

The Gompou

The Kori Bustard SSP Newsletter

December 2017, Volume 15

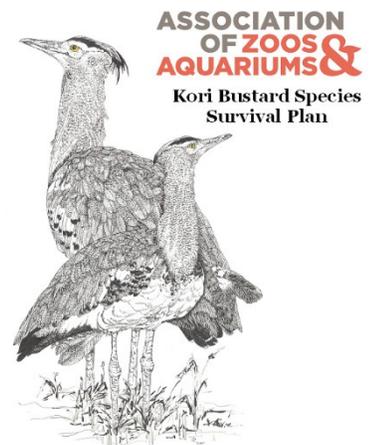


Photo by: Amanda Zalewski, Fort Worth Zoo

The Gompou is an annual newsletter of the AZA Kori Bustard Species Survival Plan

It is edited by Kori Bustard SSP Representative Lisa Murphy

<http://www.koribustardssp.org/>



SOLAR ECLIPSE OF AUGUST 21, 2017

RESPONSES BY KORI BUSTARDS AROUND THE UNITED STATES

National Zoo: 82%

Birds were panting before the watch, temperature dropped, they stopped panting, and that was about it!

Dallas: 75%

The koris could care less about the eclipse. There was a noticeable shading and the temp dropped 4 degrees, but the birds, who are all in very shady yards, just acted normally.

Phoenix Zoo: 63%

The eclipse just looked like a slightly shady day in Phoenix. Our koris did not act any differently than any other day. They didn't even look up at the sun.

The Living Desert: 62%

Living Desert birds did nothing. Zambezi (male) remained as still as a statue for quite some time, eventually taking a casual stroll to the front of the exhibit as it began to get lighter.

San Diego Safari Park: 60%

Here at the SDZSP Bird Breeding Complex, we did not see any noticeable behavior change. With the 60% eclipse the sky did not get very dark.



Photo by J. Tibbot



A NECESSITY FOR CRATE TRAINING

Here at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park we've worked with Kori Bustards for over 20 years. As we've grown we've also spread out over our acreage. As our kori kids progress in age and size, the distances they need to travel for the next stage of housing can be quite far. At many facilities koris can be hand carried from place to place or driven short distances. After being raised at our chick rearing facility for ~5 weeks, our chicks move to our bird breeding complex to stretch their legs with a lot more room to move around. The bird breeding complex is about 1.5 miles away. The access roads are the highway or over a bumpy road through the park. This isn't a great situation for hand carrying koris. Even riding on someone's lap isn't really safe. Then, if we want them to get used to other birds, docile mammals or to be put on display for guests, we move them again at ~ 1-2 years old from the breeding complex to an enclosure in the main part of the Safari Park; that distance could be another mile. Over time we have learned the benefit of crate training at all stages of development to make a move safer and less stressful for our birds.

This season, we are happy to say we hand-reared 3 kori bustard chicks. I'm sure everyone has a method for training their koris but this is what has worked for us. Since the chicks needed to make their first big move at 5 weeks old, we introduced a small crate (13"W x 16"T x 15"D) into their outdoor pen when they are 3 weeks old to begin to visually desensitize them. At first, the crate was tucked in the corner of the pen. As the chicks became more comfortable with it, the crate was moved closer and closer to their food dishes. Keepers eventually were able to toss favored food items (peas and crickets) into the crates and the chicks would enter the crates to eat the items. On the day of the big move, the keepers were able to walk the kori chicks into the crates to transport them to our bird breeding complex. All went well and the chicks talked to us from inside the crates during the entire length of the drive. They walked out of their crates, into their new pens, without any problems.

The small crates were left in the inside bedroom areas of their new enclosures until they outgrew them at about day 50. We increased the size of the crate to (20"W x 36"T x 24"D). We continued to feed favored food items inside the crates. During this time, we also continually trained our kori chicks to stand on a low platform scale. Eventually, the dish with the entire diet was left inside the crates. On the morning of our most recent shipment the female kori walked into the crate with minimal effort and arrived at her new home safe and sound. This method of training proved to be a much less stressful approach for the birds and keepers.



