



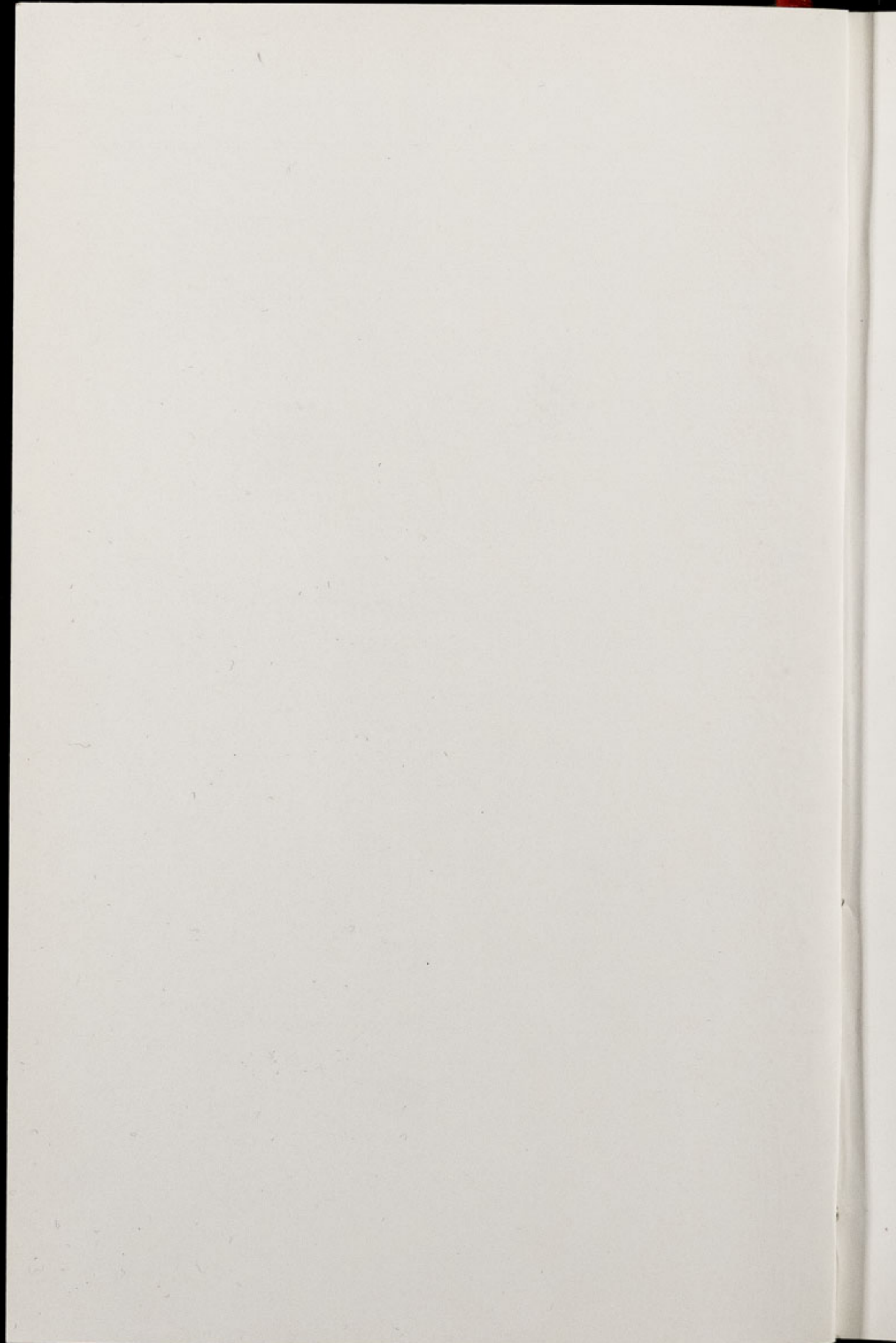
Chester Zoo News

AND GUIDE

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

April 1977

Price 12p



The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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COVER

Our young Cheetahs

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

Annual subscription — Two Pounds Twenty-four pence, postage paid

Telephone Chester 20106/7/8

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

Our Cover Photograph is that of the two young Cheetahs who came to us in November 1974, having been bred in October 1973. These Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) are housed in Enclosure 70 near the Oakfield Restaurant at the South Entrance. The youngsters are reaching an age when they will soon be able to breed and we look forward with interest to their successful mating.

