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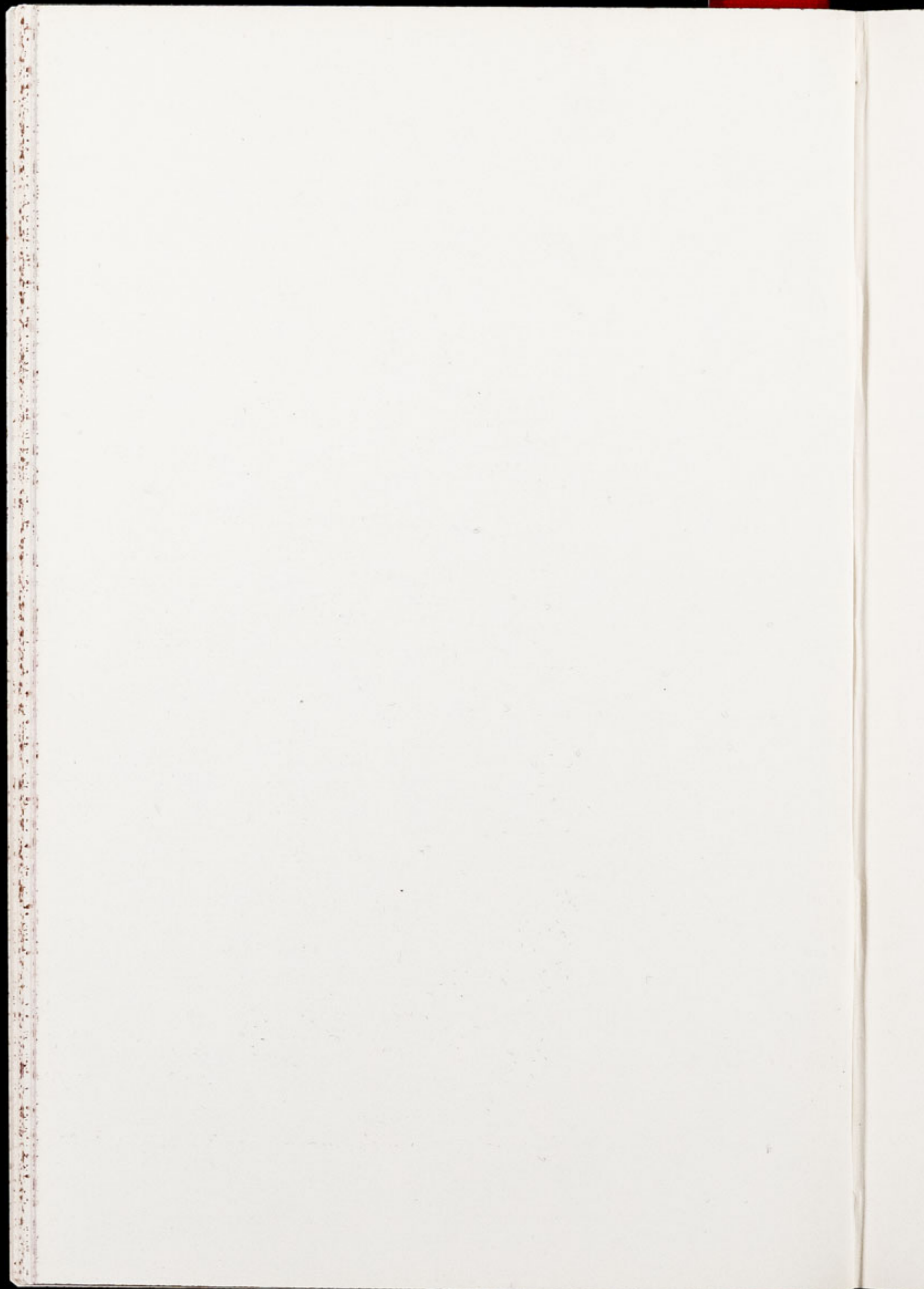
# **Chester Zoo News**

## **AND GUIDE**

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

March 1970

Price 1/-



# The North of England Zoological Society

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, UPTON-BY-CHESTER

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*COVER: Marmosets.*

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### ARRIVALS AND BIRTHS IN THE MAMMAL SECTION

Among the early births this spring were two Bagot Goats and two sets of twin Soay Sheep. Originally these were in an enclosure near the North Entrance known as the Donkey's Nest but it was discovered that the young animals were squeezing through the fence and wandering onto the main road, so they and their mothers have been transferred temporarily to the Sika Deer enclosure, No. 65 on the Zoo plan. Two shaggy Highland Calves can be seen in their enclosure near the Monkey House.

