



Spotlight on: Chukar Partridge

The Chukar Partridge today is known as a game bird that is originally native to a large portion of Europe and Asia. The Chukar was introduced to North America prior to the 1900's to be used as a hunting species. They can now be found all over the world due to breeding for hunting purposes. Their two habitats of choice are rocky, slightly vegetated mountainous slopes and flat, arid plains with little to no vegetation. In North America, their habitat ranges from Canada to southern California mainly consisting of the mountainous areas of the western United States. Although Chukars do not migrate, they do move to lower altitudes during the winter months.

Chukars are a ground-dwelling bird that can range in height from 32-39 centimeters and have a wingspan that ranges from 47-52 centimeters. Although Chukars are able to take flight, they tend to run from danger rather than fly. When they do take flight, they do not stray far distances from the ground. The Chukar can be easily distinguished

by the black and white stripes that adorn their wings and the black band that covers their eyes. The Chukars body is covered with brown feathers that become gray or blue in color towards the tail. They have a beak that is short in length and bright red in color. Sexual dimorphism, though apparent in many other species, is not in Chukars as males and females look almost identical differing only by their size; males being larger. Chukars are rarely vocal but can make a "chuk-chuk" sound when they are frightened.

The diet of the Chukar consists mainly of seeds, grains, and grasses especially for the duration of the winter months. As an omnivorous bird, they also feed on a variety of insects that are readily available throughout the summer months.

The Chukar is mainly a monogamous bird that can be found in small groups that may grow in size during the winter months. The female incubates the brood of eggs that can range in number from 7-20. She incubates these eggs for 22

-24 days and when hatched, the young can promptly leave the nest to find food under their mother's supervision. They may be able to roam on their own at an early age, but they are unable to take flight until about two weeks of age. Only one brood will be hatched per year.

Chukars are currently not listed as endangered or threatened. They can be affected by winter weather and habitat loss but because they have such a broad range and habitat, this does not affect their conservation status. Their population is stable due to the large amount of birds that are bred for hunting purposes.

Our Chukar here at the NEW Zoo, named Chip, came to live with us in February of 2008. Though he is currently our only Chukar, we have had many others in years past. When he arrived, he was micro-chipped, hence his name "Chip." Like many Chukars, Chip was most likely farm bred and released into the wild for hunting purposes. Although these birds can survive Wisconsin winters...

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The February 2014 Paws & Claws Gift Shop Special is:

10% off all Penguin and Bird items



they are often times found at the base of a bird feeder looking for an easy meal. Chip was found doing this very same thing at a home in DePere. He has made his permanent home here at the NEW Zoo and can be found with other birds such as Thora, our Ruffed Grouse. They live in our game bird exhibit which is located next to the cougars in the Wisconsin Trail section of the Zoo. Be sure to stop by and say hello to Chip on your next visit to the Zoo!

This article was contributed by NEW Zoo intern Vanessa Eisenreich. Sources include arkive.org, Birds of North America, and About.com



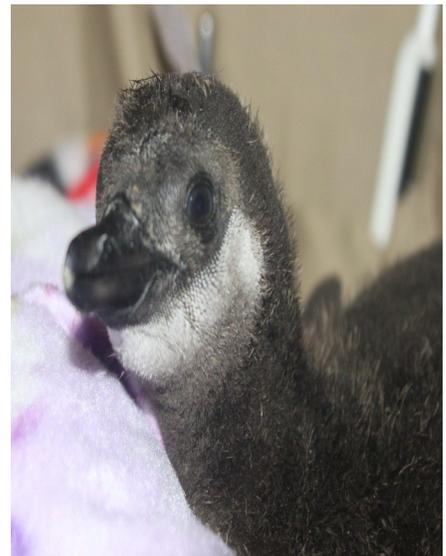
Conservation Connection: Penguins in peril

During this particular time of year, hundreds of African penguin chicks are abandoned or otherwise do not thrive in their nests. In response to an unusually high number of African penguin strandings this season, Shedd Aquarium recently worked with the SANCCOB (Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds) to assist in the rehabilitation of more than 500 of these endangered birds.

Many of the stranded penguins had health issues including foot problems, lacerations, broken wings, malaria or other illness. The team was able to provide the necessary care so they can hopefully be released back into the wild. They also traveled to Cape Town, South Africa to assist with extreme cases in SANCCOB's Intensive care unit. Each year many penguins are found ill, oiled, or injured as a result of human impact. Large

commercial fisheries also contribute to food shortages for the penguin population

Classified as endangered on the Red List from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the penguins are in rapid decline. The increase in vulnerability for this species could lead to extinction in as soon as 15 years. Work by organizations such as Shedd Aquarium and the NEW Zoo are giving the penguins a better chance of survival. We continue to run a successful SSP (Species Survival Plan) breeding program with our flock of penguins that has produced healthy, genetically diverse offspring. Our most recent addition, "Wonka" has become an accepted member of the flock and continues to do well under her parent's supervision.