Submitted by: Kristina Heston, Lead keeper and Jenny Tibbott, Senior keeper

KORI BUSTARD DAY

My name is Anna Turkett and I am the Lorikeet Keeper & Interpreter at the Birmingham Zoo. I started **Kori Bustard Day** in 2016 in order to highlight our large group of Koris and draw people into their off-the-beaten-path area. I coordinated with Melissa King, Manager of Public Programs, to have a sister day at Zoo Atlanta. Both days were full of keeper chats, special feedings, and activities – like Zoo Atlanta’s “Forage like a Kori Game.” This year in 2017 even more zoos participated in Kori Bustard Day, including the Franklin Park Zoo. In Birmingham we again had feedings and activities as well as peanut butter enrichment, coloring pages, and more. Leading up to the day a keeper at the Birmingham Zoo, Michelle Duplichien, reached out to the popular company Peppermint



Narwhal who creates animal and conservation themed illustrations on their Facebook page. After seeing the events listed at other zoos across the country – thank you all again for your participation! – they agreed to create a graphic for the day. The beautiful image was shared over a hundred times. This fall, Peppermint Narwhal Created the 2018 Animal Holiday calendar and to our surprise... there was Kori Bustard Day! It is listed as March 26th 2018. The Animal Holiday Calendar was backed to the tune of \$10,000 and over 350 calendars were sold. We are so happy that the Kori Bustard and Kori Bustard Day is gaining even more attention.

If you are interested in hosting your own Kori Bustard Day, please contact Anna Turkett at atürkett@birminghamzoo.com or Melissa King, mking@zoatlanta.org for more information and resources.

KORI KEEPERS OF THE YEAR

Submitted by Katie Vyas, Denver Zoo I would like to nominate several keepers of **Denver Zoo's hoofstock team for Kori Keeper(s) of the Year.** As all of us current and past kori bustard keepers know, these charismatic birds have a tendency to hold a special place in our hearts. Kelsey Kuhn, Robin Friese, Christina Seely, Matt Ardaiole and Jordan



"Uche" at Denver Zoo (Dave Parsons)

Baur can attest to this. These talented and dedicated keepers worked with "Uche" kori bustard ranging from 1-12 years. Uche was a male kori bustard that hatched at National Zoo in 2003 and arrived to Denver Zoo in 2004. During his time at Denver Zoo, staff came to love Uche for his personality and "tough as nails" demeanor. Kelsey, Robin, Christina, Matt and Jordan cared for Uche with the same dedication as the



"Uche" with "Fred" kudu (Hoofstock team)



From bottom left to bottom right: Christina Seely, Jordan Baur, Matt Ardaiole, Robin Friese and Kelsey Kuhn with super-imposed

hoofstock they manage. Through observation and collaboration they found a way to exhibit Uche in the yard with kudu knowing this could be risky. This allowed Uche to be outside every day instead of having to rotate his time outside. They also

found ways to make Uche as comfortable as possible towards the end of his life by providing a specialized howdy that would allow him to see outside and get fresh air although he was held inside due to lameness. Uche was humanely euthanized in August of this year due to extended lameness and poor quality of life. I sat down with Kelsey, Robin, Christina, Matt and Jordan to hear some of the reasons why they loved Uche so much.

WHY WE LOVED UCHE

HE LOVED TO CATCH DRAGONFLIES

HE WAS A BIG SCARY BIRD! HE WAS FANTASTIC!

HE COULD EAT A STALK OF KALE IN ONE BITE!

WE LOVED TO WATCH HIM INFLATE HIS NECK AND VOCALIZE

HE WOULD MAKE HIS OWN DECISIONS. SOME DAYS

HE WOULD MEET YOU AT THE DOOR AND WAS READY TO PLAY CATCH WITH HIS FOOD. OTHER

DAYS, NOT SO MUCH

HE LOVED PEANUT BUTTER

HE HAD AN INTERESTING RELATIONSHIP WITH "FRED" THE KUDU. ONE DAY HE WAS STANDING NEAR FRED AND DECIDED TO PECK HIS REAR END... FRED DIDN'T CARE AND THEY WENT ABOUT THEIR

DAY.

