

Animal Tracks

The Birmingham Zoo Receives First Endowment for Conservation/PiCA 2019

Philanthropists, Phyllis and Larry Wojciechowski, create the Phyllaris Fund to support the Birmingham Zoo's Passion into Conservation Action grant program

+ MEET MAISY, THE ZOO'S
NEWEST OTTER!

New Orangutan Species Found in the Wild!



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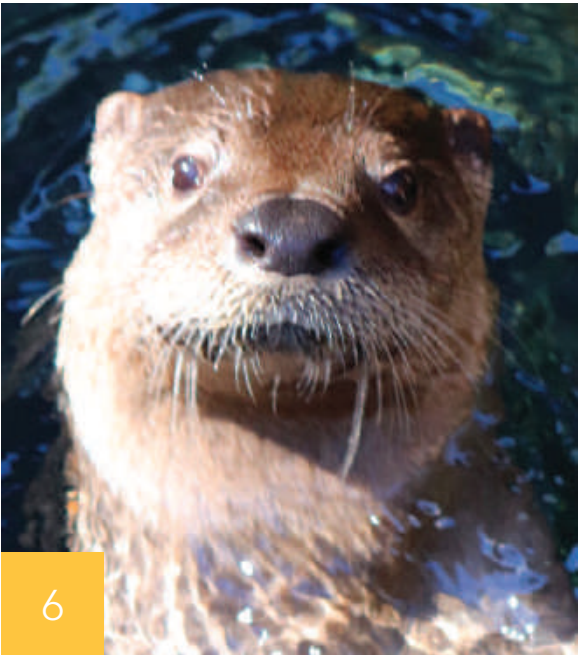
Philanthropists, Phyllis and Larry Wojciechowski, create the Phyllaris Fund to support the Birmingham Zoo's Passion into Conservation Action grant program.

14 NEW ORANGUTAN SPECIES FOUND IN THE WILD!

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COVER PHOTO: Maisy, the Birmingham Zoo's new otter - Photo by Scott Kayser
PHOTO CREDITS: Jessie Griswold, Scott Kayser, Clark Maxwell, Meghan Murphy, and Danielle Williams

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Birmingham Zoo Mission: Inspiring Passion to Conserve the Natural World.

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The Birmingham Zoo is an independent, not for profit, 501 (c) (3) organization and is the only AZA accredited zoo in the state of Alabama.

ZOO HOURS
9am to 5pm Monday – Sunday



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Members,

We started 2019 with determination, optimism and gratitude. We are excited about the opportunities that await us in programming, events, visitor engagement and the opening of our new front entrance! This New Year is sure to be an outstanding one for your Zoo, as we continue with initiatives that inspire, bring awareness, highlight, create memories and bring us together.

It is *people* who made the Birmingham Zoo what it is today—our supporters, our donors, our community, our staff, our Board of Trustees, and of course, you, our valued members and guests. Our connection with you is what creates a community where all people value wildlife and wild places. In this issue, our focus is on conservation through action, research, education, stories, partnerships and establishing connections.

Bringing visitors face-to-face with the wonders of the natural world through education and engagement is vital to advancing our conservation mission. Your Zoo is home to diverse animals and species, including endangered species from six continents. Our work in Zoos and Aquariums is crucial to conserving the world's unique and extraordinary wildlife. Educational programming and initiatives allow us an essential opportunity to bring awareness to threats these animals face, the people who are working hard to protect them and ways each of us can contribute to solutions.

On your next visit to your Birmingham Zoo, take a look around and see what you have helped us accomplish. You have helped us to highlight these amazing animals and bring attention to the importance of protecting endangered species in the wild. Every visit is a chance to make memories, be amazed and learn something new, all while having a good time.

I look forward with great anticipation to the year ahead. Thank you for the continued support of your Zoo!

Sincerely,

Chris Pfefferkorn
President & CEO



BEHIND-THE-SCENES ENCOUNTERS AT THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO

With Behind-the-Scenes Encounters, guests receive the opportunity to have up-close interactions with the Zoo's animals while learning from expert Animal Care Professionals. Encounters include a tour of behind-the-scenes animal areas, time to ask the experts any questions you have, and more. These experiences can only be had at the Birmingham Zoo and will build memories that last a lifetime!

HAVE YOU SEEN THESE ELUSIVE ANIMALS...?



