

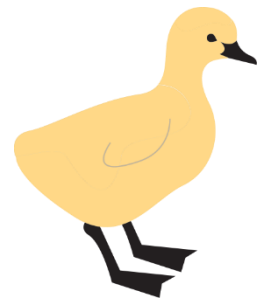


# Management Techniques and Strategies that Support Mixed Species Aviaries at Denver Zoo

Katie Vyas, Assistant Curator of Birds

[kvyas@denverzoo.org](mailto:kvyas@denverzoo.org)

*speaker notes initialics*



# Denver Zoo's Mixed Species Aviaries

- Bird World
- Built 1976
- 5 mixed species and several single species exhibits
- Non-avian species





# Denver Zoo's Mixed Species Aviaries – what makes them great

- Tend to be larger and more complex
- Enriching to both birds and guests
- Increased breeding success with some species



# Denver Zoo's Mixed Species Aviaries – challenges

- What happened to those eggs?
- Whose messing with their nest?
- How am I going to medicate *that* bird?
- Why are those two birds fighting?





# Denver Zoo's Mixed Species Aviaries – training is so important

- Support a behavioral training program
- Passive weights can be a health indicator
- Passive weights improve welfare for all birds in the aviary
- Getting creative





# Denver Zoo's Mixed Species Aviaries





# Denver Zoo's Mixed Species Aviaries

.....





# Denver Zoo's Mixed Species Aviaries – what's your focus





# Denver Zoo's Mixed Species Aviaries – what's your focus





# Denver Zoo's Mixed Species Aviaries – can I put a catch cage there?

- Old building; not a lot of thought into trapping or training
- Large space encourages nesting
- Danger to fledglings
- Getting creative with catch and fledgling cages
- Great for passively catching
- Vital to success





# Denver Zoo's Mixed-Species Aviaries



## Denver Zoo Avian Incubation, Hatch and Rearing Plan

Golden white-eye (*Cisnotrix nivalis*)



### Incubation and Rearing Information

- Incubation plan for the eggs
  - Incubated by sire and/or dam: Y/N
  - Foster incubated by other individual: Y/N
  - Immediately pulled for artificial incubation: **Y/N**. Contact Prop staff requesting an incubator **Dummy eggs will be left with the parent**
  - Parameters for pulling eggs to artificial incubation if not immediately pulling at lay:
- Have the sire and/or dam successfully incubated and/or reared chicks previously? **No**

### Incubation Parameters and Clutch Size

- Incubation period: approximately 14 days
- Incubation parameters: 38.1C (dry temp)/100.5F; 58% relative humidity
- Average clutch size: 2 eggs
- Average hatch weights (if known): do not know

### Preparation for Hatch, Rearing and Fledging (Under Parental Care)

- Will the eggs be candled? **Eggs will only be candled with a flash light. Eggs are small; too risky to handle daily. They will be turned with a spoon** If so, list frequency: **once a day**
- Changes to the exhibit prior to hatch? Housing? Etc.? **No changes prior to hatching**
  - Modification to nesting areas (e.g. will shavings need to be changed periodically?)
  - Cameras? **NA**
  - Limit traffic in area? **NA**
  - Supplemental heat? **NA**
- Separation of individuals? When?: **NA**
- What is the approximate fledge time? **10-14 days post hatch**
- What modifications will need to be made to the enclosure before fledging?
  - Will pools need to be drained? **Yes, at day 8 post hatch**
  - Any enclosure gaps need to be covered? **No**
  - Will new perching need to be added? **No**
  - Will mats need to be placed under the nest?
  - Will certain individuals in the enclosure need to be removed? **Not at this time**





# Thank you!

- Stacy Johnson
- Jenn Preusser
- Stephanie Hollister
- Jessica Meehan
- Thea Etchells
- Jessi Freeman
- Anton Morrison



**Corners Limited**  
is the proud sponsor of  
the  
**2019 ASAG Workshops**



Avian Scientific Advisory Group