

*By Courtesy of J. Walker, Esq., Daily Mirror*

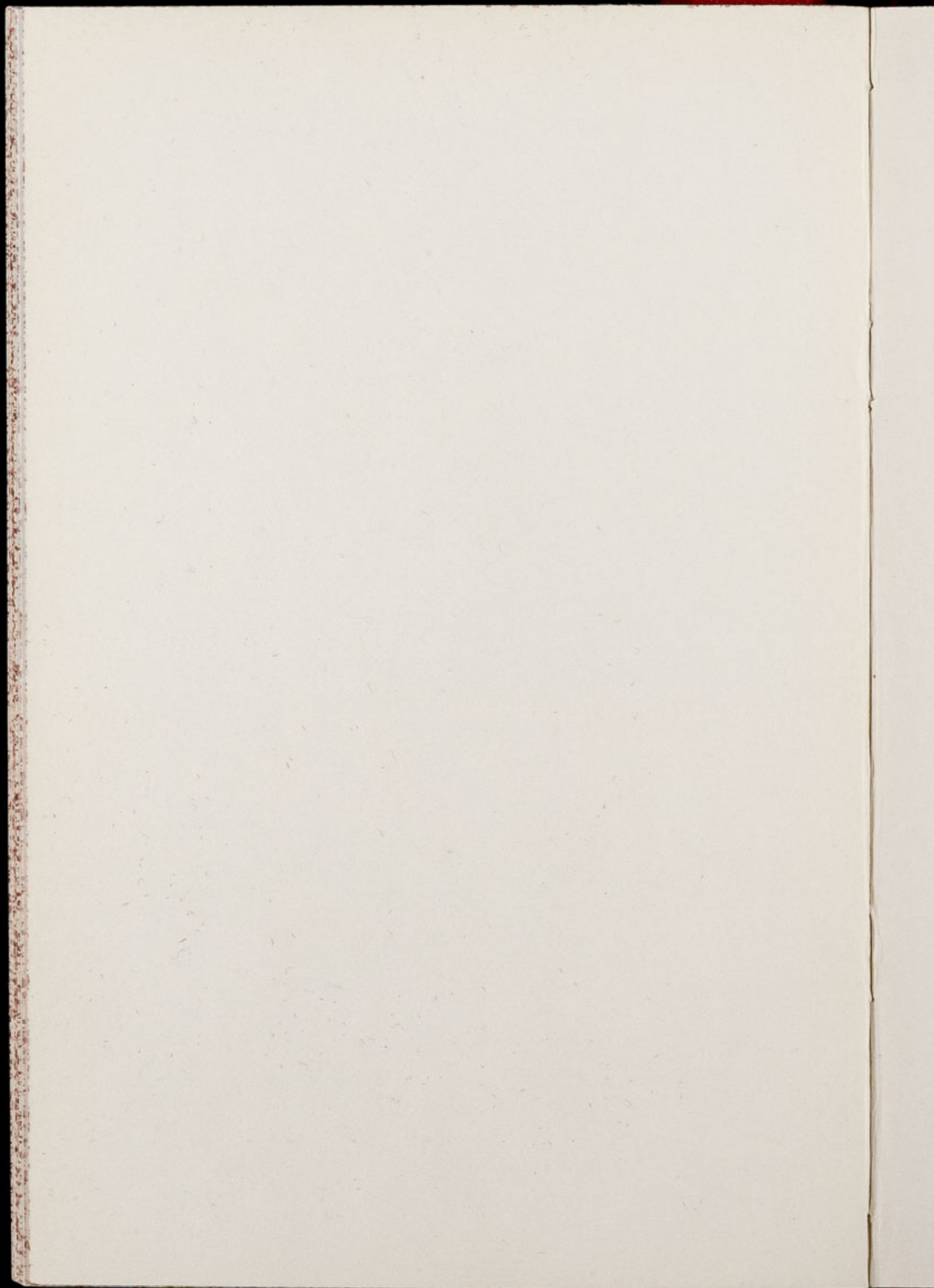
# **Chester Zoo News**

## **AND GUIDE**

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

May 1967

Price 1/-



## Editorial

With the advent of more Spring-like weather, the gardens are a wonderful show. The warmer weather is also very beneficial to the delicate tropical animals and even those from cold regions seem to enjoy the sun.

