

ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS



Jan 1 2020 – June 30 2020

REPORT OF THE AZA NORTH AMERICAN SONGBIRD SAFE



The North American Songbird SAFE program reports the following activities for its core team, advisors and institutions for the period 1 Jan 2020 – 30 June 2020.
Report prepared by Sara Hallager

NAS SAFE Activities – Jan 2020

AZA network postings. These are meant to increase awareness of native songbirds

- It's time to treat cats like dogs
- Climate Change Is Affecting The Timing Of Bird Migration, But Are Birds Adapting Fast Enough?
- The Great Backyard Bird Count!
- Window tech could save billions of birds, and it's already here
- World Migratory Bird Day 2020



General:

- 1) 2 Jan 2020. North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores joined as a SAFE Program Partner (#18)
- 2) 6 Jan 2020. SC, advisor conference call; minutes posted to NAS SAFE network
- 3) 8 Jan 2020. Google drive folder set up for all Program Partners, Advisors.

Initiative Updates

CATS

- Working on Action Plan objectives
- 31 Jan 2020. Cat Team conference call for Action plan discussion, goal setting. TAG partnerships, AZA accreditation, zoo/aquarium messaging

HABITAT

- Working on Action Plan objectives

CITIZEN SCIENCE

- Working on Action Plan objectives

COLLISIONS

- Working on Action Plan objectives
- 6 Jan 2020 Matthew B. Shumar, OH Bird Conservation Initiative joined the Collisions Team
- 17 Feb 2020 Greg Whittaker, Moody joined the collisions team

CONTAMINANTS

- Working on Action Plan objectives

BIRD FRIENDLY® COFFEE

- Working on Action Plan objectives

TRAFFICKING

- Working on Action Plan objectives

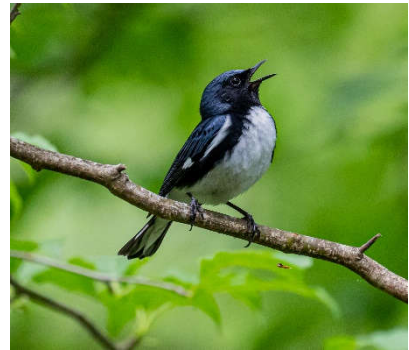
EDUCATION

- 16 Jan 2020. Education Team Jess Greensmith, Brianne Warthman, Matt Iglesias, Rhana Paris, Keri Lammering, Nicole Warren held a conference call

NAS SAFE Activities – Feb 2020

May AZA network postings. These are meant to increase awareness of native songbirds

- The Great Backyard Bird Count Starts on Friday
- Weather Service radar captures massive bird migration over Key West



General:

- 1) NAS SAFE was featured in the AZA Annual Report https://assets.speakcdn.com/assets/2332/safe_annual-report_2019_final_web.pdf
- 2) 3 Feb 2020. Zoo Atlanta (#19) and NY State Zoo at Thompson Park (#20) joined as Program Partners
- 3) 4 Feb 2020. Draft Action Plan sent to Steering Committee and advisors
- 4) 4 Feb 2020. Mike Kreger, Sara Hallager, Rhana Paris, Stephen Spear talked with David Selk (Association of Zoo Horticulture (AZH)) about how the NAS SAFE and the AZH can collaborate.
- 5) 6 Feb 2020. Steering Committee and Advisor conference call; draft Action Plan distributed to SC, Advisors, all Program Partners
- 6) 10 Feb 2020. Moody Gardens joined as a Program Partner (#21), Oglebay Good Zoo joined as a Program Partner (#22)
- 7) 10 Feb 2020 NAS SAFE midyear report submitted to AZA
- 8) 19 Feb 2020. Lincoln Park Zoo (#23) and Birmingham Zoo (#24) joined as Program Partners

Initiative reports

CATS

- Working on Action Plan objectives

HABITAT

- Working on Action Plan objectives

CITIZEN SCIENCE

- Working on Action Plan objectives

COLLISIONS

- Working on Action Plan objectives

CONTAMINANTS

- Working on Action Plan objectives

BIRD FRIENDLY® COFFEE

- Working on Action Plan objectives
- 19 Feb 2020. Conference call with Justine Bowe (NZP/SMBC), Jess Greensmith (NZP/FONZ), Kristin Hill (NZP/FONZ), Lily Mleczko (WCS), Nicole Warren (NC AQ), Sara Hallager (NZP) about NAS SAFE BFC goals, WCS's approach for getting BFC into zoos/aquariums, visitor perceptions about BFC, messaging of guests and AZA, next steps

TRAFFICKING

- Working on Action Plan objectives

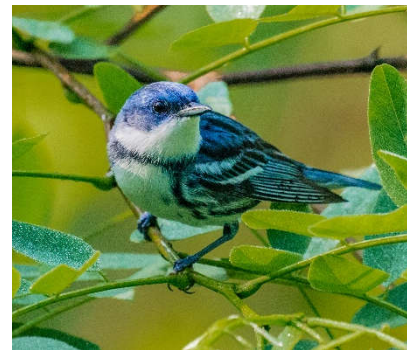
EDUCATION

- Working on Action Plan objectives

NAS SAFE Activities – March 2020

AZA network postings. These are meant to increase awareness of native songbirds

- NABCI "Why Care About Birds" messaging! Week 1
- NABCI Why Care About Birds: week 2. Birds and their Habitat Support Your Health
- NABCI Why Care About Birds" Week 3: Birds Benefit Your Beverages
- CEC newsletter, songbird trafficking



General:

- 1) 13 March 2020. Mike (phone) and Sara (in person) met with Dr. Anna Young to discuss the Action Plan
- 2) 23 March 2020. Los Angeles Zoo joined as a Program Partner (#25)
- 3) 26 March 2020. NC Zoo joined as a Program Partner (#26)

Initiative reports

CATS

- Working on Action Plan objectives
- Conversation between Mike Kreger, Grant Sizemore and Michelle Smurl. We ended up ruling out the option of encouraging cat owners to utilize colorful collars as an effective bird warning system. We prefer to keep the 'no cats outdoors' messaging.
- The study is about the effects of domestic cats on wildlife vs. a wild cat (jungle cat). While it is an interesting article, it mentions putting colorful collars on domestic cats as an

effective bird warning system. If that is true, maybe this is something we can message (or sell) to visitors. https://wildlife.org/pet-cats-impact-on-wildlife-hits-close-to-home/?utm_source=getresponse&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ewildlifer_newsletter_professional_members&utm_content=This+Week%27s+eWildlifer+%26+TWS+Talks

- Grant Sizemore
 - Virginia HB 1727 was passed over for the year. The bill is still technically alive and may move next year. This bill would have legalized TNR and provided exemptions to TNR practitioners that, among other things, absolved them of the responsibilities of a “finder” in the state. American Bird Conservancy and partners lobbied against the bill. It is possible that an inclusive stakeholder meeting will occur later this year, hosted by the Wildlife Center of Virginia, to discuss legislative solutions.
 - American Bird Conservancy has published results of a 2019 poll of U.S. residents that indicates majority support for responsible cat ownership behaviors (i.e., sterilization, microchipping, containment). An ABC announcement can be found <https://abcbirds.org/article/milestone-us-public-cat-poll-2019>
 - A study <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/pan3.10073> suggests that many countries are required to keep cats indoors, per international law.
- Michelle Smurl reports that a Florida Zoo Director called Steve Olsen, Vice President of Government Affairs to ask if AZA is open to discussing and taking a stance on the roaming cat issue. This has been presented before years ago and I’m not sure by who or what roadblocks existed. Steve is open to having more conversations. A follow up discussion is needed with the Director and Steve. We are sending a representative to the Herp TAG meetings at the end of April and I’ve asked for him to look into working the roaming cat topic into a session. *UPDATE – mid year and herp tags canceled due to COVID19.*

HABITAT

- Working on Action Plan objectives

CITIZEN SCIENCE

- Working on Action Plan objectives

COLLISIONS

- Working on Action Plan objectives
- Lindsay Jacks (Lights Out Baltimore) has submitted a grant to cover the costs for the AZA booth, she is also looking into other funding possibilities for the booth in case the grant doesn't work out;
- Bonnie Van Dam (Detroit Zoo) working on booth space and logistics for an upcoming AZA conference, cost details and how to reserve

CONTAMINANTS

- Working on Action Plan objectives

BIRD FRIENDLY® COFFEE (BFC)

- Working on Action Plan objectives
- Sara Hallager contacted AZA ASAG IRs to ask them about being BFC Institutional Representatives (IR's).

