

# PENSCYNOR

## WILD LIFE PARK



# WELCOME TO PENCSCYNOR

We hope that you will enjoy your visit to Pencscynor and that this guide book will enhance your encounter with the animals who live here and provide a lasting memento of what we hope will be the first of your many visits. Please remember that the zoo is constantly changing; animals will arrive, be born, leave, die, or move to new cages during the life of this guide.

## Useful information:

Opening times: 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. or dusk, every day except Christmas Day.

Telephone: Neath (0639) 642189

Feeding times: displayed in the entrance.

Party rates available on application (twenty people and over).

First Aid, lost property/children: main office, next to entrance.

Dogs are not allowed in the park

Trodd freuddwyd yn ffordd o fyw i Mr. Idris Hale pan welodd Bencscynor am y tro cyntaf. Cynigiodd y ty a'i erddi eang gyfle iddo sefydlu Parc Anifeiliaid ag Adar yn Ne Cymru fel y bryddwydiodd ers yn blentyn.

Am flynyddoedd lawer bu Mr. Hale yn teithio'r byd yn fflmio creaduriaid gwyllt yn eu cynefin naturiol a thra yr oedd yn gwneud hyn cynyddodd ei ddymuniad i ddod a'r adar lliwgar a'r anifeiliaid diddorol yn ol i Gymru.

Pan gwelodd Bencscynor felly rhaid oedd ei brynu a dechreu adeiladu'r freuddwyd fawr. Adeiladwyd Pencscynor yn 1856 gan Thomas Leyson aelod o un o deuluoedd hynaf Castellnedd. Roedd un o'i gyndadau, er engraifft, yn dad-abad olaf Abatty Nedd. Saif y ty a'r gerddi ar lethrau'r mynydd sydd yn gysgod rhag wyntoedd oer y Gogledd. Rhed nant drwy'r gerddi, nant sydd yn rhedeg am bedair milltir o dan y ddaear cyn dod i'r wyneb ym Mhencscynor a sydd yn syrthio yn rhaedr ddeugain troedfedd o uchder. Amgylchynir y gerddi gan goedwig a mae yma safle arbennig o addas felly i adar a chreaduriaid o'r gwyllt.

Agorwyd Parc Creaduriaid Pencscynor yn swyddogol ym 1971 gan y teledydd enwog Johnny Morris. Yma ym mhorth Cwm Nedd, cym hyfryd sydd yn llond o hanes, mae Idris Hale wedi creu paradwys i greaduriaid. Gwobr Mr. a Mrs. Hale ar ol blynyddoedd lawer o ymdrech, a thorri calon hefyd, ydyw'r pleser a gaiff ymwelwyr o bob ran o'r byd yng Ngerddi Pencscynor.

Gobeithiwn y cewch chwithau hefyd fwynhad yn eich ymweliad a ni. Brysiwch yn ol yn y dyfodol. Mi fydd pob un, gan gynnwys y creaduriaid, yn hapus i'ch gweld.



Pencscynor is a member of the National Federation of Zoological Gardens of Great Britain and Ireland.





# THROUGH THE YEARS

For over 3000 years of recorded history man has kept exotic wildlife in captivity. In the fifteenth century B.C. Queen Hatshepsut kept leopards and monkeys in the grounds of her Egyptian palace; in 340 B.C. Alexander the Great appointed Aristotle to study the huge collection at Alexandria; Marco Polo returned from thirteenth century China with tales of Kubla Khan's enormous menagerie at Xanadu.

Pencynor's history as a wildlife park begins more recently. In 1966, Pencynor House, built in 1856 as a large family house by Thomas Leyson, was purchased as semi-derelict by a local builder and wildlife film maker, Idris Hale. The eleven acre grounds soon held a large collection of exotic parrots, a lifelong enthusiasm of Mr. Hale. Increasing

numbers of people asked to see the birds, and a number of charity open-days were held. In 1971 it was decided to 'go public' and Johnny Morris, of *Animal Magic* fame, officially opened the park — by now home to several mammal species as well.

The early years saw the collection of major 'tourist awards', acceptance to the National Federation of Zoological Gardens and ever-growing numbers of visitors. In the mid-seventies several acres of the adjoining larch plantation were acquired and developed; the now famous chair-lift and alpine slide were installed, boosting attendances even more and providing the finances for the increasingly important wildlife conservation work being undertaken.







A variety of habitats within Pencyrnor leads to a wealth of native wildlife. Grassland, oak woods, shrubbery, larch plantation and running water all attract different species. Particularly obvious are the birds: look for the long-tailed tits, nuthatch, tree creeper, green woodpecker, grey wagtail and heron. In the summer, numerous buddleia bushes attract up to twenty-three species of butterflies. Looking up the hillside from the flower gardens, buzzards and ravens can often be seen.



Support local conservation by joining your County Wildlife Trust — contact:  
The GLAMORGAN WILDLIFE TRUST, Nature Centre, Tondy, Bridgend, CF32 0EH.



# A ZOO FOR TOMORROW

THE MODERN ZOO works to aid wildlife conservation in three important ways:

**Captive breeding:** many species (though only a fraction of those in need of help) can be secured for the future by the establishing of populations in captivity. This is achieved through national and international inter-zoo cooperation.

The **Hawaiian Goose** (below) was numbered at less than fifty in the world in 1946. Following an intensive captive breeding programme numbers are now close to 1000, with several hundred returned to their native island.

**Research:** remarkably little is known of the biology of many species, making conservation measures difficult to formulate; valuable data is continually being collected in the modern zoo. Particular projects at Pencynor include investigating marmoset infant rearing; the establishing and refining of techniques for artificially incubating and rearing rare parrots; the genetic analysis of several captive monkey populations. Such projects involve other zoos, university departments and independent scientists and a computer data-bank in the U.S.A.



**Hand-rearing lory chicks**

**Education:** one of the hopes of any zoo is that visitors will leave with an enhanced perception of wildlife and a greater understanding of its problems. Particular effort is made to help school parties. Teachers should ask about the use of the education room, available slide/film presentations, worksheets and off-season visits. Helpful leaflets such as 'Monkey Matters' and The Pencynor Nature Trail are available (at cost price in the gift shops). Of interest to local children is the Penguin Club which meets monthly to provide a variety of zoology related activities for eight to sixteen year olds.

**Hawaiian geese**  
(*Branta sandvicensis*)





# BACK TO BRAZIL

Golden lion tamarins are small, brilliantly coloured monkeys who live in the coastal forests of south-east Brazil; less than twenty years ago they faced certain extinction as these forests disappeared to make way for agriculture. Conservationists launched a co-operative effort by major zoos around the world to secure the future of a captive population and, at the same time, began efforts to create a reserve to protect the remaining wild animals.