In this month's issue, an article on Animal Feeding has been included, which will give the reader some idea of the problems involved in maintaining a large collection of animals.

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*COVER: This month's cover photograph shows 'Kimbu' and 'Martha', two young Orang-Utans. For further details of their activities, see page 4.*

### ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS

A female Diana Monkey (*Cercopithecus diana*) arrived during the past month and has been accommodated in the Monkey House.

Diana Monkeys are found in Sierra Leone and adjacent areas of West Africa. They are said to be the most arboreal of the Guenons, and are certainly very lithe animals. The small white beard, white cheeks and chest contrast greatly with the dark, almost black upper parts and tail.

There have been several recent births and these are given below: in next months magazine further information will be included on these animals.

Three Père David's Deer fawns can be seen in enclosure No. 95 and in the next paddock a young American Bison has been born. In the Monkey House twin Ring-tailed Lemurs have been born and can be viewed in the first enclosure as one enters the building. Five young Bennett's Wallabies can be seen in paddock No. 92 on the plan. In addition, several young Soay Sheep and Bagot Goats have been born and can be seen in various parts of the zoo.

### JAGUARS TO NEW ENCLOSURE

The two Jaguars have been transferred from the Cat House to their new, specially constructed enclosure nearby; the Jaguars had become too strong to be accommodated in the Cat House. They have settled down well and seem very hardy, spending a great deal of time outside although they have a warm indoor den. Both Jaguars are very inquisitive animals, taking a keen interest in everything that goes on around them.

The male Jaguar arrived during March, 1965, and the female in May, 1965, and both were young animals. They have grown a great deal since then, and the male especially is very powerful with enormous canine teeth. He takes great pleasure in biting at the wire mesh of the enclosure, much to the delight of the public.



JAGUAR

*J. Whitworth*

### PROGRESS REPORT ON ORANG-UTANS

On the 6th May, 1966, we received two young Orang-Utans from Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, of the Sarawak Museum, Borneo.

The two Orangs, named 'Kimbu' and 'Martha', have been accommodated in the Monkey House ever since their arrival and are great favourites with all the Keepers in this department. 'Kimbu' was found after artillery fire near the Indonesian Border and 'Martha' had been in captivity for eight months prior to coming to the Zoo.

'Kimbu' has always been the larger and more robust of the two, although he is thought to be slightly younger than 'Martha'. Both animals are now between  $2\frac{1}{2}$  and 3 years old.

In the cover photograph, 'Kimbu' can be seen painting a modern-art type picture in watercolours while 'Martha' looks on in apprehension. As with all true modern artists a certain amount of force is required and in the photograph on page 5, 'Kimbu' can be seen trying to mutilate his picture, but no doubt the subsequent smudging increased the artistic value.

This was the Orangs' first adventure into the realms of the artist and judging by the results could easily be their last. 'Kimbu' soon managed to pick up the idea, but 'Martha' would not bother and just preferred to watch. A scrubbing motion was used with the paintbrush, which was normally held in the hand, but occasionally in the foot or mouth. A digging movement with the wrong end of the brush was also employed, and pre-mixed paint had to be dropped on the card from time to time, for subsequent spreading by the Orang-utan.

When the photographs which appeared in the 'May' and 'July' 1966 editions of *Chester Zoo News* are compared with those in



ORANG

*J. Walker, Daily Mirror*

this month's issue, it is very obvious that both animals have grown more hair. This is especially true in the case of the male, 'Kimbu', who is also beginning to acquire the large pouch which hangs beneath the chin and is a characteristic feature of adult males.

Orang-utans are found in the forest areas of Sumatra and Borneo, but unfortunately have declined in numbers. This is due to the destruction of their habitat by felling trees and putting areas under cultivation, and also by the capturing of animals to be sold to unscrupulous Zoos and animal dealers. There has been a large illicit trade in young Orangs, the normal method being to kill the mother and capture the youngster.

The estimated number of Orangs in the wild state is thought not to exceed 5,000 individuals. In captivity, there are approximately 274 specimens, and in the U.S.A. a breeding colony has been established in order to carry out research and to perpetuate this species.

