**AZA 2018 MID-YEAR MEETING** March 24-29, 2018 • Jacksonville, FL

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**AVIAN SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY GROUP/AVIAN TAG AGENDA**

**Saturday, March 24-Thursday, March 29**

Saturday, March 24

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Gruiformes TAG (City Terrace 9)

12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Galliformes TAG Strategic Planning (Executive Session 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm) (City Terrace 9)

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Crane Fertility Workshop (City Terrace 12)

* 1:00 pm – *Welcome and Current Issues Facing Cranes*: Dave Powell and Monica McDonald, Reproductive Management Center
* 1:20 pm – *Crane Behavior*: Kim Boardman, International Crane Foundation
* 1:40 pm – *Crane Reproduction*: Megan Brown, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
* 2:00 pm – *Capture Techniques*: Warren Lynch, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
* 2:20 pm – *Troubleshooting Pairs*: Linda Penfold, South-East Zoo Alliance for Reproduction & Conservation
* 2:40 pm – *AI and Reproductive Issues in Wattled and Sarus Cranes*: Andrew Schulmann, White Oak Conservation Center
* 3:00 pm – Break
* 3:20 pm – *Sperm-binding Assays for Detection of Fertilization*: Sara Hallager, National Zoo and Megan Brown, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
* 3:40 pm – Reproductive Viability Analysis - Reproductive Management Center Staff
* 4:00 pm – Panel Discussion of Case Studies

Sunday, March 25

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Anseriformes TAG (Grand Ballroom 1)

10:00 am – 11:00 am

~~PaCCT TAG~~ *- cancelled*

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Charadriiformes TAG (Grand Ballroom 1)

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Raptor TAG (Grand Ballroom 1)

Coraciiformes TAG (Grand Ballroom 2)

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

AZA SAFE: African Vulture (Grand Ballroom 1)

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Penguin TAG and African Penguin SSP (Grand Ballroom 1)

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Guam Kingfisher SSP (Grand Ballroom 2)

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

AZA SAFE: African Penguin (City Terrace 10)

Struthioniformes TAG (Grand Ballroom 1)

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

ASAG Wine and Cheese

Monday, March 26

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Avian SAG – North American Songbirds Workshop (Grand Ballroom 7)

8:30 am – 10:00 am

* Introducing the North American Songbird Working Group

Moderator: Sara Hallager, Smithsonian National Zoological Park

* + *Migratory Songbirds: A Call to Action and Collaboration* - Gregory Butcher, Forest Service
  + *North American Songbirds as Zoo Animals: A Historical Retrospective* - Joseph Lindholm, Curator of Birds, Tulsa Zoo
  + *MASH and C2S2 Initiatives* - Sara Hallager , Smithsonian National Zoological Park
  + *N.A. Songbird Survey Results* - Nikki Smith, Asst Curator-North America and Polar Frontier, Columbus Zoo
  + *Migratory Bird Transfers: Do I need a Permit or Can I Use an Exemption?* Rachel Rogers, Zoo Registrar and Records Coordinator, Zoo Miami

10:00 am – 10:30 am

* Break

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

* Research with North American Songbirds

Moderator: Jason Fischer, Disney’s Animals Science, and Environment

* + *Technological Advances and the Future of Wild Songbird Research at Zoos* - Jason Fisher, Conservation Program Manager, Disney’s Animals, Science, and Environment
  + *5 minute Lightening Round Talks on Examples of Zoos Partnering with In Situ Organizations* - FGSP (Andrew Schuman, White Oak Conservation); KIWA (Tom Schneider, Detroit Zoo); FLSJ (Michelle Smurl, Brevard Zoo)
  + *Wood Thrush Research and Animal Care Collaboration at the National Zoo* - Sara Hallager, Curator of Birds, Smithsonian National Zoological Park
  + *Harnessing the Power of Citizen Science for Local Songbird Conservation*, Tim Brown, President/CEO, Tracy Aviary
  + *Frontiers in Urban Bird Research*, Susannah Lerman, Research Ecologist, USDA Forest Service
  + *The Motus Experience at the Columbus Zoo and The Wilds*, Mike Kreger, Vice President of Conservation, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

* Lunch (Grand Ballroom)

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

* Engagement with North American Songbirds

Moderator: Kelly Vineyard, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

* + *International Migratory Bird Day: Why Aren’t We All Celebrating?* Anne Tieber, Curator, Birds, Saint Louis Zoo
  + *World Migratory Bird Day – Celebrating Bird Conservation at Your Zoo* - Sue Bonfield, Director, Environment for the Americas
  + *Engaging Guests in Migratory Bird Conservation* - Danielle Ross, Vice President of Conservation Education and Engagement, Columbus Zoo
  + *USFWS and AZA: Building a Partnership for Migratory Bird Conservation* - Jo Anna Lutmerding, Wildlife Biologist, USFWS
  + *Inspiring Young Birders in Baltimore City* - Erin Reed, Education Manager, Patterson Park Audubon Center (National Audubon Society)