MITCHELL AND DIONNE, THE BRUSH-TAILED BETTONGS

By: Kirby Pitchford - Animal Care Professional II, Birds - Lorickeets

The bird department is home to a pair of shy, secretive mammals known as brush-tailed bettongs. Also known as kangaroo rats or woylies in their native Australia, they are small, desert-dwelling bipedal marsupials that have prehensile tails and front legs adapted for digging. The IUCN lists them as critically endangered due to invasive predator species like foxes and domestic cats. An interesting adaptation to their desert environment is that they rarely, if ever, have to drink water! They are mostly solitary, except when it's time for courtship and breeding. Our male, Mitchell, lives in Kori Kountry and can be seen both in his burrow and sometimes in the aviary next door with his neighbors, the white-crested laughing thrushes and nicobar pigeons. Our female, Dionne, lives in the central bird building with our Australasian birds. The best time to see either of them is during their meal times, near the end of the day. Since they are nocturnal, they get their evening diets of grain, sweet potatoes, and peanuts around 3:30pm daily.



TADPOLE, THE NILE HIPPOPOTAMUS

By: Jess Durante - Animal Care Professional II, Trails of Africa

Being elusive is simply in the nature of Tadpole, the Nile hippopotamus. Hippos are typically most active in the evening hours, as they are considered nocturnal animals. If you look closely at the pond in Tadpole's habitat during the daytime, that's not a purple rock you see, that's Tadpole! You may have to move around the public viewing area to be able to see Tadpole in his pond, but there's a good reason the fence line is so far away from Tadpole's habitat. Male hippos often scent mark their territory by using their tails to fling feces up to fifteen feet away in any direction! We want to make sure guests are not scent marked by Tadpole. On sunny days, you can sometimes see him relaxing in the sandy Boma Yard. On a warm evening, during the Zoo's extended summer weekend hours, you may see him making his way out to the large elephant habitat just before the Zoo closes for the evening. On most days, you can see him around 9:00am and 3:30pm when his care staff is feeding him. Make sure to stop by Trails of Africa to see Tadpole on your next visit to the Birmingham Zoo!

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED!



CARLITO, THE GIANT ANTEATER

By: Renee DeMatei - Animal Care Professional II, South America/Primates

Carlito, the giant anteater, is most active at night, which means he spends most of the day asleep! His favorite sleeping spot is in the far left side of his habitat, underneath the pavilion. He is sometimes hard to spot because he sleeps with his large tail laid over his body. In a wild setting, this would help protect a sleeping anteater from predators because it is great camouflage! Carlito's Animal Care Professionals provide him with a variety of enrichment items, as well as several feedings throughout the day. This creates multiple opportunities for Carlito to be up and active during the day. Next time you stop by the Primate/South America Building, be sure to look closely for Carlito!

CAN YOU SPOT THESE ANIMALS AT THE ZOO?



KHAN, THE JAGUAR

By: Danielle Williams, Zoological Manager of South America/Primates

Jaguars' amazing spotted coat patterns aren't just for looks, they are also great camouflage. While you might not think a yellow and black cat would blend well in the forest, their coloring matches the sun and shade patches between the plants quite well. As part of a Passion into Conservation Action grant, the Birmingham Zoo's Conservation Manager, Terra Manasco, and a research team set trail cameras (donated by Moultrie) in Belize. They discovered that local people and jaguars were using the same paths within minutes of each other, and the people never saw the jaguars! At the Zoo, Khan easily blends in with the plants on his habitat. In the summer months, he is often lying in the cool shadows of the bamboo, so you may need to take a moment to look around his habitat to see him. Luckily, as the weather cools, Khan is more likely to be seen lying out in the sun on top of his cave to warm up. Come visit Khan on special holiday enrichment days to see him in action! These current cooler months are a great time to find him exploring around his habitat.

MOULTRIE

"GO GREEN" THIS SPRING WITH NATIVE GARDENS

BY: LINDSEY HERRON, REGISTRAR

Looking for more ways to 'go green'? The Birmingham Zoo Green Team is here to help!

Spring is in full bloom, and it's the perfect time to start a native garden! Native gardens focus on providing habitats for species that are originally from the area in which the garden is planted. These plant species are usually better suited to the climate of the area, including temperature extremes and rainfall amounts. By using native plants, gardeners can decrease both their water usage and their time spent in the garden. Native plants are often harder than non-native species, meaning gardeners don't have to use as much fertilizer to help them grow to their fullest potential.