Regular readers of the "Zoo News" will remember that last year we finally acquired a male American Bison from Woburn Abbey to replace "Ferdinand" who died in 1968. The first calves to be sired by this bull, one male and one female, were born on the 24th and 28th March respectively. Both are sturdy and beginning to develop the characteristic Bison hump.

A Jaguar has produced two cubs but at the time of writing these are still in the den and not on view to the public. Had it been warmer during the past few weeks they would be on show now but they never venture outside in cold weather.

Recent births in the Mammal House were three South American Agoutis (*Dasyprocta aguti*), all of which are in good health. Last year two were born but as one of these was killed by the mother the area is being kept as quiet as possible so that she will not take such extreme measures again.

A baby has been born to a Hamadryas Baboon (*Papio hamadryas*) which we acquired last year. The present group now totals six — two males, two females, one juvenile and one baby.



AMERICAN BISON WITH CALF

*Jack Smith*

One Rufous bellied Wallaby (*Thylogale billardierii*) and several Bennett's (*Protemnodon rufogrisea*) have been observed with young in their pouches and one of the latter has twins. This is not a common occurrence and usually when it does happen one of the "Joeys" is weaker than the other and is eventually rejected. However, these twins seem to be in very good health and are sharing the pouch without dispute. Both species of Wallaby come from Tasmania where the climatic conditions are very similar to those in this country.

Two young Marmosets were presented to the Zoo and are going through a period of observation in the animal hospital.

Two Gerbils (*Tatera indica*) have also been presented and can be seen in the Nocturnal House. These animals, which are found in the desert areas of Africa and Asia, have recently become very popular as pets, as they can be kept very easily.

### BIRD NOTES

At the present time the old Parrot House is in process of being demolished and most of the birds housed there previously are now on show in the new building. Of the others the Great Black Woodpecker has been transferred to the Temperate Bird House and the Lesser Patagonian Conures to the Oakfield Aviaries, No. 5 on the plan. The Golden Pheasants have been released in the new flight aviary.

Nesting barrels have been placed in each of the aviaries in the new Parrot House and as several pairs of birds become fully mature this year, we hope to have some breeding successes. The particular barrels we have obtained are made of seasoned oak staves which are fused together and therefore present no rough edges on the inside for the Parrots to chew. Rough wood barrels have been used in the past and while the females have been sitting on the eggs they have



MALE JAGUAR

*J. Whitworth*

diligently chewed the walls all around them until the tops of the barrels have fallen off. Of course the eggs have then been abandoned. The barrels are half-filled with turf and on this is put a layer of moistened peat which provides the best conditions for nesting. Among the species showing interest in them are the Eclectus Parrots which bred last year but did not rear their young successfully. Also the Roseate Cockatoos are becoming very aggressive towards the Keepers which is a sign that they are probably about to breed.

There are several new arrivals in the Parrot House and these include a Finch's or Lilac-crowned Amazon Parrot (*Amazona finschi*) which has joined the other assorted species of Amazons in the new house. This species originates from Western Mexico; its plumage is predominantly green with a patch of red on the forehead and one of lilac on the top of the head.

We have also acquired a pair of very beautiful Crowned Pigeons (*Goura cristata*) which are being accommodated in the new Parrot House until the weather becomes warmer when they will be moved to the flight aviary. The three species of Crowned Pigeons are the largest of the Pigeon family and all are found in New Guinea. *Goura cristata* is confined to the western region and grows to about 33ins. in length with a crest of blue feathers about 3in. long. The plumage on the head, breast and underparts is a light smoky blue; on the wings it is a darker blue with patches of deep purple on the shoulder parts.

