**AZA 2019 MID-YEAR MEETING** April 13-18 • Phoenix, AZ

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

**Saturday, April 13-Thursday, April 18**

Saturday, April 13

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

SAFE: African Vulture (Ocotillo B) - *Executive Session 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm*

Sunday, April 14

9:00 am – 10:00 am

PaCCT TAG (Sonoran Sky 4)

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Galliformes TAG (Sonoran Sky 4)

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Whooping Crane SSP (Sonoran Sky 4) *– Executive Session*

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

~~Raptor TAG~~ - CANCELLED

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Gruiformes TAG (Sonoran Sky 4) *- Executive Session*

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

ASAG Wine and Cheese (Rustler’s Rooste)

Monday, April 15

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

The Moor-hens the Merrier: Mixed-species Aviary Husbandry Workshop (Sonoran Sky 4)

Modern day zoos and aquariums benefit from dynamic exhibits that embrace multi-species approaches. These exhibits when done well, may benefit both the guest experience and animal welfare. Creative multi-species exhibits may also generate increased animal holding for populations managed by Species Survival Plans. While good for creating needed space for some animals and unique guest experiences, mixed-species exhibits require well thought out planning and purposeful species selection. This workshop will include topics important to mixed-species aviaries such as exhibit design, novel species combinations, reproduction, training and collection planning. There will also be time available for open discussion.

8:00 am - 8:05 am

* Welcome by Deb Dial and Carolyn Atherton

8:05 am - 9:00 am

* Using Recall to Increase Opportunities for Reproduction in Free-flight Aviaries, Deb Dial, Assistant Curator, National Aquarium

*The National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland is home to two very large multi-species aviaries; one geographically specific to Australia and the other focusing on South American species. Both multi-taxa exhibits house mammals, reptiles, fish and have water features including massive open aquariums. Though aviaries with a variety of species can improve the exhibit experience by immersing guests into a dynamic animal environment, they also may increase challenges in successfully reproducing species. These difficulties occur from a number of factors including the inability to move animals in/out easily, the inability to manage offspring, and exhibit mates predating on neonates.*

*The National Aquarium trains recall behaviors in their aviaries to aid in the management of husbandry. This talk will explore ways to optimize the reproductive potential of some species in free-flight, multi-taxa aviaries with recall behaviors and by implementing strategies i.e. mate/pair rotations, same sex flocks, predatory species removal. It will also explore the connection between recall training, planned reproduction and the management of offspring.*

9:00 am - 9:20 am

* What To Do, When You’ve Done What Not To Do, In A Mixed Species Aviary, Lauren Wilson, Curator of Birds & Mammals, Texas State Aquarium

*In May of 2017, the Texas State Aquarium opened the Caribbean Journey building; completing the facility’s original Master Plan. The new addition includes several terrestrial habitats that house flamingos, vampire bats, and a variety of reptiles and amphibians as well as a mixed species aviary. The aviary consists of the entire second and third floor of the building (~3500 sq. ft. ground space) and includes a dome that averages sixty feet tall. Every new exhibit comes with challenges but the combination of this aviary being the largest bird habitat the Texas State Aquarium has ever built and managerial staff changes to the Bird & Mammal department during design, construction, and opening, has resulted in several missteps. This presentation aims to discuss five areas where mistakes were made, including glass and acrylic windows, large open water exhibits, bird abatement and cleanliness, appropriate species containment, and avian social structures, and how the Texas State Aquarium has mitigated these issues. The goal of this presentation, through the transparency of the Texas State Aquarium, is to teach others what not to do as well as what to do when designing, constructing, and opening a mixed species aviary.*

9:20 am - 9:40 am

* "Hey, I Got An Idea..." - What it Took to Develop an Inaugural Multi-taxa Aquatic Exhibit at the San Diego Zoo , Joop Kuhn, Animal Care Manager, Bird Dept, San Diego Zoo

*The San Diego Zoo provides several mixed-species walk-through aviaries for our guests to enjoy year round. These are dynamic exhibits offering our guests an opportunity to observe our bird collection in a natural environment. In July of 2017, the San Diego Zoo opened one of its most ambitious project, "Africa Rocks" which included a mixed taxa exhibit housing African penguins, with Leopard sharks, and other California coastal fish.*