* * *

"Coata", our Ring-tailed Lemur (*Lemur catta*), has again bred twins. This is her fourth breeding of twins and each set has comprised a pair. Only the female of the second set of twins died. "Coata" has therefore done extremely well to rear her young. She is the daughter of "Dottie" in the T.V. Programme "Animal Magic". The Ring-tailed Lemurs can be seen in the Monkey House.

* * *

In May 1975 we were presented with a pair of Kinkajous (*Potos flavus*). Recently they bred a youngster but unfortunately the mother abandoned her baby and it was taken away for hand-rearing. This is the second breeding from the pair.

A Viscacha (*Lagostomus maximus*) has also been bred at the zoo, and the youngster is being hand-reared.

The Curator of Mammals is hand-rearing both these animals. The youngsters are doing very well, and there are no problems at the moment.

* * *

Four Soay Sheep (*Ovis aries*) have been bred this Spring, comprising a pair and two that have not yet been sexed.

* * *

Two Pere David's Deer (*Elaphurus davidianus*) have also been bred.

* * *

The Gibbons which were housed near the Oakfield Restaurant have been moved back to Gibbon Island. It is too cold for them on the island in the winter and so they are given warmer quarters. If one were to wait long enough one might see a gibbon creeping down the island bank in an attempt to catch one of the ducks on the pool surrounding the island. Two males are in an enclosure at the back of the Monkey House, the two on the island being a true pair. One can hear the incredible call of the gibbons which is melodiously high-pitched and quite haunting. In the wild the "call" is used by the males for marking their territory.

BIRD NOTES

Twenty-five Fantail Doves have recently been presented to us. We made a dovecote and this has been erected in the Wallaby Paddock (Enclosure 101). The doves have settled down quite well in their new home. As they are free-flying we hope this means they must like us and have decided to stay.

A male White-headed Vulture (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*) and a pair of Splendid Scarlet-chested Parakeets (*Neophema splendida*) have been received in exchange. An African Grey Parrot (*Amazona aestiva*) has been presented to us.

Recently a pair of Golden-naped Macaws (*Ara auricollis*) originating from Eastern Bolivia, Mato Grosso, Paraguay and northern Argentina, and a pair of New Guinea Crimson-winged Parakeets (*Aprosmictus erythropterus coccineopterus*) have been received into the collection. These are on breeding loan.

REPTILE NEWS

In 1965 we were presented with a pair of Rainbow Boas (*Epicrates cenchris*). For six consecutive years we bred from these boas, in all 64 young. The pair mated again in 1976 and in March this year five boas were bred. The parents can be seen in the Reptile House, but for the time being the youngsters are off-show. We hope the public will be able to see them in a few weeks' time.

The distribution of the Rainbow Boa is Northern and central South America. *Epicrates cenchris* is the single mainland member of the genus Boa which has three species. It is non-venomous, coiling itself on the branches of trees in the daytime, and moving slowly on the ground in twilight or moonlight. It is not rare. An iridescence of the scales of this Boa is responsible for its common name, a striking iridescence appearing on the new skin when the old one has sloughed. Its colour is orange-brown to cinnamon-brown, with deeper coloured markings contributing to its rainbow-like appearance.

We are delighted that the female has bred these youngsters again, as the Curator of Reptiles thought she had passed the age for breeding.

WALLACE EXPEDITION TO AMAZONIA

In October last we reported that Mr. W. H. Timmis, the Curator at Chester Zoo, had been invited to join the Wallace Expedition planned to take place during the months of June, July, August and September 1978.

The expedition is named after Alfred Russel Wallace, the great nineteenth-century naturalist and explorer, whose neglected claim to fame is that his independent paper on the theory of Natural Selection was jointly published by the Linnaen Society in 1858 with Darwin's abstract on the same subject. Darwin went on to achieve lasting fame through *The Origin of Species*, but Wallace is now largely forgotten—except by the 1978 Expedition.

Wallace was a Hertford man who attended the local Richard Hale Grammar School. Of the eight men who comprise the 1978 Expedition, four were also educated at the same school. Three months will be spent in the region of the Rio Negro and the Rio Uaupes, tributaries of the upper Amazon, where they will retrace Wallace's route of the 1850s. As well as a scientific programme of flora, fauna, soil and climatic studies, they hope also to replace by film, sketches, paintings and observations some at least of Wallace's own priceless collection, lost forever when the ship bringing it back to England caught fire and sank.