Wonka: May 2013

This article contributed by NEW Zoo intern Hannah Thiede

Animal Collection Report: January 2014 by Carmen Murach

One of the oldest zoo residents, a 25 year old Bison named Little Cow was humanely euthanized on 1/10/14. She had been receiving medication for arthritis for several years but was showing increased lack of mobility. She had also been losing weight rapidly over the past several months and the cold weather seemed to have exacerbated her condition. Zookeepers had been conducting frequent Quality of Life assessments as her condition worsened. Staff and Veterinarian decided that it was time for

euthanasia. The remaining female bison (also 25 years old), was present for the euthanasia and was allowed time to "say goodbye" to her lifelong companion. She seems to be adjusting well to this major change. The male and female Red Pandas are now cohabitating. The female, who arrived here from the Houston Zoo in November, has been getting to know the resident male over the past month. Recently, the two were given full access to each other. After a few brief misunderstandings during

supervised introduction sessions (Taebo is very interested in Keti but she seems very defensive), the two are doing well together. They have been sleeping in close proximity in recent days and now are only separated during feeding. Breeding season for Red Pandas begins in February and we hope the pair will produce offspring.

After spending a few weeks inside the Animal Hospital, the female Red Wolf who suffered a broken pelvis last month is back on exhibit and...

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Animal Collection Report, continued....

seems to be doing well. Breeding season for this highly endangered species is February through March. Several bouts of record breaking cold weather have kept Zoo staff busy providing extra care for the animals.

Although most animals always have access to heated buildings, Zookeepers are providing lots of extra bedding inside and out. Some buildings require extra heat sources (heat mats, heat lamps, etc). Most of the buildings include alarm systems to notify staff if temperatures fall outside of the optimal range. In extreme cold, some air exchange systems have been turned down to conserve warm air. Many animals have increased food needs in cold-

er temperatures. Zookeepers are also hauling warm water to many animals to ensure that they stay properly hydrated. Most of the animals remain very active in the cold temperatures – the otters think it is perfectly reasonable go for a daily swim under the ice. A young Pronghorn suffered uveitis – an inflammation between the lens and cornea of the eye – in both eyes. He is responding well to treatment. It is believed that the condition was secondary to a minor respiratory infection.



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A collage of four animals: a blue parrot on the left, a snow monkey in the top center, a snow leopard on the right, and an African lion in the bottom right corner.

Love is in the air! To purchase a Share the Care Animal Adoption Special Package, visit our website and print off the application paper to complete and mail in with your payment. Or you can complete your adoption over the phone with a credit card by calling 920-434-7841. You do not need to mention the Special Package in order to qualify for the level upgrade. Just adopt as you normally would at either the COUSIN or BFF level, and we will automatically apply the upgrade to purchases made by February 14th, 2014. You must adopt one of the following Species Survival Plan recommended breeding species to qualify for this Special: [Hyacinth Macaw](#); [African Penguin](#); [Snow Monkey](#); [Snow Leopard](#); OR [African Lion](#).

The BFF upgrade includes a Key Chain; the Sibling level upgrade includes a Plush Animal for the Adopter.

ZOO PASS MEMBERSHIPS also make great gifts!

Visit www.newzoo.org or call 920-662-2402 for information about purchasing a Zoo Pass as a gift. It's a gift that keeps on giving *ALL YEAR LONG!*

From the Director: Why We Never Forget by Neil Anderson

Although the start of the year has been extremely cold, I received a message of great warmth in January. A gentleman whom volunteered with me twenty six years ago reached out to make contact. His name is “Guy” and he volunteered at Wildlife Prairie State Park in Peoria, Illinois. Guy volunteered and helped me at least twice a week for a couple years take care of the animals at the wildlife park. I was just starting my management career in the zoo business and Guy had just finished his career with the railroad. He retired and decided to volunteer. Over the next couple years that we were together, I learned more about life than I think I was able to give “Guy” about animal care. We spent many a day in good conversation and I enjoyed the days we spent together. He was certainly a gift in my life.