Not only are native gardens easier on the gardeners, they are easier on the environment as well. Many of our native pollinator species, including bees, butterflies, and moths, rely on native plant species in order to complete their life cycles. Many native butterflies are very picky about their host plants, only laying eggs on a few select species. By including them in your native garden, you can help create a safe place for these important insects to have a good start for the warm growing season. Also, native pollinators are often the best ways for these native plants to reproduce. By having both in one space, it's a win-win! Bees and butterflies of all types are fun to watch on spring days as they move from plant to plant. Spending a morning watching them work is a great way to get into the swing of spring.

Native gardens are a wonderful family-oriented conservation project as well. Habitats full of native plant species are shrinking world-wide, including right here in Alabama. There are many conservation organizations that are working to create networks of native plants to provide habitats for local threatened and endangered species. A quick search on the internet or a stop at your local nursery can put thousands of resources at your fingertips, including recommended plant lists for our area. By planting and caring for your own garden full of native species, not only can you create a relaxing natural oasis in your own yard, you can provide a conservation haven of your own.

Remember: every little bit counts!





We're no stranger to doing things the natural way.

That's why we're proud to support the Birmingham Zoo and its mission of inspiring passion to conserve the natural world.

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BEESON WILDLIFE LEGACY

Mrs. Lucille S. Beeson, a lawyer, philanthropist and antique dealer known for her incredible generosity during her lifetime, created a \$150 million charitable trust benefiting 13 organizations, which included the Birmingham Zoo.

As the Birmingham Zoo celebrates its 20th year of becoming a nonprofit, it would like to establish a planned giving recognition program, the **Beeson Wildlife Legacy**, at the Zoo in her memory. Mrs. Beeson's legacy gift was the Zoo's first planned gift and demonstrates her love for animals. In addition, the Zoo plans to dedicate the walkway around Henley Park as "Beeson Way" later this year.

The Beeson Wildlife Legacy is being established by the Zoo to recognize individuals who make gifts to the Birmingham Zoo, Inc., a 501 (c)(3), through their estate plan by bequest or other planned gift. A planned gift to the Birmingham Zoo allows you the opportunity to share your love and passion for animals for many years to come, and may have estate tax advantages and other benefits. Before making any planned gift, please seek the advice and counsel of a professional advisor. We gratefully recognize members of the Beeson Wildlife Legacy for helping *Inspire Passion to Conserve the Natural World* for future generations at the Birmingham Zoo: if you have left the Birmingham Zoo in your will or estate plan, please let us know. We would like to thank you!

Anonymous

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Phyllis and Larry Wojciechowski

*Deceased

For more information, please contact Karen Carroll, Vice President, Development, at 205.397.3856 or kcarroll@birminghamzoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

20 Breakfast with the Bunny

20 Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt

20 Farm Day

May

11 Magic City Wine Fest

11-12 Mother's Day Weekend

18 Zoo Run 5K

25-27 Memorial Day Weekend

29-August 28 Member Mornings:
Wednesday Mornings

31 Tails in the Trails

June

1-2 World Environment Days

8 Member Appreciation Morning

15-16 Father's Day Weekend

22 Zoo, Brews &
Full Moon Bar-B-Que





MEET MAISY, THE ZOO'S NEWEST OTTER!

BY: KIRSTEN PRUNCHAK, ANIMAL CARE PROFESSIONAL II, CHILDREN'S ZOO

In August, the Birmingham Zoo welcomed a North American river otter named Maisy to the Junior League of Birmingham – Hugh Kaul Children's Zoo. This energetic and spunky two-year-old came to us from the Alexandria Zoological Park in Alexandria, Louisiana. Maisy was brought here due to a Species Survival Plan® (SSP) recommendation. The SSP program was created by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums to ensure the survival of different species in zoos and aquariums, many of which are threatened or endangered. Maisy's SSP recommendation is to breed with the Zoo's male North American river otter, Slim. Before breeding, Maisy will be given plenty of time to get acquainted to her new home. Maisy can be seen on the Alabama Wilds Trail in the Junior League of Birmingham – Hugh Kaul Children's Zoo along with Slim and our other female, Lenora. The Alabama Wilds Trail also houses several species of birds and mammals, all of which are native to Alabama.


