEL CHAIRS                   | 49. Rock Garden                            | 79. Kamchatka Bears             |
| 17. Animal Enclosure                               | 50. Polar Bears                            | 80. Elephant Paddock            |
| 18. Animal Enclosure                               | 51. Tigers                                 | 81. Hippos Paddock              |
| 19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP                          | 52. Anteater and Penguin Enclosure         | 82. PACHYDERM HOUSE             |
| 20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn                       | 53. BIRD HOUSE                             | 83. Tapir Paddock               |
| 21. TOILETS  | 54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT                    | 84. Small Mammal House          |
| 22. Peccaries                                      | 55. TOILETS                                | 85. Waterfowl Enclosure         |
| 23. Waterbus Halt                                  | 56. Lions                                  | 86. Ankole Cattle               |
| 24. Birds of Prey Aviary                           | 57. NEW ZOO SHOP                           | 87. Stork Enclosures            |
| 25. Birds of Prey Aviary                           | 58. TOILETS                                | 88. Monkey Enclosures           |
| 26. Owls   | 59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT                    | 89. Cat House                   |
| 27. Jackal Enclosures                              | 60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk                 | 90. MONKEY HOUSE                |
| 28. Wolverines                                     | 61. Animal Enclosure                       |                                 |
| 29. Porcupines                                     | 62. Animal Enclosures                      |                                 |
| 30. Coypus   | 63. Cheetahs                               |                                 |
| 31. Beavers  |  |                                 |
| 32. Giraffe House                                  |  |                                 |
| 33. Camel 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.



The paddock outside the Tropical House occupied by the Pigmy Hippos has been extended several feet to the edge of the Canal.

The Black Panther cub mentioned in last month's *Zoo News* is doing very well indeed. He is just starting to venture into the outside enclosure. The male and female Panthers were separated prior to the birth in case the male attacked the youngster as can be the case with many of the Cat family.

### HAND REARING BABY CHIMPANZEE

In last month's magazine, we mentioned that a baby had been born to "Meg", the 20 years old Chimpanzee and because she would not look after the baby, it was being hand reared by the wife of our Curator.

We are pleased to report that the baby is thriving; the first photographs were obtained when a month old. The young Chimpanzee receives constant attention from all members of the Timmis family. He is on very good terms with Craig, aged 2, and Bradley, aged 5, and in the photograph can be seen being bottle fed by Craig. The Chimp has been christened "Tammy" and has to be fed every four hours day and night.

When about six months old, the baby Chimp will be brought back into the Zoo but even then will still require a great deal of attention.

### BIRD NOTES

At the time of writing, the sun is shining and the temperature is in the 70's. This fine spell is particularly appreciated by the young newly hatched birds. Nothing is worse than cold damp weather as they are very susceptible to chills and can easily die from pneumonia.

The Barnacle Geese have four very healthy chicks and the parents and young have been transferred to a spare enclosure at the



Gary Talbot

CRAIG TIMMIS BOTTLE FEEDING BABY CHIMPANZEE

rear of the Monkey House. We are hoping for pure bred specimens this year; unfortunately last year they cross-bred, we think, with Lesser Snow Geese. The Barnacle Goose is a most attractive specimen with well defined black and white plumage. They breed in Greenland, Spitzbergen and Novaya Zemlya and spend the winter in Scotland, Ireland and on the coasts of Germany, Denmark and Holland.

Another species of Goose, the Emperor, also has young. These can also be seen at the rear of the Monkey House. This year, little artificial incubation has been undertaken and the family groups are certainly more interesting to watch.

The Mute Swans which swim on the canal and moated areas of the Zoo have four cygnets. A number of wild Mallard Duckling can also be seen in various parts of the Zoo. The Mallard congregate in large flocks at the Zoo during the winter, feeding with our own waterfowl. In the spring some remain to breed but the majority go elsewhere.

