

AN INSIDER MAGAZINE FOR ZOO PASS MEMBERS

SPRING 2023

ALIVE





The mission of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee is to conserve wildlife and endangered species, educate people about the importance of wildlife and the environment, and support the Milwaukee County Zoo.

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Rob Beres, Mark Berkoff, Janette Braverman, Jason Fathallah**, Joe Frohna, Tami Garrison, Jodi Gibson+, Margaret Harris, Nezh Hasanoglu, Tanya Hines, Dustin Hinton, Emory Ireland, Christine Irgens, John Kellerman, Peggy Kelsey, Dan Kempken, John Kissinger, Maria Gonzalez Knavel, Russ Kohl, Joe Kresl, Caroline Krider, Jenna Kunde, Tony Marino, Jay McKenna, Demond Means, Tom Miller, Kat Morrow, Scott Redlinger, Harold Redman, Don Robertson, Joe Rock, Chuck Roedel, Barry Sattell, Rick Schmidt, Roger Smith, Jon Sohn, Tony Staniak, Judy Holz Stathas, David Strelitz, Derek Tyus*, James Ward, Wendell Willis, Honorary Directors: John B. Burns, Michael Carter, Stephen M. Dearholt, Richard A. Gallun, Michael M. Grebe, John A. Hazelwood, Karen Peck Katz, Quinn Martin, Sandi Moomey, Jill Pelisek, Gina Peter, Jay Robertson, Rich Tennesen, Ray Wilson, Bernard C. Ziegler III

* Chair of the Board ** Associate Board President +Zoological Society President & CEO

2023 ASSOCIATE BOARD

- Brian Blake, Brian Boecker, Jordan Carey, Merry Casperson, Aaron Cranfill, Kelly Dancy, Jill Didier, Tom DiSalvo, Jason Fathallah*, Sean Finnigan, Jacob Jorgensen, David Konkel, Eric Nitz, Kristin Occhetti, Jim Olson, Kent Oren, Vedran Rimarcuk, Kevin Schalk, Kelly Sullivan, Steven Szymanski, Caitlin Tilley, Chris Timm, Melissa Will, Honorary Directors: Bob Anger, Tony Baish, David Batten, Lori Bechthold, Meghan Shannon, Berndt, Matthew D'Attilio, Nora Dreske, John Fleckenstein, Mike Fox, Linda Grunau, Eli Guzniczak, Lee Walther Kordus, Peter Kordus, Joe Kresl, Quinn Martin, Kat Morrow, Margie Paur, Katie Pionkoski, Richard J. Podell, Bunny Raasch-Hooten, Arlene Remsik, Barry Sattell, Dan Schwabe, Randy Scoville, Tricia Shinners, Judy Holz Stathas, Jeff Steren, David Strelitz, Jim Szymanski, Kathleen Toohey, Pete Underwood, Jane Wierzba, Ray Wilson

* Associate Board President

President & CEO

Jodi Gibson

Communications, Marketing & Membership

Robin Higgins, Vice President

Finance/ Administration

Kate Halfwassen, CFO/Vice President

Development

Penny Gutekunst, Vice President

Programs

Beth Heller, Vice President

Creative

Christian Keene, Director

Editor & Writer

Garrett Hopkins

Graphic Designers

Kevin McIntosh, Jessie Kinsey

Printer

Walsworth - Ripon



CEO's Letter



Photo provided by Milwaukee Business Journal

Good things happen when passionate people work together. As President and CEO, I find great joy in fostering and observing teamwork between our talented staff and the organizations we partner with. From inspiring youth to care about wildlife, to pursuing local and regional conservation projects, to generating financial support for the Zoo, the Society is fueled by this collaborative creativity.

In addition to leading the Society's gifted staff, I am endlessly grateful for the

opportunity to work alongside, and in support of, the Milwaukee County Zoo. The Zoo and Society walk together as partners dedicated to providing experiences that are otherwise rare in Wisconsin. Within this issue of Alive magazine are several examples of how Society staff collaborate with each other, with the Zoo and with other like-minded organizations across the country.

This teamwork is exemplified on page 6, where you'll learn about the mountain lion and mule deer conservation project in California the Society helps support. I'm also excited for you to read about our Wild Birds Program, which reached new heights in the past year with the hiring of a regional conservation specialist, who you will meet on page 13. Finally, I'm excited to share that our readers have a chance to collaborate with us by bidding on a bat painting on page 5. The money raised from this auction will be divided between the Zoological Society's mission and Bat Conservation International.

As a loyal Zoo Pass member, you play a critical role in our mission, and this issue of Alive is one of the ways we show our gratitude for your support. Enjoy!