Other new arrivals to be seen in the Parrot House are a pair of Rufous-sided Crakes (*Laterallus melanophaius*). These were also destined for the new flight aviary but the female has started to collect nesting material and as there is no record of this species being bred in the British Isles, they will not be disturbed. In colour they are a reddy-brown on the head, sides and back, white on the breast



HAMADRYAS BABOONS

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

# GUIDE TO ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

## ANIMAL FEEDING TIMES

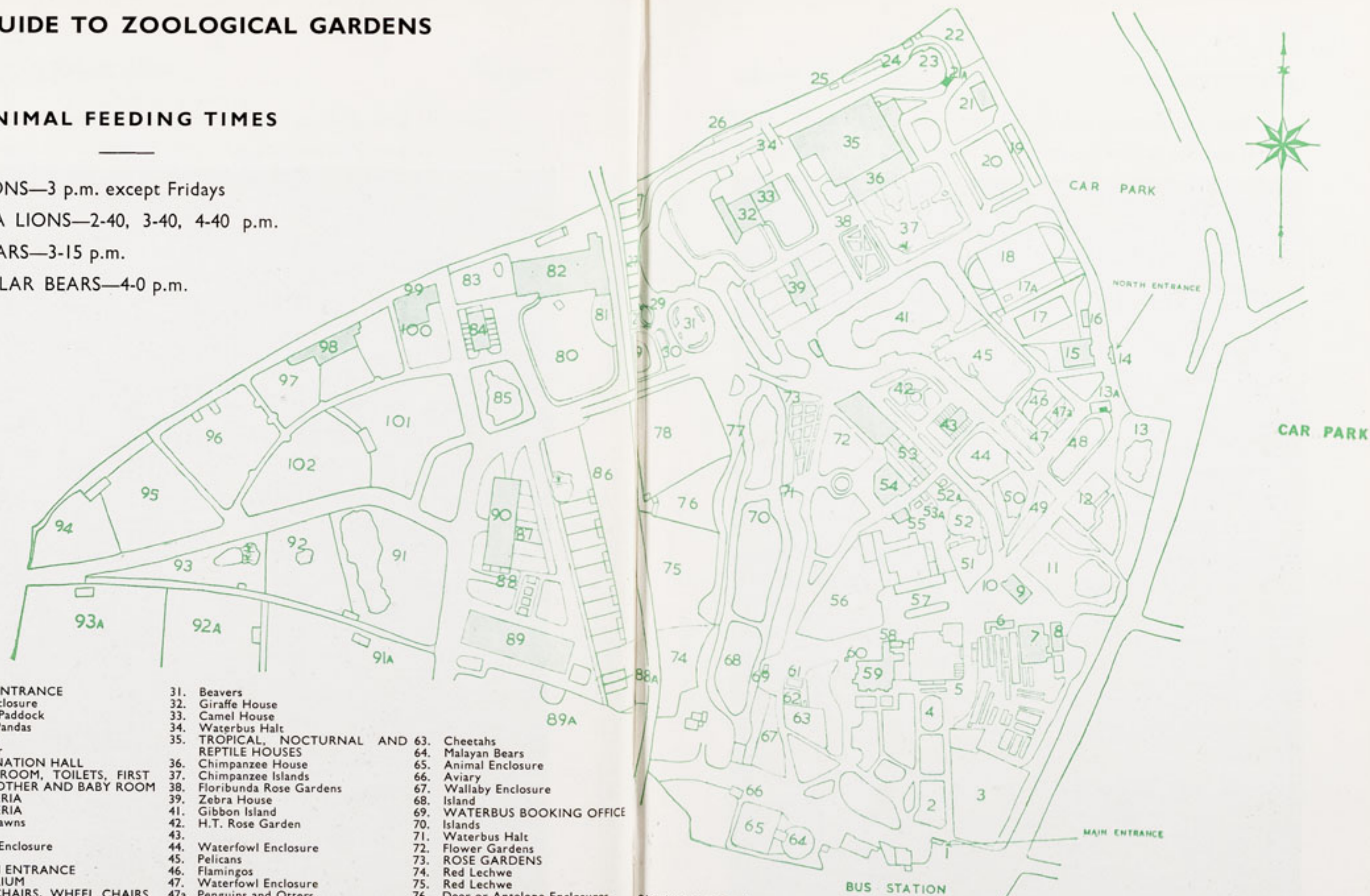
LIONS—3 p.m. except Fridays

SEA LIONS—2-40, 3-40, 4-40 p.m.

BEARS—3-15 p.m.

POLAR BEARS—4-0 p.m.

