**AZA 2014 MID-YEAR MEETING** March 22-28, 2014 • Memphis, TN

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**Avian SAG AGENDA**

**Sunday, March 23-Friday, March 28**

Sunday, March 23

*Ballroom C*

8:30 am – 9:30 am

Raptor TAG

9:30 am – 10:30 am

Kori Bustard SSP Working Session

10:30 am – 11:00 am

Ratite TAG

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Anseriformes TAG

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

PACCT TAG

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Charadiiformes TAG

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Coraciiformes TAG

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Penguin TAG

Monday, March 24

*Ballroom C*

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Avian Welfare Workshop

8:00 am – 10:00 am

Avian Welfare Workshop: Session One

*Moderator: Tom Schneider, Vice Chair, AZA Avian Scientific Advisory Group*

*Sara Hallager, Chair, AZA Avian Scientific Advisory Group*

*Nadja Wielebnowski, Chair, AZA Animal Welfare Committee*

The Use of PVA to Examine Possible Relationships Between Flight Restriction and Population Sustainability

The practice of flight restriction is a complex and sometimes controversial topic. Yet little research has been done to investigate potential impacts of the practice of flight restriction on population sustainability. One might assume that if currently utilized methods of flight restriction were to be discontinued, that the space for those taxa on which these methods are practiced might also be reduced. Population viability analyses can be used to examine potential reductions in carrying capacity for SSP managed species that are likely to be impacted by flight restriction. The models presented are examples, intended to serve as representatives for broader taxa and demonstrate a quantitative approach to begin evaluations of the application of flight restriction methods on population sustainability.

* Colleen Lynch, Curator of Birds, Riverbanks Zoo and Garden/Consulting Population Biologist, AZA PMC

ASAG’s New Flight Restriction Guidelines; Results of 2014 Flight Restriction Survey

ASAG’s new flight restriction guidelines will be presented along with a summary of ASAGs 2014 flight restriction survey with comparisons to the flight restriction survey from 2006.

* Sara Hallager, Acting Curator of Birds, Smithsonian National Zoological Park

Avian Egg Euthanasia

Effective management of bird populations involves choosing which eggs should or should not be hatched. While many methods have been employed to prevent eggs from hatching, not all are reliable or appropriate given our experiences and knowledge of embryonic development. The various methods will be discussed and best practices will be recommended.

* Susie Kasielke, Curator of Birds, Los Angeles Zoo & Botanical Gardens

Topics in Applied Avian Nutrition

On a daily basis, we are faced with nutrition questions about our avian collections – What to feed? How much to feed? Does the energy in enrichment and training foods count in the diet? Is body weight or body condition score the best management tool for my birds? We’re sure you can come up with some of your own, as well. This presentation is focused on addressing some of those most often asked nutrition questions, especially those that seem most timely at present.

* Mike Maslanka, Head, Department of Nutrition Science, Smithsonian National Zoological Park

Understanding and Managing Avian Bumblefoot

Bumblefoot has a significant impact on captive avian welfare, and can result in extended periods of discomfort, loss of function, and in severe cases, death. To understand and treat bumblefoot successfully, it’s important to understand the tissue changes that occur and the environmental and other risk factors thought to contribute to development of disease. The author will share a successful treatment method for treatment of bumblefoot in penguins and overall strategies for prevention and treatment will be explored.

* Dr. Ann Duncan, Chief Veterinarian, Detroit Zoological Society

10:30 am – 11:50 am

Avian Welfare Workshop: Session Two

*Moderator: Stephanie Allard, Steering Committee, AZA Animal Welfare Committee*

Cassowary Procedures at the Birmingham Zoo: How to Maximize the Success and Minimize the Stress by Thinking Inside the Box

Over the past few years we have dealt with two cassowary prolapses. The first prolapse occurred when no training had been done and the second occurred after a training program had been implemented. This presentation will discuss the differences in the procedures and the process of training.

* Cindy Pinger, Curator of Birds, Reptiles, and Children's Zoo Birmingham Zoo

Here Birdy, Birdy, Birdy!

This talk will identify common challenges zoos face with interactive lorikeet exhibits. Part 2 will be a request to identify a group of interested individuals to research these issues.

* Kelly Vineyard, Curator and Shannon Morarity, Assistant Curator, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

Program Penguin Overview

This presentation looks at the ever increasing popularity of penguin programs including species choice, colony vs separate management of program penguins, and a synopsis of various challenges for these programs.