Jodi Gibson

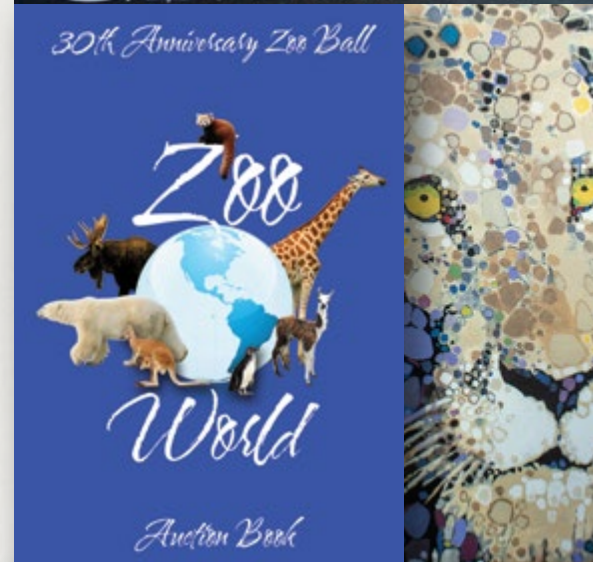
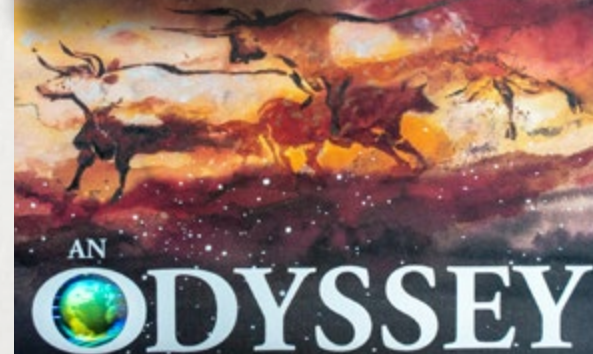
Zoological Society President & CEO

CONTENTS

Volume 43, Issue 1

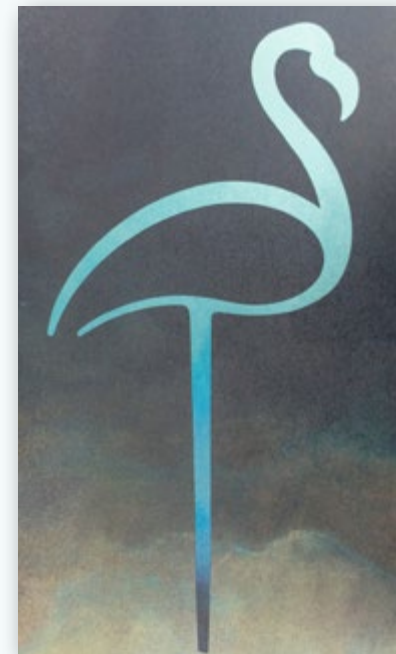
- 40 Years of Zoo Ball: Reflecting on a wild tradition 3
- Tasteful Creations: Learn about the bats that paint. 4
- A Fragile Coexistence: Conservation in the wild 6
- The New Old World Monkeys: De Brazza's monkeys 8
- Rhin-opolis: What's next for Adventure Africa 9
- The Power of Perspective: Empathy for wildlife 10
- Winged and Welcomed: Wild bird conservation 12
- Kids Alive: Wild (About) Birds 14

All photos taken by Garrett Hopkins unless otherwise noted.



40 Years of Zoo Ball

On June 24, the Zoological Society will be celebrating the 40th annual Zoo Ball! For 40 years, the Society has hosted a black-tie gala at the Milwaukee County Zoo, each with its own unique theme and special moment in history. Themes ranged from conservation to pop culture to time travel and beyond, and we wouldn't have it any other way. Our hearts are full as we reflect on the support we've received through the years, and on the people who made each and every Zoo Ball such a grand success. If you want to be a part of the 40th Zoo Ball go to zoosociety.org/zooball.



First Zoo Ball Invite (1984) Cheza Ngoma



TASTEFUL CREATIONS

ALL ABOUT THE BATS THAT PAINT

Da Vinci. Picasso. Van Gogh. What do the Milwaukee County Zoo's straw-colored fruit bats have in common with these legends of art? Until recent history, the answer would be "very little." But about five years ago, when Small Mammals Area Supervisor Rhonda Crenshaw was looking for a way to raise money for bat conservation, she decided she wanted her bats to be able to paint.

"Zookeepers are always doing paintings with their animals," she says, "but getting a bat to paint was a bigger challenge." Crenshaw wanted the paintings to be authentic, for her bats to do all of the work. "I didn't want to be holding the canvas, holding the paintbrush or even holding the bats. I wanted them to be able to manipulate the paintbrush."

But the bats, with their small appendages and limited knowledge about the nuances of art theory, would need some assistance. After a short brainstorming session, Crenshaw pulled out some paper and began to sketch an imaginative contraption that uses food to entice the bats to push around a series of strategically placed paintbrushes. Once her design was complete, she sent it to an exceptionally handy Zoo Pride volunteer by the name of Dick Tyk who regularly builds fabrications for zookeepers.

"I always use bananas for this activity," she explains. "It's sticky and stays in the cup for a long period of time." Crenshaw chose bananas out of necessity, but these painting sessions quickly turned into one of the most popular forms of enrichment for her bats, who can't get enough of their favorite fruit. "When they see me walking in with the contraption, they totally know what's happening and literally the whole colony is there. They love it."