Orang-utan means 'Old Man of the Woods', and this is a very true description as Orangs are rather lethargic animals and their long red coloured hair gives the impression of old age. They spend the majority of their time in the trees feeding on fruits and sometimes raid native plantations. In common with other anthropoid apes, Orang-utans build sleeping nests in the trees. When they descend to the ground they can walk upright, but normally proceed on all fours, as their arms are so long, being adapted to their arboreal habitat.

The Orangs from Sumatra are normally classified as a subspecies of the Borneo animals — thus Bornean Orang-utan (*Pongo pygmaeus pygmaeus*) Sumatran (*Pongo pygmaeus abelii*).

### BIRD NOTES

At this time of the year, a large number of Birds are transferred

to outside aviaries. Species which interfere with breeding pairs or eat eggs when in a mixed collection have to be moved.

Three species of Birds of Paradise have been transferred from the Tropical House to the bird aviaries. It was felt that these birds would benefit from an open air environment and they are certainly far more lively. So far, a pair of Sickle-billed, Princess Stephanies and a cock Ribbon-tailed have been transferred.

The Sclater's Crested Curassows went to nest on the 15 foot high platform in the Temperate Bird House. During 1966, they reared two youngsters in this house, where they are at liberty. The incubation period of this species is 29 days, and we calculated that the eggs would hatch on Sunday, April 30th. On the Saturday evening, the eggs were stolen, we suspect by children, who climbed on the roof supporting poles to gain access to the nest. We hope the Curassows will again go to nest; last year they did not manage to raise their young until August.

The Kookaburras or Laughing Kingfishers which are housed in an aviary in the Temperate Bird House have eggs; these have been laid in a hollow log placed on the floor of the aviary.

Recent acquisitions in the Bird Section are a pair of African Spoonbills, a species found in Africa, south of the Sahara. They are characterised by the spoon-shape of the bill, which is moved from side to side when feeding on small aquatic animals in shallow water. Three Painted Storks, a species originating from South America also arrived during the month. Six Rockhopper Penguins, a most attractive small species with two long yellow plumes on their heads, are also new arrivals.

It is hoped to include further information and photographs of these interesting new arrivals in subsequent editions of '*Chester Zoo News*'.

# GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

## ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

SEA LIONS—2-40, 3-40, 4-40 p.m.

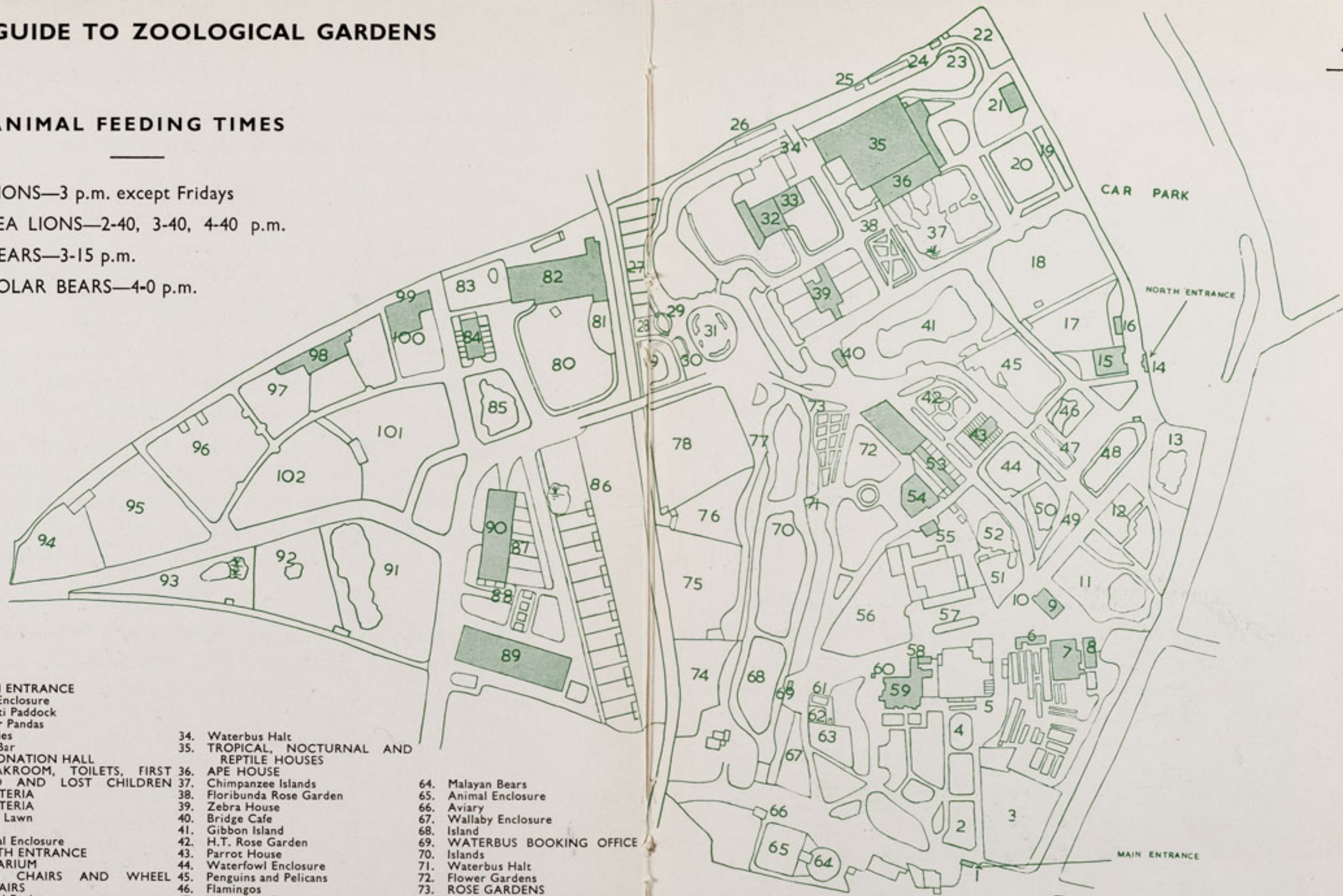
BEARS—3-15 p.m.