2:30 pm – 3:00 pm

* Break

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

* Conservation of North American Songbirds

Moderator: Anne Tieber

* + *Partnering Locally for Bird Conservation* - Tom Schneider, Curator of Birds, Detroit Zoo
  + *ABC’s Approach to Songbird Conservation and Potential for Zoo Collaboration* - Holly Robertson American Bird Conservancy
  + *Lights Out Baltimore: Creating a Community-based Monitoring Program* - Lindsay Jacks, Senior Aviculturist, National Aquarium and Director, Lights Out Baltimore
  + *How Zoos can Contribute to Songbird Conservation at Every Level: Addressing Bird Collisions at the Detroit Zoo -* Bonnie Van DAM, Asst Curator of Birds, Detroit Zoological Society
  + *Domestic Cats and Bird Conservation: Tools for Zoo Messaging -* Grant Sizemore, Director of Invasive Species Programs, American Bird Conservancy
  + *Bird Friendly Buildings* - Kathryn Slattery, Senior Associate, Quinn Evans Architects

Tuesday, March 27

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Ground Hornbill Animal Care Manual Ideas (City Terrace 8)

Wednesday, March 28

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Avian SAG Steering Committee Meeting (Executive Session) (Grand Ballroom 7)

1:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Avian SAG General Session (Grand Ballroom 7)

1:00 pm – Welcome

* 1:05 pm – 1:20 pm - *Rally ‘round the Migratory Birds* - Mike Kreger, VP of Conservation, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
* 1:25 pm – 1:45 pm - *The Migratory Bird Treaty Act and What it Means for Zoos* - Jo Anna Lutmerding, Wildlife Biologist, Branch of Conservation, Permits and Regulations
* 1:50 pm – 2:10 pm - *Culture and Conservation Can Co-exist: The Case of the Southern Ground-Hornbill* - Dr. Lucy Kemp, Project Manager, Mabula Ground Hornbill Project
* 2:15 pm – 2:35 pm - *Hand Rearing of Tanagers: Focusing on Techniques, Crucial Care, and Reintroduction to a Family Group* - ASAG Mary Healy Grant recipient – Ashley Flagg Neafcy, Zookeeper, Woodland Park Zoo
* 2:40 pm – 3:00 pm - *Successful Rearing and Introduction Techniques Implemented to Build a Family Group of Southern Ground Hornbills through Double Clutching* - ASAG Mary Healy Grant recipient – Marcie Herry, Assistant Bird Supervisor, Dallas Zoo
* 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm - *Wingtips at Our Fingertips – Understanding the Complex Lives of Migratory Animals with the Motus Wildlife Tracking System* - Stuart Mackenzie, Migration Program Manager, Bird Studies Canada
* 3:30 pm – 3:45 pm - *Break*
* 3:50 pm – 4:10 pm - *Captive Breeding, Rearing and Management of the Endangered Greater Sage Grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus) at the Calgary Zoo: Conservation Program Details, Challenges and Successes from 2014 – 2017* - ASAG Mary Healy Grant recipient - Michelle Benzen, Zookeeper, Calgary Zoo
* 4:10 pm – 4:25 pm - *ZAHP Update* - Dr Yvonne Nadler, DVM, MPH, Program Manager ZAHP Fusion Center and Steve Olson, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, AZA
* 4:25 pm – 4:45 pm - *The Successful Breeding of Wrinkled Hornbills at the Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo Despite Unique Challenges* - Tiffany Jones , Zookeeper - Indonesian Rainforest, Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
* 4:45 pm – 5:05 pm - *Mississippi Sandhill Crane Predator Aversion* - Amanda Lewis, Avian Propagation Keeper III, Freeport McMoran Audubon Species Survival Center
* 5:05 pm – 5:20 pm - *Sustainability Index 5 Years Later: How Are We Doing?* - Colleen Lynch, Curator of Birds, Riverbanks Zoo
* 5:20 pm – 5:30 pm - *Plume Awards* - Steve Sarro, Curator, National Zoological Park

Thursday, March 29

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Bird Transport Workshop (Grand Ballroom 7)

8:00 am – 8:05 am - *Welcome* – Deb Dial, National Aquarium and Carolyn Atherton, Audubon Zoo

8:05 am – 8:20 am - *Pre-workshop Avian Transportation Survey Results* - Deb Dial, National Aquarium

8:20 am – 8:40 am - *Safe Transport of Penguins Near and Far* - Tom Schneider, Detroit Zoo

Shipping penguins present additional challenges due to the temperature requirements, especially for the colder weather species. Special crates are utilized so they can maintain proper temperatures, even for short trips by vehicles. It is particularly challenging sending penguins across the country, and this presentation will discuss the different shipping methods that have been used for successful transfers of both temperate and the colder weather penguin species.