This project has been so successful that some zoo-bred animals have been returned to the Poco das Antas reserve, under the supervision of Brazilian and American scientists. These include a family of five Penscynor animals, flown to Brazil in 1988.



Golden lion tamarin



Rain forest



A family group



# SWIMMING & SUNNING

Some two-thirds of the globe is covered by water, which is home to over 20,000 species of fish — forty per cent of all vertebrate species. A selection from different habitats — marine, freshwater; tropical, temperate — is maintained. Look for:

**Reedfish:** eel-like fish with a true lung which allows air breathing; they live in stagnant West African rivers.

**Lion fish** have a row of dorsal spines tipped with poison, toxic enough to kill humans; they live in the Indian Ocean.

**Piranha** use razor sharp, interlocking teeth to tear flesh; found in many South American rivers.

**Malawi cichlids:** Lake Malawi in central Africa is home to many fish found nowhere else — some species have a distribution measured in square yards of the lake bed.

**Swansea Bay:** the native animals in the 'rock pool' tank are all found locally; look for a variety of anemones and the bizarre scorpion fish.

**Piranha**

**Cold blooded:** only the mammals and birds can maintain their bodies at a constant temperature; the majority of animals take their body temperature from their immediate surrounds. For land animals this means constantly seeking heat or shade, as activity is not possible at low temperatures. It also means that reptiles are only cold when in a cold environment — and they're never slimy!

The reptiles here are part of breeding programmes of other zoos. **Round Island skinks**, subject of one of Gerald Durrell's best-selling books, has been successfully bred at Jersey Zoo. Its native island has been extensively damaged by introduced animals — goats and cats in particular — and this animal faces extinction.

**Cuban boas** are another threatened island species; these snakes are part of a Bristol Zoo breeding project.

**Round Island skink** (*Leiolopisma telfairi*)



STOP PRESS: five *Penscynor*-hatched skinks flew to Mauritius, 1989; three Cuban boas, born 4th February 1990: see *Penscynor News* for details.

# MAKING A SPLASH

As well as all those fish, water supports a variety of other animals. Whales and flamingos filter out tiny plankton; penguins and otters hunt fish; hippos and duck graze water plants. Penscynor's streams and ponds provide a good environment for many such animals.



**Humboldt's penguin** (*Spheniscus humboldti*)

**Penguins.** There are sixteen or seventeen species of penguin, all found in the southern hemisphere. To many people's surprise, they are found on the equator (Galapagos), in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, as well as on the ice of Antarctica. The penguin here is the **Humboldt penguin**, found on the coasts of Chile and Peru. It feeds on the krill and anchovies which thrive in the cold water of the Humboldt current; in the zoo, sprats, dosed with a specially formulated vitamin/mineral supplement, are happily taken. Nest scrapes are made in shallow

**Q:** Why does the flamingo stand on one leg?

**A:** If it didn't, it would fall over! — More seriously, this is thought to be a way of minimising heat loss.

burrows and two eggs are incubated for forty days; you can see burrows on the bank above the penguin pool. Most of Penscynor's penguin chicks are hand reared because of a fungal disease which affects chicks that are left in the nest.

**Flamingos** feed by wading through shallow water with their strange beaks immersed and upside down! Water is 'pumped' through the beak where very fine hair-like structures sieve out small food animals such as shrimp. It is a pigment in water crustaceans, such as the shrimp, that gives flamingos their distinctive pink colouring.

**Spoonbills** share a similar food source, but have evolved a different, though equally strange, beak for the same purpose.

An **ANIMAL** is any living organism other than the plants — spiders, sea-squirts, snakes, sea-lions are all animals. There are about 50,000 vertebrates (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibia, fish) and over one million invertebrates (insects, spiders, etc.)

**Caribbean flamingo** (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)





The ducks, geese and swans (family: Anatidae) are the best known of all the water birds, occurring throughout the world. All are excellent swimmers and, with few exceptions, are relatively clumsy on land; most are powerful fliers and many undertake annual migrations of many thousands of miles.

The **swans** are large, long-necked birds who graze on aquatic vegetation. They pair for life and the male protects his female and chicks with great enthusiasm. The **black swan** lives in Australia.

The **geese** are less aquatic than the swans; many feed largely on land, grass being a favourite food. The **Hawaiian goose**, native to rocky islands with little surface fresh water, has lost most of its inter-toe webbing, reflecting its terrestrial habit.

The **ducks** can be divided into groups according to behaviour. The 'dabbling ducks' are the most numerous; **teal, mallard, pintail** and **shoveller** all feed in shallow water, rarely immersing more than the beak.

The 'diving ducks' make deep, foot-propelled dives to obtain feed the dabblers cannot reach: **tufted duck**, and the **pochard**. The 'wood ducks' have clawed toes to allow them to climb high into trees to nest in hollow branches; they include the colourful **mandarin** and **carolina ducks**. The **eider duck** lives in coastal marine waters; the heavy beak allows a diet of shellfish (especially mussels), caught by diving. The 'whistling ducks' are long-legged tropical birds with a characteristic voice; unlike the other ducks, male and female whistling ducks look alike. The **fulvous whistling duck** has probably the widest distribution of any bird.



**Black swan** (*Cygnus atratus*)



**White-faced whistling duck** (*Dendrocygna viduata*)



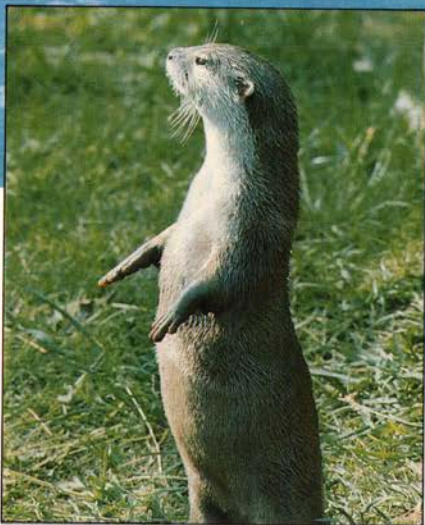
**Eider duck** (*Somateria mollissima*)



The Marine Conservation Society works for our island's unique coastal wildlife.

Contact — M.C.S.,  
9 Gloucester Road,  
Ross-on-Wye, HR9 5BU.

The biggest of Pencyrnor's water animals is the **Patagonian sea-lion**; an adult bull weighs over 1000 pounds. Found off the coasts of South America, the sea-lion feeds on sea birds, (including Humboldt's penguins!) and fish. Thick blubber gives insulation against cold sea temperatures.