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. Hippo 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.



## DIETS

A large number of enquiries are received by post regarding the quantity and various diets required by our animals. Of course every day the Keepers are asked "How much does it eat?" and other traditional questions by members of the public.

A sample letter would read:— "Please could you tell me the amount and type of food an Elephant (or whatever animal) eats?". This question is not so easy to answer as would first appear. Taken in retrospect, how many people if asked how much they eat and what it consists of, could give a clear and concise answer? It is often thought that animals are given the same food each day, but this is untrue; like all human beings, animals become bored with a repetitive diet. Although the basis is always the same, slight changes are made to make the food more interesting.

The Elephant, being the largest land mammal, is always a favourite for this diet question, and eats a considerable amount of food. An adult Elephant consumes approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. of hay, 5 loaves of bread, 6lbs. of mixed corn, and various vegetables as they come into season, for example, cabbage, kale, mangolds, swedes, etc. Freshly mown grass and branches of trees when available are also given.

The Elephant's diet is fairly straightforward when compared with some of the diets fed to the birds. The small insectivorous and fruit-eating species such as Fairy Bluebirds, Tanagers, Zosterops and others, require a highly specialised diet. In the Tropical House, where 70 species of tropical birds are at liberty, food is placed in various situations throughout the building. Obviously the strongest birds descend first on the food dishes and devour their favourite food; the smaller species have to wait their turn. This does not seem



CHIMPANZEES ON THE ISLAND

*Mr. & Mrs. E. Sorby*

to cause any difficulties and we can only assume that the almost natural conditions and opportunity for flight counteract this.

Returning to the more well known animals at the Zoo, the Chimpanzee is always a favourite. The daily diet for a fully grown Chimpanzee consists of approximately 4 carrots, 5 apples, 2 oranges,  $\frac{1}{4}$  loaf of brown bread, 3 bananas, 1 handful of dates, 1 handful of peanuts, cabbage, lettuce, etc., when available, 1 pint of milk and a raw egg now and again.

The Giraffes are browsing animals and need plenty of branches of trees, in addition to clover, lucerne hay, concentrates and vegetables.

