



Cosley Tails

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Cosley Tails

Information about Cosley Zoo and The Cosley Foundation, Inc. is available by calling 630.665.5534 or by writing to Zoo Director, Cosley Zoo, 1356 N. Gary Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187. You may also e-mail us at CosleyZoo@wheatonparks.org. We welcome your comments and suggestions.



Cosley Zoo is a facility
of the Wheaton Park
District.

1356 N. Gary Avenue
Wheaton, IL 60187
630.665.5534
www.cosleyzoo.org

Birds of a feather flock together: Understanding bird migration patterns

By Sara Peters, Zookeeper

After living the majority of my life in the Midwest, I have witnessed large migrations of birds every year. Being a bird lover since childhood, I was always curious where they flew. I was told they were flying “south” for the winter but still wondered, how do they find their way? Why did some birds have to leave while others stayed all winter? After conducting some research, I discovered wildlife managers have been tracking migration patterns for decades. What they have found is that birds’ flight patterns are more complicated than patterns an air traffic controller manages.



*Photo courtesy of Edward Durbin
Photography*

There are four categories of birds living in the continental United States: permanent residents, summer residents, winter residents, and transients. Permanent residents are the non-migrating birds that remain in their home area all year round. This group includes songbirds, such as the House Sparrow, which we commonly see at our backyard birdfeeders year-round. The summer residents are migratory birds that move north in the spring, nest during the summer, and return south in the winter. The winter residents, which are mostly waterfowl, are migratory birds who fly south for the winter. Finally, the transients are migratory species who nest farther north, but who winter farther south. These transients, like the Sandhill Crane, are only able to be seen passing through this area.

Migration is defined as the seasonal movement of individuals within a population, typically from a breeding area to a non-breeding area and back. Migratory species have to stop often to rest, feed, and renew their energy sources. The areas from the breeding locations through the non-breeding areas, including the stopping sites, are often called migratory flyways. All migrating birds are protected under the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s Migratory Bird Act, which includes their flyways and their habitat. Flyways, stopover sites, and flight distances of migratory species depend upon many environmental conditions such as temperature, precipitation, wind speed, and direction. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified four

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Birds of a feather flock together: Understanding bird migration patterns

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The Mississippi Flyway is highlighted in red.

*Source: US Fish and Wildlife Service
(<http://mississippi.flyways.us/>)*

on each flyway. The flyway that encompasses our area is called the Mississippi Flyway.

Just as we choose a hotel that will fit our needs before planning a trip, birds often seek out places that have warmth, food, and are safe for breeding. Some birds use the sun and the stars to navigate, while many use landmarks like rivers, mountains, or coastlines. Some might use smell, while others might follow the other birds in the flock. Some even monitor the Earth's magnetic field. These birds are able to use their visual capabilities, along with tiny grains of a mineral in their heads called magnetite, which guides them like a compass. Knowledge of their current location, their destination, and the direction they must take to get there are all required for migration navigation. It's complicated, and we don't know everything about how birds navigate, but biologists believe that birds probably use more than one method to find their way.

Seasonal migration primarily happens in the Northern Hemisphere because in the Southern Hemisphere, it is always warm enough for an adequate year-round food supply, and the days are longer, allowing many hours to find food. During northern summers, birds have this same ability; however, when the food supply lessens and the hours to eat shorten, birds must migrate. Each species migrates at a certain time of year and time of day. Some are very irregular in their migration patterns. Some species start their migration south in early July, while others stay until the weather gets too harsh or the food becomes unavailable later in the fall.

Every spring and fall, Cosley Zoo provides many species of migrating ducks a stopover spot to rest and recharge. This is often apparent during our public duck feeding times at

main flyways within North America. Each of the flyways has governmental, state, and local representatives that aid in the protection of the species and habitats within their flyways. Twice yearly, a status report including population, harvest, and winter participation data is compiled

Cosley, when our ponds are full of wild ducks. Keepers often increase the amount of food given to our resident ducks, up to four times the typical diet. With the addition of so many ducks to our feeding schedule, we must make sure everyone gets enough to eat.

At Cosley Zoo, our migrating species have the same capabilities as their "wild" cousins. For example, our Sandhill Crane, Ichabod, has portrayed behavior changes during migration season. His vocalization has been described as sounding like a bugle horn and can be heard up to two and a half miles away. Sandhill Cranes usually vocalize from the ground to alert nearby flocks. They can also produce sounds like moans, hisses, goose-like honks, and snoring sounds. During the spring, Ichabod also exhibits common mating displays, like stick throwing and dancing. Keepers believe he hopes to catch a female's eye while the migrating flock flies over the zoo. While our crane may display some behavior changes during migration, due to a wing injury he received as a juvenile, Ichabod is unable to fly well enough to migrate himself.

While migration is a natural instinct, biologists are concerned about the effects of habitat loss and change on this phenomenon. Flyway managers have identified specific factors that may disrupt flight patterns. These include urbanization, pollution, and climate change. The health of many wetland ecosystems, is often measured by the amount of migrating populations that visit. Even with habitat protection over time migrating birds may have to adapt to new environments for stopovers, breeding areas, and flight distances. These changes in the flyways will be like adding road construction in the sky. I just hope that the birds don't encounter too many traffic jams in the process!



Ichabod, the zoo's Sandhill Crane.

*Photo courtesy of
Edward Durbin Photography*

**Special Thanks to
Ed Durbin of
Edward Durbin Photography
for his generosity and support**

Cosley Zoo Receives Illinois Recycling Grant

Earlier this year Cosley Zoo was awarded a grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Illinois Recycling Grants Program. While the zoo has been dedicated to and very active with recycling for many years, we have been unable to provide opportunities for our visitors to demonstrate the same commitment.