**Short-clawed otter** (*Aonyx cinerea*)

**Patagonian sea-lion** (*Otaria byronia*)

Otters have a world-wide distribution (except Australia), with nine species and many races. The otters here are **short-clawed otters** from Malaysia. With their webbed feet, sensitive whiskers for use in murky waters and a streamlined shape, this is obviously a swimming animal, but much food is located on land and in marshy shallows, and the short-clawed otter is probably the least aquatic of all the otters.



# ON FIRMER GROUND

The wallabies and kangaroos are perhaps the best known of Australia's pouched mammals (marsupials); the **red-necked wallaby** (right) is found in the south-east and on the island of Tasmania. After a gestation period of only four weeks, a single young measuring about one centimetre is born and crawls into its mother's pouch; here it 'locks on' to a nipple and milk is 'squirted' in until the youngster is developed enough to suckle in the normal way. By the time the 'joey' is old enough to leave the pouch the next youngster has fastened onto another teat. These animals are very hardy — a small colony has lived wild on the South Pennine moors of Derbyshire for over forty years.



**Jungle cat** (*Felis chaus*)

The **jungle** or **reed cat** has a wide distribution through North Africa and the middle east. As its name suggests, it is fond of dense cover. Like most cats (the lion is the obvious exception), these animals are solitary except during the breeding season. Remains of this species have been found in several Egyptian burial tombs, suggesting that this species is the original ancestor of our familiar domestic cats.



**Red-necked wallaby** (*Macropus rufogrisea*)

**Muntjac deer** (below): This shy, woodland animal is a native of China but has lived wild in England since escapes from Woburn Park at the turn of the century. As well as sharp antlers, the buck has razor-sharp tusks in the upper jaw. Interestingly, this animal is often observed eating carrion (the flesh of dead animals).

**Prairie dogs** (bottom) are burrowing squirrels from the grasslands of North America whose squeaky barks give rise to their name. They create large underground tunnel systems several square miles in extent; a feature of these 'towns' is the sentry animals, sitting alertly upright, scanning for black-footed ferrets and prairie falcons.



**Reeves muntjac** (*Muntiacus reevesii*)

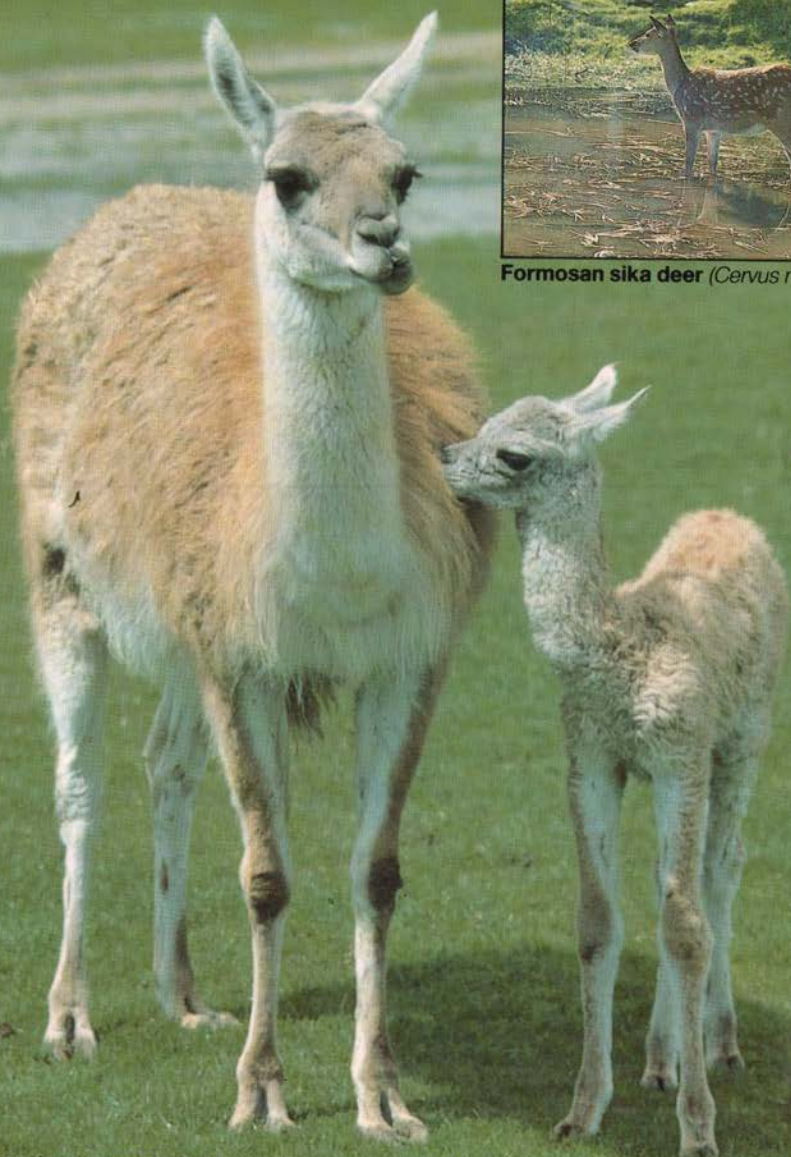


**Prairie dogs** (*Cynomys ludovicianus*)





**Formosan sika deer** (*Cervus nippon*)



The South American **guanaco** (above) is a close cousin of the African camel. Like the camel, it can spit regurgitated food far and accurate when threatened or annoyed. Exceptionally hardy, these animals live at altitude in the Andes mountains in large herds. They are commonly thought to be the wild ancestors of the domesticated llama.

The **formosan sika deer** (top) is now extinct on its native island (Taiwan) but is quite common in zoos. Like most deer, it feeds by 'browsing' low-growing leaves and branches; like most browsers, it happily 'grazes' (eats ground-growing leaves, e.g. grass).

**Guanaco** (*Llama guanicoe*)



# PRIMATES

The white-handed gibbon (*Hylobates lar*) of South East Asia





# GOING APE

There are two species of **chimpanzee**, both found in tropical Africa. The Pygmy Chimpanzee, or Bonobo, is extremely rare and confined to a small area south of the river Zaire; the common chimp occurs from Senegal in the west discontinuously through to Uganda in the east.

With many physical similarities, particularly brain structure, chimps are regarded as man's closest living relative. This relationship may be likened to that between horse-zebra, or lion-tiger — quite different species but sharing a common ancestor (about twenty-three million years ago for man-chimp!).

Social groups centre around resident males, who defend a territory and their females against other troops; females usually leave their birth group at puberty. Such groups can number as many as eighty animals.

Fruit forms the bulk of the diet, but males cooperate in organised hunts for small food animals (e.g. green monkeys, bush pigs); the more placid females are often very skilled at extracting termites from their mounds and rarely participate in hunting.