FEATURED KORI BUSTARD VOLUNTEER

NASA's Human Exploration Research Analog (HERA):

From Behavior Watcher to Behavior Watchee

4 adults: Homo sapien

- 1 female
- 3 males

Habitat: approx. 600 sq. ft.

- 2 shared "enclosures"
- 2 shared "dens"
- 4 private "dens"

Diet: Astronaut food

Enrichment:

- Spacecraft flying simulators
- Spacewalk simulators
- Physio recordings & surveys

Shelley Cazares has spent years volunteering with the National Zoo's Behavior Watch program, carefully collecting data on the behavior of the Kori Bustards and Giant Pandas. "JS, BK x II, RF, AG, ..." she logs on those exciting days when the Kori Bustards jump stretch, bark a couple times, ruffle their feathers, and aggressively displace each other. "RS, RS, RS, ..." she logs on other days, when all the Koris do are rest, rest, and more rest.



For several weeks this past summer, though, the tables were turned. Cazares switched from a Behavior Watcher to a Behavior Watchee, volunteering as an experimental participant in NASA's Human Exploration Research Analog (HERA), a set of experiments at Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX.

Anticipating the long-duration missions to Mars that are planned for the 2030s and beyond, NASA seeks to understand what types of diets, habitats, and "enrichment activities" can keep Homo sapiens happy and healthy on long-duration space voyages. To collect this information now, NASA is conducting several analog missions, simulating the conditions that astronauts would face in deep space (almost everything except zero-gravity!) The HERA experimenters search for participants who are similar to astronauts in academic and professional experience, age, and health status. Cazares was selected as a "highly qualified" applicant in last year's round of astronaut applications, and so she fit the bill.

In August 2017, Cazares and three other crewmembers were enclosed in an approximately 600-sq. ft. simulated spacecraft for an anticipated 45 days of confined isolation. On most days, they spent 12 - 16 hours per day on the same types of activities that astronauts do in space: simulated spacecraft dockings and landings (using some of the very same simulator equipment that astronauts train on), simulated spacewalks (via virtual reality goggles), and several scientific experiments including hatching and raising brine shrimp, planting and cultivating alfalfa seeds, and building and programming robots. The crew's physiological recordings were collected using several different wearable sensors, their movements and proximities to each other were measured by electronic badges velcroed to the front of their shirts, and their blood was drawn every few days by sticking their arms through a curtain (similar in setup to the National Zoo!) Several times a day, they paused their activities to take computer-based cognitive tests and psychological surveys. Video and audio were collected 24/7 throughout the habitat, with the exception of the shared bathroom and private sleep bunks.

An introvert by nature, Cazares had anticipated that the most stressful part of the experiment would be living in such close quarters with her three crewmates, all complete strangers. As it turned out, though, the crew camaraderie was her favorite part of the experience. Stressors were deliberately introduced into the HERA environment, such as emergency alarms, missing or broken equipment, and only 5 hours of sleep per night. Cazares found herself depending on her crewmates to get through—and even laugh at—those periods of stress.

Originally scheduled for a 45-day duration, Cazares' HERA mission was cut short by Hurricane Harvey. Due to the risk of rising floodwaters, Cazares and her crew performed an emergency evacuation from the habitat on day 23. Safe on high ground, Cazares has now brought her new perspective back to her Behavior Watch work at the National Zoo.