- Jess Greensmith posted on several AZA networks inviting people to be BFC IRs
- Justine Bowe and Dr. Ruth Bennett submitted a proposal to the AZA CGF “Proudly Serving Biodiversity: Unifying the AZA to Demand Bird Friendly Coffee”. Collaborators include Dr. Scott Sillett, Kirstin Hill, Sara Hallager, Dr. Jessica Barnes

TRAFFICKING

- Working on Action Plan objectives
- 19 March 2020. AZA CEC newsletter published and included an article by Sara Hallager, Sunny Nelson, Mike Kreger on songbird trafficking

EDUCATION

- 1) 24 March 2020. Educators conference call to discuss re-working Action Plan to include education as part of initiatives not as its own NAS SAFE initiative

NAS SAFE Activities – April 2020

AZA network postings. These are meant to increase awareness of native songbirds

- House Cats Have More Impact On Local Wildlife Than Wild Predators
- iNaturalist City Nature Challenge
- ABC bird collisions newsletter
- WMBD announcement posted



General

- 1) 7 Apr 2020. Bramble Park Zoo joined as a Program Partner (#27)
- 2) 8 Apr 2020 Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo agreed to serve as Treasurer for the NAS SAFE program
- 3) 10 April 2020 Mike Kreger and Sara Hallager talked with Judith Scarl, NABCI (North American Bird Conservation Initiative) about how AZA and NABCI can partner to message bird conservation
- 4) 15 April 2020 NAS SAFE SC and advisor conference call
- 5) 29 Apr 2020. Final draft sent to all Program Partners for comment
- 6) 30 Apr 2020. NABCI’s Judith Scarl and the NAS SAFE Education Team along with Kreger and Hallager had a conference call to discuss getting the NABCI “Why Birds Matter” campaign integrated into a NAS SAFE message. Trying to get message prepped for May 9th World Migratory Bird Day

Initiative reports

CATS

- Conference call with all Roaming Cat members on April 9. Updates to the Initiative wording and action plan objectives, Fundraising Revision and Discussion; Grant Sizemore provided COVID 19 and toxoplasmosis gondii information
 - Grant Sizemore provided his Review of Domestic Cats and COVID-19 document, as follows: Updated April 6, 2020: Domestic cats and other felines are susceptible to COVID-19 infection and may transmit the infection to other felines via respiratory droplets. Felines also appear to be susceptible to infection following exposure to infected humans.
- Sara Hallager forwarded an email on April 14, 2020 from Anna Young, PhD that included this information – *Integrating behavior change and social science into conservation was discussed in the WCC mid-year phone call, and Dino Ferri brought up trying to convince people to keep cats indoors. I let the committee know that this is an objective of NAS SAFE and Dino reached out to say that he's really passionate about this, and has some interactions with law enforcement regarding this, as cats were affecting a reintroduced rodent he worked with. If you want to reach out to him his email is : dinof@centralfloridazoo.org.* Michelle Smurl reached out to Dino Ferri, another Florida colleague, to discuss a potential Florida Zoo collaboration to tackle roaming cat issues.
- April 26, 2020 – Anne Tieber, Roaming Cat Team Member presented a virtual roaming cat presentation and shared the following recent article
<https://www.npr.org/2020/04/18/820953617/the-killer-at-home-house-cats-have-more-impact-on-local-wildlife-than-wild-preda>

HABITAT

- Nothing to report

CITIZEN SCIENCE

- 1) Brianne Warthman shared information on City Nature Challenge on the NAS SAFE network. This project uses the iNaturalist platform and is geared toward children 14 and under. As we're navigating COVID-19 and trying to find ways to engage our guests, this could be a good way for them to connect at home and get involved with an accessible citizen science project. The iNaturalist app is one of the platforms the Citizen Science sub-committee would like to encourage people to use at our facilities, so getting people familiar now could help us in the future as we look to achieve our goals. Here is more info about the project: Citynaturechallenge.org. Invented by citizen science staff at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (Lila Higgins) and California Academy of Sciences (Alison Young). The City Nature Challenge is an international effort for people to find and document plants and wildlife in cities across the globe. It's a bioblitz-style competition where cities are in a contest against each other to see who can make the most observations of nature, who can find the most species, and who can engage the most people.
- 2) April 27 2020, Citizen Science conference call; updates to Action Item activity provided by members

COLLISIONS

- Nothing to report

CONTAMINANTS

- April 23, 2020 meeting. Discussed fundraising costs for group to put in action plan. Discussed additional action items including:
- Action item: Develop and implement bird friendly guidance for use and reduction of pesticides
- Action item: Identify and use alternatives to neonicotinoids
- Action item: Educate guests about pesticide use
- Action item: Reduce single-use plastics

BIRD FRIENDLY® COFFEE

- 1) Advisor Justine Bowe and Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center colleague Dr. Ruth Bennett working on a Bird Friendly Coalition that unites initiatives that promote bird friendly products, agricultural practices, and lifestyles. The workshop will gather people who either use the term “bird friendly” or engage in agriculture and development projects with conservation benefits for birds to think collectively about how to define and promote a unified network of Bird Friendly initiatives and products. Please see the attached Concept Note for a broader overview.
- 2) Justine Bowe emailed the NAS SAFE BFC IRs: the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center will be raising awareness for Bird Friendly coffee on World Migratory Bird Day (May 9th). This digital event will focus on things we can do from home to conserve and enjoy birds, drinking Bird Friendly coffee chief among them. This will include everything from tips for keeping bird friendly homes and yards, to getting started bird watching, keeping cats indoors—all consistent with the 7 simple actions from the 3 billion birds initiative. Our digital toolkit, which focuses on the coffee component, and how to participate are all available on our recent blog post <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/news/celebrate-world-migratory-bird-day-2020-digitally>. Posts are linking back to 3 Billion Birds’ #BringBirdsBack hashtag, as well as #WorldMigratoryBirdDay, and, of course, #DrinkBirdFriendly and our where to buy page <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/where-buy-bird-friendly-coffee>, which will be totally re-vamped for the event

TRAFFICKING

Shared the following news with the trafficking team

- 1) Sanchez-Mercado et al 2020. Social network analysis reveals specialized trade in an endangered songbird. *Animal Conservation* 23: 132-144
- 2) TRAFFIC today launched the Wildlife Trade Portal—set to become the most comprehensive open-access repository of wildlife trade data. <https://www.traffic.org/news/new-tool-to-track-wildlife-trade/>
- 3) The Americas chapter for the 2020 ROUTES Partnership and C4ADS report "Runway to Extinction: Wildlife Trafficking in the Air Transport Sector" which examines the trends, transit routes, and trafficking methods used by wildlife smugglers exploiting the aviation industry in six world regions: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and

Oceania https://routespartnership.org/industry-resources/publications/runway-to-extinction-report/routes_runwaytoextinction_americas.pdf

- 4) de Oliveira, W.S.L., Borges, A.K.M., de Faria Lopes, S. et al. Illegal trade of songbirds: an analysis of the activity in an area of northeast Brazil. *J Ethnobiology Ethnomedicine* 16, 16 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13002-020-00365-5>

EDUCATION

- 1) The education team has been working on a social media plan for NAS SAFE. When we met with the AZA communications team they encouraged us to pick one hashtag and a keyword for each objective to use for NAS SAFE posts. That way they are able to track posts for us and provide reports about our impact on social media

NAS SAFE Activities – May 2020

AZA network postings. These are meant to increase awareness of native songbirds

- Hope for the FL grasshopper sparrow
- SAFE Songbird Social Media #SAFESongbirds
- As rare Florida bird (scrub jay) loses ground to development, can technology help scientists save it?
- The Birds Are Not on Lockdown, and More People Are Watching Them