For years, Crenshaw's affection for bats has inspired her to raise money for bat conservation, and all of the money earned from her bat paintings goes to Bat Conservation International (BCI). "I picked BCI because they're one of the most reputable bat conservation organizations. They're very trustworthy." BCI, which has been around since 1982, is one of the most globally recognized organizations dedicated to ending bat extinctions. "I just want people to know that their money is going from my bats to the bats in the wild."

The bats are busy eating and painting.

This contraption lets bats push around paintbrushes while they eat.

A piece of banana attracts the bats and the brush bumping begins!

BID ON A BAT PAINTING

The Zoological Society is auctioning off three bat paintings created by the Zoo's straw-colored fruit bats! This exclusive opportunity ends on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 9 p.m. Proceeds will go to Bat Conservation International (BCI) and the Zoological Society's mission to conserve, educate and support the Zoo.

SCAN TO BID



A FRAGILE COEXISTENCE

When Zach Mills tracks mule deer in the Santa Monica Mountains, he packs his food precisely: a tin of sardines, wasabi-flavored almonds, six pouches of squeezable baby food, a jar of pre-ground peanuts and a Snickers bar – pure energy, carefully wrapped in a muffling scarf. The terrain he faces is demanding, and the animals he pursues are conditioned to outmaneuver mountain lions. Every decision he makes, down to the sustenance he carries, plays a role in whether or not his day will be a success.

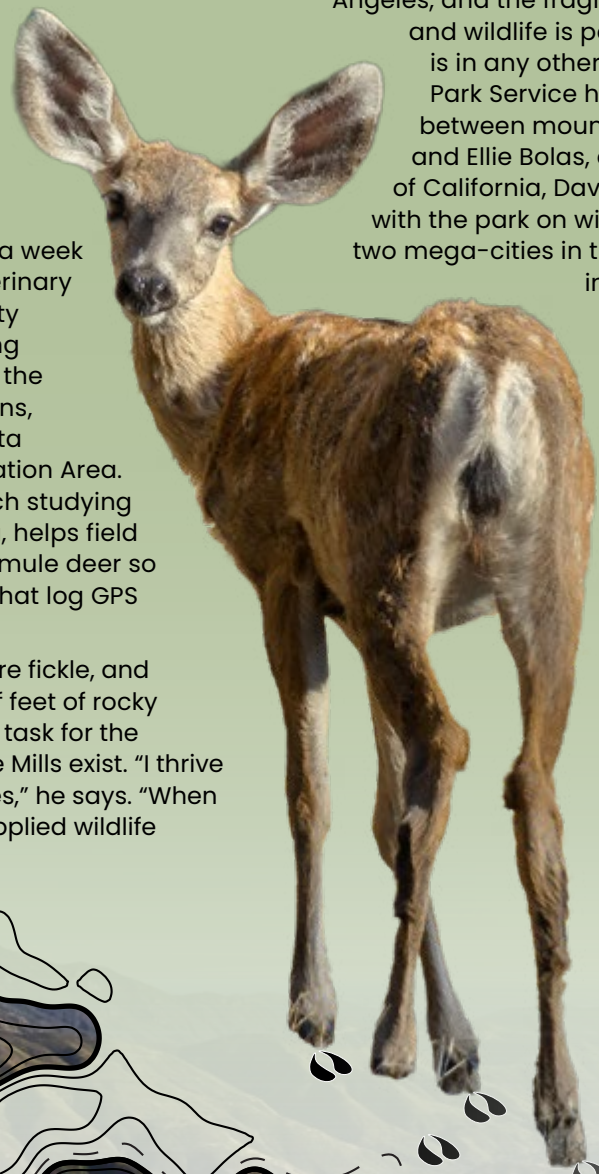
A few times per year, Mills spends a week away from his job as the lead veterinary technician at the Milwaukee County Zoo to participate in a longstanding field research project centered on the relationship between mountain lions, mule deer and humans in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Mills, who did his graduate research studying large carnivores in southern Africa, helps field researchers track and immobilize mule deer so they can be outfitted with collars that log GPS points every two hours.

Mule deer are as athletic as they are fickle, and tracking them across thousands of feet of rocky elevation would be an unthinkable task for the average person. Luckily, people like Mills exist. "I thrive with the physical challenges," he says. "When I'm doing applied wildlife

research, I don't know a limit. I can go and go. At the end of the day, when I've run 2,000 feet up a mountain five times, I can do it one more time. Physically, it's demanding, but it fuels me. I love the pursuit."

The Santa Monica Mountains are adjacent to Los Angeles, and the fragile coexistence between humans and wildlife is perhaps tested here more than it is in any other part of the country. The National Park Service has been studying the balance between mountain lions and humans since 2002, and Ellie Bolas, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis) first started working with the park on wildlife projects in 2014. "LA is one of two mega-cities in the world that has a large cat living in it," Bolas says. "The mountain lions that live here are candidates for listing as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act. It's a genetically distinct population, and we're very keen to conserve them."