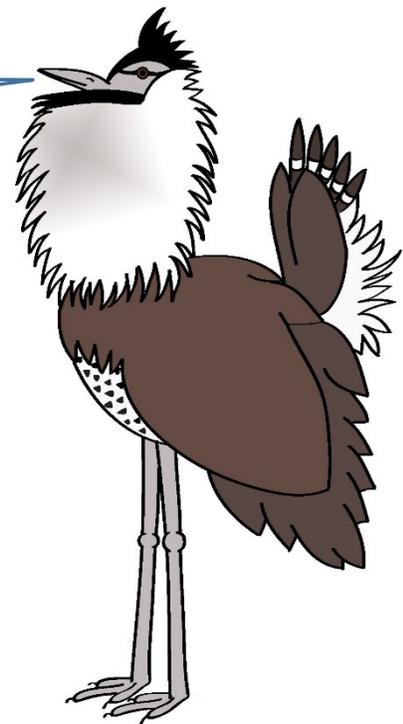
*Shelley Cazares of NASA HERA,
under her Kori Bustard avatar:*

*The largest bird on earth
capable of flight!*



Call to Action!

Is your Zoo conducting kori bustard keeper talks or other educational opportunities? Melissa King, Kori Bustard SSP Education Advisor, is creating a database of other Zoos' kori bustard education. If you don't have something currently, but would like to get started, feel free to reach out to us for resources! **Our goal is to have five zoos that are actively promoting kori bustards as an education focus in a regularly recurring program or talk** that we can use as models for other institutions and also to create more educational resources.



Kori Bustard SSP

CLIMATE CHANGE & KORIS: A NEW SPIN ON CONSERVATION ACTIONS

By Melissa King, Manager of Public Programs, Zoo Atlanta
With additional content by Alyssa Nielsen, Carissa Bishop, and Jenail Marshall

I'm standing at our kori bustard exhibit watching our female and young male. She's eyeing the crowd near the mesh, staring at the adults and children as they talk amongst themselves - "What is that? Hey! Come look at this big bird! Is it a turkey? Or a buzzard?" The male is picking at something on the ground a few feet away. I step in and introduce myself, our birds, and some of the adaptations that make them so unique – and of course, one of my favorite animals in the Zoo. Previously, at this point, I'd start talking about supporting conservation through institutions like ours, learning more and sharing what you know, touch on the awesome fly fishing lure project (FeathersMC) and how it's important to know where the products you buy come from, and doing your research before you travel to ensure your plans and anything you purchase aren't having negative effects on wildlife. All of these are great tips, but what about something more tangible and closer to home? I've struggled with more direct and simple actions.

Recently, we started focusing on climate change messaging, an endeavor that many other institutions have already begun. We hope to integrate this messaging into many aspects of our programming and interpretation for guests, but wanted a starting point for talking about the huge concept. We know that many

Be Conscious of Where You Get Your Food – Try Meatless Mondays

The food for our food takes up a lot of land and resources. Meat production produces a large amount of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide) that are released in to the atmosphere. The more greenhouse gases that are produced, the warmer the Earth becomes.

Beef Industry: The biggest culprit is beef. Cow emissions produce methane, which is polluting the air. Methane is about 30 times more potent than Carbon Dioxide. About 1,850 gallons of water is required to produce one pound of beef. Can you imagine going to the grocery store and buying almost two thousand gallons of water?! By giving up meat for just one day a week, you can help conserve natural resources and reduce the amount of greenhouse gases released into our atmosphere. Instead of bacon and eggs for breakfast, try yogurt and fruit or cereal and toast.

Be Conscious of What You Buy

Get a reusable water bottle: It is estimated that about 67% of all plastic water bottles are thrown away instead of being recycled. Additionally, those plastic bottles that do end up being recycled are often down-cycled after another use, meaning they will end up being litter or trash. Humans use around 1 million plastic water bottles per minute. About 91% of all plastic is not recycled. Using a reusable water bottle is better for the environment and you don't have to keep purchasing water at the store!

Bring reusable bags to stores: Americans use roughly 100 billion plastic bags each year per the Environmental Protection Agency, an estimated 2% of plastic bags in the United States are recycled. The remaining 98% go to landfills or are left in our oceans, releasing toxins into the water and earth. Depending on the surrounding environment, plastic can take between 450 and 1,000 years to completely break down or degrade.