* Steven J. Sarro, Curator, Smithsonian National Zoological Park

Advanced Enrichment Design and Evaluation

Environmental enrichment is an important technique that animal caretakers can employ to increase the interactivity and dynamic nature of avian exhibits. In turn, this technique can increase the performance of species-typical behaviors such as foraging and exploration and decrease the performance of abnormal behaviors including feather picking and stereotypy. The efficacy of environmental enrichment can be greatly enhanced by applying science-based approaches starting with the conceptual stage and continuing through the design, implementation and evaluation phases of the process. This talk will highlight practical science-based techniques including incorporating appropriate challenge into design, utilizing an iterative design approach, and applying collaborative evaluation techniques to document impact and inform practice.

* Cheryl Meehan, Ph.D., Animal Welfare Scientist, Consultant, Vistalogic, Inc.

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Avian Welfare Workshop: Session Three

*Moderator: Sara Hallager, Chair, AZA Avian Scientific Advisory Group*

Shining a Light on Avian Visual Perception

An improved understanding of the avian visual system can better inform exhibit design towards enhanced environments for birds in human care with the potential for advancing visual enrichment and welfare. Assessments of exhibit lighting design should be evaluated objectively because human and avian light perception is different. This presentation will include a review of the current knowledge of avian lighting needs and discuss factors influencing the light environments for birds in a variety of settings. Further, increased awareness of the influences of light on birds can help to interpret the multiple potential impacts of light on conservation.

* Linda Henry, Supervisor of Birds, SeaWorld San Diego

Carcass Feeding…It’s for the Birds

Carcass feeding for mammals has received significant attention in recent years; however, little has been discussed regarding the benefits of carcass feeding for raptors. This talk will focus on the development of a carcass feeding program, the pros and cons of carcass feeding, and specific implications to the welfare of birds.

* Beth Posta, Curator of Behavioral Husbandry and Research, Toledo Zoo

Evaluating an Avian Collection's Behavioral Responses to Construction Disturbances

In 2011, Disney’s Animal Kingdom’s expanded its Avian Research Center (ARC). Due to noise and visual changes associated with the construction, the aviary and science teams completed a behavioral study examining the effects of construction noise and activity on the welfare of the birds held at ARC. While behavioral changes associated with construction were not observed, many lessons were learned including that our birds were already exposed to a variety of noises and activity prior to construction, there is a need for measuring and assessing variability in and frequency of noise, as well as to develop a different indicator of welfare in the birds rather than simple behavioral changes during construction.

* Gina M. Ferrie, Research Associate, Science Operations, Disney’s Animals, Science and Environment

Exhibiting Parrots - Past, Present and Future - Has Anything Changed?

Some avian taxa in our care have been exhibited in a similar manner for decades. Specifically the practice of exhibiting parrots in open displays - 'parrot islands' to some - has been a common theme in our facilities. The question is - why are these highly social and vibrant species often relegated to such displays while other taxa are not? Are we doing what is best for our parrots?

* Joe Barkowski, Vice-President of Animal Conservation & Science, Tulsa Zoo

Planning for Free-flighted Birds as a Component of a Major Aviary Renovation

I will review the planning and design process for the renovation of a 1938 aviary into an immersive tropical forest with free-flighted birds. Parrots and other avian taxa will be included in the renovated exhibit. I will describe special efforts we plan to take to allow multiple parrot species to range freely in this planted exhibit.

* David Bocian, VP of Animal Care, San Francisco Zoo

From Fur to Feathers: Future Directions in Zoo Animal Welfare

The presentation will highlight some of the ongoing efforts throughout zoological institutions to examine the welfare of mammals and how these studies could be applied to begin addressing questions around avian welfare. Examples will include social factors affecting welfare, environmental enrichment and exhibit design, and welfare monitoring.

* Lance Miller, Senior Director of Animal Welfare Research, Chicago Zoological Society - Brookfield Zoo

Wednesday, March 26

*Ballroom C*

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Gruiformes TAG

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Parrot TAG

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Turaco/Cuckoo TAG

1:15 pm – 5:30 pm

ASAG General Session

Steering Committee Members and Welcome New Members

* Sara Hallager, Smithsonian’s National Zoo

ASAG Website Update

* Kevin Graham, Disney’s Animal Kingdom

Mariana Avifauna Conservation Program

* Herb Roberts and Fields Falcone, Memphis Zoo

Lucky in Love: The Reproductive Success of the Southern Cassowary at the Virginia Zoo

