



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Birmingham Zoo Protects Birds Against Avian Influenza**

### **A response to HPAI confirmations in Alabama**

**BIRMINGHAM, AL** – Birmingham Zoo is implementing biosecurity measures to protect all birds inside the Zoo, which will mean many birds will be off-habitat and not viewable by Zoo guests. The Zoo has been proactive to protect birds at your Zoo from the recently confirmed presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Alabama by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR). The Birmingham Zoo is taking all precautions necessary to ensure your Zoo's birds stay safe and healthy. This confirmation of HPAI in wild black vultures in Montgomery County, Alabama, is the second confirmation of HPAI in Alabama since February 2022.

In response, Birmingham Zoo Animal Care staff are in the process of moving the majority of birds indoors and covering habitats with tents to ensure their health and safety. According to Dr. Stephanie McCain, DVM, Dipl ACZM, Birmingham Zoo Director of Animal Health, "We have been monitoring the situation closely and are implementing increased measures to protect the Zoo's birds. This includes the temporary closure of many outdoor habitats as the birds move to interior areas where we can limit contact with wild birds who may be carriers of HPAI."

This means that many of the Zoo's amazing birds will not be viewable by the public, including the flamingos, cranes, secretary birds, and the native birds in the Alabama Wilds, among others. The smaller enclosed habitats will remain visible with additional coverings added to the rooftops.

"The health and welfare of your Zoo's animals come first," says Chris Pfefferkorn. "We understand some visitors will miss seeing many of the birds temporarily, but we are pleased to offer so many other amazing animals and experiences here at the Zoo, that will not be affected by these precautions."

No human cases of this HPAI virus infection have ever been detected or reported in the United States. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have determined the recent detection of HPAI does not present an immediate public health concern, however, anyone involved in the care for birds should review and take measures to prevent the spread of illness among birds. As a general precaution, people should avoid direct contact with wild birds and observe them only from a distance.

#### **Zoo Logo**



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## SOCIAL

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## ABOUT THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO

The Birmingham Zoo is not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization and is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

Our mission: *Inspiring Passion to Conserve the Natural World.*

Approximately 650 animals of 230 species call the Birmingham Zoo home, including sea lions, zebras, elephants, bongos, and endangered species from six continents. The Birmingham Zoo is a non-profit and is open Wednesday-Sunday from 9am to 5pm. All Birmingham Zoo Members and children under two-years-old receive free admission. The Birmingham Zoo is the only AZA-accredited Zoo in the state of Alabama.

[www.birminghamzoo.com](http://www.birminghamzoo.com) | 2630 Cahaba Road | Birmingham, AL 35223