Conserving an apex predator in one of the largest cities in the world means conserving its primary food source. So, in 2020, Bolas initiated the first major study of the ecology and conservation of mule deer at the park, together with park biologists. "The idea," says Bolas, "is that if we can understand how interactions between mountain lions and mule deer are impacted by people, we can



Mule Deer Capture Methods

Chemical Immobilization

- Uses gas-powered rifles to dart animals with temporary sleeping agent.
- Requires animal-tracking skills, endurance and marksmanship.
- Allows time for researchers to take samples of blood, whiskers and body measurements.



Clover Traps

- A large box with netted sidings. Animals are lured and safely trapped inside.
- Requires researcher to enter trap and physically contain the animal.
- Animal is quickly collared and then released.



better understand how to conserve both species and promote healthy coexistence for all of them."

The GPS collars Mills helps the team deploy shed light on how often mule deer venture into residential areas, how they move when a mountain lion is nearby and where they most commonly cross roads. The data will also be used to understand how the world-famous Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, set for completion in 2025, impacts connectivity between wildlife populations. Furthermore, Bolas is interested in using data to learn how mule deer find food during increasingly-common droughts and fires. "A lot of energy is going into replanting areas that were burned during the Woolsey Fire of 2018. Understanding how deer respond to restoration efforts can help guide those efforts moving forward."

Zoomed out, this research project is a collaboration among the National Park Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and UC Davis, and its conclusions will inform multimillion-dollar conservation projects. Zoomed in, it's a group of people who are in the field before sunrise every day, fully focused and eager to dedicate their energy to the betterment of another living being. It's proof of the power of teamwork and a reminder that every person has a unique role to play in our collective quest for a healthier planet.

Mills describes his role in this project as being an instrument that helps the research team capture deer. "I've been tracking deer since I was 10 years old, and I now have 23 years of experience." His experience has allowed him to perfect his methods, from the ridge lines he chooses to climb, to the type of food he brings along. "I know how to evade their smell, their sight and their ears. A lot of my time in the field is spent teaching people why I do what I do, why I move how I move. For me, it's intuitive."

While Mills' role is different from many others who are working on the project, it is no less valuable. "His experience in animal capture is unparalleled," says Bolas. "He's knowledgeable, hardworking and an enjoyable colleague. We're going to keep inviting him back." Each year, the Zoological Society funds a number of fieldwork projects for zookeepers and veterinary staff. Thanks, in part, to this support, Mills is able to share his expertise in tracking mule deer with Bolas and her colleagues, making this work a reality.

Zach Mills and Ellie Bolas in the field.



THE NEW OLD WORLD MONKEYS

Holly



Holly and **Hugo** have been turning heads since their public debut in December. With their sharp goatees, orange crests and bold behavior, the Zoo's new De Brazza's monkeys have quickly become celebrities in the Stearns Family Apes of Africa building. Holly, who has been described by her zookeepers as the rambunctious leader, is five years old and came from the Fort Wayne Zoo in Indiana. Hugo, who is sweet and mild mannered, is four years old and came from the Bramble Park Zoo in South Dakota.

De Brazza's monkeys are Old World monkeys, a classification which contains primates that typically have non-prehensile tails, are native to either Asia or Africa, and are omnivores. Holly and Hugo are a recommended breeding pair through the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) Species Survival Plan® (SSP). Pay the pair a visit during your next trip to the Zoo!



Hugo



De Brazza's Monkey Facts

- Named after French explorer Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza.
- Equipped with large cheek pouches used to store and transport food.
- Native to Angola, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.
- Primary threats include habitat loss due to timber industry and coffee plantations.
- Maximum height is 25 inches. Average weight is 15 pounds.
- Diet consists of fruit, flowers, insects and leaves.

RHIN-OPOLIS

BUILD A HOME FOR RHINOS



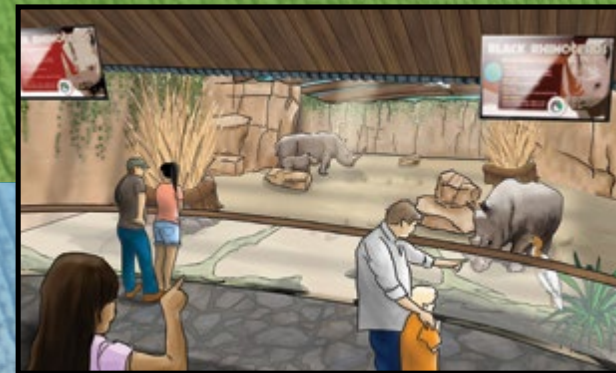
Last year, you helped us pay for the design for Phase III of Adventure Africa, which will bring a series of new pachyderm buildings to the Zoo. This year, we're asking you to help us bring the planning phase to a close and get shovels into the ground! Phases I and II of Adventure Africa have already brought about two series of renovations as grand as the animals they house, and Phase III will be no different.