* Alexandra Zelazo-Kessler, Lead Bird Keeper, Virginia Zoo - 2014 ASAG Travel Grant Recipient

Alternative Medicine

* Aliza Baltz, Philadelphia Zoo

Plume Awards

* Presented by Steve Sarro

Novel Information on Taveta Weaver Nest Fidelity

* Chelle Plasse, Disney’s Animal Kingdom

Light Bulb Moments with Penguins and Alcids

* Linda Henry, Supervisor of Birds Penguin Encounter, SeaWorld San Diego - 2014 ASAG Travel Grant Recipient

Red/Yellow Program Updates from 2012 Mid-Year Presentation

* Kelly Vineyard, Columbus Zoo and Steve Sarro, Smithsonian National Zoological Park

Going Beyond the Institution: Taronga Zoo Bird Department Involvement in Conservation Programs

* Sprina Liu, Senior Keeper Australian Fauna Precinct, Taranga Zoo - 2014 ASAG Travel Grant Recipient

A New Aviary Exhibit Under Construction

* Dan Boritt, Indianapolis Zoo and Consultant to Roosevelt Park Zoo

Action Plan Update and Final Wrap Up

* Tom Schneider, Detroit Zoo

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

See You at the ASAG Meet and Greet!

*Convention Center Room 205*

Thursday, March 27

*Ballroom C*

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Galliformes Workshop

TAG Introduction: Managed Species Under the TAG

* Chris Holmes, Assistant Curator of Birds, Houston Zoo

Incubation Workshop in Colombia and How the Blue-Billed Curassow Can Be Incorporated Into AZA Institutions

* Chris Holmes, Assistant Curator of Birds, Houston Zoo & Susie Kasielke, Curator of Birds, Los Angeles Zoo

Edwards’s Pheasants: An Overview of the Captive Conservation Work In EAZA And AZA And How This Species Can Be Incorporated Into AZA Collections

* Gen Anderson, General Curator, St. Augustine Alligator Park (on behalf of Jan Dams, EAZA Galliformes TAG Chair, Weltvogelpark Walsrode)

The Managed Species of Tragopan Under the Galliformes TAG and How AZA Institutions Can Incorporate These Species Into Their Collections

* Michael Macek, Curator of Birds, Saint Louis Zoo

The Managed Species of Guineafowl (Crested And Vulturine)

* Harrison Edell, Senior Director of Living Collections, Dallas Zoo

Galliformes Housed in Mixed Species Exhibits

* Shawn Pedersen, Collections Manager, Woodland Park Zoo

The Outlook of Galliformes In AZA Collections

* Chris Holmes, Assistant Curator of Birds, Houston Zoo

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Hornbill Workshop

Introduction & TAG Updates

* Paul Schutz, Zoological Manager, Disney’s Animal Kingdom & Coraciifromes TAG Chair

Micronesian Kingfisher Population and USFWS Recovery Committee Update

* Aliza Baltz, Curator of Birds, Philadelphia Zoo

Creating Successful Hornbill Nest Cavities

What works and what doesn’t? Using cavity nest examples from a variety of hornbill species at different facilities, important artificial cavity design elements will be highlighted to encourage successful reproduction.

* Gen Anderson, General Curator, St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park

Bee-Eaters: Going, Going, Not Gone Yet

Bee-eaters in North American Zoological facilities have never been housed in large enough numbers to be considered stable populations and reproduction of any held species has historically been limited at best. Several of these vibrantly colored insectivorous species have been in collections off and on for decades but nevertheless have proven themselves to be a significant challenge as an exhibit species. Even with their difficulties these bee-eater species are still considered by many facilities to be a highly desirable addition to their avian populations. At this point there are four species of bee-eaters currently held in Association of Zoo and Aquarium (AZA) collections, only three of which have numbers of even potential significance. None of the populations are sustainable long-term without improvements in husbandry and the addition of founders to the populations. Marginal progress has been achieved in recent years with the overall needs of captive bee-eaters and birds have begun to produce offspring, albeit at a slow pace, but if we are to successfully exhibit bee-eaters in our populations there is still more to learn and achieve.

