



# STRUTHIONIFORMES TAG ENRICHMENT FEATURE

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2021



# HAPPY WORLD CASSOWARY DAY!

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

It's World Cassowary Day! Cassowaries are amazing gardeners. Some plants, like the cassowary plum, rely solely on cassowaries for seed dispersal

Cassowaries face several threats mainly due to habitat fragmentation for urban development. WCD is celebrated globally for awareness, but an actual festival takes place annually in Australia to celebrate these iconic birds by bringing community and environmental education together





# GLADYS PORTER ZOO

The bird team at Gladys Porter Zoo pulled out all the stops to celebrate World Cassowary Day 2021! In fact, they needed 2 slides to show off the AMOUNT of fun they had on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

Great job celebrating these iconic birds and their environmental importance as a keystone species to the Wet Tropics! Their booth raised \$250 for Rainforest Rescue to help cassowaries in the wild

Photo credit: Toni Torres, Associate Curator of Birds and Patricia Scanlan, Curator of Behavioral Husbandry





# GLADYS PORTER ZOO

The booth not only brought conservation and education together but also engaged their guests through an exciting enrichment opportunity of age and species appropriate opportunities to promote social interaction between conspecifics



In other words, kids engaged in age appropriate activities and learning opportunities with their peers and the adults in their lives





# FORT WAYNE CHILDREN'S ZOO

“Penny” the common Ostrich celebrated her 11<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 1<sup>st</sup> by dancing her tail feathers off!

Appropriate landscaping and ample space can simulate the African Savannah and “Penny” makes full use of it

Photo credit: Abi Murray, Zookeeper and Tiffany Jones, Africa bird/hoofstock keeper







# SANTA FE COLLEGE TEACHING ZOO

First semester students Erika, Amanda, Kami, James, and Pearla enriched emus “Sprocket” and “Bam Bam” by using wiffle balls, frozen grapes, and a water-filled kiddie pool. The emus had a great time bobbing for grapes!



Behavioral enrichment activities can consist of presenting a wide variety of food items different ways

Photo credit: Christina Arnold, Office Supervisor Zoo Animal Technology



# JACKSONVILLE ZOO AND GARDENS

Above, the bird team and horticulture team collaborated to celebrate World Cassowary Day by addressing the important relationship between plants and cassowaries in the Wet Tropics

Below, “Brisbee” picks through the fronds of a palm tree for his choice fruits of banana, apple, and papaya.

Scatter feeding is a great way to create foraging and grazing opportunities

Photo credit: Larkin Johansen, Senior Bird Keeper and Larissa Ogin, Bird Keeper





# THE FRANKLIN PARK ZOO

“Julius” the common ostrich and Nicole Hellmuth the zoo’s ostrich training advocate painted a bowling pin for their Bowling for Rhinos auction AAZK event

“Julius” manipulates a paint brush while Nicole holds the bowling pin in place to create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece. “Julius” is rewarded for his efforts with a mouthful of treats

This is a great example of how training provides mental stimulation through problem-solving for a high valued reward

Photo credit: Britni Steingard, MPA, LAT; Senior Keeper, Hooves and Horns; AAZK New England Chapter President





Many scientists classify tinamous with the living ratites (ostriches, rheas, emus, cassowaries, and kiwis) and the extinct ratites (elephant birds and moas) in the superorder Paleognathae.

Tinamous are robust ground birds from South America. Although they retain some ability to fly, their skulls are similar to those of

In the face of mortal enemies, birds evolve to improve their flight and feeding habits on the ground and to improve their ability to fly. Scientists are

evolved from flying birds, but many doubt that ratites share a common ancestor. They feel that the ratites' common features are the normal response to ground dwelling and therefore are the result of convergent evolution.

Kiwis are found in New Zealand, and emus live in Australia. Cassowaries live in New Guinea and northern Australia. Ostriches are now found in South America. Ostriches are now found in South America. Ostriches are now found in South America. Ostriches are now found in South America.

Dinornithiformes (moas)



Casuariiformes (emus and cassowaries)



Struthioniformes (ostriches)

Apterygiformes (kiwis)

# WHAT ARE RATITES IF NOT DINOSAURS PERSEVERING?

Rheiformes (rheas)

Tinamiformes (tinamous)





# DISCLAIMER

The Struthioniformes TAG does not take responsibility for enrichment use

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Please evaluate enrichment for your own facility

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