Refuse straws at restaurants: Straws are frequently used and thrown away. If you simply refuse straws at restaurants, you are reducing the number of recyclable items that end up at landfills. Straws and bags are also hazardous to animals that encounter them. They can get tangled in bags or attempt to consume various plastic materials.

African countries are going to be severely affected by climate change and our Zoo houses many African species, so we thought this was a good starting point. An interesting map that shows projections of kori bustard habitat through the year 2085 based on climate change data is available here: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/22691928/climate/2085#map>

It's important to note that African nations have some of the lowest global emissions in the world, while the U.S. has some of the highest! The things we do every day are going to have a very real, negative impact on the people and wildlife across the world if we don't change some of our behaviors. One specific change that is already being seen is dry areas are becoming drier and areas with high rainfall are getting even more. Our new conservation messaging in the African plains section of our Zoo takes a positive outlook and is centered on how guests can help animals and people by altering some of our simple, everyday habits. We have formatted this messaging to say that we can help wildlife by being conscious of what we buy, what we eat, and how we get our energy. The blue text boxes in this article are adapted from a draft in progress for an educational cart station in the African Plains section of the Zoo called, "Adapting to Change," that will focus on climate change as an issue, animals affected, and how guests and the Zoo can help. I should also extend credit primarily to Alyssa Nielsen but also to Carissa Bishop, and Jenail Marshall in the Education Department for the gathering and organization of this information.

Of course there's much more and the development of our messaging and usage is a work in progress but it has already affected the way we interpret conservation actions for some animals in which it can be challenging to find a real world, tangible, non-financial method of contribution. The clear connection between our every day actions, climate change, and the habitat for kori bustards makes for some practical and relevant content that links a broad, urgent conservation issue to a specific species that guests can help just by saying "no thanks," to a plastic straw in a restaurant, or "I'll skip the hamburger," on Mondays.

Interested in focusing more on climate change in your kori bustard messaging? Feel free to contact me at mking@zoatlanta.org

- 11 Facts About Recycling. (n.d.). Retrieved June 23, 2017, from <https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-recycling>
- 20 Ways to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint. (n.d.). Retrieved July 13, 2017, from <http://www.globalstewards.org/reduce-carbon-footprint.htm>
- 25 Reasons to Go Reusable! (n.d.). Retrieved July 13, 2017, from <https://www.reusethisbag.com/25-reasons-to-go-reusable.php>

Be Conscious of Where You Get Your Energy

Most of the energy we use comes from nonrenewable resources. Energy is used every day. It is used to create the electricity we need for schools, homes, factories, and businesses. When you drive to work, turn on a light, use air conditioning, watch TV, wash and dry your clothes, or take a shower, you're using energy.

Ways to reduce energy use: unplug electronics when not in use, turn off lights when not in the room, hang clothes to dry instead of using the dryer, buy certified energy efficient appliances, reduce water use, etc.



UNUSUAL MALE KORI BUSTARD BEHAVIOR

A three year old male kori bustard exhibited an unusual behavior this year at the National Zoo in Washington DC. The young male is housed with four other adult females, one of which is a reliable egg layer. Several weeks after the female laid an egg and started incubating, the male began to sit on the ground about 100 ft away from the female. He exhibited the same behaviors as the incubating female. As he did not appear to be ill, staff gave him a dummy egg which he incubated! He turned it, sat on it and would not leave the area. After several days, staff pulled the dummy egg. When incubation ended for the female and her dummy egg was removed and she left the area, the male went over to the area she had been sitting and sat in the same spot as the female. The male performed the same behaviors in a subsequent clutch of eggs.

Submitted by Sara Hallager, Curator of Birds, Smithsonian National Zoological Park



**KORI BUSTARD CHICKS
HATCHED
IN 2017**



One of three kori chicks raised at San Diego Zoo Global in 2017. Photo by Jenny Tibbott

Congratulations to Dallas Zoo, San Antonio Zoo, Fort Worth Zoo and San Diego Zoo Global on their kori chicks! Many chicks are looking for homes!