General NAS SAFE activities

- 1) Final Action Plan sent to WCC liaison Dr. Anna Young on May 8th for review
 - 2) World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated by many Program Partners on May 9th via social media as all Program Partner Zoos remain closed due to COVID19 restrictions. Many Partners used the NAS SAFE Social Media messages created by the NAS SAFE Education Team (Appendix I)
 - 3) Launch of Facebook page on May 8th with social media contact person Kirby Pitchford (National Aquarium) <https://www.facebook.com/songbirdsafe/>
 - 4) Grant review Committee (Mike Kreger, Sara Hallager, Stephen Spear, Michelle Smurl, Matt Igleski, Rhana Paris, Bonnie Van Dam) discussed how to review proposals for funding (e.g. AZA SAFE grants). A pre-proposal form was developed and will be circulated when the call for AZA SAFE grants comes out
 - 5) Social media team created (Kirby Pitchford, Michelle Smurl, Jess Greensmith, Mike Kreger, Eric Peterson, Sara Hallager) to manage site. Meeting held 18 May to discuss guidelines, policies, content. Announcement made to NAS SAFE network to encourage Program Partners to 'like us' and post messages that align with the NAS SAFE initiatives
- 1) 20 May 2020: Jo Anna Lutmerding has stepped away from the NAS SAFE as she has moved on to a new position with FWS. Dr. Eric Kershner Chief, Branch of Conservation, Permits, and Regulations US Fish & Wildlife Service has joined the SAFE. Eric will work on Citizen Science and Trafficking initiatives

- 2) 22 May AZA SAFE network split into two: a closed one for business of the program and an open one to encourage participation in the program
- 3) 28 May 2020: Dr. Joe Smith shared the NAS SAFE form for donations
<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E11280&id=6>

Initiative reports

CATS

- 21 May 2020 Conference Call: discussed NAS SAFE Action Plan implementation plan; Determine best course of action to approach AZA staff requesting support (May involve approaching TAG Chairs and working together); Draft a white paper on roaming cats for review; Determine best route to take for new AZA accreditation standard considerations
Public/Stakeholder Engagement Action Section: Update from Matt, he is making progress and will let us know if he needs help
Communication/Public Awareness Action Section: Discussed literature review for specific topics to arm us with evidence-based research when asking for a change of behavior– Cats impact on wildlife (wildlife predation, disease transmission, competition) and Reasons to keep cats indoors, for a safer, healthy cat; Update on Matt’s suggestion to include responsible alternatives to not allowing roaming cats on zoo grounds. Update from Anne on the Coalition, online roaming cat session and St. Louis Zoo’s plan to produce graphics and interpretive materials on the roaming cat issue. Grant working on a bill in Maui – feral animal feeding prohibition or responsible pet ownership
- Sizemore: I want us to really consider which statistic we use for total cat-caused bird mortality. Loss et al. (2013) found that cats kill 1.3-4.0 (median 2.4) billion birds every year in the U.S. Especially because these numbers are so large, I think we need to identify one and stick with it, and it would help if other organizations are using the same number. Thus far, ABC has been using 2.4 billion birds. It seemed a good compromise, but that is definitely not to say that this HAS to be the numbers that NAS SAFE uses.
- Sizemore started researching alternate methods of rodent control
 - a. Rat Zapper - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=naILzDStebI>
 - b. Good Nature – www.goodnature.co
 - c. <http://saferodentcontrol.org/site/rodent-control/>
- Roaming Cat team looking to expand NAS SAFE Partners in the West Coast
 - Sizemore and Hallager contacted Honolulu Zoo
 - Smurl spoke with Michael Mace at San Diego Global
 - Hallager reached back out to Oregon Zoo who has previously expressed interest in the NAS SAFE

HABITAT

- Nothing to report

CITIZEN SCIENCE

- Jo Anna Lutmerding is stepping away from the NAS SAFE to take on a new role within FWS. Dr. Eric Kershner from US Fish & Wildlife Service Headquarters has joined the Team, Welcome Eric!

COLLISIONS

- 1) Lindsay Jacks and Bonnie Van Dam attended conference call on Urban Bird Treaty Community of Practice – team of partners such as National Audubon Society, USFWS, that connect bi-monthly working on urban bird conservation in UBT – window collisions
- 2) Bonnie Van Dam attended conference call with Walker Glass to discuss more opportunities to work together on Bird Friendly in Michigan
- 3) Shasta Bray from Cincinnati Zoo has reached out to our group and is in the process of applying to become a program partner – she would also like to share her success with a bird collision project at the zoo
- 4) Lights out Baltimore donated birds to a research project and the article was published: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-16129-4?fbclid=IwARiQ8adVqDJKRBitiuJgkpkd-2vqDl14lplcfoqa4iUONRgGLiew7deTKAU>
- 5) Lights out Baltimore was awarded a NFWF grant, Empowering Communities through Bird Outreach in Baltimore, which is working with local groups to mitigate migratory hazards, build bird habitat, increase native planting, a community bioblitz, and bird education in Baltimore. The partners working together to complete projects to build a better community to benefit both birds and people in Baltimore: National Aquarium, USFWS Chesapeake, Baltimore Parks and Recreation (Carrie Murray Nature Center), Patterson Park Audubon Center, Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition, and US Forest Service.
- 6) Maryland Zoo is adding bird safe film with funds from LOB this summer, ready for fall migration. Spring installation was delayed due to COVID-19.
- 7) AZA SAFE Collision Group is working on a collision tool kit that can be shared to all institutions and any partner.

CONTAMINANTS

- Nothing to report

BIRD FRIENDLY® COFFEE

- 1) Justine Bowe (Bird Friendly program manager) and Ruth Bennett (SMBC postdoc) published an article, *SAFE North American Songbirds Program Invites AZA to Serve Biodiversity*, in the May issue of AZA's Connect magazine, as well as the AZA homepage. The article asks the Association of Zoos and Aquariums community to support migratory birds by educating the public about Bird Friendly coffee and serving it at member facilities. https://sinet.sharepoint.com/:b/s/NZP-SMBC/EezaB6zUgZBCv_gP2yY9otkBNjTnLEde2qvWg3l4l45vXg?e=FMJtUV AND <https://www.aza.org/connect-stories/stories/bird-friendly-coffee>

TRAFFICKING

- 1) 18 May 2020: conference call with subcommittee to discuss expansion of focus to include Western hemisphere songbirds. Dr. Eric Kershner, USFWS has joined the team

NAS SAFE Activities – June 2020

AZA network postings. These are meant to increase awareness of native songbirds

- It's not too late to join the Plastic Free Ecochallenge!

General:

- 1) continue with Facebook social media postings
- 2) Chairs working on recruiting new facilities



Initiative reports

ROAMING CATS

- Nothing to report

HABITAT

8 June 2020: Five habitaters met to discuss the following steps to address our first year tasks:

- Discussed strategies for persuading partner directors/boards that more native habitat is needed at all of our sites
 - agreed that a multi-pronged approach would be best and would include fliers, presentations, and white papers
 - felt we need to find the point person at each partner facility who could best get this info out—likely their Hort Dept
- Want partners to determine how much of their site is hardscape versus landscape and how much of the landscape could be kept/converted to native
 - Greg W. might have an intern help with mapping
 - Would give us a starting point/reference
- Working with Ed Team to develop survey which could be given to partners to determine what each are doing already to encourage expanding native habitat with their visitors—exhibits, ed programming
- Plan to work with other groups with like interests: native plant societies, master gardeners, Audubon, ABC
 - what are they already doing to promote native habitat in each region of US,
 - what areas near them which could be converted to native habitat,
 - who might be other non-AZA partners,
 - decide on which native plant region designation we want to use so we are not reinventing native plant community information—USDA bioregions might be too detailed, maybe their hardiness/heat zone maps would be easier to use
- Bottom line: ask what we already know and what we want to know with the help of others
- Planning to meet monthly, first Monday of the month, next meeting is July 6 at 10a ET

CITIZEN SCIENCE

- Held a call on June 25th. We discussed an outline Joe Smith put together for a Motus manual. We amended the outline slightly on the call and are now asking for subgroup members to sign up for sections to help complete the plan over the next year. We also discussed zoos as eBird hotspots and how to best use eBird to meet SAFE goals on zoo grounds. Eric Kershner is going to contact Cornell to discuss ways we can better use eBird at zoos.

COLLISIONS

- Chris Sheppard received approval to take a continuing education class by AIA (American Institute of Architects), focus of class is bird-friendly glass and legislation.

CONTAMINANTS

- Held a call on June 26th. David Selk has sent out some information about AZH's Integrated Pest Management training process that could be useful as part of guidelines from the objective. David said AZH is in the process of setting up a user survey for the use of neonicotinoids at zoos. All agreed that if zoos are using neonicotinoids, it would be high priority to phase out their use. We also encouraged all to promote the Plastic Free Ecochallenge, which is ongoing now in July.

