

New proactive, preventive measures to protect zoo birds from HPAI

SEATTLE—As an increased measure to protect its birds from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Woodland Park Zoo will be proactively moving some species within the zoo.

To safeguard the health of flamingos and some crane species, which live in open-top habitats, these birds will be moved into more protective housing temporarily to prevent contact with wild mallards and other waterfowl.

Penguins will remain outdoors for now, as their pool and food sources don't draw mallards into their habitat.

The zoo appreciates the patience of its community and guests, who may miss seeing these beautiful birds for a while but who understand the importance of keeping them safe.

Update on the goose flock

On Nov. 14, the zoo received confirmation that a red-breasted goose had died earlier in the week of HPAI. The name of that goose was "HMB," which stood for "Husky Marching Band" because he had a high-step walk that reminded his caregiver of her time in the marching band.

Around the same time as HMB's death, another goose in the same flock died, named Ketchup. The laboratory initially reported the positive test for HMB, with test results still pending at the time for Ketchup. Ketchup's case has subsequently been confirmed as HPAI.

There are 11 additional geese that were in a flock with HMB and Ketchup, including nine red-breasted geese and two emperor geese. The flock of geese lived in an off-view area behind the scenes and did not have contact with the public or with any other birds that live at the zoo.

All the geese in the flock are in quarantine at the zoo's on-site veterinary hospital. Four of the geese tested positive and seven tested negative; all are doing well under observation and/or treatment. They will remain in quarantine for now and the zoo's expert animal health team will continue to monitor for symptoms and provide treatment as needed.

The zoo will not be providing daily updates on individual birds. Updates will be shared if significant changes occur.

To read the background press release from Nov. 14, 2024, please visit: <https://blog.zoo.org/2024/11/confirmed-avian-flu-case-at-woodland.html>

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