* Kevin Graham, Aviary Team, Disney’s Animal Kingdom

Ground-Hornbill Conservation In South Africa: A Summary of Lessons Learnt

Formal conservation efforts for the Southern Ground-Hornbill (SGH) in South Africa were initiated in 1999 with the formation of the Mabula Ground-Hornbill Project, in collaboration with and based off the early research by Dr Alan Kemp, Transvaal Museum. Since then a number of institutions, both in- and ex situ, have joined the effort, now coordinated through national SGH Action Group. Increased awareness of the plight of the species has led to increased sighting reports of wild birds. This in turn has led to a nation-wide analysis of population size and status, and consequently a national up-listing from Vulnerable to Endangered. Due to high SGH longevity and slow breeding it soon became evident that a multi-pronged approach was required to slow the decline, since a PHVA showed that a loss of just three individuals could drive the population further into decline. We have learnt of novel threats facing the wild populations (Newcastle’s Disease, electrocution, lead poisoning) and have a better understanding of previously known threats (habitat transformationin particular) and now see that non-protected areas are the future of the species due to their close co-existence with pastoral communities. We know that the harvest of redundant chicks, if done according to a strict protocol, does not impact the success of the remaining chick, thus allowing us to double wild nest productivity. We have improved husbandry techniques and hand-rearing to a success rate of over 80% for rearing a chick to fledging, which is better by half than the original parents. We also know that wild groups will readily use artificial nests, and lessons learnt from reintroductions include the importance of correct socialisation, correct diet and wild-experienced lead bird. We have seen a hand-reared female breed twice in the wild, and her beta male from that site became the alpha male for a subsequent site.

* Lucy Kemp, Project Manager, Mabula Ground Hornbill Project.

A Revised Reintroduction and Conservation Plan For the Southern Ground-Hornbill In Unprotected Habitat In South Africa

An increased interest in this declining species over the last few years has led to increased research and brought to light new information on SGH biology that allows us to improve plans for their conservation. The initial reintroduction programme highlighted novel threats (Newcastle’s’ Disease, electrocution and lead poisoning) and the importance of correct socialisation of reintroduction stock, but is still in the experimental stages and so it is vital also to safe guard existing wild populations and their habitat until techniques are refined. We know that population expansion and self-re-colonisation is possible from that half of the national population that is in a large formally protected area, or from the remaining half that comprises increasing isolated sub-populations. Due to the resident nature of each of the family groups on their communal territory, and the expense and logistics involved in reintroductions, a custodianship programme is being established to target each of the estimated remaining 200 groups outside of protected areas by engaging with land-owners to remove threats and activate ‘ownership’. The new‘bush-school’ concept for the reintroductions then builds towards a genetically linked and growing sub-population to recolonise the historical range, with the aim of reducing the growing chasms between sub-populations.

* Lucy Kemp, Project Manager, Mabula Ground Hornbill Project

Training a Pair of Abyssinian Ground Hornbills for Voluntary Radiographs

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo (CMZ) is home to 1.1 Abyssinian Ground Hornbills that star in the zoo’s “Wings of Africa” bird show. By nature, ground hornbills are very curious, intelligent and charismatic, which in turn makes them great education and exhibit birds. Unfortunately, hornbills are also known to find and ingest foreign objects that may put them at great risk. In 2008, CMZ’s hornbills began ingesting rocks too large to pass through their digestive tract. They were regularly caught up and sedated for radiographs to monitor what foreign bodies were in their systems, sometimes even tubing them with mineral oil to encourage rocks and gravel to pass through on their own. In addition to these procedures, the female had to have surgery to remove small pieces of glass and metal and large rocks from her stomach. The routine captures and involuntary restraints began to break down trust between the birds and their keepers. Since we needed to maintain a high level of trust and a good relationship for the show, we began to brainstorm ways to get voluntary radiographs on both hornbills in a stress-free setting. This paper outlines the steps taken and the challenges that were overcome to train two Abyssinian ground hornbills with very different personalities.

* RoxAnna Breitigan, Animal Care Manager, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

Breeding Rhinoceros Hornbills at The Nashville Zoo at Grassmere

The Nashville Zoo at Grassmere has been successful at producing rhinoceros hornbill chicks over the last six years; using both parent and artificial means of incubation and hand-rearing to produce viable offspring. We will discuss our techniques and knowledge gained from our experience that will, hopefully, be beneficial to other institutions holding large Asian hornbills.

* Rebecca Bell, Bird Department, Nashville Zoo

Friday, March 28

8:00 am – 11:00 am

PACCT TAG ACM Working Session

*Room 201*

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Parrot RCP Working Session

*Room 204*

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Pelican TAG ACM Working Session

*Room 201*

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Turaco/Cuckoo RCP Working Session

*Room 204*