- |   |  |                                 |
|---|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. MAIN ENTRANCE  | 31. Beavers                                | 63. Cheetahs                    |
| 2. Bird Enclosure                                       | 32. Giraffe House                          | 64. Malayan Bears               |
| 3. Wapiti Paddock                                       | 33. Camel House                            | 65. Animal Enclosure            |
| 4. Lesser Pandas  | 34. Waterbus Halt                          | 66. Aviary                      |
| 5. Aviaries   | 35. TROPICAL, NOCTURNAL AND REPTILE HOUSES | 67. Wallaby Enclosure           |
| 6. Milk Bar   | 36. Chimpanzee House                       | 68. Island                      |
| 7. CORONATION HALL                                      | 37. Chimpanzee Islands                     | 69. WATERBUS BOOKING OFFICE     |
| 8. CLOAKROOM, TOILETS, FIRST AID, MOTHER AND BABY ROOM  | 38. Floribunda Rose Gardens                | 70. Islands                     |
| 9. CAFETERIA  | 39. Zebra House                            | 71. Waterbus Halt               |
| 10. CAFETERIA   | 41. Gibbon Island                          | 72. Flower Gardens              |
| 11. Picnic Lawns  | 42. H.T. Rose Garden                       | 73. ROSE GARDENS                |
| 12. Bears   | 43. Waterfowl Enclosure                    | 74. Red Lechwe                  |
| 13. Animal Enclosure                                    | 44. Pelicans                               | 75. Red Lechwe                  |
| 13a. Kiosk  | 45. Flamingos                              | 76. Deer or Antelope Enclosures |
| 14. NORTH ENTRANCE                                      | 46. Waterfowl Enclosure                    | 77. Waterbus Halt               |
| 15. AQUARIUM  | 47a. Penguins and Otters                   | 78. Zebra and Deer Enclosure    |
| 16. PUSH CHAIRS, WHEEL CHAIRS, FIRST AID, LOST CHILDREN | 48. Sea Lion Pool                          | 79. Kamchatka Bears             |
| 17. Parrot House  | 49. Rock Garden                            | 80. Elephant Paddock            |
| 17a. Large Flight Aviary                                | 50. Polar Bears                            | 81. Hippo Paddock               |
| 18. APE HOUSE   | 51. Tigers                                 | 82. PACHYDERM HOUSE             |
| 19. RAINBOW CAFE AND SHOP                               | 52. Waterfowl Enclosure                    | 83. Tapir Enclosure             |
| 20. Aviaries and Picnic Lawn                            | 52a. Anteater                              | 84. Small Mammal House          |
| 21. TOILETS   | 53. BIRD HOUSE                             | 85. Waterfowl Enclosure         |
| 21a. Tuatara House                                      | 53a. Nursery                               | 86. Antelope and Cattle         |
| 22. Peccaries   | 54. FOUNTAIN RESTAURANT                    | 87. Storks and Ostriches        |
| 23. Waterbus Halt                                       | 55. TOILETS                                | 88. Monkey Enclosures           |
| 24. Birds of Prey Aviary                                | 56. Lions                                  | 88a. Lion and Tiger Enclosure   |
| 25. Birds of Prey Aviary                                | 57. NEW ZOO SHOP                           | 89. Cat House                   |
| 26. Owls  | 58. TOILETS                                | 89a. Jaguars                    |
| 27. Jackal and Hyaena Enclosures                        | 59. OAKFIELD RESTAURANT                    | 90. MONKEY HOUSE                |
| 28. Animal Enclosure                                    | 60. G.P.O. Telephone Kiosk                 | 91. Waterfowl                   |
| 29. Porcupines and Raccoons                             | 61. Animal Enclosure                       |                                 |
| 30. Coypus  | 62. Animal Enclosure                       |                                 |



- |                             |
|-----------------------------|
| 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

with black and white stripes on the underparts. They are found in Central and South America from Nicaragua to Ecuador in the west and from Venezuela and British Guiana to Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina in the east.

A number of Diamond Doves (*Geopelia cuneata*) from Australia have been released in the Oakfield Aviary. These are small Doves measuring only about 8in. in length which includes 2 to 3in. of tail. In colour they are a light grey on the head fading to white on the underparts and a dark grey tinged with brown on the back and wings. There are pinkish rings around the eyes and small but very white spots on the wings which give the appearance of bright stones and from which the name Diamond Dove is derived.

An Alexandrine Parrakeet (*Psittacula eupatria*) which arrived at the Zoo in December has been introduced to the aviary occupied by the Ring-necked Parrakeets.

Despite the exceptionally cold spring the Great Eagle Owls and two pairs of Spotted Eagle Owls have gone to nest. The Great Eagle Owls breed regularly each year but in the last few years only one pair of Spotted Eagle Owls has laid eggs and these have been infertile. This year we hope to be more successful. A point of interest is that the Spectacled Owls have also become very aggressive towards their Keeper, which is usually a prelude to mating. However this species has not been bred in captivity very often and we can only wait and hope. The only arrival in the Owl section is a Tawny Owl.