Each evening, a chimp constructs a sleeping platform, or nest, by bending and intertwining suitable branches, usually about fifteen feet up a tree.

Much behaviour is learned in the seven to eight years that infants stay with their mothers; it seems that maternal behaviour is one example. Chico, our adult female, consistently refuses to rear her young despite

being a model mother for the first few weeks; this means that all her offspring have to be reared by keepers. It seems probable that Chico didn't have the necessary experience of being reared herself in a family group.

The **Primate Society** of Great Britain is for anyone with more than a passing interest: contact Dr. HO Box, Dept of Psychology, University of Reading, Reading, Berkshire.

## VITAL STATISTICS

	Chimpanzee	Man
Weight: new born	3½lbs	7¼lbs
adult male	120lbs	143lbs
adult female	105lbs	128lbs
Height: adult male		
upright	3' 6"	5' 8"
Gestation period	238 days	266 days
Female puberty	7-8 years	14-15 years
Life span	40 years	65-70 years







**Juvenile female**



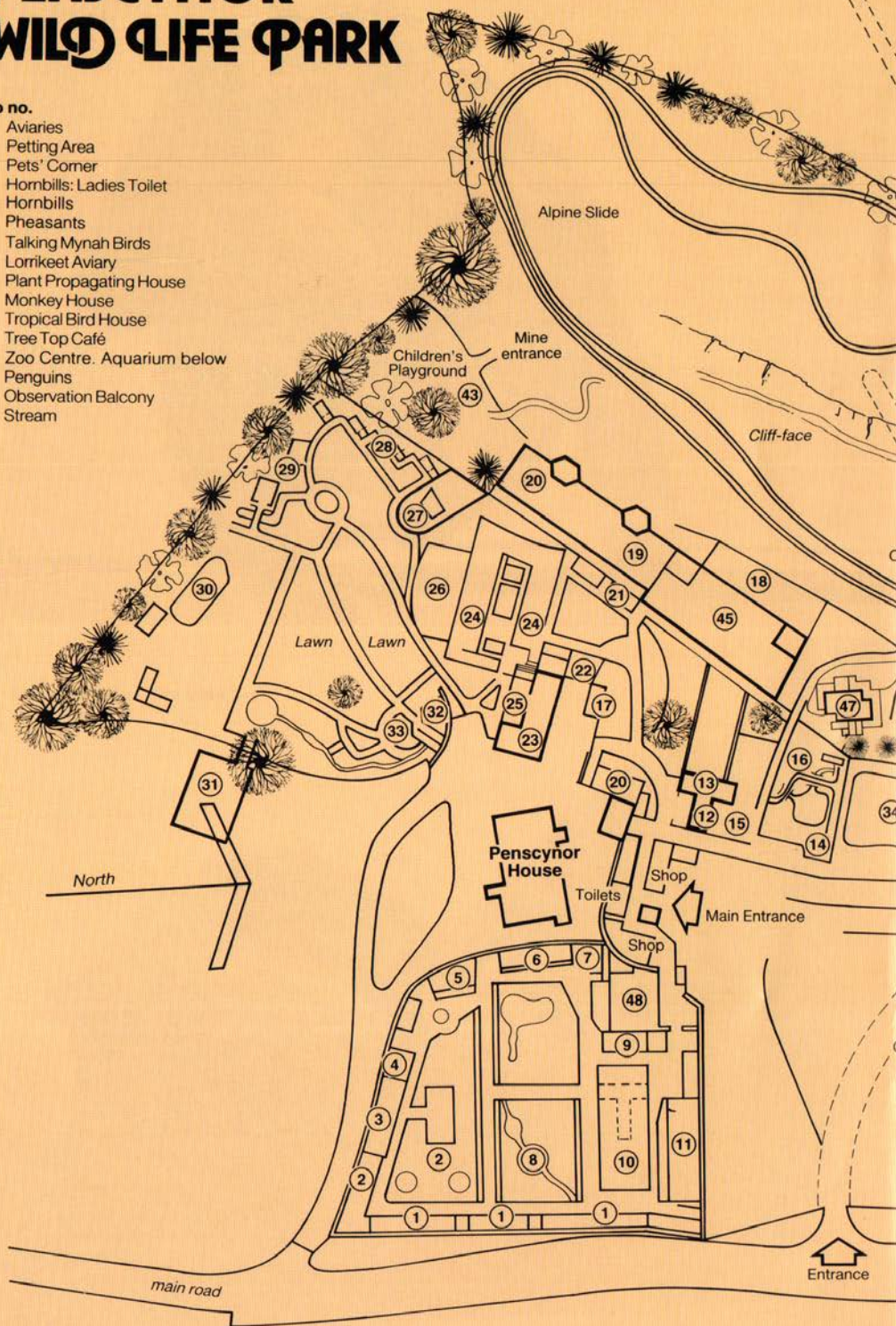
**Chico and baby, week one**



# PENSCYNOR WILD LIFE PARK

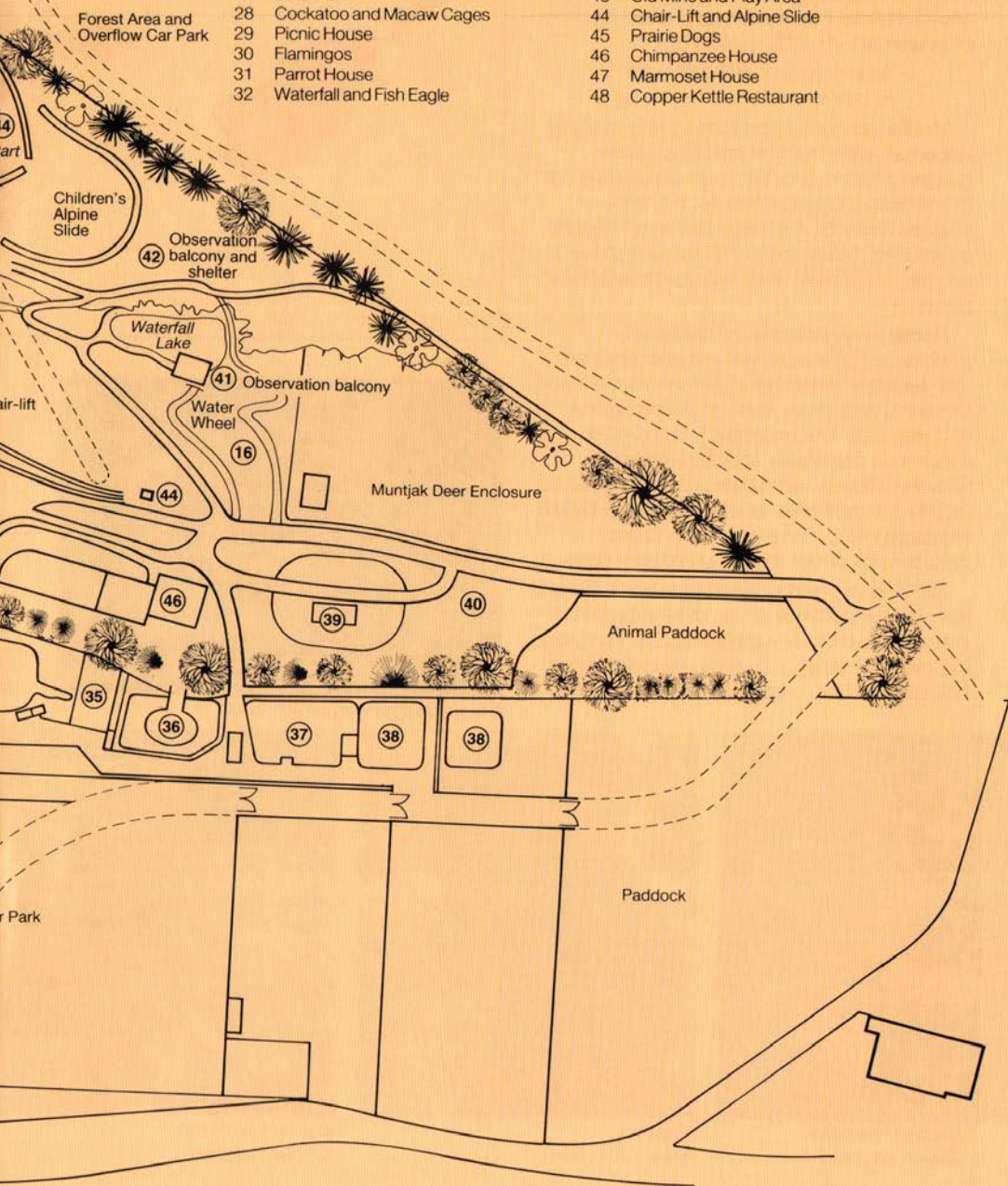
## Map no.

- 1 Aviaries
- 2 Petting Area
- 3 Pets' Corner
- 4 Hornbills: Ladies Toilet
- 5 Hornbills
- 6 Pheasants
- 7 Talking Mynah Birds
- 8 Lorikeet Aviary
- 9 Plant Propagating House
- 10 Monkey House
- 11 Tropical Bird House
- 12 Tree Top Café
- 13 Zoo Centre: Aquarium below
- 14 Penguins
- 15 Observation Balcony
- 16 Stream





- |    |                                      |    |  |
|----|--------------------------------------|----|--|
| 17 | Macaws                               | 33 | Coatis   |
| 18 | Picnic Area                          | 34 | Trout Pond and Marmoset Island                 |
| 19 | Monkeys                              | 35 | Spoonbill, Ibis, Heron                         |
| 20 | Monkeys                              | 36 | Golden Orfe and Gibbon Island                  |
| 21 | Sooty Mangabeys                      | 37 | Sea-Lion Pond                                  |
| 22 | Monkey House (Below Animal Hospital) | 38 | Radio Boats and Cars, Aqua Boats               |