In the May 1967 edition of "*Chester Zoo News*", we mentioned that the Sclater's Crested Curassow's eggs were stolen the day before they were due to hatch. The hen laid again a little while later and two young were hatched on June 22nd. The youngsters have been removed from the 15 foot high nesting platform in the Temperate Bird House to the long flight aviary in the original part of the Bird House. Both youngsters are thriving and the adult Curassows are again proving to be perfect parents. During 1966, we bred this species for the first time in this country.

### MOLONEY'S GUENON

In the March edition of "*Chester Zoo News*", we mentioned the arrival of a Moloney's Guenon, from Zambia, Central Africa. This Monkey is a great favourite with all her keepers and as can be seen in the photograph on page 13, is particularly fond of Susan Brecknall, a keeper.

The Moloney's Monkey is almost eighteen months old and



*S. W. Jacobsen, Liverpool Daily Post & Echo*

KEEPER SUSAN BRECKNALL WITH THE MOLONEY'S MONKEY

shares an enclosure in the Monkey House with a White-nosed Guenon which arrived at the Zoo soon afterwards.

Although this Monkey is very tame and trusting at the moment, it may turn vicious two or three years from now. Unfortunately, this is the case with almost every species of Monkey, and for this reason we do not recommend them as pets. They can give a nasty bite when adult and are very destructive when kept in a private house.

### FILMING FOR NEW "ZOO TIME" SERIES

"Zoo Time", the popular Granada Television weekly 5 o'clock animal programme is to be transmitted from Chester Zoo instead of London, where it has been based for some time.

The first programme is scheduled for transmission on the 3rd July, and filming and narration have been taking place for several days now. This first programme is a general look around Chester Zoo, meeting the Zoo Director, Mr. G. S. Mottershead, and some of the animals in our extensive collection.

Chris Kelly, of Granada Television will be talking about the animals, but as he is a non-zoologist, animal keepers and zoologists will be invited to the studio to answer questions from time to time. For those interested in T.V. personalities, Chris Kelly can also be seen on Granada's Scene programme.

Of course, only a few of the animals could be covered in the first programme; Lions, Polar Bears, Sealions, Elephants and several Monkeys will be featured as will the Waterbus Ride and Tropical and Reptile Houses. We are very pleased that the Tuatara performed beautifully in front of the cameras, eating his favourite food of Locusts in a slow and deliberate manner, which enabled good close up shots to be taken.

Visitors to the Zoo were very interested in what was going on and seemed amazed at the number of people required to make the film and the length of time this took. A camera crew, film crew, continuity staff, etc., are needed; the Director of the film has to



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

FILMING FOR "ZOO TIME" NEAR WATERBUS HALT

decide which shots to take first according to weather and generally take charge of the whole operation.

Animals cannot be relied upon to do the required thing at the right time however. When conditions were ideal to film our Mountain Gorillas the Cameras were put into position, but the Gorillas promptly walked inside and would not be persuaded to come outside again, even for apples or other tasty fruit. Sound problems were rather prevalent when it came to the Waterbus Ride. The boat's engines caused a great deal of interference; eventually a cable had to be run between the boat with the camera and that carrying Chris Kelly and members of the public.

The next programme in the series will be devoted entirely to the Sealions.

### WATERBUS RIDES

This month's cover photograph was taken from one of the boats on our canal. The Waterbus trips are very popular with visitors and give a leisurely view of a large part of the Zoo. Tickets for the trip can be obtained from the Kiosk, No. 69 on the Plan, enabling visitors to have either a complete tour of the Zoo, finishing at the Kiosk, or to disembark at the Waterbus Halts, have a closer look at various animals, then rejoin the Waterbus and continue their journey. The Halts are situated as follows:—