A BLACK AND WHITE COPY OF THE COLOUR-PRINT OF THE PAINTING,
BY DAVID ORD KERR, OF THE PURPLE-BREASTED COTINGA (*Cotinga cotinga*)
UNDER FOREST CANOPY

The Wallace Expedition is a biological expedition to these remote regions of Brazil, and is to be carried out under the patronage of the Life Sciences Department of the Central London Polytechnic, with the support of the British Museum (Natural History) and Kew Gardens. Wallace reported that along the Rio Negro were prolific flora and fauna; areas along the Rio Uaupes to the Sao Jeronimo and Laurete Falls were regarded by him as the best collection sites he had ever visited.

All work carried out by the Expedition will be analysed and the results published in relevant journals and report of the Expedition's activities. Specimens will be sent to Museums in England and Brazil.

The two leaders of the Expedition are Adrian Warren and Andrew Sortwell, both of Richard Hale School. They will visit the region this summer to strengthen contacts in Manaus and to meet as many officials as possible. Formal application for the Expedition will be made to the Brazilian Authorities after Warren and Sortwells' reconnaissance. The following are the members of the 1978 Expedition the British party consisting of eight scientists.

Adrian Warren (Joint Leader)—has led five previous expeditions and is a wild life photographer.

Andrew Sortwell (Joint Leader)—entomologist at present developing soil collecting techniques in England suitable for securing soil invertebrates. He will be carrying out insect and soil studies.

Tim Cheshire, B.Sc.,—at present completing a Ph.D., at Birmingham University and will be in charge of the camp to ensure its smooth running.

Peter J. Leigh, B.Ed., Limnologist. He will be carrying out a fish survey and other Limnological studies on the Uaupes and its "igarapes".

Paul Myers—at present at Edinburgh University and hopes to qualify as a doctor of medicine in 1978. He will conduct a medically-based project and undertake the study of snails.

William Timmis, F.L.S., Curator at Chester Zoo, is Ornithologist and Herpetologist. He has had experience in six expeditions, among them being the 1964 Central New Guinea Bird of Paradise Collecting Expedition, in 1966 New Guinea and Pacific Islands, and in 1974 the Libyan and Chad Expedition. In 1963 he was on the U.S.A. and Mexico Expedition. He will undertake research projects on birds and reptiles.

David Ord Kerr is an artist and 'naturalist extraordinaire' and will carry out a faunal survey of the jungle canopy using a trapping technique developed and perfected for this expedition.

It is hoped that an experienced expedition botanist will also join the party.

A representative from a Brazilian University has been invited to join the Expedition, and another from the Brazilian Government. We are awaiting confirmation of these two invitations.

The Expedition's immediate need is for funds to support the 1977 reconnaissance to be undertaken by Adrian Warren and Andrew Sortwell this summer. A colour print of the Purple-breasted Cotinga (*Cotinga cotinga*) is being offered by the Expedition Team at £12.50. This is a superb picture of the blue Cotinga bird—a rare native of South America, painted by David Ord Kerr, the artist of the team. A numbered and signed limited edition of 350 colour reproductions has been printed by Creasey's of Hertford. The original painting of the Purple-breasted Cotinga will be given by the artist to the purchaser of the one of numbered prints. The number is already under seal in the Expedition's bank and the seal will only be broken on the return of the Expedition to the United Kingdom.

Eric Hosking, the celebrated bird photographer, has written—"What a beautiful painting. Not only is the bird exquisitely captured by David Ord Kerr, but the surrounding branches, complete with epiphytes, make a very attractive picture."