The Milwaukee County Zoo is a metropolis within the Greater Milwaukee Area, and this renovation will bring forth a pachyderm metropolis within the Milwaukee County Zoo. We cannot wait until the day we break ground, and we hope you will be a part of this historic moment. **Please help us:**

Build two new indoor, year-round habitats: the Hippo and Rhino Rec Rooms. This is especially important as these special places will provide two additional indoor viewing opportunities during Wisconsin's cold-weather months, similar to the indoor Elephant Care Center experience.

Remodel the old outdoor elephant yard and two current rhino spaces into two large outdoor rhino habitats enhancing the Zoo's ability to breed rhinos. (Current breeding opportunities are limited because of the slope in the current outside yards.)

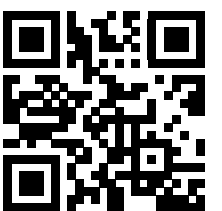
Utilize foot-friendly, soft substrate in the hippo and rhino indoor habitats and incorporate an overhead canopy, which will allow the hippos and rhinos to enjoy sunshine when they are indoors.



WE ANTICIPATE BEGINNING CONSTRUCTION IN 2024.

Please consider a gift to create a stomping ground for the rhinos and make this exciting endeavor a reality!

SCAN TO DONATE



DONATE TODAY AND MILLER BREWING COMPANY WILL MATCH A PORTION OF YOUR DONATION!

Thanks for your support; it is greatly appreciated!

THE POWER OF PERSPECTIVE: A LOOK INTO THE EMPATHY MOVEMENT

A mirror typically reflects the face in front of it. In a Zoo Class, children often look into mirrors and see a fish, a zebra, an alligator or some other animal looking back! This fun activity called perspective-taking, which involves children making animal costumes and reflecting on their reflection, is one of the ways the Zoological Society helps young people look at the world through the eyes of an animal. It also reflects the recent shift to empathy-centric education that's becoming increasingly common across the country.

Empathy, or the ability to perceive, understand, and care about the experiences of another, is one of the most impactful ways humans develop connections to animals. But how influential can the power of sharing an animal's perspective be? In 2015, an anonymous donor funded a collaborative project between three Pacific Northwest

organizations (Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium, Seattle Aquarium and Woodland Park Zoo) to help answer this question.

The funding was specifically intended to explore the use of empathy to inspire conservation action. "Getting people to the point of taking conservation action is a complex process," says Darcie Larson, the senior manager of community engagement and inclusion at Seattle Aquarium. "We know it's not as simple as 'knowing, caring, doing'. It requires many internal and external motivations. We believe that the intentional use of empathy can be a foundational piece of the conservation work we do."

The premise is simple. The more empathy a person feels toward a specific animal, the higher chance they will support conservation on behalf of that

animal's wild counterparts at some point in their life. The three organizations put this theory into practice through the Measuring Empathy Collaborative Assessment Project (2015–2018). During this time, the organizations developed questionnaires, observation tools, and gamified assessments that could be used to collect data on the impact of intentional empathy education.

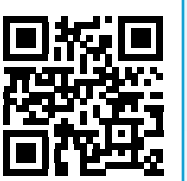
The Seattle Aquarium identified six best practices for fostering empathy: framing, sharing knowledge, modeling, activating imagination, direct experience and practice. Instead of saying the species name, staff called an animal by its given name. Instead of explaining a certain behavior, they asked their audience to think about why the animal made that choice and what it was feeling in that moment. Instead of listing a species' IUCN conservation status and moving on, they explained what everyday decisions people can make to help save that species.

The data was powerful. "Evidence strongly suggests that when empathy strategies are intentionally used, participants showed a greater frequency and intensity of empathy-related outcomes," says Sarah Brenkert, principle evaluator at Seattle Aquarium. "Informal learning experiences, like at a zoo, aquarium or nature center, can offer powerful experiences that inspire feelings of connection and motivate people to take action for conservation."

Research also demonstrated how empathy is a cognitive ability that can be strengthened. "I really love to think about zoos and aquariums as empathy gyms," says Larson. "They're places where people can go to strengthen their empathy muscles." In 2018, encouraged by MECAP's positive data, the Pacific Northwest empathy contingent set out to create more "empathy gyms" across the country, and in 2022, the Zoological Society was awarded a grant from the Woodland Park Zoo to infuse more intentional empathy education into its programming.

Lessons learned in Zoo Classes will hopefully help create a generation of youth who spend more time thinking about an animal's experience, and more time thinking about how they can help those species persevere in the wild. While the Zoological Society is just one of a handful of organizations doing this work, the movement is continuing to grow. This past February, the Association of Zoos & Aquariums featured a module about empathy in its yearly conservation education training for the first time ever. "This is a significant milestone," says Larson. "It's really growing in acceptance and popularity, and it's popular because the research has shown how effective it is."