Otters are carnivores that will hunt any aquatic prey they can find, such as fish, crayfish, frogs, turtles, other small mammals, and even aquatic insect larvae. They have extremely high metabolisms and eat about 20% of their body weight daily. Otters will travel several miles in search of healthy habitats full of aquatic prey.

They also prefer waterways with minimal pollution and human activity. Their preference for healthy habitats makes them an indicator species, which means that their population numbers can be used to evaluate if an ecosystem is healthy. If the population of river otters in an area is declining, that means that the health of that ecosystem is also declining.

River otters are primarily solitary, but will occasionally live in small family groups. Generally, males and females keep separate until it is time to breed. For that reason, Slim (the Zoo's male otter) and Maisy will not be on habitat together until later this year, but Maisy has already been with Lenora (the Zoo's other female otter). Maisy and Lenora bonded very quickly upon meeting, and can frequently be seen grooming each other and snuggling in den spaces. In addition to interacting with each other, the otters can be seen interacting with enrichment provided by an Animal Care Professional. One of Maisy's favorite enrichment items is sea shells, which she can frequently be seen carrying around while swimming in her habitat. To see these three energetic and amazing otters, come visit the Alabama Wilds Trail in the Junior League of Birmingham – Hugh Kaul Children's Zoo!

North American river otters can be found in Alabama, as well as most of North America. They live in land based areas near freshwater, similar to beavers, and can be found near a variety of aquatic habitats such as rivers, ponds, lakes, streams and marshes. These waterways are where they find the majority of their food sources. In 2017, through a Passion into Conservation Action grant, one of the Birmingham Zoo's Animal Care Professionals conducted an otter assessment on the Cahaba River. Information collected in this survey helped to assess the water conditions and work is underway to help restore the river to a healthier state. Pollution is damaging the Cahaba River, especially runoff from roadways and neighborhoods. You can help by ensuring trash, fertilizers, and other waste products are always disposed of properly.

Through an Environmental Education Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Birmingham Zoo has created educational programming focused on promoting environmental stewardship and is helping develop responsible citizens who have a passion for protecting water as a limited resource. Funds from the grant were used to enhance the Spire ZooSchool program and to create public service announcements airing on television stations throughout the region.



BIRMINGHAM ZOO STRATEGIC PLAN CONSERVATION & RESEARCH

Lead our community to connect to the natural world through our local and global conservation actions.

Objectives:

- (Conservation Program) Assess current efforts, define desired efforts and implement strengthened /expanded conservation programs.
- (Conservation Partnerships) Create and foster partnerships to expand the impact of the Zoo's conservation initiatives.
- (Conservation Training) Educate and train all Zoo staff (including contract & vendor staff) and volunteers about the Zoo's conservation standards and annual initiatives.
- (Conservation Story) Share the Zoo's conservation story with external audiences.
- (Conservation Funding) Stabilize and grow conservation funding to help the Zoo increase the percentage of its operating budget contributed to conservation.
- (Environmental Sustainability) Make the Zoo as environmentally sustainable as possible.
- (Citizen Science) Develop citizen science initiatives to engage the community.
- (PiCA) Strengthen and leverage the PiCA program.
- (Research) Expand research at the Zoo to support animal care and wellbeing, conservation initiatives, and community engagement.

VOLUNTEERS IN CONSERVATION

BY: COLLIN HOWELL, VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR

Volunteers are on the front lines here at the Zoo, talking to guests, presenting biofacts, and sharing our global conservation story. Kiwanis Giraffe Encounter (KGE) is one example of how the Birmingham Zoo and its volunteers are continuing to help conservation of species around the world. KGE is where guests of the Zoo can feed our three reticulated giraffes Jalil, Willow, and Zuri. You may not realize, but the Zoo's KGE platform is completely run by Zoo Volunteers. KGE Volunteers donated over 1,735 hours in 2018, from March through October. During this time, the KGE platform had the most productive season since its opening in 2012, which means there are more Zoo guests making memories. Volunteers who work at the platform also educate Zoo guests about giraffes and conservation. The Birmingham Zoo donates a portion of giraffe feeding tickets sold on World Giraffe Day in June to the Giraffe Conservation Foundation, a nonprofit that works toward the protection and preservation of giraffes in the wild. Amy Toman, an Animal Care Professional in the Trails of Africa, helped represent the Birmingham Zoo's conservation efforts by partnering with the Giraffe Conservation Foundation. She received two Passion into Conservation Action grants to assist in the first-ever long term ecological monitoring of Angolan giraffe found in Namibia. This led to the reclassification of giraffe from *Least Concern* to *Vulnerable* on the IUCN Red List of Endangered and Threatened Species. Reticulated giraffes have recently been listed as endangered, meaning their numbers are declining in the wild, due to habitat loss, among other reasons. The Birmingham Zoo, along with the Giraffe Conservation Foundation, is working to protect this amazing species so many people can enjoy their beauty for generations to come. Don't forget to visit Jalil, Willow, Zuri and our amazing volunteers at our Kiwanis Giraffe Encounter, now open!



THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO RECEIVES FIRST ENDOWMENT FOR CONSERVATION

As a local, independent, not for profit, 501 (c) (3) organization, the Birmingham Zoo relies heavily on donors and sponsors. In November 2018, the Birmingham Zoo received its first ever endowed gift for conservation from Phyllis and Larry Wojciechowski to name the Phyllaris Fund at the Birmingham Zoo. The initial gift for the endowment amounts to \$250,000 and will be increased over time. The Phyllaris Fund will support the Birmingham Zoo's Passion into Conservation Action (PiCA) program that awards grants to Zoo staff members in support of conservation projects and worldwide research.

After retiring for the second time, Larry, and his wife, Phyllis, moved to Birmingham from Michigan and Arizona and quickly became involved in the community. Following an event at the Birmingham Zoo, they were touched when meeting and talking to various Zoo Animal Care Professionals. "We were captivated by the care and passion they [Animal Care Professionals] have for what they do at the Zoo every day," say the Wojciechowskis. "We wanted to ensure that Birmingham Zoo employees will be able to fulfill their passion and research of the natural world. We are so fortunate to be able to make this gift to the Zoo's PiCA program and to be able to see our legacy in action."

The Zoo's Animal Care Professionals, as well as staff from all departments, are passionate about the wellbeing of animals in their care, as well as wildlife and wild places. The Zoo's PiCA program was created to support not only conservation, but also the professional development and passion of the Zoo's employees. The Zoo's PiCA Program and Conservation Manager, Terra Manasco, has felt the positive effect of the program, saying "It has been one of the most satisfying things of my entire career to watch my fellow employees pursue their interests, expand their professional skillsets and get the Zoo out in the field, making a direct impact on conservation. These are truly passion projects and staff demonstrates that enthusiasm on a daily basis as they share their stories from the field with our guests."

"With this generous gift by the Wojciechowskis, the PiCA program will continue to have a direct, positive impact on our efforts toward the conservation of species, further the Zoo's mission, and support our staff's professional development. We are deeply grateful for the impactful support of Larry and Phyllis," says Chris Pfefferkorn, President & CEO of the Birmingham Zoo. If you are interested in donating or making an endowed gift to the Birmingham Zoo, please contact Karen Carroll at kcarroll@birminghamzoo.com or call 205.397.3856.

Image Caption: Philanthropists, Phyllis and Larry Wojciechowski create Phyllaris Fund to support Zoo's PiCA Program



PASSION INTO CONSERVATION ACTION (PiCA)

The Birmingham Zoo's Passion into Conservation Action (PiCA) Program allows Birmingham Zoo employees to submit project proposals supporting the Zoo's conservation initiatives, funded by the Zoo. After the applications were reviewed and narrowed down through a selection process, the following individuals were awarded 2019 grants:

CARRIE BROOKS - ONSITE PROGRAMS COORDINATOR, EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Use of Technology in Detection and Monitoring of Southern Cassowaries in Australia

- The Southern cassowary is a keystone species in the Australian rainforests and under increasing threat due to human disturbance, especially vehicle strikes on roadways.
- Carrie will work with a team of researchers to develop a device that can both detect and then discourage cassowaries from approaching roadways.

SAM COHEN - ANIMAL CARE PROFESSIONAL II, AMBASSADOR ANIMALS

The Black-Footed Ferret Recovery Project at Louisville Zoo Conservation Center in Kentucky

- The Black-Footed Ferret (BFF) is a species that has been brought back from the brink of extinction in large part due to the efforts of zoos!
- Sam will work at Louisville Zoo's Conservation Center during BFF whelping (birth) season helping with daily care of their large breeding colony.