The Purple-breasted Cotinga (*Cotinga cotinga*) is one of the five known species of the genus *Cotinga*, the most luridly coloured of the bizarre family Cotingidae, birds with weird feathers and

CHESTER ZOO

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

FOR A COMPLETE TOUR OF THE ZOO — Follow Nos 1-116m South Entrance
or Nos.16-116 from North Entrance then return to Nos 1-14

**Chester Zoo is Open Daily
from 9.00 a.m. until dusk.**

To LECTURE HALL
(Private)

1. SOUTH ENTRANCE

- 2. Peacock Enclosure
- 3. Wapiti Paddock
- 4. Coati Enclosure
- 5. Aviaries
- 6. Milk Bar
- 7. CORONATION HALL
- 8. CLOAKROOM, FIRST AID, TOILETS, MOTHER AND BABY ROOM
- 9. CAFETERIA
- 10. Picnic Lawn
- 11. Bears
- 12. Sunken Garden
- 13. Kiosk
- 14. AQUARIUM
- 15. NORTH ENTRANCE
- 16. PUSH CHAIRS, WHEEL CHAIRS, LOST CHILDREN
- 17. PARROT HOUSE
- 18. Free Flight Aviary
- 19. APE HOUSE
- 20. Picnic Lawn
- 21. Aviaries
- 22. TOILETS
- 23. Tuatara Exhibit
- 24. Peccaries
- 25. Waterbus Halt
- 26. Birds of Prey Aviaries
- 27. Condor Aviary
- 28. Jackal and Hyena Enclosures
- 29. Animal Enclosure
- 30. Percupine Enclosure
- 31. Coypus
- 32. Beavers
- 33. Giraffe House

- 34. Camel House
- 35. Waterbus Halt
- 36. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL & REPTILE HOUSES
- 37. CHIMPANZEES
- 38. Floribunda Rose Garden
- 39. Mammal House
- 40. Gibbon Island
- 41. H.T. Rose Garden
- 42. Aviaries
- 43. Flamingos
- 44. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 45. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 46. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 47. Penguins
- 48. Sealions
- 49. Rock Garden
- 50. Polar Bears
- 51. Cat Enclosure
- 52. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 53. Anteaters
- 54. BIRD HOUSE
- 55. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT
- 56. Ape Nursery
- 57. TOILETS
- 58. Lions
- 59. SOUVENIR SHOP
- 60. TOILETS
- 61. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT

- 62. P.O. Telephone
- 63. Aviary
- 64. Animal Enclosure
- 65. Animal Enclosure
- 66. Ornamental Rock Garden
- 67. Malayan Bears
- 68. Animal Enclosure
- 69. Aviary
- 70. Cheetahs
- 71. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE AND KIOSK
- 72. Waterbus Halt
- 73. Fountain Flower Gardens
- 74. Rose Garden
- 75. Red Lechwe
- 76. Red Lechwe
- 77. Deer or Antelope Enclosure
- 78. Waterbus Halt
- 79. Zebra and Deer Enclosure
- 80. Kamchatka Bears
- 81. ELEPHANTS
- 82. Hippos
- 83. Tapirs
- 84. Small Mammal House
- 85. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 86. Ankole Cattle
- 87. Emus and Cranes
- 88. Stork Enclosures
- 89. Baboon Pens
- 90. Cat House
- 91. Big Cat Enclosures