A couple weeks ago, “Guy” reached out with a call from the Assisted Living Home where he is now living. His message was simple and stated that he was reflecting on those pleasant memories we shared back then. Reflecting on his life brought him back to those pleasant memories we shared. The years have been kind to him and he just turned 87. We exchanged a few e-mails and eventually connected on a phone call. It was like the hands of time stood still and we were back riding in the truck out to feed the herd of bison having wonderful conversation. Ironically during January we said good bye to one of the two bison cows that arrived at the zoo in 1988 from Wildlife Prairie State Park. Guy had helped me load them back in 1988 sending them to Green Bay. At the time I had no idea that I would be following them up to the NEW Zoo in the next several years.

As a Zoo Director I am often reminded that although the zoo business is about animals, it is often more about people and how we continue to connect with life. In closing, Guy’s e-mail message I received reminded me with the message subject stated so perfectly “Why We Never Forget.

N.E.W. Zoological Society News

Dear Friends of the N.E.W. Zoological Society Inc.,

We are very thankful to report that we have supported our NEW Zoo in the following ways in 2013.

- *Funding for Furnishing & Completion of the new Education & Conservation Center
- *Funding for Design, Permits, & Ground Clearing, for new Animal Hospital
- *AZA membership for the NEW Zoo and the N.E.W. Zoological Society, Inc.
- *Funding for Conservation Programs
- *Co-Funding the Education Coordinator position and Education programs
- *Sponsoring the annual Volunteer/Docent Appreciation Dinner
- *Providing River Rock and 100% Recycled Plastic Cedar Style Benches
- *Sponsoring the “Pave the Way” brick program
- *Sponsoring the “Pet Memorial Garden”
- *Funding the NEW Zoo ad in the Greater Green Bay Convention Visitor Guide
- *Contributing to the Endowment Fund to ensure the Zoo’s continued success
- *Miscellaneous expenses at the zoo

The total amount the Society paid on behalf of the NEW Zoo in 2013 is approximately \$52,000.00

This total reflects the money contributed in 2013 to support our zoo but does not include all monies raised in 2013.

We raised over \$22,000.00 for educational needs by co-hosting the 14th annual Pioneer Credit Union “Feast with the Beasts” event held in August. The date for the 15th annual event is Monday, August 4th, 2014. Tickets will go on sale in June. Stay tuned for details.

We also took in approximately \$2,300.00 from our 1st Annual “Skunks are Beautiful” Cribbage Tournament in April. The money raised from this event helps to offset the Society’s operational costs. The 2nd Annual “Skunks are Beautiful” tournament will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2014 from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. This will take place inside the ski lodge at the zoo. Contact Steve B. at newzoosociety@gmail.com for more details.

N.E.W. Zoological Society News Continued.

Our primary focus for 2014 is to raise money for the new Animal Hospital. We have received 2 generous pledges for the hospital, contingent on, construction beginning in spring or summer 2014, and obtaining more financial support. The building will go up in phases as donations come in. Naming Rights for the building and individual rooms are available. We thank all those who supported our fund-raising efforts for our beautiful Education & Conservation Center. After the remaining pledges are fulfilled, the building debt will be Paid In Full!

We count our blessings from our monetary and in-kind donors every day and we look forward to many more generous offerings to help us support our wonderful NEW Zoo.

We wish you and your families a Safe, Healthy, Prosperous, and Happy 2014!

Sincerely,

Rita Dufour, Treasurer

& the entire N.E.W. Zoological Society, Inc. Board and Technical Advisory Committee

Society Valentine Specials

Tell that special someone how you feel. Say it on a brick or a bench! For the entire month of February we will be offering three Heart-felt specials!

Purchase an 8x8 laser engraved brick, which includes up to 6 lines of wording, and we will engrave a heart on your brick at no extra charge. Your price \$175.00



~or~

Purchase two 4x8 laser engraved bricks, which include up to 3 lines of wording, at the regular price of \$125.00 each and receive a third brick for half price!

What a great way to tell all of your loved ones that they are special today and everyday while helping us support our NEW Zoo!

Your bricks will be placed off the ground, in a stainless steel frame, at the entrance to the Red Panda exhibit. Please contact the Society at (920) 434-6814 for additional information or to obtain an order form.



~or~

Purchase a raised-arm river rock bench, with up to 20 engraved letters, and we will throw in an additional 10 engraved letters at no charge!

Your bench may be placed in an area of your choice with the approval of the Zoo Director.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY



NEW ZOO

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Upcoming Events & Things to Remember

February 14th

- Valentine's Day. We are open 9am to 4pm!

**Remember Admission is HALF OFF
during the month of February!
We are open DAILY from 9am to
4pm**