JESSIE GRISWOLD - LEAD ANIMAL CARE PROFESSIONAL, ANIMAL HEALTH CENTER

Avian Mortality Assessment from Window Strikes in Downtown Birmingham, Alabama

- Monitoring avian mortality from window strikes is one of many ways to assess urban development's impacts on migratory and year round bird populations.
- There are many organizations and cities working together to provide data and mitigation strategies throughout the United States, but there are very few in the southeast and Jessie's project will help close that gap.

SCOTT KAYSER - ANIMAL CARE PROFESSIONAL II, PREDATORS

Pallas's Cat Research and Conservation with Dr. Bariushaa Munkhtsog in Mongolia

- Scott will return to work with Dr. Bariushaa Munkhtsog, a leading Pallas's cat researcher with the Mongolian Academy of Sciences.
- He will continue research on distribution and genetic diversity of Pallas's cats in Mongolia by using trail cameras and collaring Pallas's cats with satellite trackers.
- The research team is expanding their study to a much broader area to gain valuable distribution and population data that will help target specific sites for preservation and conservation.

TIFFANEY MCCLENDON - MEMBERSHIP AND GROUP SALES MANAGER

Bridging the Gap between People and Wolves through Conservation Education in Missouri

- Tiffany will work with staff at the Endangered Wolf Center, assisting with daily husbandry duties for the wolves currently in human care at the center.
- While there, she will also learn about the center's Conservation Education and Ambassador Animal programs.
- She will return from her firsthand experience and share with Birmingham Zoo guests the importance of Zoos to conservation and especially the importance of wolves and other canids (such as coyotes) to healthy balanced ecosystems.

AMY TROUSDALE - ANIMAL CARE PROFESSIONAL II, CHILDREN'S ZOO

Golden Eagles in Alabama (Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division)

- There is very little data on the eastern North American population of golden eagles, which include the wintering population in Alabama.
- Amy will assist biologists from the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (AWFF) as they conduct surveys to determine the number of eagles that winter in Alabama.
- The AWFF's Golden Eagle Winter Survey Project monitors and estimates winter populations and habitat use of golden eagles in Alabama through camera surveys and cellular transmitters to better understand the eastern population status.

BRIDGET WEIDNER - HEAD VETERINARY TECHNICIAN, ANIMAL HEALTH CENTER

Turning Birmingham Greener, One Restaurant at a Time (Greater Birmingham Area)

- Bridget will work on the Birmingham Zoo grounds with Service System Associates (SSA) to obtain Green Restaurant Certification (GRC) for the Nourish 205 restaurant, inside the Zoo. This would make Nourish 205, not only the first restaurant in Birmingham to become green certified, but the first in the entire state of Alabama!
- Her overarching goal is to encourage Birmingham restaurants at large to obtain Green Restaurant Certification, a process that will locally benefit the environment by adjusting the different types of waste that restaurants produce.



BIRD STRIKES IN BIRMINGHAM

BY: JESSIE GRISWOLD, LEAD ANIMAL CARE PROFESSIONAL – ANIMAL HEALTH CENTER

An estimated 100 million to 1 billion birds die from colliding with windows annually in the United States. Nearly half of these collisions occur at residential windows, the rest occurring in cities with larger buildings covered in glass and bright lights emitted from the cityscape.

Birmingham is situated between two migratory pathways, the Mississippi Flyway and the Atlantic Flyway, yet little is known about the impact the city of Birmingham itself has on the migratory birds that fly through our city. My Passion into Conservation Action (PiCA) grant funds a pilot study monitoring bird mortality in Birmingham due to window collisions. With the appropriate federal and state permits, I walked a designated path at three different locations during the prime spring and fall migratory months, looking for dead or injured birds that had collided with windows. I found 54 known bird species, 12 unknown bird species and 1 bat species (which are also victims of window collisions) in the first year of monitoring, for a total of 192 birds. Of these 192 birds, 143 were killed due to collision, while 43 were stunned and either flew away or were admitted for 24-48 hour observation, then released. Further monitoring data is needed to draw any conclusions as to primary species affected by window collisions in Birmingham. Additional data could also be important in learning more about the migratory patterns of many bird species as they fly to and from their wintering grounds.