*When the idea was made to include Leopard sharks with the new African penguin exhibit in Africa Rocks, it required collaboration and compromise involving several departments including, Herpetology/Ichthyology, Water Quality, Architects, and the Bird Dept. This presentation will show the planning, cooperation, collaboration, and team work it took to develop a well thought out exhibit with novel species combination*

9:40 am - 10:10 am: Break

10:10 am - 10:30 am

* Utilizing Mixed Species Aviaries to Enhance Avian Management at Sedgwick County Zoo. Anne Heitman, Senior Keeper, Sedgwick County Zoo

*Sedgwick County Zoo houses 1,000 birds from 150 different species. However, the Bird department is only comprised of 8 full-time zookeepers, 2 working supervisors, and 1 curator. How does a zoo effectively care for their birds when the animal to zookeeper ratio is 100 to 1? The answer is mixed species exhibits and aviaries. Housing a large number of birds in one large space allows one keeper to care for a greater number of birds, than if they were housed in smaller exhibits. However, these exhibits still present their own unique set of management and husbandry challenges; such as monitoring behavior and*

*breeding, and managing medical issues. This presentation will explore how Sedgwick County Zoo capitalizes on the flexibility of large free-flight aviaries to meet both institutional and SSP goals. Focusing mostly on the Tropics building as an example; species management, breeding, welfare, and guest experience will all be discussed.*

10:30 am - 10:50 am

* Management Techniques and Strategies that Support Mixed-species Aviaries at Denver Zoo, Katie Vyas, Assistant Curator of Birds, Denver Zoo

*Denver Zoo’s mixed-species aviaries provide guests with the opportunity to observe birds in a dynamic and engaging setting. These aviaries are also a complex space that provide the birds enriching experiences and promote natural behaviors.*

*Mixed-species aviaries provide flexibility but can present unique husbandry management challenges. This presentation will focus on some of strategies that the Denver Zoo bird team has utilized to better manage the animals in a mixed-species exhibit while simultaneously improving welfare.*

10:50 am - 11:10 am

* Making the Most Out of Shared Space: Mixing Birds and Mammals, Carolyn Atherton, Curator of Birds, Audubon Zoo

*In the past, many bird species have been utilized as “window dressings” in otherwise large mammal exhibits. Learn the pitfalls and hopefully pick up some helpful hints on how to deal with holding space issues, feed station and recall opportunities, territoriality, and safety for birds in situations with large mammals.*

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Avian Welfare Workshop (Sonoran Sky 4)

1:00 pm – 1:15 pm

* Welfare Workshop Introduction, Ric Urban, Mississippi Aquarium

1:15 pm – 1:30 pm

* AZA Accreditation Standards, Stephanie Allard, Detroit Zoological Society

1:30 pm – 1:50 pm

* Developing Avian Welfare Assessments at Denver Zoo, Katie Vyas, Assistant Curator of Birds, Denver Zoo

*Denver Zoo is currently growing and developing its Animal Wellness Program. While animal welfare assessments are now mandated by AZA, Denver Zoo believes in developing a program that will do more than meet the basic requirements. Our Animal Welfare and Animal Care teams have been collaborating to develop a program that meets all needs of all our resident animals. Developing a program this large can be challenging due the variation of taxa housed at Denver Zoo. Birds offer especially unique challenges due to the large diversity found among the many species represented here. This presentation focuses on the considerations and steps used to create and implement Denver Zoo’s avian welfare assessments.*

1:50 pm – 2:10 pm

* Quality of Life Monitoring, Sharon Joseph, Director of Animal Welfare and Research, Denver Zoo

*Most institutions have systems in place for monitoring the quality of life (QOL) for animals with significantly compromised welfare. A set but customizable monitoring system allows for standardization across teams and ease of interpretation by all relevant stakeholders (curators, managers, veterinarians). QOL represents a more intense level of monitoring that focuses on the indicators of greatest concern based upon an animal’s specific condition and circumstances. To further narrow the assessment, indicators can be individually weighted to highlight declines in the most serious indicators. QOL monitoring can be used to inform management changes, husbandry or veterinary intervention, palliative or hospice care, or end-of-life decisions.*

2:10 pm – 2:20 pm

* The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium’s Journey to Creating Animal Welfare Assessment Tools, Kelly Vineyard, Curator of Birds, Columbus Zoo