BIRD FRIENDLY® COFFEE

- Nothing to report

TRAFFICKING

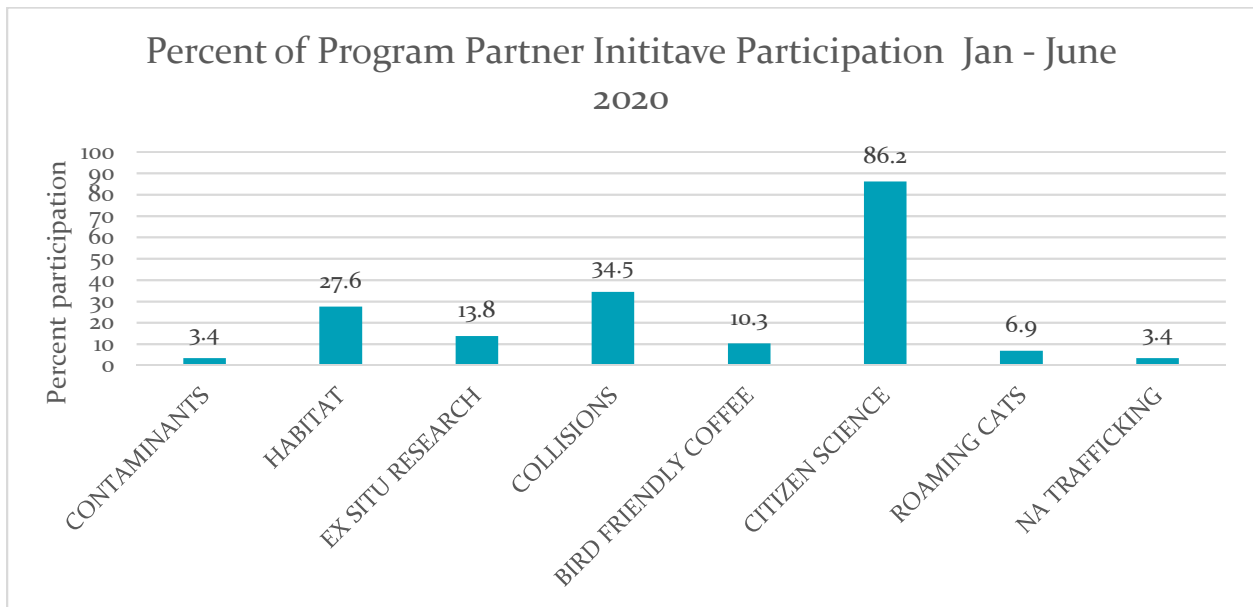
- Houston Zoo reached out to Mike Kreger and Sara Hallager about confiscated indigo buntings in the Houston area and the general problem of trafficking in the state of TX
- Mike discussed native songbird trafficking with Kevin Garlick of FWS Law Enforcement division



PROGRAM PARTNER ACTIVITIES JAN – JUNE 2020



The 29 Program Partners of the North American Songbird SAFE participated in 108 projects during the reporting period, despite tremendous personal and professional challenges caused by the closure of every single AZA zoo and aquarium from COVID19. The breakdown by initiative is below. Although not a NAS SAFE initiative, Ex situ research is listed as many Partners hold native songbirds and participate in research with captive populations.



Akron Zoological Park

- 26 Feb 2020: The Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative's Outreach Committee met and brought together Lights Out coordinators from across the state of Ohio.
- 10 March 2020: Shane Good attended meeting with a local building owner in downtown Akron looking to treat their windows to prevent bird strikes. This happens to be the building with the worst problem in Akron.

Assiniboine Zoo

- May 2020 We shared documents online on how to help birds in your backyard and bird-themed learning activities <https://assiniboinepark.ca/learn>
- Hosted a Facebook Live video stream of ideas on how to mitigate windows to deter bird collisions at home
- Had a series of Facebook and Instagram posts in the week leading up to WMBD featuring actions people can take at home to help birds, and what Assiniboine Park Zoo is doing to help birds on site. To celebrate,



Research and Conservation Specialist Laura is here to show you how to make your windows bird-friendly! This is a fun weekend project that can get kids of all ages involved in protecting our local wildlife. We want to see your windows! Share a picture in the comments to show how you made your windows bird-friendly.

- <https://www.facebook.com/assiniboineparkzoo/videos/550643755644312/>
- Installed tree swallow nest boxes across the Zoo
- Installed data loggers in the experimental chimney swift chimney, including temperature and audio sensors as well as remote camera to capture nesting behaviour and use of the chimney.

Audubon Aquarium of the Americas

- 9 May 2020 WMBD Happy #WorldMigratoryBirdDay! Is your coffee bird friendly? Look for the Smithsonian Bird Friendly certification logo, the gold standard in conservation, wherever coffee is sold. Smithsonian Bird Friendly's eco-friendly standards fly above and beyond to create great wildlife habitats on the farms where coffee is grown. Thanks to the [Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center](https://s.si.edu/3donJUx)! Read more: <https://s.si.edu/3donJUx>

Birmingham Zoo

- 19 Feb 2020. Birmingham Zoo joined as a Program Partner
- 18 May 2020 ONLINE Course: Audubon at Home: Protecting Birds from Window Collisions Join Jessie Griswold and hear about the second leading cause of bird deaths in North America. We'll learn why birds fly into glass using data collected through window collision monitoring in Birmingham during migratory seasons in 2018 and 2019, and we'll examine a variety of solutions you can do at home that are simple to apply, inexpensive, and will reduce or eliminate bird window collisions at your home.

Bramble Park Zoo

- 7 Apr 2020. Bramble Park Zoo joined as a Program Partner (#27)

Brevard Zoo

- Currently maintaining six Florida Grasshopper Sparrows and in the design phase of our outdoor expansion. A scheduled fall fundraiser is expected to raise over 50K to fund the new enclosures. Active member of the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow Working Group.
- Actively monitoring Florida scrub jays on five managed conservation properties in Brevard County and serve as a member of the Central Atlantic Coastal Ridges Workgroup that updated their management plans due to the publication of a Florida scrub jay Population Viability Analysis (PVA) with Bob Lacey.
- Scheduled time in the field with Florida scrub jays for virtual camps aimed at grades 2 through 7.
- Brevard Zoo created a blog post for WMBD <https://brevardzoo.org/brewing-up-conservation-for-world-migratory-bird-day/> https://theweekuk.hellonews.site/today-is-world-migratory-bird-day-brevard-zoo-celebrates-by-brewing-up-conservation/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter
- Near the Zoo and Linear Trail? I've left a message! Grab your chalk and take a walk. Would love to see the sidewalk full of birds! Whether you love songbirds, water birds, or birds of prey, celebrate ALL BIRDS and WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY today! Saturday, May 9, 2020 - Take a walk and enjoy their beauty
- Michelle Smurl joined the NAS SAFE social media team and will assist with roaming cat posts and communication



Columbus Zoo

- 9 May 2020 celebrated World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) through several social media posts <https://www.facebook.com/columbuszoo/videos/677112592865692/> and <https://www.facebook.com/columbuszoo/videos/566603887298991/>
- 29 Feb 2020. Mike Kreger gave the opening talk “From a single nestbox: the value of the citizen scientist in global bird conservation” at the Ohio Bluebird Society annual meeting.
- Columbus Zoo and Aquarium staff participated in the Christmas Bird Count
- The Columbus Zoo participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count in February.
- Mike Kreger led two meetings with the NAS SAFE Songbird Trafficking subcommittee. The subcommittee is working with partners in Federal and State wildlife law enforcement to collect information about trafficking and strategizing on approaches to messaging.

Cosley Zoo

- 9 May 2020 Even from home, a simple change to your routine can make a global impact. Drink Bird Friendly® certified coffee and save critical bird habitat, one cup at a time. To find a store or café near you, or better yet, have it shipped to your door, visit DrinkBirdFriendly.com and support coffee companies who are saving birds. #WorldMigratoryBirdDay
- We hosted two training sessions for members of the public who wished to participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count, training them to identify common backyard birds and how to enter their data. We also promoted the count on our social media sites (Facebook and Instagram).

Detroit Zoological Society

- 9 May 2020 An estimated 1 billion birds are killed each year from collisions with windows, according to the American Bird Conservancy. This World Migratory Bird Day, learn what you can do to help protect them: <https://bit.ly/3drdizF>
- Tweaking MOTUS tower to record data.
- B. Van Dam met with local university – Wayne State University wanted to see samples of what the Zoo has done on grounds for BC. This university has been working with DZS and other partners on a project for their campus.