Why do birds fly into glass? Simply, birds do not see glass as a barrier. The bird sees a destination in the reflection of trees, shrubs, or sky in the glass or they seek refuge in atriums or those places where plants are placed near windows inside. Sometimes two windows directly across from each other create a corridor that a bird will try to fly through.

What can you do to mitigate this problem on existing windows? Look at the placement of birdfeeders. Birdfeeders placed within 3 feet from windows have reduced instances of window strikes. Turn outside lights off, especially during migration season (March-May and August-November). If lights must be on, rotate them downward so that birds aren't trapped in the beam of light. Consider covering windows with American Bird Conservancy tested products such as ABC Bird Tape, 3M Feather Friendly Design, and Acopian Bird Savers. If you purchase decals online, remember to follow the 2" X 4" rule (or 2" X 2" rule if hummingbirds are colliding with your windows) and place them on the outside surface of the glass. This means that the decals must be spaced 2" apart in horizontal rows and 4" apart in vertical columns. This spacing is the minimum space a bird can fly through. If the decals are too far apart, the birds will continue colliding with the window.

It is important to get a stunned bird to a federally licensed rehabilitator as soon as possible. These birds may seem to wake up after a short period of time, but they can succumb to head trauma or internal bleeding from the collision even after 24 hours. You can gently place them in a cardboard box lined with a paper towel or pillowcase and keep it in a quiet, warm, and dark place until you are able to transport it (visit www.awrc.org to report a stunned bird).

Through my PiCA, I have become more knowledgeable about bird strikes and am committed to helping conserve all bird species. Together, we can all lessen the number of bird strikes in the Birmingham area. For more information, visit www.abcbirds.org/get-involved/bird-smart-glass.



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SUMMER ZOO CAMP 2019 REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

If your child hasn't had the chance to experience Zoo Camps at the Birmingham Zoo, the time has never been better! This year, we are offering more camps for students in grades 9-12! Also, with the opening of the new Front Entrance, we will have brand new large-group spaces and revamped classrooms right in the heart of the Zoo.

All of our camps are educational, encourage active learning and provide special encounters with a variety of our resident animals. Rich in STEM-based explorations, these camps engage the natural curiosity of campers and allow ample opportunity to practice critical emerging science skills. Learning has never been so much FUN! Camps are available for 4K-12th grade.

SUMMER CAMP DESCRIPTIONS/ SCHEDULE

Grade	Week 1 June 3-June 7	Week 2 June 10-June 14	Week 3 June 17-June 21	Week 4 June 24-June 28	Week 5 July 1-July 3
4K-2nd	Creature Features	Creature Features	Natural Discoveries	Natural Discoveries	Naturally Gross!*
3rd-5th	Creature Features Jr. Zoo Keeper	Creature Features Jr. Zoo Keeper	Natural Discoveries Jr. Zoo Keeper	Natural Discoveries Jr. Zoo Keeper	Natural Discoveries Jr. Zoo Keeper
6th-8th	Zoo Keeper*	Wildlife Researchers	Zoo Keeper*	Nature Engineers	Zoo Keeper*
9th-12th	N/A	Animal Wellness	N/A	Conservation Connections	N/A
Grade	Week 6 July 8-July 12	Week 7 July 15-July 19	Week 8 July 22-July 26	Week 9 July 29-August 2	
4K-2nd	Habitat Happenings	Habitat Happenings	Creature Features	Creature Features	
3rd-5th	Habitat Happenings Jr. Zoo Keeper	Habitat Happenings Jr. Zoo Keeper	Creature Features Jr. Zoo Keeper	Creature Features Jr. Zoo Keeper	
6th-8th	Zoo Keeper*	Wildlife Researchers	Zoo Keeper*	Nature Engineers	
9th-12th	N/A	Animal Wellness	N/A	Conservation Connections	

*6th-8th GRADE ZOO KEEPER CAMP - Monday and Friday begin at 8:30am; Tuesday through Thursday, begin at 7:30am

**NATURALLY GROSS - Fee includes one student and one adult.

FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE SEE THE
CAMP PLANNING GUIDE AT

www.birminghamzoo.com/education/zoo-camps



NEW ORANGUTAN SPECIES FOUND IN THE WILD!