Kori chicks raised at Fort Worth Zoo in 2017. Photo by Shelly Collinworth



One of two kori chicks raised at San Antonio Zoo (eggs from Dallas). Photo by Sean Rogers



Kori bustard at Dallas Zoo. Photo by Dana Isaacs

NEWS FROM AFRICA

Emmanuel C. Mmassy successfully defended his PhD “Ecology and Conservation Challenges of the Kori Bustard in the Serengeti National Park, Tanzania” on 1 September 2017. The kori bustard SSP provided funding to Dr. Mmassy. Congratulations!!!

<https://brage.bibsys.no/xmlui/bitstream/handle/11250/2454889/Emmanuel%20Clamsen%20Mmassy.pdf?sequence=5&isAllowed=y>

Renowned wildlife filmmaker Alan Root dies, aged 80. Alan shared his story of Mustard the Kori Bustard with the SSP a few years ago. His pictures show the majesty and beauty of this species. Thank you Alan for sharing Mustard with us. Rest in peace.

https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2017/08/26/tribute-renown-wildlife-filmmaker-alan-root-dies-aged-80_c1623923



Photos by
Alan Root



NEWS FROM BOTSWANA



BirdLife Botswana is a non-profit organization and partner of BirdLife International, the largest nature conservation partnership in the world. BirdLife Botswana “strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources.” Viable, secure populations of kori bustards distributed within their historical range, living compatibly with local people. That is the vision of many individuals working to conserve kori bustards. In Botswana, the kori bustard is the National bird and conservation of koris can be a catalyst for the conservation of other endangered species.

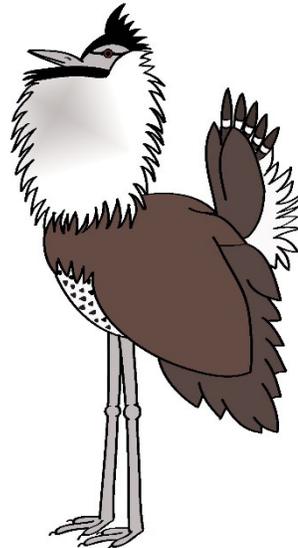
The envisioned national awareness campaign by Birdlife Botswana demonstrates and reinforces the fundamental relationship required between successful conservation action and the local people that drive, implement, and sustain it. Help support Birdlife Botswana’s campaign to raise awareness of kori bustards!

Donations welcome. Contact blb@birdlifebotswana.org.bw

COKES FOR KORIS



4



Kori Bustard SSP

Cokes for Koris & Button Fundraisers

In 2017, our total for the year was \$402.84 for from Cokes for Koris and \$99.50 from the sale of kori buttons on Kori Bustard Awareness Day in March! The Cokes for Koris Fundraiser consists of two mini-fridges set up in our Education office in the staff and teen volunteer break room and space set aside in a keeper area refrigerator. Bird Keeper Kyle Loomis and I keep the fridges stocked with sodas and snacks. Staff and volunteers donate their desired amount (suggested is 50 cents per item, but many people pay more up front and then take what they'd like for a while and then contribute more to the fund over time). We have a button machine (<https://www.americanbuttonmachines.com/>) and our web and graphic designer, Kathleen Primrose, designed the adorable graphics. For each Animal Awareness Day (we have quite a few now!) she creates a button design and



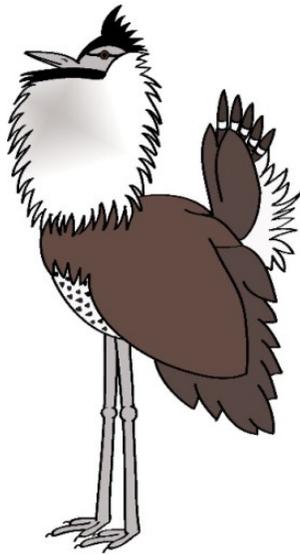
our teen Volunteers or part-time staff use the button machine to assemble them. Buttons are sold for \$3 on Zoo grounds on the Animal Awareness Day, in this case Kori Bustard Awareness Day. The funds from the buttons go to an organization that supports in situ or ex situ conservation, and for koris, it was the SSP. Guests can also get a 10% discount in the gift shop if they have purchased a button. We have guests that now aspire to collect all of the buttons from Animal Awareness Days! *Submitted by Melissa King, Kori Bustard SSP Education Advisor*

Volunteer Mark Ritter interprets with a kori feather on Kori Bustard Day 2017.