Fort Wayne Children's Zoo

- 8 Apr 2020 Fort Wayne Children's Zoo agreed to serve as Treasurer for the NAS SAFE program
- 9 May 2020 Today is #WorldBirdMigratoryDay and we have a musical way for you to celebrate! You can become a Bird Song Hero and learn how to listen, visualize and learn the different beautiful songs of native Indiana birds! What birds do you hear singing in your own backyard? <https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/.../bird-song-hero/bird-son...>
- 14 June: Debuted a new Discovery Garden exhibit that features native plants that are beneficial to songbirds and pollinators. This space also features hummingbird feeders and a running water feature to attract native songbirds.
- 14 June: Debuted a new bird feeder area in the Indiana Family Farm sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited. Will be used to model appropriate bird-feeding practices.
- 14 June: A new Keeper Chat is being added that focuses on North American Songbirds. This chat will utilize the "7 easy actions" plan and will take place at the bird feeder area.
- 13 June: Gave a presentation to the zoo's adult and teen volunteers featuring North American Songbird SAFE and Motus stations.

Lee Richardson

- 5 June 2020. Lee Richardson joined as a Program Partner
- Our volunteers have been involved in submitting their bird sightings to eBird since April to participate in citizen science.
- We have a "Kansas Nature Walk" area of the Zoo that is maintained as natural habitat

Lincoln Park Zoo

- 19 Feb 2020 Lincoln Park Zoo joined as a Program Partner
- 29 March 2020 Sunny Nelson emailed staff about soaping windows throughout the zoo, closing blinds, turning off lights, and removing plants from windows to mitigate window strikes. Staff that do find window strikes report them internally to keep data on species and location within the zoo.
- 5 May 2020 Matt Igleski emailed the final copy of NAS Songbird Social Media Plan to NAS SAFE members and shared on several AZA networks
- 9 May 2020 social media post about helping birds by following these wildlife-friendly actions: <https://www.lpzoo.org/blog/spring-migration-takes-flight>
- 15 May 2020 Matt Igleski presented via Zoom to a Mather Senior Living Community about "Bird Migration in Chicagoland and Bird Song." The presentation was ended with actions people can take to help birds at home.

Lion Country Safari

- We have progressed with our MOTUS system. It is installed and in the process of getting hooked up.
- Lion Country Safari erected 44 purple martin gourds bringing their total to over 100. The purple martin rigs are used to educate guests about the fly control benefit from purple martins. Another benefit of having a large colony of purple martins on grounds is they feed on flies that would otherwise affect animals in the collection.

Los Angeles Zoo

- 23 March 2020. Los Angeles Zoo joined as a Program Partner
- 15 Feb 2020 Great Backyard Bird Count. The Zoo held its winter member bird walk on February 15. This walk coincides with the Great Back Yard Bird Count organized every Presidents' Day weekend by the National Audubon Society, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Birds Canada. Eight docents with six members of the provisional docent class following along led a total of 32 members. A total of 34 species were identified
- 27 Feb 2020. Docent Bill Mandel spoke at the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society monthly general meeting on about the Zoo's conservation activities with a focus on avian conservation, highlighting the Condor Recovery Program.
- 9 May 2020 Social media post to celebrate WMBD
<https://www.birds.cornell.edu/.../seven-simple-actions-to-he.../>

Moody Gardens

- 10 Feb 2020. Moody Gardens joined as a Program Partner
- 17 Feb 2020 Greg Whittaker joined the Citizen Science Team and the Collisions Team

New York State Zoo

- 3 Feb 2020. NY State Zoo at Thompson Park joined as a Program Partner
- We have taken World Migratory Bird Day to a different level and celebrating all week via our social media presence. We have had a group of posts featuring some of our birds here, while talking about ways to help birds in our communities. Posts so far have included information on the focal species for 2020, encouraging the community to get involved with the Spring Bird Count (included a link to ebird), and invitation to join the migration by adding bird cut outs to their windows and getting involved with the Zoo. Each day since Saturday last week we have had at least one social media post via Facebook and Instagram. You can find a majority of what we have put out on Facebook via this link <https://www.facebook.com/NYSZoo>.
- looking for how we can make our glass more bird safe here at the Zoo
- Sharing the occasional NAS SAFE informational on our Facebook page.
- Looking at incorporating more migratory birds into our educational games
- Redoing a sign about a small trail we have for observing birds at the Zoo.

North Carolina Zoo

- 26 March 2020. NC Zoo joined as a Program Partner

- 9 May 2020 WMBD social media post: Let us know what birds you see outside today! Check out these 7 simple ways you can help birds: <https://bit.ly/HelpBirds>
- In late April/early May we painted some habitat viewing area glass to prevent birds strikes (alligator and cougar habitats). We used tempura paint and a roller with a pattern on it. It has been very effective. When we found out the zoo was going to reopen on June 15th, the staff modified the habitat glass so that it just covers the upper part of the cougar habitat glass. The pattern applied much better in person. For the alligator glass, the window that was the most problem was left completely covered with the pattern, and the other two windows had it removed below 6.5 ft.
- Working on a cost estimate to purchase Feather Friendly dots for these habitats and our Grizzly habitat.



North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores

- 2 Jan 2020: North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores joined as a Program Partner
- 9 May 2020 WMBD social media post and promotion of NAS SAFE You can learn more about how to help these little birds at 3billionbirds.org #SAFEsongbirds
- Planting for Songbirds (Pollinator Garden) - year round
- 4 May 2020: Virtual program with SAFE songbird messaging for Middle School Career Day
- 5 May 2020: Virtual program with SAFE songbird messaging for High School Career Day
- 19 June 2020: Virtual program with SAFE songbird messaging for our Junior Volunteers
- 24 June 2020: Social Media SAFE Songbird Spotlight

North Carolina Aquarium at Roanoke Island

- Stopped using cedar oil spray as a pesticide for mosquitos on the grounds
- Replanting natives within our maritime forest
- Continuing the process of removing non-native plants in our wild areas, especially privet but also English ivy, Elaeagnus sp.
- Working with the Coastal Landscape Initiative through NC Sea Grant to promote native landscaping along our coasts
- Future projects: removal and replacement of non-native in manicured beds, citizen science projects with bird counts on the grounds

Oglebay Good Zoo

- 10 Feb 2020. Oglebay Good Zoo joined as a Program Partner \
- Continue migratory bird rehabilitation operations

Oklahoma City Zoo

- 6 Jan 2020. Oklahoma City Zoo joined as a Program Partner
- Conducted the Great Backyard Bird Count and the Oklahoma Department Wildlife Conservation winter bird survey.

Riverbanks Zoo & Garden

- Riverbanks Zoo took advantage of zoo closure due to COVID19 and heavily treated (with tempera paint) our highest collision windows (2 exhibit glass sites) during our highest collision month (May) and reduced reported collisions at those sites to zero!
- Still operating Motus station

Saint Louis Zoo

- Jan-Present Continue to work with students and staff at Washington University on their bird collision monitoring project. This is the second semester. Hoping to carry this project thru 2 full migration seasons, then produce the results and talk mitigation for the problem areas on campus.
- February-Bird staff and STL AAZK chapter participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count 2020. A great collaboration with seasoned birders and novice staff. Fun was had by all
- Anne Tieberwith (along with many other bird centric agencies) participated in the Outreach section planning session with Missouri Department of Conservation for their Bird Conservation Plan. We will continue to meet on an annual basis to continue working on our action items.
- March 6 and 7-, Tieber attended local St. Louis Audubon workshop highlighting Doug Tallamy, renowned entomology expert, on how native plants help support native birds and local ecosystems.
- April-Present monitored bird strikes on our North Campus property and currently discussing treatment options for one problem building
- April 24-27-The bird department participated in the 2020 City Nature Challenge, documenting all bird life in and around the zoo and their homes.
- April-June-North Campus property Biodiversity study. Bird staff led 2 teams twice weekly to survey native and migratory birds on our new north campus property.
- May-Zoom presentation for the “Virtual Earth Day festival”, titled, “Bird Friendly and responsible pet ownership”, talking specifically about cats and discussed ways to keep cats safe by keeping them indoors.
- 8 May 2020 posted information about WMBD and helping birds at home
<https://www.stlzoo.org/conservation/doityourselfconservation/saving-birds-you-can-elp?fbclid=IwAR3aELFMylL4ovnFyRHEVkBz8bZHqGd9MLVwz4hbfHOVIE1UyXo-KxxYvjqU>