Two pairs of Massena's Lorikeets (*Trichoglossus haematodes massena*) have been housed in an aviary in the Temperate Bird House. This species is very similar in appearance to the Louisiade Lorikeet which we bred for the first time last year. The Massena's come from the New Hebrides where, as they are usually seen in large flocks



SPOTTED EAGLE OWL

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

high in the coconut trees, they are more commonly known as Coconut Lorikeets. Their diet in the wild consists of nectar, blossoms and ripe fruit.

A second pair of Tambourine Doves (*Tympanistria t. fraseri*) has joined the original pair in the Tropical House and we have also acquired a pair of Laosian Black-necklaced Laughing Thrushes (*Garrulax monileger schauenseei*). The latter have never been bred in the British Isles and are quite an unusual exhibit. They originate from Northern Thailand and their plumage is an orange-buff colour on the breast and underparts and a light brown on the back; there is also a black ring around the neck.

### GENERAL NEWS

Two Lionesses were moved recently to the new enclosure to join Kim, the young male Lion which was transferred there from quarantine quarters in December. Introducing Lions can be quite a hazardous affair but after a few initial squabbles they appear to have settled in very well.

The Lionesses arrived last year from Sweden with another young male which is still in the quarantine enclosure near the Oakfield Restaurant. Keepers now have the difficult task of introducing him to the four females in the adjacent enclosure.

Eight Coatis (*Nasua nasua*) have been transferred from their winter quarters in the Camel House to an open run at the far side of the Cat House. In the wild the females leave the main group about a week before they are due to give birth and construct nests in trees for the purpose of producing and nursing the young. However, we have placed barrels in the pen which they will use as breeding nests.

Repairs to one of the Otter pools have now been completed and all the seven Oriental Small-clawed Otters (*Aonyx cinerea*) can be seen in the Mammal House.



TAWNY OWL

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

### GARDENING NOTES

The Pineapple (*Ananas cosmosus*) is a native of tropical America. The variety illustrated is variegated, which is a much rarer form than the green-leafed one. To grow them to perfection they require a temperature of 70°-75° in winter and 75°-90° in summer. We do not maintain these temperatures but they do quite well under the conditions we provide, though the pines are somewhat smaller. Both the green and variegated are grown in our greenhouses and when in fruit are exhibited in the Tropical House, being always of interest to visitors.

Our Orchids have flowered exceptionally well this year and groups have been staged in the Tropical House from early January, starting with *Cypripediums* and *Odontoglossums*, these being followed by *Dendrobiums* and *Cymbidiums*. Groups of the latter are still displayed and some will continue to flower well into May. We have some 600 Orchids in all, consisting mainly of the four species mentioned but with a few others as well.

The Tropical House has had its usual spring clean, *i.e.*, pruning, top dressing, etc., and some interesting plants which are new to us have been added to the collection. This house is now well established and furnished with plants from ground level to the roof, which was always our intention. The various Animal and Bird Houses have also received the usual spring treatment and the first *Bougainvillea* flowers are appearing in the Monkey House.

Planting has now been carried out in the new Parrot House. In the centre of the house a large circular bed has been planted with varieties of *Fuchsia* and in the centre of this is an *Abutilon vitifolium*, the blue variety, which will become a tree reaching to the roof. The corner beds along the public passage have been planted with *Abutilon*



PINEAPPLE IN TROPICAL HOUSE

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

megopotamicum and *Passiflora caerulea* which will climb up and onto the ceiling. On each of the four walls by the entrances we have planted the lovely blue *Plumbago capensis*. These are small at the moment as they were only propagated last autumn and grown specially for this position but they will quickly cover the walls and grow well onto the roof.

The area around this house has been landscaped and the beds and borders planted with flowering shrubs, trees and roses. Shrubs and trees have also been planted in the new flight aviary. The shrubs came from our own nursery, grown from cuttings rooted in the greenhouses.

Pressure of work in the greenhouses is very high as we again prepare for summer bedding displays with some 80,000 plants to raise and grow from tubers, cuttings and seed. Due to the very late spring we are having to wait longer for our spring flowers but the few warm days and nights we have had recently have really got things moving and, if these conditions continue, soon everything will be in full flower.

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We would like to make a correction to the January issue in which we stated that a Giant Anteater had been acquired in 1969. This should have been a Silky Anteater.

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