| 23 | Food Preparation Room                | 39 | Trout Pond, Squirrel Monkey Island             |
| 24 | Indoor Lorikeet House                | 40 | Picnic Area and Animal Paddock                 |
| 25 | Old Water Wheel (Animal Nursery)     | 41 | Waterfall and Wheel, Glass-front-viewing Trout |
| 26 | Blue and Gold Macaws                 | 42 | Picnic Area; Dulais Valley View                |
| 27 | Otter Pen                            | 43 | Old Mine and Play Area                         |
| 28 | Cockatoo and Macaw Cages             | 44 | Chair-Lift and Alpine Slide                    |
| 29 | Picnic House                         | 45 | Prairie Dogs                                   |
| 30 | Flamingos                            | 46 | Chimpanzee House                               |
| 31 | Parrot House                         | 47 | Marmoset House                                 |
| 32 | Waterfall and Fish Eagle             | 48 | Copper Kettle Restaurant                       |





# MONKEYING AROUND

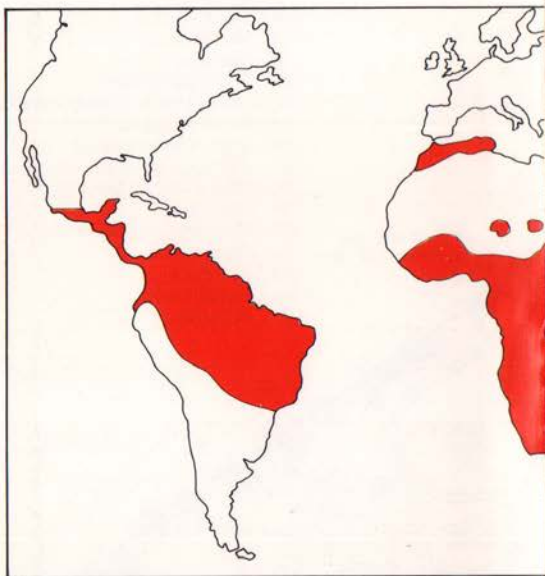
The group of animals known as the primates (lemurs, monkeys and apes) includes you and me, *Homo sapiens*; for this reason they are one of the most interesting and most studied of all animals. As W.S. Gilbert put it:

'Man however well behaved  
At best is only a monkey shaved'.

Most (non-human) primates are tree-living (arboreal) within rain forests. They have grasping hands and feet (with which they can manipulate tools); forward-facing eyes (excellent vision); and large brains (intelligent, adaptable). Many are highly social and live in groups; most have elaborate communication systems.

**Food:** very generally, primates are principally fruit eaters, with smaller species also eating invertebrates (see marmosets and tamarins) and larger species eating leaves (e.g. gorillas). The **colobus** (central-east Africa) has a specially adapted stomach allowing it to feed almost exclusively on leaves (eighty per cent plus, of diet); the **long-tailed macaque** (S.E. Asia) has learnt to find crustaceans under stones on stream beds.