Smithsonian National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute

- 5 Feb 2020. Sara Hallager attended the NABCI (North American Bird Conservation Initiative) meeting in Falls Church VA
- Blog by Scott Sillett: <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/news/birds-connect-our-world>
- Blog by Sara Hallager: <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/news/continuing-legacy-bird-conservation> (Note: This will go live tomorrow)
- Best of Birds: <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/news/uplifting-stories-spring-for-birds>
- Collaborative outreach with Billion Birds Coalition: <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/news/world-migratory-bird-day-may-9>
- Bird friendly coffee farm video from Smithsonian Global: <https://www.facebook.com/MigratoryBirdCenter/videos/3209138135772684/>

- 8 May 2020: SMBC launched a new “Where to Buy Bird Friendly Coffee” <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/where-buy-bird-friendly-coffeeinterface> and publicly searchable database of all roasters and sellers. For the first time customers can go from our website to purchase their Bird Friendly Coffee online <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/buy-bird-friendly-coffee-online>
- 14 May 2020: Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center organized a Bird Friendly Coalition Workshop. Over 90 organizations participated in the virtual meeting.
- VA Working Landscapes began in 2010 VWL began in 2010 in response to a strong grass-roots demand from private landowners, conservation NGOs, and citizens for leadership from the Smithsonian on native plant and wildlife conservation in the region, especially on working lands. We conduct innovative scientific research to inform and inspire conservation action across our region.
- Captive breeding of the following species: rose-breasted grosbeak, wood thrush, indigo bunting, song sparrow, Baltimore oriole

The Wilds

- Continued our partnership with Muskingum University for grassland bird monitoring across The Wilds. As part of grassland bird conservation efforts, we conducted a prescribed burn in January at a restored prairie on site
- We have had 5 detections on our Motus tower this year, representing Wood Thrush, American Woodcock and Common Nighthawk.
- Continue to maintain and monitor a network of over 20 bluebird nest boxes, with the majority hosting at least one nesting attempt of a native bird
- Held a month-long virtual “Earth Day Every Day” social media series, with many of the segments related to topics relevant to songbird conservation (including one on World Migratory Bird Day)

Toronto Zoo

- Continued operation of Motus Wildlife Tracking Station onsite
- 17 May 2020: Kevin Kerr did a FaceBook Live segment on the loggerhead shrike program and highlighted Toronto Bird Celebration, World Migratory Bird Day and the Songbird SAFE program.
- 13 June 2020: All 4 of the Eastern loggerhead shrikes paired up for the season have produced clutches. The shrikes are bred and released as part of the provincial recovery program.

Tracy Aviary

- Christmas Bird Count: On January 4th, Tracy Aviary's Conservation Program led a team for one of our two annual Christmas Bird Counts in our region.
- Non-breeding Season Surveys: From January to March, teams of community scientists and Tracy Aviary staff went out on group "non-breeding" surveys where we walk transects through our 12 bird monitoring sites and document all birds seen and heard in the area. Non-breeding season surveys are used to supplement more intensive breeding season point count data at these sites, and help inform management and restoration work done by our partners.
- Tracy Aviary "*Dollars for Conservation*" Grants: Early this year, we awarded five "short-term" grants for avian research and conservation projects, and also have provided the first

of several "long-term" grants that we provide to groups who do long-term avian conservation projects. We give annual short-term and long-term grants (as well as other avian conservation initiatives such as local Wildlife Rehabilitation groups, conservation-related scholarship funds, etc.). The short-term grants ranged in size from \$8,888 to \$10,000, and supported projects from a local Black Rosy-finch Study, to large-scale Phalarope conservation projects.

- Salt Lake Avian Collision Survey (SLACS): We completed the seventh season of the Salt Lake Avian Collision Survey, where we recruit community scientist volunteers to search for birds that have collided with buildings in downtown Salt Lake City during the migration seasons.
- Alta Nest Box Monitoring Program: We are currently monitoring 20 songbird nest boxes (and 20 owl nest boxes) at Alta Ski Area as part of a partner project to better understand cavity nesters in the area (and how they are potentially impacted by available habitat and recreation-related management)
- North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS): We partner with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to help recruit, coordinate, and train volunteers for the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). This year the BBS was cancelled due to COVID-19. However, we still worked with volunteers (remotely) to change or add route assignments, we pulled together some eBird materials to encourage BBS volunteers to go out (safely) and collect data through their birding (especially in parts of the state with little eBird data), and we are also in the process of creating a "State of the Birds" type document for Utah, which specifically investigates strengths and blind spots of our state-wide bird monitoring programs.
- Breeding Season Point Count Surveys: We began training 50 community scientists in February to conduct point count breeding season surveys for our bird monitoring program. This is an ongoing project that started in 2011. Volunteers and staff conduct point counts using the Integrated Monitoring in Bird Conservation Regions (IMBCR) method, and we compile data and produce reports and recommendations for our partners who are managing and/or restoring our study sites. Most of these surveys take place in urban- or urban-adjacent riparian habitat in our region. Although we quickly had to stop in-person trainings, we continued training our volunteers through online practices and quizzes, and did some small group field trainings. Our volunteers are now currently out doing surveys, and will do so until the end of the breeding season (early July).
- Virtual Content and Resources: Because the Aviary was closed for a while, we put a lot of effort this year into creating virtual content. These include everything from videos to family activities to online lessons. Some of this content can be found on our virtual resources page: <https://tracyaviary.org/virtual-aviary-resources>, and videos page: <https://tracyaviary.org/virtual-aviary-videos>, and some can be found on our conservation webpage: <http://www.tracyaviaryconservation.org/learnbirdsongs>
- World Migratory Bird Day: Tracy Aviary celebrated World Migratory Bird Day (in conjunction with our annual Urban Bird Festival celebration) a little differently this year with some virtual activities (rather than the usual in-person celebration). We had a bingo card with various activities for people to learn about and help out migratory birds. Participants could download the card, learn about the activities through our online resources and videos, and submit them back to the Aviary. Link to bingo card https://tracyaviary.org/images/UrbanBirdBingo_TracyAviary.pdf, link to virtual

resources page <https://tracyaviary.org/virtual-aviary-resources>, and link to videos page <https://tracyaviary.org/virtual-aviary-videos>

Zoo Atlanta

- 3 Feb 2020. Zoo Atlanta joined as a Program Partner
- E-bird checklists daily: We have a 59 day streak going and hope to beat our record of 61 days! Since starting our daily e-bird in January of 2019 Zoo Atlanta has recorded sightings of 85 species, and 435 checklists.
- Christmas Bird Count January 4th, 2020: The Zoo Atlanta bird team participated with other area birders in the Christmas Bird Count this year covering Section 8 which includes Grant Park (and surrounding areas) as well as Zoo Atlanta grounds.
- Great Backyard Bird Count February 15th, 2020: We had many guests participate in this Citizen Science project from 10:30-3:30pm and compiled an e-bird checklist of 27 species seen during GBBC.
- Bird safe windows: We currently have bird safe window tape on several glass viewing areas, as well as on about 50% of our ARC Education Building which had been a big source of window collisions in the past. We plan to continue adding more bird safe window tape to other areas about the zoo as needed/when we are able to!
- Native Bird and Pollinator Garden is coming back into bloom!
- We started participating in Nest Watch on nestwatch.org and have a total of 14 nests around the zoo we try to monitor daily or at least every few days.
- We also participated in World Migratory Bird Day online this year with social media posts, and online activities (centered around migratory birds) that could be done at home. Unfortunately the zoo was closed due to COVID-19 so we were unable to do more than that.