BY: DANIELLE WILLIAMS, ZOOLOGICAL MANAGER OF PRIMATES/SOUTH AMERICA

Who would believe that in the present day we could still discover new species? It seems unlikely, especially with something as large as a great ape, but that is exactly what happened in 2017. Scientists confirmed a third species of orangutan – the Tapanuli orangutan!

In 1997, a small population of orangutans in a remote mountain forest on the Indonesian island of Sumatra was noted to have some physical differences from the two previously described species – Sumatran orangutans and Bornean orangutans. Over the next twenty years, scientists would identify distinguishing features in these orangutans, some more subtle than others. Through documentation of physical traits and behavioral observations, scientists have been able to determine that the Tapanuli orangutans have frizzier hair, smaller heads, and distinct sounding long calls (a vocalization all male orangutans make). Through genetic and skeletal analysis, scientists were able to verify more determinative differences.

In November 2017, the announcement about this new species of orangutan hit the news. As we celebrated this exciting discovery, we were also called to action. Both Sumatran and Bornean orangutans are listed as 'critically endangered' on the IUCN Red List, but the newly declared Tapanuli orangutan became the most endangered of all the great ape species, which also includes gorillas, chimpanzees and bonobos. There are fewer than 800 Tapanuli orangutans living in just three forest fragments on the island of Sumatra – far fewer individuals than even the well-known mountain gorilla.

The discovery of the Tapanuli orangutans not only impacted the small number of orangutans in their native Indonesia but our ambassadors living in zoos as well. There are currently 229 orangutans living in 52 zoos in North America that are accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Each year, the Orangutan Species Survival Plan® (SSP) members get together to discuss and re-evaluate the plan for these individuals, including breeding recommendations and transfers between zoos. Since 1995, the Orangutan SSP has managed three populations – Sumatran, Bornean, and hybrids

of the two. In order to maintain genetic diversity of the populations, the hybrid individuals are not recommended for breeding.

So what does this mean for AZA zoos now that there is another species of orangutan? The easy answer is that Animal Care Professionals across the country will continue to show the same dedication to the orangutans in their care that they always have. The tough answer is yet to be determined. Many factors, including space limitations, family history and individual orangutan personalities, are included with genetic information when the SSP makes their plan. Their goal is to maintain high genetic diversity in the populations in human care. The identification of the Tapanuli orangutan means that the SSP will look more closely at the genetic make-up of each of these individuals to figure out how to appropriately manage all of the orangutans in our care.

What can you do to help the Tapanuli orangutan? By visiting the Birmingham Zoo, you are helping support all of our conservation efforts. Not only has the Birmingham Zoo funded staff members' orangutan projects via our PiCA grant program, but our new Deputy Director, Lori Perkins, is the program coordinator for the Orangutan SSP. To help all orangutans, including Tapanulis, in the wild, download the Palm Oil Shopping Guide on your smartphone and educate yourself on how purchasing groceries and cosmetics that contain **sustainable** palm oil can have a positive impact for orangutan habitats in Southeast Asia. Be sure to stop by the Birmingham Zoo to connect with our Sumatran orangutan family, Oliver, Lipz, and Nairi!

HELPFUL LINKS!

Learn more about palm oil at
www.orangutanssp.org/palm-oil

Learn more about the Tapanuli
orangutan and its cousins at
www.orangutanssp.org/taxonomy

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WE KNOW IT'S "KUDOS," BUT WE'RE A ZOO!

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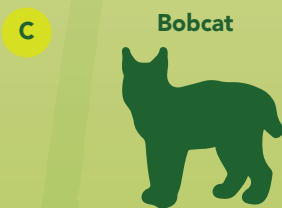
KIDS KORNER

Track and sign are clues that wildlife researchers use to find animals in the wild. Tracks are footprints left behind by animals and sign is anything else! Sign can include rubs, hair, smells, and even POOP!

- How many toes do you see? _____
 Does the track show claws? _____
 Are the toes pads and foot pads touching? _____
 Is the track more round or oval? _____

Use your observation skills to determine who left behind this footprint!

North American Black Bear



ANSWER KEY: A(4) B(3) C(1) D(5) E(2)



Who do you think left this track?



The next time you come to the Zoo, be sure to visit the outhouse behind the Alabama Barn to try your hand at identifying another sign left by animals— POOP!



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