The carnivorous animals always seem to arouse interest when huge hunks of meat are being thrown to them. The quantity of course varies as follows:—Tiger 15lbs., Lion 10lbs., Leopard, Puma and Cheetahs 4lbs. This diet is supplemented by poultry. These animals are fed six days of the week, Friday being a 'No Feeding' day. The reason for choosing this day is that in the past Friday was the quietest day of the week; this no longer applies but the habit has continued. This is common practice in most Zoos as it has been found that in the wild state large carnivores do not feed every day and the 'No Feeding' routine is advantageous to the health of these animals. Hens, rabbits, etc., are particularly beneficial and are of course essential to the Birds of Prey which swallow most of the fur and feathers and regurgitate this in the form of pellets several hours later.

Fish are fed to several species in the Zoo, notably Sealions, which consume 10lbs. of herrings each, per day. The Polar Bears also receive 3lbs. of herrings in addition to 7lbs. of fat. The Penguins are avid fish eaters; the quantities consumed vary throughout the

year according to moulting, etc. A small Humboldt's Penguin can easily swallow three large sized herrings one after the other but does not seem to increase in size at all after this enormous meal.

An article on animal diets would not be complete without a mention of Reptiles. Many stories have been circulated with regard to the length of time Snakes can go without food. When first imported into this country, some of the larger Pythons, Boas, etc., sometimes refuse to feed and can in fact go many months without food. However, normal Snakes in captivity are fed once a week or once a fortnight.

### ESCAPING SEALION

On a recent Sunday afternoon, members of the public were surprised when a Sealion climbed over the fencing surrounding the enclosure and disappeared into the Zoo. Keepers soon managed to round him up, but it was obvious he could not be returned to the Sealion Pool, so as a temporary measure he was put in a den at the rear of the Polar Bear enclosure.

When Keepers arrived at 8 a.m. on Monday morning, they found a broken window and no Sealion. After a search of the grounds, he was found swimming in the large pool at the rear of the Polar Bear Pit.

### PUMAS

In the Cat House (No. 89 on the Plan) can be seen three Pumas, the adult breeding pair and a young female bred during 1966. The other young Pumas which were bred during last year were sold recently. At Chester Zoo, we have a very good breeding record with Pumas, four having been born in the Cat House since its opening during 1965.

As can be seen in the photograph on page 15, the Puma is a most attractive animal with short soft brown fur and beautifully proportioned features. When Puma cubs are born, they are heavily marked with spots and stripes, but these are lost gradually as the animal becomes older. This type of marking is generally regarded as a form of camouflage and is found in a number of animals. It is particularly prevalent in Deer and Antelopes where the young are left by their mothers for long periods and an efficient form of camouflage is necessary for any number to survive.

The Puma is indigenous to North and South America from British Columbia in the North to Tierra del Fuego in the South. Over this extensive range, the Puma is found in a variety of habitats from forest to desert and mountain regions. Due to this extensive distribution area, there is a great deal of variation in size, with the tropical animals being generally smaller than those from colder areas. The record length for a male is nearly nine and a half feet, but this includes a tail about three feet long. Many Pumas are much smaller, six or seven feet long and females are considerably smaller than the males.

Pumas feed on a variety of food from small rodents to deer and will attack domestic stock from time to time. However, this is normally confined to odd individuals, their favourite food being deer. Pumas are very secretive in their habits doing their best to avoid human beings at all times. In consequence, they are probably much more common in the wild state than is generally thought. They have been hunted with dogs and guns and trapped and poisoned for generations; this has obviously increased their natural timidity of man.

The Puma is often referred to as the Cougar or Mountain Lion, the latter obviously because of the similarity in colour to this species and the Lion proper.