**Moving around** in different ways, different species can reach and use different parts of the same habitat. The **gibbons** (S.E. Asia) are the most acrobatic primates, swinging along below branches, suspended by hook-like



Ring tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*)



Squirrel monkey  
(*Saimiri sciureus*)

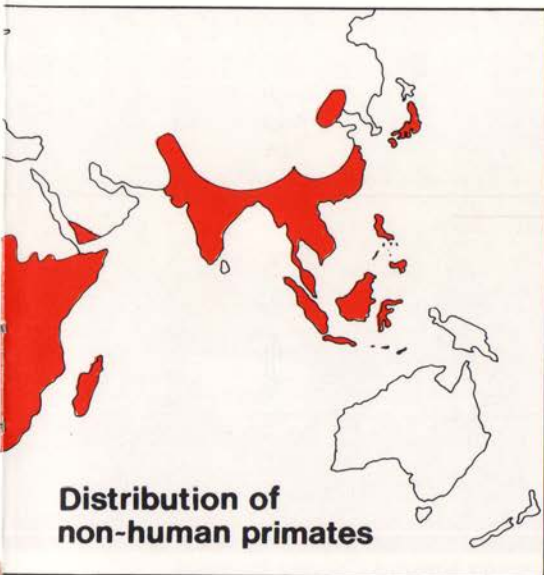


Mandrill  
(*Papio sphinx*)



Brown capuchin  
(*Cebus capella*)





hands, at spectacular speeds (brachiating). **Mandrills** (West Africa) are baboons which move on all fours and spend much of their time on the ground. The **Capuchin monkey** (S. America) has a semi-prehensile tail which it uses as an aid to gripping objects such as tree branches.

**Social groups** include: a single pair, with recent offspring (**douroucoulis**, S. America; **gibbon**); one male, several females (**colobus**); several males, several females (**capuchin**, S. America, **ring-tailed lemurs**, Madagascar).

Madagascar, the fourth largest island in the world, has been isolated from the S.E. coast of mainland Africa for 100 million years and its primates have remained little changed through time — largely because of the absence of competitors. The **ring-tailed lemur** and **mayotte brown lemur** are two such 'primitive' primates, very similar to the early monkeys whose fossils are to be found in West Europe.



**Western colobus** (*Colobus polykomos*)

**By night.** Only one true monkey, the **douroucoulis**, is active at night — look for its huge eyes, giving the alternative name of owl monkey.



**Long-tailed macaque**  
(*Macaca fascicularis*)



**Douroucoulis**  
(*Aotus trivirgatus*)



**Colobus monkey**  
(*Colobus guereza*)



# THE SMALLEST MONKEYS

Weighing between four and eight ounces, the **marmosets** and **tamarins** are the smallest of the monkeys. Over twenty species of these often strikingly marked animals are to be found in the rain forests of Central and South America, the majority in the vast basin of the Amazon river.

Fruit alone does not provide enough protein for any monkey; marmosets and tamarins supplement their fruit-based diets in different ways. Tamarins eat large amounts of insects, and even eggs and nestlings; marmosets have teeth especially adapted to gouging holes in trees and as much as half their food can be the sap that bleeds from these holes. (You can see such 'gouges' on branches in marmoset cages.)

Twelve species are recognised as facing extinction in the wild as forest is felled. Five of Penscynor's species are managed as part of

**Common marmosets** (*Callithrix jacchus*)



**Emperor tamarins** (*Saguinus imperator*)

national or international breeding programmes designed to prevent total loss. The golden lion tamarin programme has been so successful that zoo-bred animals have been released in specially created Brazilian reserves.

Unlike other monkeys, marmosets and tamarins almost always give birth to twins; even more unusual, they often become pregnant immediately after giving birth so, with a gestation period of five months, four young a year can be born. The females cope with this by handing the two to three-day old infant to father and any older children still in the family group; after this she sees them only for suckling!

In 1969, a typical year, 72,000 South American monkeys entered U.S.A., largely for medical research. Between 1980-85, all South American countries banned such exports.

A live marmoset worn in an extravagant hairstyle was the height of ladies' fashion in eighteenth-century European court circles.



# BIRDS OF A FEATHER



A crane, a crane, my kingdom for a . . .



Stirring it around.



Up from down-under.



Cyrano de who?



A wing and a prayer.



A stab in the dark.



## ANIMAL ADOPTION

If you would like to share in the life of the zoo and help support our animals, you may like to consider 'adopting' an animal. In return for a small fee you receive a factsheet about your chosen animal, an adoption certificate, a cage-mounted plaque and an end-of-year report. Details can be found on a leaflet available from the Birdcage gift shop.

**Goeldi's lorikeet** (*Trichoglossus goldiei*)



## PARROTS IN PARTICULAR

The parrots (order: *Psittaciformes*) are found throughout tropical areas; they are particularly numerous and diverse in Australasia. They range in size from the Pygmy parrot (8.5 centimetres long) to the hyacinthine macaw (100 centimetres). All have a strong, stout, hooked bill, which is an aid both to seed cracking and to tree climbing, and feet adapted to gripping food and climbing (two toes point forward, two point backwards — zygodactylous!).

With few exceptions, they are birds of the tree tops, making their nests in hollow branches or trunks, and most are very sociable and form large flocks, especially for feeding. Many species, especially island forms, have dangerously reduced populations, usually due to habitat destruction but, in many cases, huge numbers have been trapped for the pet trade in the western world. The best known of the parrots is the **budgerigar**, long domesticated as a house pet.