8:40 am – 9:00 am - *Crates Are Not One Size Fits All* - Sydney Oliveira and Amanda Hausman, Saint Louis Zoo

In the avian world, birds are not one size fits all. Due to the diversity between species, care must be taken when selecting how and what to ship each bird in. We try to ensure that each bird is looked at not only within their species but also as an individual. There are many different styles of crates that can be used for avian shipments and how does one decide which crate is best? There are several factors that staff at the Saint Louis Zoo take into consideration when deciding which crate to use for a shipment and how to prep that crate. The items staff evaluate are: how is the bird being shipped, what type of crate, what size crate, how much ventilation does the crate have, what sort of padding is needed, is the shipment a single bird or multiple birds, and what are the airline guidelines and behavioral guidelines for the individual. Once these items have been addressed, we are hoping attendees will have a baseline knowledge about how to prepare an avian crate for transport and which crates work well for which species.

9:00 am – 9:20 am - *Egg-cellent Transport -* Rachel Ritchason, Santa Barbara Zoo

Transporting birds as eggs can have challenges but can also be a good alternative to shipping certain avian species and can minimize the risk to adult birds during transport. Several long-legged species may especially benefit from transport in the shell. Transporting eggs can also be a creative management solution for fostering or hand-rearing needs. There are a few extra steps such as TSA approvals, contacting airlines, and dealing with staff on the plane. In my case, it was pretty fun to have my own personal TSA agent escort me through the Atlanta airport with hatching Chilean flamingo eggs from Zoo Atlanta! I’ll share this experience, as well as some tips, tricks and stories from some seasoned egg transporters.

9:20 am – 9:40 am - *Packaging your Parrot: The Safe Way to Send Polly as a Parcel!* - Scott Newland, Sedgwick County Zoo

I will present a few safe and reliable methods to prepare Psittacines for transport via air or land.

9:40 am – 10:00 am - *Ratite Shipping* - Carolyn Atherton, Audubon Zoo

Moving large, kicky birds without being pummeled to death. What are my options? What are some examples of things that work, and things that don’t work?

10:00 am – 10:30 am - *Break*

10:30 am – 10:50 am - *Shipping from a Registrar Point of View* - Ashley Arimborgo, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

As a registrar at a small/medium sized zoo, I often AM the one who not only handles the transaction paperwork and permitting requirements, but also the logistics of the shipment itself. From scheduling flights, to driving the bird all the way to its final destination, to crate design, I have had experience with a variety of species throughout this entire process. Ducks, budgies, cranes, storks, vultures; each one is different, and I have had shipments go smoothly, and also almost anything that could go wrong did (including being turned away at the airport due to misunderstandings that occurred during booking that I was unaware of!). Working with different entities along the way, from state authorities, TSA, airlines staff, and other zoo personnel, I have picked up tips and tricks along the way and have learned a lot that I would love to share with the group.

10:50 am – 11:10 am - *Investigating Mortality in the Blue-grey Tanager (Thraupis episcopus) SSP Following Transfer Events* - John Andrews, AZA Population Management Center at Lincoln Park Zoo

Managing avian populations in a sustainable manner is a continuous challenge. Small numbers and low or declining growth rates suggest that breeding individuals, rearing young and keeping them alive after transfers is still quite challenging for many species. We used data from the AZA North American Regional Blue-grey Tanager (Thraupis episcopus) Studbook, to investigate mortality rates following transfer events specifically. We assumed that specific periods of time following a transfer event correlated to a standard sequence of events birds experience at a new facility (e.g. transfer, quarantine, introduction to new exhibits). We hypothesized that mortality trends in a specific time period following transfer may reflect a need for more focused management efforts in an effort to increase survival. We will discuss our results as well as discuss some future directions of our research.

11:10 am – 11:30 am - *Not on the Wings of a Goose: Transporting Hummingbirds Cross Country* - Amy Flanagan, San Diego Zoo

Transporting delicate avian species such as hummingbirds across country can be successful with detailed planning. San Diego Zoo has transported hummingbirds successfully from Miami to San Diego by air. Our steps for shipment planning, including species specific crate design, sending crates, feeders and food ahead of the shipment, building a relationship with the quarantine facility and acclimating the birds for shipment will be discussed. The importance of having an advocate for the birds during shipment, and where having an attendant is worth their weight in gold will also be discussed. Our experiences with transporting hummingbirds by air, and what we learned along the way will be the focus of this presentation.

11:30 am – 12:00 pm - *Discussion*

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Lunch (Grand Ballroom)

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Ciconiiformes TAG (Grand Ballroom 7)