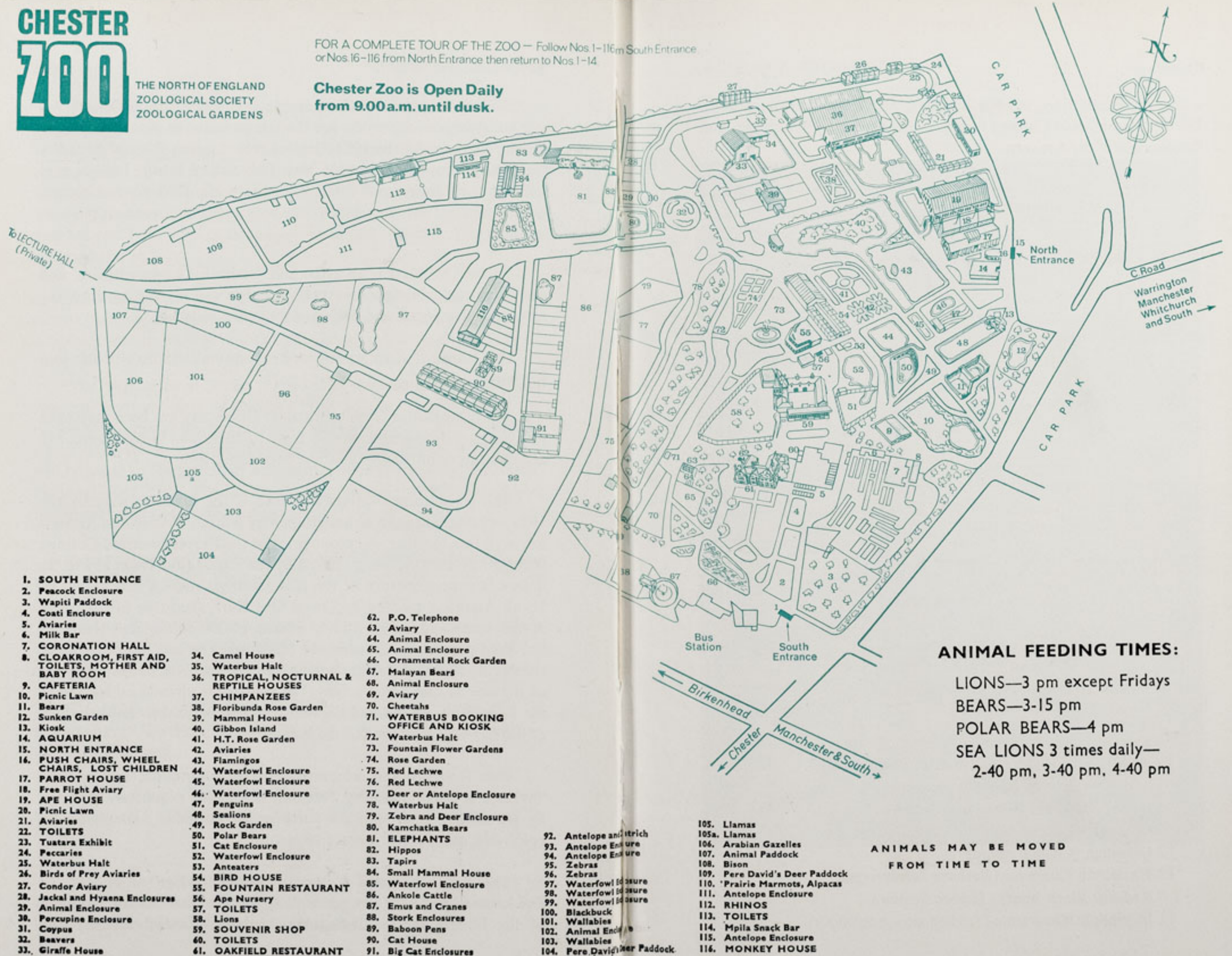
- 92. Antelope and ostrich
- 93. Antelope Enclosure
- 94. Antelope Enclosure
- 95. Zebras
- 96. Zebras
- 97. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 98. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 99. Waterfowl Enclosure
- 100. Blackbuck
- 101. Wallabies
- 102. Animal Enclosure
- 103. Wallabies
- 104. Pere David's Deer Paddock

- 105. Llamas
- 105a. Llamas
- 106. Arabian Gazelles
- 107. Animal Paddock
- 108. Bison
- 109. Pere David's Deer Paddock
- 110. Prairie Marmots, Alpacas
- 111. Antelope Enclosure
- 112. RHINOS
- 113. TOILETS
- 114. Mpila Snack Bar
- 115. Antelope Enclosure
- 116. MONKEY HOUSE

ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES:

- LIONS—3 pm except Fridays
- BEARS—3-15 pm
- POLAR BEARS—4 pm
- SEA LIONS 3 times daily—
2-40 pm, 3-40 pm, 4-40 pm

ANIMALS MAY BE MOVED
FROM TIME TO TIME



wattle ornamentation, strange displays, and calls like alarm bells. The Purple-breasted Cotinga ranges in the Guianas, Venezuela, and Brazil north of the Amazon.

Cotingas are stocky birds, $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 9 inches long. The flight is direct and powerful, and they are unusually strongly built for their size. While the males are brightly coloured, the females are relatively drab in fulvous browns.

All Cotingas are mainly fruit-eaters, though they will vary their diet with insects taken on the wing. Practically nothing is known about the behaviour and nesting of the Cotingas and the nests of only two species — the spangled and the blue — have been described. Both are simple saucer-shaped constructions of dry rootlets and twigs. The eggs of these species are white with a faint bluish tinge.

David Ord Kerr's painting is shown on Page 5. The signed copies measure 14" x $16\frac{1}{4}$ ". Orders for these colour prints can be given to Mr. W. H. Timmis, Curator of Birds and Apes, Chester Zoo, a member of the Expedition Team.