*The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium began creating an Animal Welfare Committee in 2018. We spent the entire year designing our structure, mission, vision, goals and members. Learn how we went from random pieces of a good welfare program to a completed puzzle. Previous trials with quality of life tools paired with Curator further education then helped the zoo to create our Animal Welfare assessment tool. At the same time, the committee experimented with more examples of Quality of Life tools to develop our own.*

2:20 pm – 2:40 pm

* Will this Rehab Bird be a Good Fit for My Aviary? Sara Hallager, Curator of Birds, National Zoo

*Many zoos and aquariums successfully exhibit rehab birds, and many of these birds live long lives in a captive setting. But what factors contribute to a bird that will thrive in human care? And are those traits common across taxa? An interactive discussion with the audience will explore some of the most commonly kept taxa to determine what makes a rehab bird successful in a captive setting.*

2:40 pm – 3:00 pm: Break

3:00 pm – 3:20 pm

* Behavioral Monitoring of a Flock of Lesser Flamingos Surrounding a Temporary Transfer to Another Exhibit, Andrew Alba, Research Associate - Animals, Science and Environment, Disney’s Animal Kingdom®

*Management changes that accompany animal relocation can affect behavior, and a systematic monitoring strategy is helpful for identifying potential welfare impacts. During construction at Disney’s Animal Kingdom®, we relocated a flock of lesser flamingos to Disney’s Animal Kingdom® Lodge, housing them with greater flamingos. We conducted behavioral observations of lesser flamingos before relocation, in the temporary exhibit, and after returning to the original exhibit. We monitored greater flamingos while both species were integrated. While impacts to greater flamingos were minimal, rates of social and reproductive behaviors in lesser flamingos decreased after relocation, and behavior patterns did not return to rates observed before relocation. After returning to the original exhibit, lesser flamingos began displaying species-appropriate behavior within months. We provide a framework for behavioral monitoring during animal relocation, discuss the welfare implications, and share our learnings about flamingo behavior.*

3:20 pm – 3:40 pm

* Welfare Considerations and Resources for Ambassador Avian Species, Emily Insalaco, Curator of Behavioral Husbandry and Ambassador Animals, Denver Zoo

*As AZA accredited institutions and zoo professionals, we strive to provide the best welfare for all species in our care. The Ambassador Animal Scientific Advisory Group (AASAG) recognizes that animals serving in ambassador roles are subject to unique challenges and additional considerations when it comes to optimizing their welfare. In recognition of this, the AASAG has developed Ambassador Animal Guidelines, a companion document to Animal Care Manuals, for species that frequently serve in ambassador roles. This presentation will look at the resources and information available through these Guidelines, and will discuss more specific welfare considerations that can be applied to any avian ambassador animal.*

3:40 pm – 4:00 pm

* Addressing Welfare Concerns for Animal Ambassador Birds, Dan Hemmann, Area Curator, John Ball Zoo

*When assessing the welfare of ambassador birds it is important to be able to address concerns that arise from being involved in programming. Welfare at John Ball Zoo is addressed through the typical channels of a Welfare Team and annual assessments, but the added layer of an Ambassador Animal Team allows us to uniquely evaluate the program piece. The Ambassador Animal Team is made up of members of the animal and education departments. When welfare concerns related to programming are identified, the members of this team work together to develop a plan for improvement. Progress is tracked and if concerns are not mitigated the team will discuss whether an alternative is warranted or if it would be more appropriate to retire the animal from programming use. Recent case studies of animals and how we have navigated this process will be presented.*

4:00 pm – 4:10 pm: Break

4:10 pm - 4:40 pm: Panel and Discussion

Tuesday, April 16

10:00 am – 12:30 pm

Program Leaders Meeting (Sonoran Sky 4)

Wednesday, April 17

9:30 am - 10:30 am

Anseriformes TAG (Sonoran Sky 4)

9:30 am – 11:00 am

ASAG Steering Committee Executive Session (Sonoran Sky 1)

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Avian TAG Chair Meeting Executive Session (Sonoran Sky 1)

1:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Avian SAG General Session (Sonoran Sky 4)