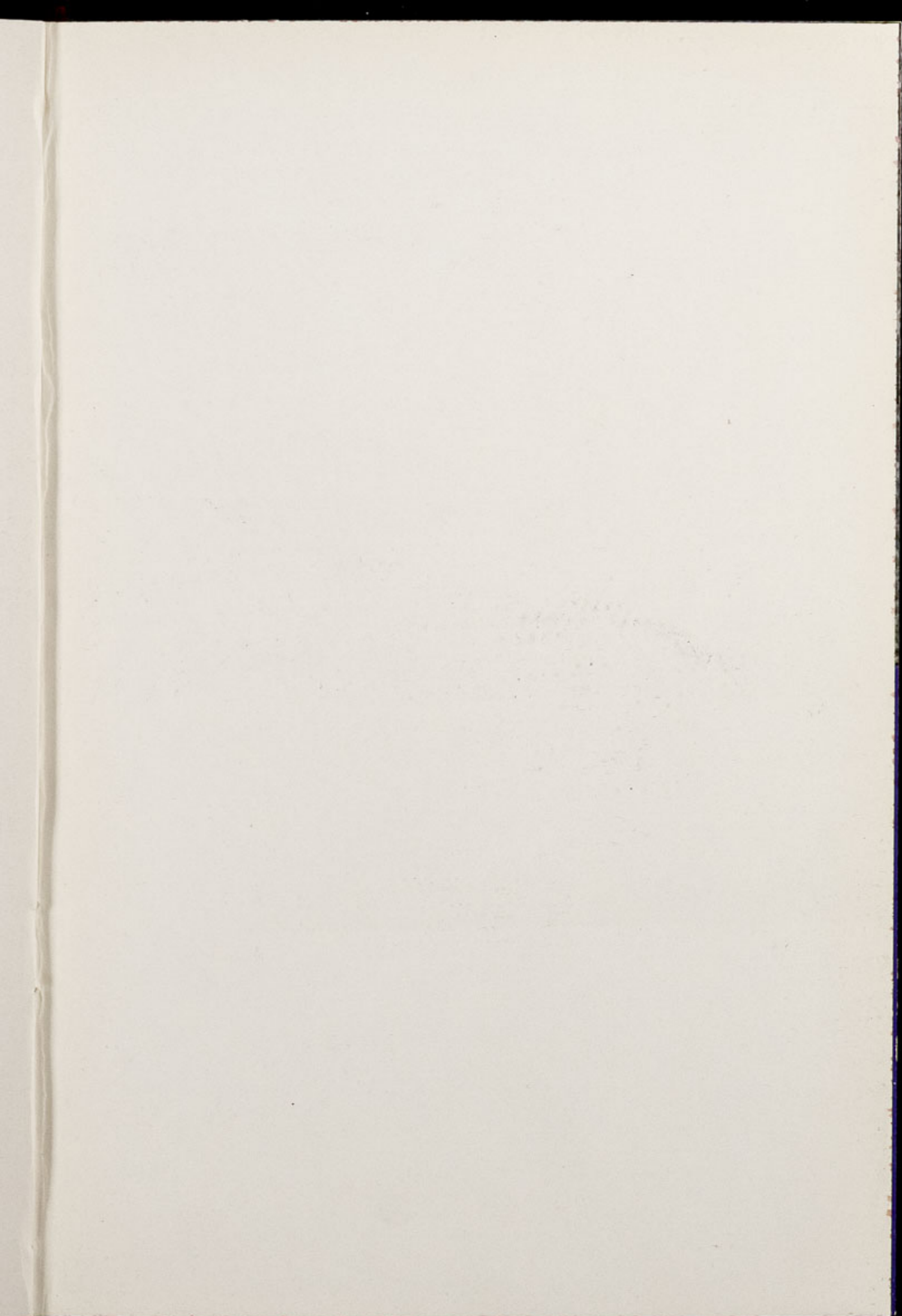
PUMA

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

Many reports of Pumas at large in this country have been given wide publicity by the press. Upon investigation, most of these animals have proved to be large dogs. It is amazing how many non-zoologists tend to think at once of an exotic Zoo animal whenever they see something which to them is unusual. About a year ago a Kangaroo was reported as having been seen on the main road about two miles from the Zoo. A coach driver said he had seen the animal late at night when it ran in front of his coach. The Police contacted the Zoo but none of our Kangaroos or Wallabies had escaped. Undoubtedly the person concerned had seen a hare which can look surprisingly large in the headlights of a car but is of course a common animal in this part of the country.

The most likely story of a Puma at large in this country is the one said to be roaming in Surrey and Sussex. This area is ideal for a Puma, for apart from extensive, thick woodland, heaths, etc., there is a plentiful supply of food in the form of Roe Deer, Hares and Rabbits. There have been a number of people who have tried to find this animal but have failed although several claim to have caught a fleeting glimpse of it. It is rather a difficult job to track down a lone Puma as normally they travel over a wide territory, rarely staying in one place for any length of time. If a Puma is at large in this country, one can only assume it has escaped from an exotic pet owner, but none have been reported as missing.





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