AQUARIUM NEWS

We are pleased to report a number of tropical freshwater fishes which have been acquired for the collection. Some are new to the Aquarium but others we have had before. Amongst those we have had previously are the following:

- 12 Lemon Tetras (*Hyphessobrycon pulchripinnis*)
- 12 Red Phantom Tetras (*Megalamphodus sweglesi*)
- 12 Glowlight Tetras (*Hermigrammus erythrozomus*)
- 6 Green and Gold Corydoras Catfish
- 2 Common Talking Catfish (*Doras hancocki*)
- 12 Glassfish (*Chanda ranga*)
- 12 Harlequin Characin (*Rasbora heteromorpha*)
- 6 Red-tail Black Sharks (*Labeo bicolor*)
- 12 Moonlight Gouramis (*Trichogaster microlepis*)



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

SOUTH AMERICAN LEAF FISH (*Monocirrhus polyacanthus*)

Those which are new to the aquarium are as follows:

- 4 Butterfly Fishes (*Pantodon muchholzi*)
- 1 Electric Eel (*Electrophorus electricus*)
- 3 Asiatic Arowanas (*Scleropages formosus*)
- 3 South American Leaf Fishes (*Monocirrhus polyacanthus*)
- 12 Emperor Tetras (*Nematobrycon palmeri*)
- 2 Mouse Botias (*Botia horae*)
- 6 Headstanders (*Avramites microcephalus*)

Of these the following deserve a special mention:

Butterfly-fish originate from Tropical West Africa, Niger, Cameroons and the Congo Basin. They will grow to a length of 10 cms. in the wild, occurring mostly in large still weed-grown waters and stagnant backwaters of rivers. The food of this species is mainly that of insects on the surface of the water. Their wide wing-like pectoral fins enable them to glide for a short distance over the surface of the water. In aquaria these fishes have a diet of cockroaches, crickets and soft beetles, fishes smaller than themselves and insect larvae.

The head and the body of this fish is flattened above and bluntly rounded below, giving it a boat-shaped appearance. The nostrils are tubular and the mouth large, directed upwards. The back and sides of its body are a grey-green to brownish silver colour marked with a sharply defined dark streak which fluctuates, passing forward from the rear part of the head on to the lower jaw.

This is a most interesting species, and the fry are not easy to rear since only the smallest morsels such as minute flies, springtails and plant alghides are accepted by them. The eggs of these fishes float on the surface of the water and young hatch after three days.

* * *

Electric Eels (*Electrophorus electricus*) originate from North-eastern South America, inhabiting many parts of the Amazon and Orinoco Rivers. In the wild they will grow to about 230 cms.

This species is typically eel-like in appearance, most of its body being cylindrical in shape but somewhat laterally compressed near the anal fin. These fishes do not have scales. They are however possessed

of a large electric organ which takes up 4/5ths of the body. This contains several thousand elements which are called "Electroblasts"; these are arranged similarly to those cells contained in a dry-battery. When the eel moves about it emits small direction-finding impulses in the region of about 50 per second. The potency of the electric organs increases with the size of the fish. When the electric eel comes into contact with other fishes, amphibians and even large mammals such as horses, these creatures can be stunned. There can be a full shock to a strength of 1 Ampere, and the work done can exceed 100 Watts (about 0.5 Amperes at 200-300 Volts). Electric eels are predatory and fish killed by an electric impulse are consumed by them.

The colour of an adult eel is olive-brown, with the head and throat a brilliant orange. Younger fishes have light and dark marbled markings, and the young pale ochre-coloured lines and bands. A distinction is the shining emerald colour of the eyes.

Young electric eels are snappy, but the larger ones live well together in aquaria. The latter eat fishes for preference, but the young ones eat worms and insect larvae.

Asiatic Arowanas (*Scleropages formosus*) range from Borneo, Banka, Sumatra and Thailand, and in the wild will grow to 90 cms; the body is long and strongly compressed, and its belly is keeled. When open the mouth is quite large and steeply inclined. There are two small barbels on the chin.

The general colouration of the Asiatic Arowana is a dark olive to brown, the undersides having a greenish silver and gold sheen with longitudinal rows of dark spots. The fins are a pale sea-green to sky-blue with brown to reddish-brown fins. This fish inhabits weedy, slow-flowing waters. It is predatory and feeds mainly on insects, the larger of the species feeding on other smaller fishes.