[Take our EMPATHY FOR WILDLIFE Quiz >](#)



5 WAYS TO BUILD EMPATHY AT THE ZOO

1. **Read a Habitat Sign** – Almost every animal at the Zoo is featured on an informational sign near their habitat. These signs typically share where the species is from, their conservation status, what they eat and more.
2. **Learn About Animal Care** – Zookeepers work hard to maintain the wellness of their animals and keep them engaged. See if you can spot some examples of their work!
3. **Act Out an Adaptation** – Flap your arms like a bird! Waddle like a penguin! Mimicking an animal can help you see the world through their eyes.
4. **Watch an Animals in Action Talk** – Zoo Pride volunteers hold daily talks during the summer season at select habitats to discuss animal care, personalities, species conservation and more.
5. **Ponder an Animal's Behavior** – Whether they're looking for food or lying down, Zoo animals are always making an intentional choice. Spend some time observing an animal and think about why it has chosen to behave in a specific way in a given moment.



The Milwaukee County Zoo is home to more than 2,000 animals, most of which are not native to Wisconsin, or even to North America. There is, however, a large contingent of animals that are so common, their presence at the Zoo often goes over people's heads – literally. At any time of the day, during any season, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of wild birds at the Zoo.

These winged wonders are one of the many unsung pieces to Wisconsin's ecological puzzle. They play a central role in pest control by

eating millions of insects each year, they promote plant growth by dispersing seeds in their droppings and certain species like hummingbirds are important pollinators for native flowers. Above all else, wild birds are excellent ambassadors for wildlife, with their cheerful songs, colorful feathers and quirky behaviors.

Since the 1970s, wild bird populations have dropped by nearly 25% worldwide. Decades ago, feeding and watching wild birds was a fun hobby. It is now an important conservation action. Bird conservation has been happening at the Zoo for years through bird banding projects, the application of anti-collision window stickers, bird feeder stations and nesting boxes, but this work was formalized in early 2022 with the hiring of the Zoological Society's first-ever regional conservation specialist, Toby Seegert.

The creation of this position has allowed the Wild Birds Program to spread its wings. Most notably, there is now a designated person to conduct weekly point count surveys – a method of research that involves standing in a single place for a set amount of time and tracking every bird seen and heard. Seegert's work has helped the Society forge a partnership with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, where the point count data is reported.

Thanks to the work of Seegert, and all of the zookeepers and volunteers who preceded him and currently work with him, the Zoo is a hotspot for birds and birdwatchers alike. From common birds like chickadees and doves, to elusive species such as wood ducks and great horned owls, the 190-acre Milwaukee County Zoo has quietly become one of the most important landing sites for wild birds in southeastern Wisconsin.

Read the interview with Seegert on Page 13 to learn more about his important work with the Wild Birds Program.

A SEASONAL BIRDWATCHING LIST FOR THE ZOO

MOST COMMONLY OBSERVED BIRDS BY SEASON.

SUMMER

- 1. American robin 2. Common grackle 3. Northern cardinal
- 4. American goldfinch 5. Black-capped chickadee

FALL

- 1. American robin 2. Northern cardinal 3. Black-capped chickadee
- 4. Red-bellied woodpecker 5. Mallard

WINTER

- 1. Mallard 2. Black-capped chickadee 3. Downy woodpecker
- 4. Red-bellied woodpecker 5. Canada goose

SPRING

- 1. Mourning dove 2. Canada goose
- 3. Black-capped chickadee 4. White-breasted nuthatch 5. Red-winged blackbird



AN INTERVIEW WITH TOBY SEEGERT

THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S REGIONAL CONSERVATION SPECIALIST

Zoological Society of Milwaukee: Hi Toby, we're glad to have you on board! What led you to this point in your career?

Toby Seegert: My love for biology started early in life, and I studied Wildlife Biology from the University of Minnesota. Last summer, I worked for the Wisconsin DNR and helped with banding ducks and geese. When I applied to the Zoological Society, I was taking a class on ornithology, so I had a background in working with wild birds. This job was a great fit.

ZSM: What does your work as regional conservation specialist entail?

TS: I coordinate all of the volunteer opportunities we offer through the Wild Birds Program. Zoo Pride volunteers can monitor nest boxes during nesting season, fill our bird feeders on Zoo grounds, help out with Project Feeder Watch by watching feeders and tracking which birds visit, and perform point count surveys. I also led a birdwatching tour of the Zoo for the BIPOC Birders Club of Wisconsin and a presentation on the program for volunteers, and we have more trainings in the works.

ZSM: How has the program changed since you were hired?