### The lory house



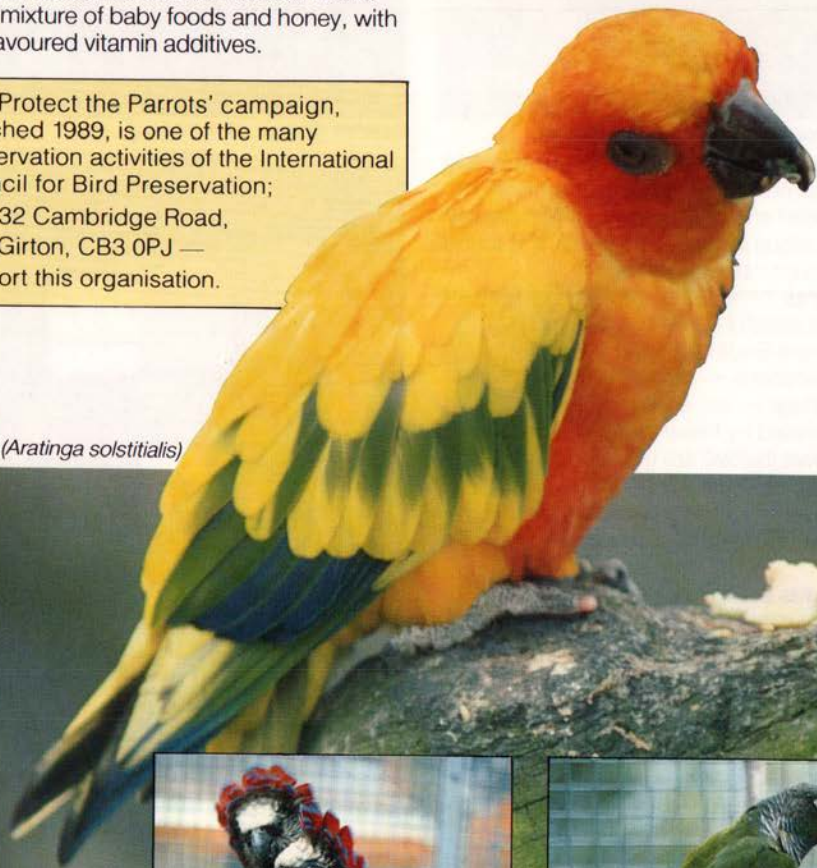


The **lories** and **lorikeets** form a distinct family within the parrots. Unlike other parrots, which are essentially seed eaters, the lories feed principally on pollen, with nectar, flowers, fruit and some seeds also taken. Their tongues are elongated and tipped with mobile, feeler-like structures (papillae) which penetrate deep into flowers to 'brush-out' the highly nutritious pollen. In zoos, this diet is simulated with a sticky mixture of baby foods and honey, with fruit-flavoured vitamin additives.

The 'Protect the Parrots' campaign, launched 1989, is one of the many conservation activities of the International Council for Bird Preservation;

32 Cambridge Road,  
Girton, CB3 0PJ —  
support this organisation.

The lories are found in Australia and on the hundreds of islands between Malaysia and Australia. Many islands have their own species, giving rise to a great number of species and sub-species; this pattern of small populations makes individual species very vulnerable to any form of disturbance.



**Sun conure** (*Aratinga solstitialis*)



**Hawkhead parrot**  
(*Derophtus accipitrinus*)



**Green-cheeked conure**  
(*Pyrrhura molinae*)





**Yellow-naped macaw** (*Ara auricollis*)

**Hawkhead parrot** (previous page): this odd parrot has no close relatives; its habit of raising head and neck feathers into a display crest is unique among the parrots. It is found in the Amazon basin forests.

**Conures** (previous page): The conures are a very successful family of medium-small parrots from South America. Parrot communications — shrill calls to penetrate dense foliage — are deafeningly demonstrated by these birds.

**Macaws** (below) are the largest parrots and have long been familiar in the west as pets; all parrots are long-lived and some macaws are known to be over seventy years old.

**Eclectus parrot** (below). For many years the male (who is green) and the female (red) were thought to be two separate species; this is a striking example of what is called 'sexual dimorphism'.

**Off show:** most of Penscynor's parrots are kept in specially designed breeding units and are not visible to visitors; many parrots 'on show' are too old, too young or too tame to breed.



**Eclectus parrot** (*Ecletus roratus*)



**Scarlet macaw** (*Ara macao*)



**All about parrots.**



**Blue and gold macaw** (*Ara ararauna*)



# COLOUR IN THE JUNGLE

The **tropical house** is home to a variety of small, brightly-coloured birds; a few minutes' patience is necessary as the lush vegetation can, at first sight, hide all signs of life. Look out for **bleeding heart**, **mountain witch** and **little spotted doves**; **glossy starlings**; various **tanagers**, **fruit-suckers** and **leaf birds**; **red-banded aracari**; **Lady Ross' touraco**, and **pekin robins**.

**Vulturine guinea fowl** (*Acryllium vulturinum*)



Many other tropical birds are to be found in aviaries, particularly in the 'flower garden' area. Other species of touraco are to be found: **schallows**, **white-cheeked** and the **violet plantain eater**; these birds, related to cuckoos, are unusual in having feathers coloured by pigment (most birds' colour is actually a product of light refraction!). For many years artists prized these feathers as the only source of the pigment touracin.

**Gouldian finch** (*Chloebia gouldiae*)



**Schallows touraco** (*Tauraco corythaix*)





# DID YOU KNOW.....

The  
Penguin  
Club



Making  
labels

Helping  
young  
enthusiasts



Teaching  
schools and  
other groups

Spreading the word



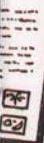
Endange  
Spe

..... THERE'S MORE TO EDUCATION



For more information on education at Penscynor phone the Education Officer on (0639) 642189

PARROT



WORLD OF  
EDUCATION

**Organising  
exhibitions**



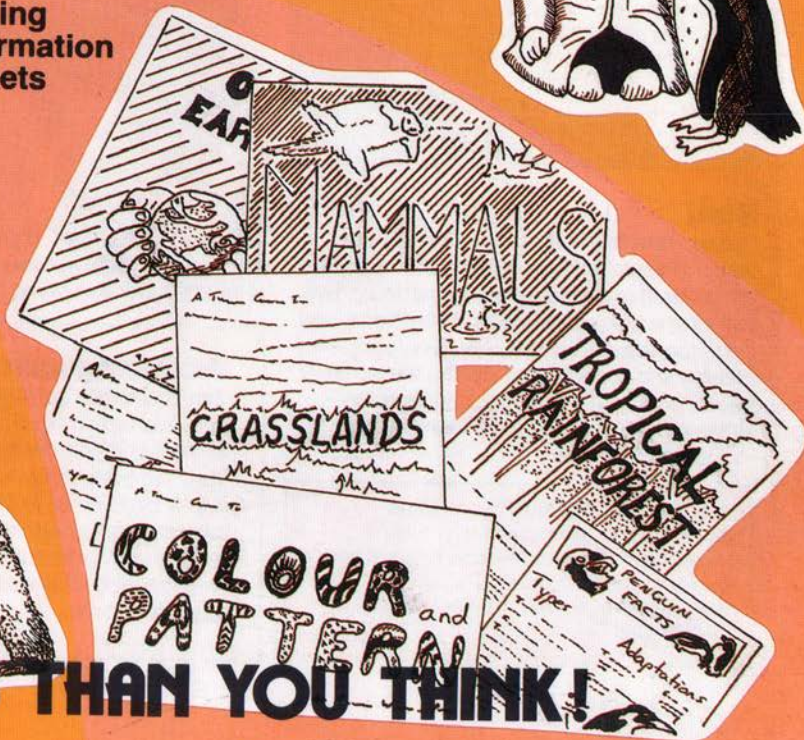
**FEELY BOXES**

Can you tell what's  
inside without looking?

