

Sihek – KO'KO Updates

AZA – Midyear Meeting -2023

Scott Newland, Sedgwick County Zoo

Program Leader

Scott.Newland@scz.org



Population Update
Scott Newland

Palmyra Assessment Trip
Erica Royer

Palmyra Experimental Release
Scott Newland/Erica Royer



Guam Kingfisher

3/20/2022

Guam-DAWR 8

382	604	630	731
487	901	640	732
496	902	830	

Busch-Tam 3

561		864
		891
	844	
	740	

Brookfield 3 +30

661	888	879	944
753	916	884	963
839		986	971
882			975

USFWS 1 Holding

679	806
674	785
770	808
782	812
784	820

USFWS 2 Empty

USFWS 3 Empty

Calgary - Hold

REC	REC
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Chicago LP 2

752	710	895
485	873	929

Cincinnati 2

874	930	983
876	965	

Audubon 1

706	968
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DAK 3

449	932	925
766	904	936
948	843	955
	918	956

Houston 2

REC	REC	549
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Memphis 1

809	563
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Miami 2

835	774	441
		790

Milwaukee - Hold

659	741	899
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NY-Bronx 1

REC	REC	575
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NZP-WASH - Hold

577

NATAVPGH 3

767	927	889	941
		934	
		854	

NZP-CRC 3

907	949	942	958
931	928	951	953
	751	950	
		954	

Philadelphia 3

489	582		
627	846		
794	760		

Rio Grande 2

		917
REC	772	608

San Antonio 3

REC	838	970
		979

SD-Zoo 2

REC	REC	675
REC		

SD-WAP 3

584	898	926
709	REC	

SeaWorld - CA 3

866	860
829	900

Sedgwick 2

824	813
623	924

St. Louis 3

867	851	945	977
558	881	946	978
768	894	937	985
		938	982
		961	
		984	

Tracy AV 2

612	960
492	

Denver – Phase Out

524

KEY

- 123 = Male
- 123 = Female
- 123 = Unknown
- 123 = Outgoing Recommendation
- REC = Incoming Recommendation

Breeding Pairs ← → Holding



Population Concerns

#1 Space Availability

- Lost some holders to COVID impacts.
- Need additional/new spaces to allow breeding – need more holding partners

#2 Operational Costs

- Cost of Operation of Brookfield Facility
- \$1800/bird/year...currently have one year of funding.
- Considering new funding model

#3 Demographic Issues

- With no reliable path to release, demography will be an issue
- Current population leans strongly to older, male birds.
- May need to consider alternative management?
 - More aggressive egg sexing?
 - Managing post reproductive individuals?

Recovery Team

Created 2018



ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS



Recovery Team Members

- **USFWS Region 1 – Megan Laut**
- USFWS Refuges – Stefan Kropidowski
- **Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR)– Suzanne Medina**
- AZA – Scott Newland, Erica Royer
- IUCN SSC Translocation Conservation Specialist Group
 - John Ewen – ZSL, Project Lead
 - Axel Moehrenschlager – IUCN
 - Stefano Canessa – IUCN
- The Nature Conservancy – Alex Wegman

Recovery Strategy

- Work focused on answering questions that USFWS will require prior to any attempts of releases on Guam.
- Based on success of Dr. Carl Jones
- Successful releases on young birds, older birds unsuccessful

Experimental Release

Nine pairs identified to produce eggs

- St. Louis, NZP-CRC, Brookfield, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, National Aviary
- Pairs chosen based on demographic/genetic needs of birds for release

Nest Boxes Offered

APRIL 15!

Quarantine/Hand-rearing Facility

- Eggs will be transferred to SCZ.
- Staff from SSP partners will incubate and hand-rear
- Young birds transferred to Palmyra via HI

Palmyra release – 3 year process

- Birds will be introduced to release aviaries
- Birds will be monitored post release via transmitters
- Will need SSP partners to assist with long term monitoring





Guam SAFE



- Program would cover both Sihek and Ko'Ko programs
- Although different taxa...linked by geography and extinction pressures
- Decision makers consistent across both populations
- Allow more exposure to collective efforts
- Access to additional funding
- Application in process

Ko'Ko

Population update



Guam Rail

Chicago LP

2072 1596

Cincinnati

2664
2805 2729 #1

Houston

2746

Gainesville

2692
2809 2740
2689

NATAVPGH

2614 2479 2812 2818
2816 2819
#2 2317 2822
2820 2840

NY Bronx

2691 2615

NZP-CRC

2378 2665_{TASI}
2435 2482
2838

Philadelphia

2507 2360

San Antonio

2294 2810 #3
2724 2723

SD-WAP

2434 2598
2509 2546
2735 2731 2736 #1

Sedgwick

2544 2743 2520



Population Challenges



#1 Space Availability

- Lost some holders to COVID impacts.
- Need additional/new spaces to allow breeding – need more holding partners

#2 Shipping Embargo

- United Airlines issue
- One special shipment in ???
- Discussions ongoing, recent communication to three United Executives

#3 Post release monitoring

- Conducted by Guam DAWR
- Inconsistent sampling...COVID compounded issue