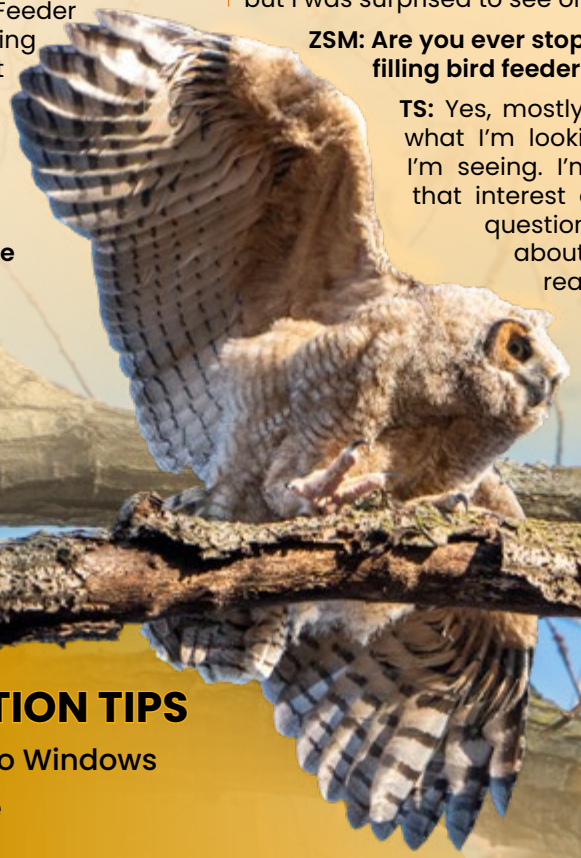
TS: We've gotten a lot more volunteers. It started with a much smaller group of people, and the longer I've been here, the more people have wanted to get involved. I think having a dedicated person and a point of reference for the program has been a huge help. More people are learning about the program and becoming interested in what we have to offer.

ZSM: Have you been surprised by any of the wild birds you've seen at the Zoo?

TS: I was really excited about the spotted sandpiper we saw nesting near Lake Evinrude. I've never seen one before in the wild. They look unassuming. They are brown, kind of plain, but they have this really cute tail-bobbing behavior when they walk. Their tail goes up and down, up and down; it's very endearing. They're pretty common around lakes and shores, but I was surprised to see one in more of a city area.

ZSM: Are you ever stopped by Zoo guests when you're filling bird feeders or doing point count surveys?

TS: Yes, mostly by little kids. They usually ask what I'm looking at and what kind of birds I'm seeing. I'm glad I'm able to help spark that interest early. The more they're asking questions, the more they'll be conscious about conservation as an adult. It's really cool.



WILD BIRD CONSERVATION TIPS

- 1. Apply Anti-collision Stickers to Windows
- 2. Purchase Bird-friendly Coffee
- 3. Keep House Cats Indoors
- 4. Hang Up Bird Feeders

Wild bird photos by Don Ellingsen, except for owl photo by Garrett Hopkins.

Wild (About) Birds!



Some birds are brown, some birds are small. Some birds are blue, some birds are tall. Some birds sing, some birds squawk, and some birds barely make noise. Wisconsin is home to a wide range of beautiful birds, and we think they're all amazing! Help us celebrate all-things-birds by building a cute bird craft, making a homemade bird feeder or testing your own knowledge about some of Wisconsin's frequent flyers.

Build-A-Bird

Craft created by Estrella Longoria

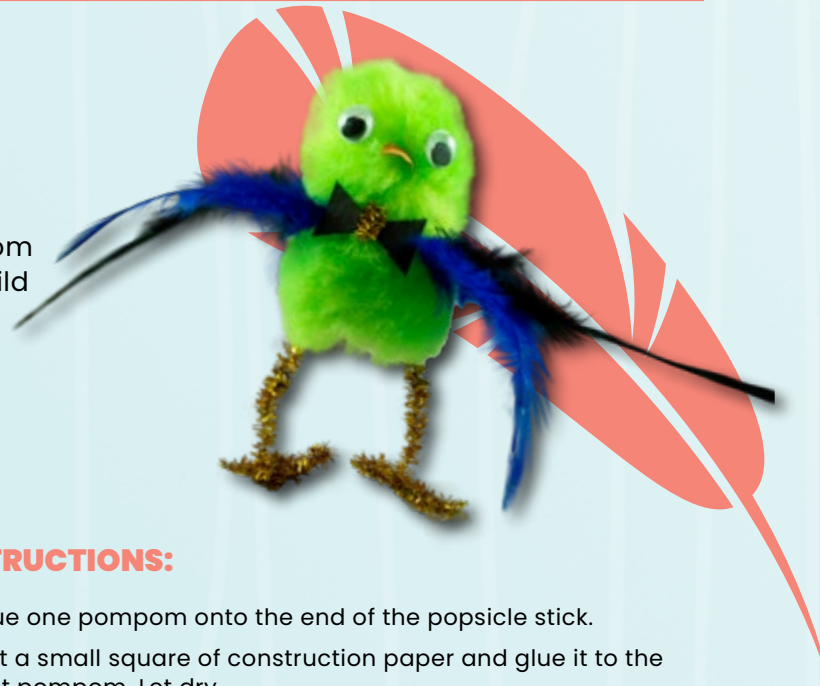
Birds are fun to watch, but they're often best viewed from afar. With this cute arts-and-crafts project you can build your very own bird friend to keep with you at all times.

SUPPLIES

- Large fuzzy craft pompoms
- Tinsel stems (or pipe cleaners)
- Short popsicle sticks
- Construction paper
- Googly eyes
- Bag of feathers
- Hot glue or craft glue

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Glue one pompom onto the end of the popsicle stick.
2. Cut a small square of construction paper and glue it to the first pompom. Let dry.
3. Glue three feathers on either side of the small square of construction paper, forming wings.
4. Glue a second pompom onto the top of the first pompom, forming the head. Let dry.
5. Cut a small triangle of craft paper for the beak and glue it to the center of the head. Let dry.
6. Fold a tinsel stem in the middle, then make a small W-shape on each end, forming toes.
7. Glue the tinsel stem to the bottom of the popsicle stick.
8. Glue on googly eyes, and any other add-ons such as a bowtie, a necklace or extra feathers.