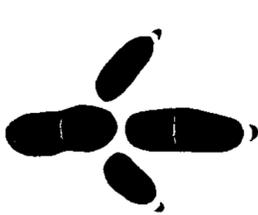


Carissa Bishop, Conservation Education Initiatives Supervisor, and Sanjana Ramesh, Conservation Education Intern, run the "Bustard Behaviors" activity table at Kori Bustard Day.

The button table at Zoo Atlanta's Kori Bustard Awareness Day



Kori Bustard SSP



FINDING A LEG TO STAND ON

In late April 2017, an adult male Kori bustard at the Birmingham Zoo was discovered to be under attack from a conspecific male. The bird suffered soft tissue wounds on the head and was lame with a severely swollen right hock. It is unclear if the attack caused the joint injury or being disabled precipitated the attack. Within a few days, it was apparent, though, that the bird had an injury to its lateral collateral ligament, so the joint had minimal support on the outside of the joint. Due to this injury, the bird's hock buckled outward when weight bearing.

How did we get the idea for networking with UAB for this procedure?

For a different Kori bustard, we had modified a neoprene splint that was intended for a human finger, to support a hock following a suspected ligament injury. It worked well, but skin hygiene became an issue and the bird developed dermatitis. We contacted the Sports Medicine department of Children's Hospital of Alabama to collaborate on a small brace that could serve the same purpose but be removable. We were connected with a certified Athletic trainer and developed a device in partnership. A custom hinged brace was built (see attached photos) that could be padded underneath, overwrapped, and left in place for up to a week if it did not get too wet. Supportive taping by the certified trainer as a bandage layer was also a component of this care.

What steps were taken in bracing and otherwise treating the leg injury?

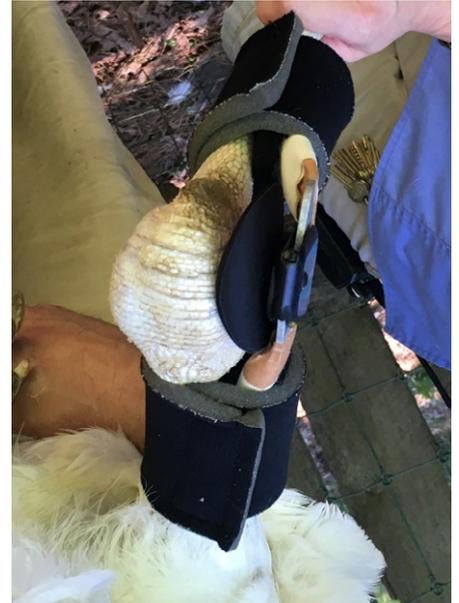
The bird responded very well and was walking better with the brace. The first time we did a bandage change to replace the padding, it was done without anesthesia. In retrospect, this was a mistake as the injury was re-aggravated by the bird's struggling under manual restraint. All of the subsequent bandage changes for the next 2.5 months were done under gas anesthesia, and no further re-aggravations occurred. The bird's ability to walk slowly improved for the following 2 months. Early on, there was some mild skin irritation under the bandage padding, but this was avoided later by changing the type of bandage material that was closest to his skin and changing the outer layer to one that shed water better. At times, his activity level was monitored during treatment with a game camera.

What would we have done differently?