* * *

The body of the South American Leaf Fish (*Monocirrhus polyacanthus*) is thick-set, deep, and strongly compressed. There is a spine behind the gill-cover. This is an interesting and beautiful species. The fishes appear to descend through the water like Autumn leaves falling from a tree, hence their common name. The colouration of these Leaf Fishes is variable according to temperature and degree of sensation. The general colour is pale grey to brownish-green,



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

LONG-HORNED COWFISH (*Lactophrys cornatus*)

and brown to black. Their caudal and pectorals fins are colourless and transparent. A photograph on Page 11 shows the leaf-like appearance of these fishes.

When spawning the females are less colourful than the males, becoming more brown. At this time the males display deep black with silvery-blue or turquoise spots, and the back parts of the dorsal and anal fins and the caudal become black.

* * *

In the Marine Section we have a Cowfish (*Lactophrys cornutus*) which is new to the collection. This species originates from the Indian and Pacific Oceans. It can grow to a length of 50 cms. in the wild and is known as the long-horned Cowfish. A photograph of this remarkable fish is on Page 14.

The Long-horned Cowfish is a yellow-orange colour; sometimes the colour changes to olive-green, with a purplish mark on each of the bony plates which cover its body. These plates comprise an external skeleton. The two forehorns are characteristic, being situated above the eyes pointing forward. There are two horns beside the anal fin which point backward, becoming an extension to the tail.

GARDENING NOTES

At this time of the year we are very busy in the glasshouse section making sure we shall have enough plants ready for our summer displays. Although everything is potted on and growing in boxes, great care is needed to ensure that they are ready for planting out at the end of May and early June. Although it has been mentioned in our gardening notes before that our bedding schemes need approximately 80,000 plants, it might be interesting to know that 35,000 of that number are grown in clay and peat pots. This means that when everything is potted up the greenhouses and frames soon become full. Plants grown in boxes take up less room, but certain plants such as Begonia and Heliotrope are best grown in pots, to avoid root disturbance when planting out. A careful watch has to be maintained for water and ventilation on hot sunny days as we cannot afford to have any losses.

Many of the rockery plants are now in flower and no doubt it

will be of interest to mention a few of them. Aubrieta, common name Rock Cress, with its many shades of purple and red is very popular, especially for growing on dry walls. We have a small bed of Aubrieta on the corner of the Sea Lion Pool, and this is established in a dry wall. In spite of the drought last summer it recovered and is now a mass of colour; a display of Hyacinths is in the same bed. Campanulas, common name Bell Flower, give a mass of blooms, usually blue or white. We have several varieties and most of them spread very quickly.

Anemone pulsatilla, common name Pasque Flower, grows to about 9 in. high, and this has a large purple flower. Alpine Phlox will be coming into flower now. One of our best varieties is "Brightness" and its blooms are pink. *Saxifraga* is one of the best rockery plants for cover as its growing habit is neat and evergreen, giving it a good appearance after it has flowered. Some of our varieties are Apple Blossom, Bees Pink, Winston Churchill, Bathoniensis (crimson), and Sanguinea. *Tiarella cordifolia*, common name Foam Flower, has a light green foliage and grows to 9 in. high; it likes a shady position. The flowers are white, small and clustered giving the plant a foam-like appearance.

Veronica prostrata is trailing and has bright blue flowers in June. *Silene schafta* is a free-flowering deep rose-coloured alpine, flowering later on in July. Iberis, the perennial Candytuft, flowers in April. The variety Little Gem grows to 3 in., and its colour is white. *Gypsophila repens* is quick-growing; it has a spreading habit, and its blooms are rose-coloured. *Armeria* has a compact green foliage—we have two varieties, pink and white. Its common name is Thrift or Sea Pink. *Antennaria* has grey foliage and is low-growing. It has white or rosy-red flowers, and when it goes to seed it looks like cotton, hence the common name Cotton Weed.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

New readers of the CHESTER ZOO NEWS who would like to receive the magazine regularly may be interested to know that subscription forms can be obtained from the souvenir shops. An annual subscription (12 issues) costs £2.24, postage paid, which can either be handed over the counter at the shops or posted with the completed form to the Director-Secretary, Chester Zoo, Chester.

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**

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