Zoo Miami

- 9 May 2020 Happy #InternationalMigratoryBirdDay! You can keep habitats SAFE for birds by reducing pesticide use! Toxins meant for insects accumulate in birds and make them sick. Reduce chemical use to keep everyone safe and healthy. #SAFESongBirds #ZooMiami #Birds #Migration #Animals #Conservation #Wildlife #WeAreAZA

LINKS OF INTEREST

CATS

- 1) Can We Save The Woodrat Without Slaughtering cats?
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/can-we-save-the-woodrat-without-slaughtering-cats/>
- 2) Keeping cats indoors could blunt adverse effects to wildlife <https://phys.org/news/2020-03-cats-indoors-blunt-adverse-effects.html>
- 3) Domestic cats and their impacts on biodiversity: A blind spot in the application of nature conservation law <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/pan3.10073>

- 4) Public Perspectives on Pet Cat Management: Support for Responsible Cat Ownership <https://abcbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2019-Cats-Indoors-Polling-Study-Report.pdf?eType=EmailBlastContent&Id=af8d9422-16e3-43c1-ad10-4cab77a669af>
- 5) New Poll Identifies Public Support For Domestic Cat Management <https://abcbirds.org/article/milestone-us-public-cat-poll-2019?eType=EmailBlastContent&Id=af8d9422-16e3-43c1-ad10-4cab77a669af>
- 6) Florida Ornithological Society Establishes Cat Position Statement <https://abcbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/FOSPositionOnOutdoorCats.pdf?eType=EmailBlastContent&Id=af8d9422-16e3-43c1-ad10-4cab77a669af>
- 7) Cats Indoors Brochures Available: <https://shop.abcbirds.org/?eType=EmailBlastContent&Id=af8d9422-16e3-43c1-ad10-4cab77a669af>
- 8) Belgian cat infection | March 27, 2020 A domestic cat in Belgium tested positive for COVID-19. This was the first confirmed case of human-to-cat transmission. Symptoms in the cat included diarrhea, vomiting, and respiratory issues.
- 9) Hong Kong cat infection | March 31, 2020 Authorities announced the infection of a domestic cat that was tested after the owner tested positive for COVID-19.
- 10) Bronx Zoo tigers and lions infected | April 5, 2020 Two Malayan tigers, two Amur tigers, and three African lions at the Bronx Zoo tested positive for COVID-19. Authorities believe the infections likely originated from an asymptomatic keeper. The cats have shown a decrease in appetite but are otherwise fine.
- 11) Resources American Veterinary Medical Association
- 12) 42% of zoo animals in Spain are infected. https://phys.org/news/2020-04-zoos-animals-infected-toxoplasma-gondii.html?fbclid=IwAR1upR3b8_kaNT84OXLZXz_NOoSZcGo2rXEcb8yo_sLK-YyFcHCxeNlgUW4 Here's the study link: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167587720300313?via%3Dihub>
- 13) New poll identifies public support for domestic cat management: <https://abcbirds.org/article/milestone-us-public-cat-poll-2019?eType=EmailBlastContent&Id=af8d9422-16e3-43c1-ad10-4cab77a669af>
- 14) Florida ornithological society establishes cat position statement <https://abcbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/FOSPositionOnOutdoorCats.pdf?eType=EmailBlastContent&Id=af8d9422-16e3-43c1-ad10-4cab77a669af>
- 15) Outdoor cats put endangered Hawaiian monk seals at risk: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/science-blog/taking-deep-dive-land-based-threat-hawaiian-monk-seals?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&eType=EmailBlastContent&Id=af8d9422-16e3-43c1-ad10-4cab77a669af, NOAA has identified more cases of *T. gondii* in Hawaiian monk seals, now amounting to 12 confirmed deaths so far. <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/video/2020/02/21/disease-claims-life-another-monk-seal/?eType=EmailBlastContent&Id=af8d9422-16e3-43c1-ad10-4cab77a669af>

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

KPBS San Diego Claire Trageser reported on the controversy surrounding the San Diego Humane Society's shelter, neuter, return program, which some are claiming goes beyond feral cats and re-abandons friendly cats as well.

WIRED Matt Simon reported on the impacts of Australia's bushfires made worse by feral cats moving in to hunt in the newly burned areas.

Yahoo News A Gilbert, Arizona, man was arrested for feeding stray and feral cats. Authorities claim that the man had been warned multiple times and did not have the permission of landowners.

Hawai'i DLNR The Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources notified the public of the death of an endangered Hawaiian Petrel chick by a feral cat on Kaua'i. The chick was part of a research program conducted by the Kaua'i Endangered Seabird Recovery Project.

CW34 The Florida Department of Health issued a warning not to feed stray cats. The alert followed complaints of biting and scratching outdoor cats in Indian River, Florida.

CBS13 Elk Grove, California, residents expressed anger and frustration following years of outdoor cat feeding by a neighbor. One neighbor complained that they can no longer use their backyard due to cat feces and smell.

Key Studies

Luan et al. (in press)

Researchers evaluated the molecular structure of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) and compared it to the structures of wild and domestic mammals to determine potential hosts of the virus. "Although no SARS-CoV-2 has been found in domestic cats and dogs, cat/dog ACE2 may bind to S protein of SARS-CoV-2. In the future, we should pay attention to monitoring whether domestic cats and dogs could be infected by SARS-CoV-2."

Shi et al. (in press)

Researchers evaluated susceptibility of domestic cats and other domestic species to COVID-19. Results indicated "that SARS-CoV-2 can replicate efficiently in cats, with younger cats being more permissive and, perhaps more importantly, the virus can transmit between cats via respiratory droplets." The authors advised that "surveillance for SARS-CoV-2 in cats should be considered as an adjunct to elimination of COVID-19 in humans."

Zhang et al. (in press)

Researchers evaluated the serological prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 in domestic cats in Wuhan, China. Of 102 cats tested, neutralizing antibodies were identified in 15 cats via ELISA and 11 cats via VNT. "These results demonstrated that SARS-CoV-2 has infected cat populations in Wuhan, implying that this risk could also occur at other outbreak regions." Infections in cats thus far are likely to have come from humans. The authors speculated that infections in stray cats may have originated from human feeders or SARS-CoV-2 in the environment.

HABITAT

- 1) Assessing the impact of complimentary wildflower seed packets as an outreach tool for promoting pollinator conservation at a zoo
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1533015X.2020.1724211>
- 2) How to build a pollinator garden
<https://www.fws.gov/midwest/news/PollinatorGarden.html>
- 3) Nonnative plants reduce population growth of an insectivorous bird
<https://www.pnas.org/content/115/45/11549>

CITIZEN SCIENCE

- 1) Fake chimneys provide homes for vulnerable birds
<https://www.sfgate.com/nation/article/Fake-chimneys-provide-homes-for-vulnerable-birds-14674381.php>

- 2) Great Backyard Bird Count <https://gbbc.birdcount.org/>
- 3) Motus Education program <https://motus.org/education/>
<https://www.birdscanada.org/migration-education-takes-flight-with-the-motus-wildlife-tracking-system/>

COLLISIONS

- 1) New York City Passes Country's Most Wide-Ranging Bird-Friendly Building Legislation <https://abcbirds.org/article/new-york-city-passes-countrys-most-wide-ranging-bird-friendly-building-legislation/?omhide=true&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=2001ed1f-a595-4c2d-9e18-6fe0f8b6a125>
- 2) Evaluating the relative effectiveness of patterns on glass as deterrents of bird collisions with glass
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2351989419303579?via%3Dihub>
- 3) Effective And Attractive Ways To Make Building Windows Safe For Birds
<https://abcbirds.org/blog20/make-windows-safe?omhide=true&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=2001ed1f-a595-4c2d-9e18-6fe0f8b6a125>
- 4) Minnesota Vikings' Stadium Is Bad For Birds, But It's Not Too Late For A Solution
<https://abcbirds.org/blog/vikings-bird-study/?omhide=true&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=2001ed1f-a595-4c2d-9e18-6fe0f8b6a125>
- 5) Lethal Glass Landscapes <https://landscapearchitecturemagazine.org/2020/02/13/lethal-glass-landscapes/#more-19430>
- 6) Window tech could save billions of birds, and it's already here
<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/01/window-tech-could-save-billions-of-birds-and-its-already-here/>
- 7) Factors influencing bird-building collisions in the downtown area of a major North American city <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0224164>

CONTAMINANTS

- 1) Huge decline in songbirds linked to common insecticide
<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/09/widely-used-pesticide-makes-birds-lose-weight/#close>
- 2) Insect Freefall: What Does It Mean For Birds? <https://abcbirds.org/blog/insect-freefall/>

BIRD FRIENDLY COFFEE

- 1) Trailer for full length documentary about shade grown coffee:
<https://www.facebook.com/MigratoryBirdCenter/videos/236850014292236/>
- 2) Smithsonian National Zoo & conservation Biology Insti
- 3) tute website for all things related to bird friendly coffee nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/bird-friendly-coffee

TRAFFICKING

- 1) TRAFFIC today launched the Wildlife Trade Portal—set to become the most comprehensive open-access repository of wildlife trade data.
<https://www.traffic.org/news/new-tool-to-track-wildlife-trade/>