**Building closer contact**



**Writing  
information  
leaflets**



**Promoting  
wildlife  
issues**



ed  
es



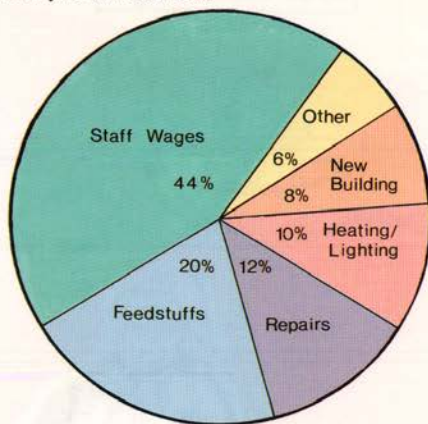
**IN ZOOS THAN YOU THINK!**



# HOW A ZOO WORKS

Where your money goes:

Unlike their counterparts in Western Europe and Northern America, British zoos have to rely completely on revenue from visitors. This money is divided into:



The **National Federation of Zoological Gardens** is an association of Britain's leading zoos; it works to further conservation, research and education in zoos by encouraging cooperation, information exchange and the constant improvement of husbandry techniques.

## Staff

Sixteen people are employed full time, of which nine are animal keepers, three are groundstaff (maintenance and gardens), two work in the office (bills, wages, telephone, and correspondence) and two are directors (policy making and supervision). During the summer season, café, gift shop, car park and the alpine slide workers swell the number to forty.

The **Fauna and Flora Preservation Society** is our senior wildlife charity; it undertakes countless valuable projects and publishes ORYX quarterly — quite simply the best journal of its kind. Contact F.F.P.S., 79–83 North Street, Brighton, BN1 1ZA.

## Feeding

Animal diets are carefully formulated to meet physical and psychological needs. Each week 300 kilograms of fresh fruit and vegetables, 60 kilograms of specially formulated pellets, 140 kilograms of fish, 10 kilograms of meat, two dozen packs of baby food, and quantities of insects, vitamin/mineral supplements, hay, bread and assorted seeds are used. Please do not disrupt these diets by offering food except where dispensing machines offer special pellets (trout and donkeys).



**Hill mynah** (*Gracula religiosa*). This Indian member of the starling family is famous for its ability to mimic.

## Acquiring animals

Any mammals coming to Pencrynor are invariably from another zoo and are almost certainly captive-born; usually they are transferred as loans or gifts. Many birds arrive in the same way, although some are still imported from overseas. Marine fish are usually wild-caught; freshwater fish are aquarium bred.



# AND FINALLY...

Recognising that not every member of the family is always a wildlife enthusiast, several other attractions are presented.

Most popular of all is the alpine slide: a chair-lift ride to the hill top followed by a thrilling descent of the 'bobsleigh chute' on a wheeled toboggan. Many young, and some not so young, visitors come solely for this excitement, often taking advantage of the free rides available on each Saturday morning.

Other attractions include radio-controlled boats and cars; inflatable boat rides, and the children's playground.

Pencsycynor is open all year round (except Christmas Day), whatever the weather, although the grounds perhaps look at their best in spring and autumn.



Chair-lift



Alpine slide

Winter has its peculiar charms ...





# The Dan-Yr-Ogof Showcaves Complex

The Dan-Yr-Ogof Complex provides one of the most exciting day visit centres in Britain. In recognition of the importance Dan-Yr-Ogof has played in British tourism the complex has been awarded eight major tourism awards.

The showcaves are situated midway between Brecon and Swansea on the A4067, within the Brecon Beacons National Park.

## The complex consists of:

- Dan-Yr-Ogof Showcave — Britain's longest showcave.
- Cathedral Showcave — largest single chamber in any British showcave.
- Bone Cave — home of man 3000 years ago in the Bronze Age
- Dinosaur Park.
- Museum and audio visual theatre.
- Craft shop with information centre.
- Restaurant and covered picnic area.
- Artificial ski slope — instruction available. (opening times on application).

Restaurant, Museum, Craft Shop, Information Centre, Dinosaur Park, Dry Ski Slope.

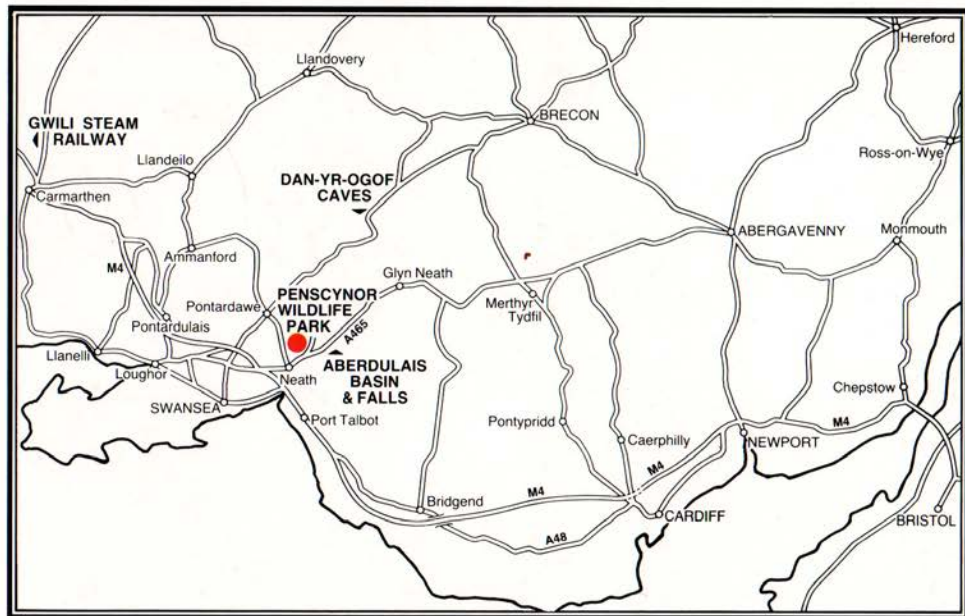
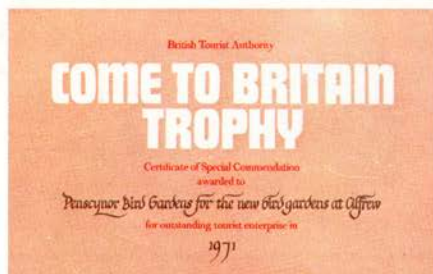
**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
from 1st April (or Easter) to 31st Oct.  
**Telephone: 0639 730284/730693**

**Near Abercrave (Abercraf), Glyntawe,  
Swansea SA9 1GJ**

Within the Brecon Beacons National Park on  
the A4067 between Brecon and Swansea.



# Winner of Welsh Tourist Board Gold Award, 1986



Photography: I. G. Hale, D. Gallimore, R. W. Colley,  
D. J. Cox, P. D. Phillips  
Artwork: D. J. Cox  
Text: R. W. Colley

Rear cover

(above): Cotton-top tamarin (*Saguinus oedipus*)

(below): Humboldt's penguin (*Spheniscus humboldtii*)





**PENSCYNOR**

**WILD LIFE PARK**

**CILFREW, NEATH, WALES SA10 8LF**