Peanut Butter Pine Cone

Wild birds are resourceful, but Wisconsin weather can be harsh. One of the best ways to help your backyard birds stay healthy is by providing them a food source. Purchasing a bird feeder is one great way to do this, but there are plenty of homemade options, including these peanut butter pine cones!

SUPPLIES:

- Pine cones
- Peanut butter*
- Birdseed
- String
- Butter knife
- Shallow plate or bowl

*If allergic to peanuts, you can use Crisco, sunflower butter such as SunButter, or softened lard.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Collect dried pine cones from nature.
2. Tightly tie a six-inch piece of string around the base of the pine cone.
3. Using butter knife, spread peanut butter evenly around the outside of the pine cone.
4. Dip the pine cone in a bowl or plate of birdseed until fully covered.
5. Hang in a tree for your local birds to enjoy.



Use the Clues to Name the Bird!

1. A bright red bird with a pointed crest.
2. The most common species of duck in Wisconsin.
3. This bird says, "Gobble! Gobble!"
4. The bird with the longest tongue.
5. The only bird that can hover and fly backward.
6. The first word in its name means grieving, and the second word rhymes with glove.
7. A bald-headed bird most commonly seen soaring at great heights.
8. A white-headed bird that was removed from the IUCN's endangered species list in 2007.
9. Wisconsin's State Bird.
10. A black bird known for being one of the smartest bird species in the world.



Answers: 1. Cardinal 2. Mallard 3. Turkey 4. Woodpecker 5. Hummingbird 6. Mourning dove 7. Turkey vulture 8. Bald eagle 9. Robin 10. Crow

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit No. 4073

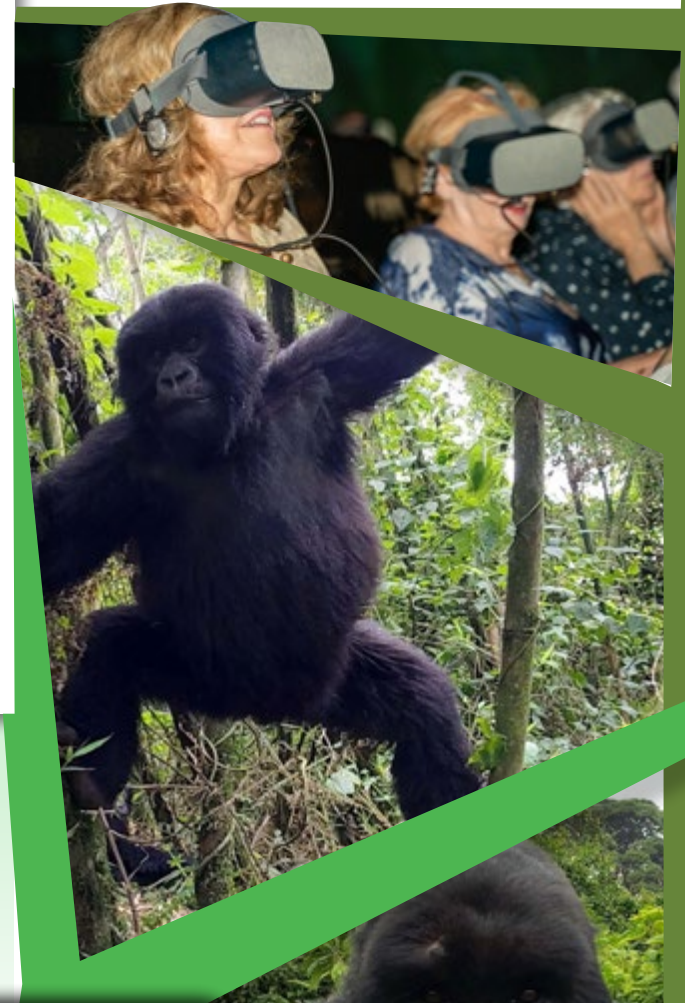


Zoological Society of Milwaukee
10005 W. Bluemound Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

VIRTUAL REALITY: GORILLA TREK

Take a virtual trip to the forests of Rwanda
and live among *mountain gorillas!*



This fully-immersive experience features a 360-degree live action virtual reality film with motion platform seating to give an unprecedented look at one of nature's most intriguing and endangered animals. Whether you're looking left, right, up or down, there will be something incredible to see all around!

Gorilla Trek Virtual Reality Experience is open year-round in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building behind Macaque Island. This experience is in part thanks to world-renowned primatologists of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund.

Members receive a \$1 discount on the exhibit price.

Learn more at milwaukeezoo.org!



zoosociety.org

FOLLOW THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

facebook.com/ZooPass

instagram.com/ZooSocietyMKE

twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE

youtube.com/ZooSocietyMKE