In July, the right hock was healing well and the bird was walking with a slight limp, but then the bird suddenly became very lame on the left leg. When examined, the hock was swollen and signs of lateral ligament injury were present. It is likely that unequal weight bearing while compensating for the right leg injury led to a breakdown of the ligaments of the left hock. The single brace that was built for this bird was switched over to the left hock, but the bird never regained good locomotion and eventually the right hock became re-injured as well. The bird was euthanized due to the poor prognosis and poor quality of life. If we had it to do over again, we would have applied braces to both hocks from the beginning, and would have always done bandage changes under anesthesia.

What would we suggest to other facilities who are faced with similar injuries to their birds?

In large, long-legged birds, like Kori bustards, the use of joint braces derived from pediatric sports medicine holds promise for healing of joint injuries. We would recommend collaboration with a



certified sports trainer as development of the device and expertise in supportive taping helped this bird tremendously. In the end, if injury to the right hock had been prevented, it may have been a successful outcome for this Kori bustard.

Submitted by Dr. Rich Sim, Birmingham Zoo



Mustard the kori bustard by Alan Root

JUST FOR FUN



Pumpkin carvings by Anna Turkett,
Birmingham Zoo

KORI BUSTARD
SPECIES SURVIVAL PLAN

About the SSP | About Koris | How to Help | Resources | ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

GENERAL KORI INFO
General information about kori bustards, including physical characteristics, diet, and reproduction.

CONSERVATION & RESEARCH
Information about kori bustard conservation, including threats, conservation status, and research projects.

EDUCATOR'S NEST
Resources for kori education in the classroom, at home, or environmental education institutions.

HOW TO HELP
Want to help these amazing birds? Visit this section to learn more!

SSP BLOG
The latest updates and news from the SSP and an in look at careers working animals.



<http://www.koribustardssp.org/>

Zoo Atlanta: Kori Bustard behaviors ethogram for young guests created by Zoo Atlanta web & graphic designer. Guests can use these laminated ethogram sheets, binoculars, and dry erase markers to be a researcher and see how many kori behaviors they can see in action!

Kori Bustards Behaviors

Find Kori Bustards...

SUN BATHING



Birds will lay on the ground with their wings spread. They often pant during sunbathing as a way to cool themselves.

- It's not uncommon to see birds all over the Zoo sunbathing on the ground, soaking up the rays of the sun!

RESTING



Sitting on ground or standing with eyes open (alert) or closed.

- Kori bustards usually wake before sunrise to feed on insects and then rest periodically throughout the day.

SCRATCHING



Koris will scratch themselves using a toe.

- Kori bustards have three toes on each foot.

STRETCHING



Birds will stretch and often will stretch a leg and wing out at the same time.

- Kori bustards have a wingspan of about 8 feet.

PREENING



Birds will use their bill to straighten their feathers.

- Each individual kori bustard can have different band markings on their feathers.

DUST BATHING



Kori bustards will lay in the dirt on the ground and rub their belly, head, neck, and wings and ruffle their feathers.

- Dust bathing helps keep kori bustards' feathers in good condition.

WALKING



Walking is the most common way kori bustards get around.

- Kori bustards are the heaviest birds capable of flight but spend more time on the ground.

RUNNING



Koris will run and sometimes spread their wings. They run to get away from predators.

- Before taking off in flight, kori bustards take a running start.

EATING



Koris will peck at food or jump for flying prey.

- Kori bustards are omnivores, meaning they will eat other animals and some plants.

DRINKING WATER



Koris will put their beak in the water and suck it up with their beak.

- Most birds drink water by scooping it up with their beak, so this is a unique behavior.

FORAGING



Koris searching for food will walking and looking at the ground.

- Kori bustards will follow herds of animals like zebras or wildebeests that stir up the insects they forage for in the tall grass.

BALLOON DISPLAY



Male extends his neck and inflates his neck with his bill pointed upward to impress females.

- A male kori bustard can inflate his neck up to four times it's usual size!

BOOMING



Males make a low-pitched booming sound by opening and shutting their bill to impress females.

- Kori bustards can make a range of sounds from barking to roaring!