* 1:00 pm: Welcome
* 1:05 pm – 1:20 pm: ASAG Strategic Planning, Diane Olsen, ASAG Chair
* 1:25 pm – 1:45 pm: A Preliminary Assessment of Behavioral Differences between Pinioned and Unpinioned Birds at the Saint Louis Zoo, David Powell, Saint Louis Zoo
* 1:50 pm – 2:10 pm: Government Affairs Update, Steve Olson, Senior VP, Government Affairs, AZA
* 2:15 pm – 2:35 pm: Building Connections and Partnerships with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Program, Jo Anna Lutmerding, USFWS
  + *The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Program (MBP) protects birds and promotes bird conservation through a myriad of efforts; all whose success largely depends on the work of its partners. This talk will highlight opportunities to partner with the MBP to help the AZA, Service, and other mutually beneficial partners accomplish a shared mission of conservation and sustained bird populations for all to enjoy.*
* 2:40 pm – 3:00 pm: ASAG Mary Healy Grant Recipient
  + *Designing and Implementing a New Egg Management Tool: Using Smarter Data Organization to Inform Husbandry Decisions*
    - Taylor Rubin, Keeper III, Bird Department, Zoo Atlanta
* 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm: ASAG General Session Keynote: Tackling the Songbird Trade Crisis in Southeast Asia and Beyond
  + Dr. Chris Sheperd, Monitor Conservation Research Society

*Illegal and unsustainable trade are primary drivers behind the decline of numerous songbird species throughout Asia. Wild songbirds, sought after for their singing abilities, colourful plumage and increasing rarity, are trapped and sold in alarming numbers to meet high and continuing demand Asian songbird conservation has received increased attention since the urgency was highlighted in published studies which led to the 2015 Southeast Asian Songbird Crisis Summit in Singapore. During this summit, the Conservation Strategy for Southeast Asian Songbirds in Trade was constructed.*

*Despite many species of songbird being afforded legal protection by national laws and regulatory policies in some countries, enforcement efforts are often lacking, allowing the songbird trade to continue unhindered. Inadequate enforcement efforts are often the result of a lack of prioritisation of the songbird trade. In other countries, songbirds are not afforded adequate protection under national legislation. On an international lever, very few songbird species are protected or regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).*

*Monitor aims to directly contribute to addressing these issues through collecting and analysing data on songbird markets and poaching and trade trends, including those involving priority species, in East and Southeast Asia, and by raising the profile of the Asian songbird trade on both national and international levels through fact-based lobbying and advocacy, leading to enhanced regulation and protection, and ultimately, a significant reduction in illegal and unsustainable trade in songbirds.*

* 3:30 pm – 3:45 pm: Break
* 3:45 pm – 4:05 pm: 2018 ASAG Conservation and Research Grant Updates
  + *Increasing Reproductive Success of Imperiled Bornean Hornbill Species*
    - Principal Investigator: Marisa Boyd, Arizona Center for Nature Conservation, Phoenix Zoo
    - Principal Investigator: Bryan Mac Aulay, Arizona Center for Nature Conservation, Phoenix Zoo
  + *Understanding the Major Histo-compatability Complex and its Effect on Mate Choice in Whooping Cranes*
    - Principal Investigator: Dr. Megan Brown, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
    - Principal Investigator: Dr. Nucharin Songsasen, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
* 4:10 pm – 4:25 pm: ZAHP Update, Dr. Yvonne Nadler, DVM, MPH, Program Manager, ZAHP Fusion Center, AZA
* 4:25 pm – 4:45 pm: ASAG Mary Healy Grant Recipient
  + *A Contemporary and Innovative Approach to Collection Management at CZS/Brookfield Zoo: An Exercise in Problem-solving and Collaboration to Develop a Task Driven Animal Welfare Database*
    - Cody Hickman, Bird Supervisor, Brookfield Zoo
* 4:45 pm – 5:05 pm: Breeding and Hand-Rearing Success of the Superb-bird-of-Paradise at the Central Park Zoo, Allison Bailey, Curatorial Science Fellow Central Park Zoo
* 5:05 pm – 5:20 pm: Plume Awards, Steve Sarro, Curator, National Zoological Park

Thursday, April 18

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Parrot TAG RCP Working Meeting (Sonoran Sky 2) - *Executive Session 8:00 am – 11:00 am*

Penguin TAG (Sonoran Sky 3) - *Executive Session*

Ciconiiformes/Phoenicopteriformes/Pelecaniformes TAG (Sonoran Sky 8) - *Executive Session*