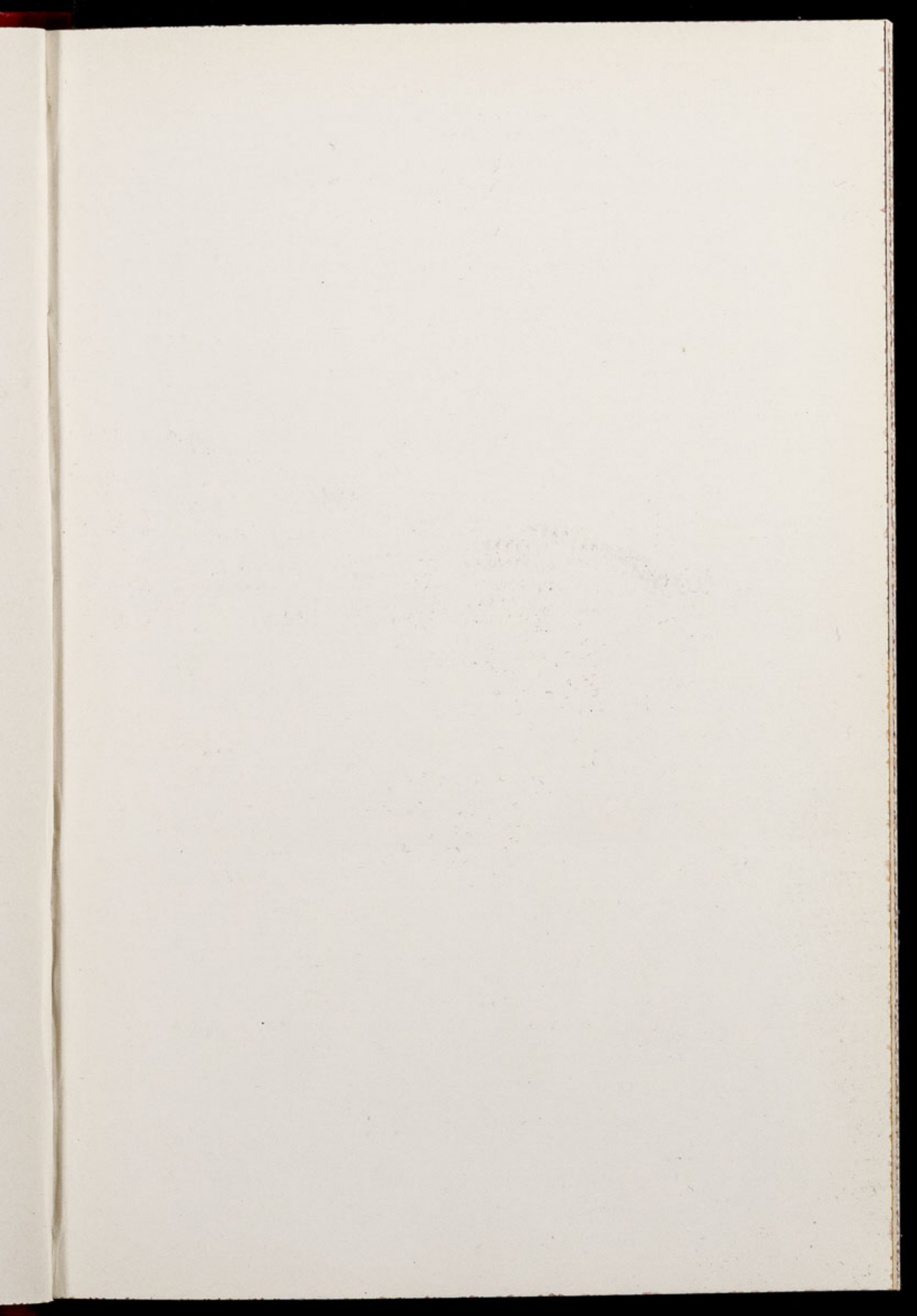
- |          |                     |   |
|----------|---------------------|---|
| STAGE 1. | No. 77 on the Plan. | Deer, Cat House, Elephants, Monkeys.      |
| STAGE 2. | No. 23 on the Plan. | Birds of Prey, Rainbow Cafe.              |
| STAGE 3. | No. 34 on the Plan. | Tropical House, Camels, Giraffes.         |
| STAGE 4. | No. 71 on the Plan. | Rose Gardens, Fountain Restaurant, Birds. |

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### STOP PRESS

Latest Births include: Ankole Calf, Fallow Deer, Brindled Gnus and Grant's Zebra.

Latest arrivals include: Beavers, Lesser Pandas and Capuchin Monkey.



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