- 2) Wildlife trade of red siskin <https://zslpublications.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/14691795>
- 3) Tech companies take down 3 million online listings for trafficked wildlife <https://www.traffic.org/news/tech-companies-take-down-3-million-online-listings-for-trafficked-wildlife/>
- 4) Man arrested in Peru airport with 20 birds in suitcase <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-5133664>
- 5) AZA wildlife trafficking alliance <https://wildlifetraffickingalliance.org/>

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Collisions	Bonnie Van Dam	248-336-5784, bvandam@dzs.org
Habitat	Rhana Paris	252-475-2344, rhana.paris@ncaquariums.com
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Bird Friendly Coffee	Sara Hallager	202-633-3088, hallagers@si.edu
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NAS SAFE Initiative Leaders

Native Songbird Trafficking	Dr. Mike Kreger	614-724-3409, michael.kreger@columbuszoo.org
Education	Matt Igleski	312-742-2460, MIgleski@lpzoo.org

North American Songbird SAFE Program Partners

Facility	Primary Contact person	Title	Contact information
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Assinboine Park Zoo	Laura Burns	Research Conservation Specialist	204-927-6096, lburns@assiniboinepark.ca
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Brevard Zoo	Michelle Smurl	Director of Animal Programs	321-254-9453, x217, msmurl@brevardzoo.org
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Detroit Zoo	Tom Schneider	Curator of Birds	248- 336-5828, tschneider@dzs.org
Fort Wayne Children's Zoo	Dr. Joe Smith	Director of Animal Programs	260-515-0928, joe.smith@kidszoo.org
Lincoln Park Zoo	Matt Igleski	Student and Teacher Programs Developer	312-742-2460, MIgleski@lpzoo.org
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New York State Zoo at Thompson Park	Larry Sorel	Executive Director/CEO	315-755-0892, Larry@nyszoo.org
North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores	Nicole Warren	Educator and Bird Trainer	252-247-4003 x287 Nicole.Warren@ncaquariums.com
North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island	Rhana Paris	Outreach Coordinator	252-475-2344, rhana.paris@ncaquariums.com
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Oglebay Good Zoo	Joe Greathouse	Zoo Director	304-243-4027, WGreathouse@oglebay.com
Oklahoma City Zoo	Eddie Witte	Curator Birds and Small mammals	405-425-0252, ewitte@okczoo.org
Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens	Ed Diebold	Chief Life Sciences Officer	803-206-0852, ediebold@riverbanks.org
Saint Louis Zoo	Anne Tieber	Curator of Birds	314-440-5203, Tieber@stlzoo.org
Saint Louis Zoo	Keri Lammering	Conservation Education Liaison	314-646-4547, klammering@stlzoo.org
Smithsonian National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute	Sara Hallager	Curator of Birds	202-633-3088, hallagers@si.edu
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Zoo Atlanta	Katherine Biddle	Keeper II	404-624-5861, kbiddle@zooatlanta.org
Zoo Miami	Jim Dunster	Curator of Birds	305-251-0400 x5084965, James.Dunster@miamidade.gov

Advisors			
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American Bird Conservancy	Dr. David Wiedenfeld	Sr. Conservation Scientist	540-253-5780, dwiedenfeld@abcbirds.org
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Birds Canada	Dr. Stu Mackenzie	Director, Migration Ecology	519-586-3531 x162, stu.a.mackenzie@gmail.com

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AZA Passerine TAG North American Songbird Working Group Chair	Nikki Smith	Assistant Curator	614-724-3675, nikki.smith@columbuszoo.org
AZA Wildlife Conservation Committee NAS SAFE Liaison	Dr. Anna Young	Associate Professor	614-823-1324, ayoung@otterbein.edu

NAS SAFE Education Committee			
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Saint Louis Zoo	Keri Lammering	Conservation Education Liaison	314-646-4547, klammering@stlzoo.org
North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores	Nicole Warren	Educator and Bird Trainer	252-247-4003 x 287, Nicole.Warren@ncaquariums.com
North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island	Rhana Paris	Outreach Coordinator	252-475-2344, rhana.paris@ncaquariums.com

Appendix I

North American Songbird SAFE Social Media

Hashtag #SAFESongbirds

Please use the #SAFESongbirds hashtag on all social media posts related to North American Songbird SAFE.

Posts

Below are posts related to each objective of North American Songbird SAFE. They include the keywords we would like to use to track social media metrics. If you write your own post please try to include the keyword that relates to your post for tracking.

Photos

Use any of the photos with SAFE logos from the SAFE Social Media Photos folder.

SAFE Objective	Keyword	Posts	Additional hastags in use regarding this issue
Minimize bird collisions with glass at AZA facilities and encourage visitors to adopt best practices.	windows	Make windows SAFE for birds. Many birds collide with windows during migration because they can't see glass and try to fly through it. Close your blinds, turn off your lights, or add decals to your windows. #SAFESongbirds	

<p>AZA Program Partner Institutions adopt effective roaming cat messaging and practices.</p>	<p>cats</p>	<p>Keep birds SAFE from outdoor cats. Cats kill 1 billion birds per year and face added risks outside. Catos are a great way to keep cats and birds safe and healthy when outside. <i>#SAFESongbirds</i></p>	<p>#CatsIndoors #WildlifeApproved #OneHealth</p>
<p>Preserve and build native habitats where possible within AZA facilities and in the communities they serve.</p>	<p>native plants</p>	<p>Create SAFE habitats for birds by planting native plants. Local birds use native plants because native plants provide the food and shelter needed for the region. <i>#SAFESongbirds</i></p> <p>Save money and time by replacing your lawn with native plants. Once established, native plants require no fertilizer, fewer pesticides, and less water, and your local birds will thrive! <i>#SAFESongbirds</i></p>	

<p>Reduce contaminants that affect North American songbirds.</p>	<p>pesticides, plastics</p>	<p>Help keep contaminants safely out of habitats by reducing plastic and pesticide use. Toxins meant for insects accumulate in birds as they eat those insects, making them sick. Avoiding chemical use is a great way to keep you and birds safe and healthy. <i>#SAFESongbirds</i></p> <p>Keep habitats SAFE for birds by reducing pesticide use. Toxins meant for insects accumulate in birds and make them sick. Reduce chemical use to keep birds and you safe and healthy. <i>#SAFESongbirds</i></p> <p>Keep habitats SAFE for birds by reducing plastic use. Many birds can become trapped in plastic waste, especially fishing line. Using less plastic keeps habitats cleaner and safe for everyone that uses them. <i>#SAFESongbirds</i></p>	
<p>Use Bird Friendly® certified coffee.</p>	<p>coffee</p>	<p>Buy Bird Friendly certified coffee to keep winter habitats SAFE for birds. Many birds we see here in summer overwinter in Central and South America, and Bird Friendly coffee farms maintain their forest habitat. <i>#SAFESongbirds</i> s.si.edu/BuyBF</p> <p>Even from home, a simple change can make a global impact. When you <i>#DrinkBirdFriendly</i> certified coffee, you help save critical bird habitat in Central and South America. To find a store or café near you, or have it shipped to you, visit s.si.edu/BuyBF <i>#SAFESongbirds</i></p>	<p>Smithsonian Bird Friendly Program uses <i>#DrinkBirdFriendly</i></p>
<p>Promote and participate in citizen science.</p>	<p>citizen science</p>	<p>Help scientists track birds by submitting observations to citizen science projects using eBird. Observation data helps scientists detect changes in bird populations. There are over 10,000 bird species in the world---that's a lot of species to monitor! <i>#SAFESongbirds</i></p>	

Reduce North American songbird trafficking.	trafficking	Keep bird populations SAFE from illegal trafficking by reporting native birds for sale. Many songbird species are trapped and sold illegally, desired for their bright colors and use in song competitions. <i>#SAFESongbirds</i>	
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[Additional Outreach Toolkits and Resources recommended by North American Songbird SAFE](#)

- Smithsonian Institution – Bird Friendly Social Toolkit:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/yokwf98r6hu7d1o/BF%20Social%20Toolkit_041420.zip?dl=0
- World Migratory Bird Day Resources: <https://www.migratorybirdday.org/resources/>
- 3billionbirds.org Resources: <https://cornell.app.box.com/v/3BillionBirds>
- American Bird Conservancy: <https://abcbirds.org/get-involved/bird-friendly-life/>