This grant, along with a monetary commitment from the Cosley Foundation, will allow the zoo to purchase recycling containers made of post-consumer materials, which will be placed throughout the zoo for public use. We anticipate that the addition of these containers will significantly increase the zoo's recycling contribution to approximately five times its current rate. Each recycling container will also share a fact or message about the benefits of recycling.

Cosley Zoo would like to express its most sincere gratitude to both DCEO and the Cosley Foundation for their support of the zoo's expanded commitment to recycling and the benefits it provides for our environment.

Cosley Zoo is getting a new parking lot! Construction August 18-September 30

The zoo will be open normal hours. Construction is anticipated from August 18 through September 30 during which the zoo will have a temporary parking lot entrance off of Prairie Avenue, the street located just south of the zoo. Follow the signs!

Permeable pavers will replace the main parking lot. Pavers are eco-friendly because they allow rainwater to drain through them, reducing storm water runoff and minimizing the transportation of pollutants through rainwater. Pavers also last longer than traditional asphalt; making this a budget-friendly option as well.

Got Extra Books?

Cosley Zoo is in need of gently used animal and nature-themed children's books for our Little Free Library. Please bring your donations to the Wild Side Gift Shop.



*A wild night of music, food,
drinks and fun!*

Thursday, September 25
5:30 to 9 pm

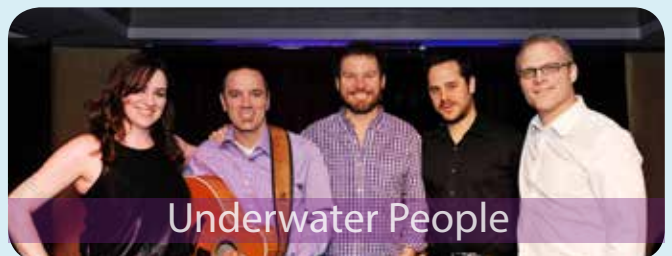
- Live music by The Voice's Michael Lynch, and popular local band Underwater People
- Signature appetizer sampling provided by local restaurants and two drink tickets
- Live auction of artwork painted by two elephants from Buttonwood Park Zoo in New Bedford, Massachusetts
- Exclusive after hours zoo admission
- Unique and memorable up close animal visits
- Dedication of Douglas Depot
- Turtle races, raffles, silent auctions, and more!

Purchase your ticket online at cosleyzoo.org or call 630.665.5534.

\$50 per person | \$80 per couple | \$320 reserved table for eight

* Must be 21 & over to attend.

Event will occur rain or shine.



Register at cosleyzoo.org or call 630.665.5534.

Programs & Events

mid August-November



Bookworms

Do you and your child love stories and animals? Come read a story, meet an animal, and try an activity. Each week is different. Join us for all sessions! Children must be accompanied by a nonpaying adult. Meet your instructor by the gift shop. *Cosley Zoo members: Register at the Community Center in person or by mail to take advantage of reduced fees for members.*

Limit: 12

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
Series 1					
18 mos-4	9/3-10/15	W	9:30-10A	\$45.50/\$63	406502-01
18 mos-4	9/3-10/15	W	10:30-11A	\$45.50/\$63	406502-02
Series 2					
18 mos-4	10/22-12/10*	W	9:30-10A	\$45.50/\$63	406502-03
18 mos-4	10/22-12/10*	W	10:30-11A	\$45.50/\$63	406502-04

*No class 11/26.

Register online at wheatonparkdistrict.com for Bookworms

Eco-Exploration Backpack Tours

Cosley Zoo is offering backpack tours for families. These eco-friendly packs are filled with a combination of activities and discovery items that families can utilize while at the zoo. Each pack focuses on a different theme and will act as a "tour guide" as you make your way through the zoo, highlighting various exhibits, and promoting animal and habitat conservation messages. Backpack tours are a great way for parents and children to explore the zoo together.

- \$2 per pack.
- Successfully complete your adventure and receive an official Eco-Explorer button. Complete each theme to collect all 8 buttons!
- Packs can be checked out from the Wild Side gift shop.

Morning Chores

Have you ever wanted to help take care of animals on a farm? Well now is your chance to get a first-hand experience. Join the staff as you help clean and bed stalls, feed some farm animals, and try your hand at grooming.

- Available on Saturday mornings April-September from 7:15-9:15 am.
- Ages 8-adult (Ages 8-13 must be accompanied by a paying adult).
- \$15/Cosley Zoo Member; \$20/nonmember.
- To sign up call the Cosley Zoo Education Department at 630.665.5534.

Bobcats Backstage

A unique experience with the bobcats! Join our zookeepers for an exclusive behind the scenes visit with the bobcats. Learn about this amazing feline as you enjoy a close-up view of a training session where the bobcats learn how to participate in their own care.

- Available daily 11-11:30 am.
- Sign up (630.665.5534) by 10:45 am in the Wild Side gift shop during your zoo visit or call ahead. First-come, first-served; maximum of 6 participants each day.
- \$10/Cosley Zoo Member; \$12/nonmember.

Fun-damentals of Zookeeping (Ages 14 & up)

Do you want to be a zoo keeper? Come spend part of the day and work side by side with one of Cosley Zoo's animal care staff. Assist with routine cleaning and care, provide enrichment to the animals, and be a part of a training demonstration. Participants will also receive a certificate, special souvenir, and photo.

- Available on a Sunday or Friday all year from 10am-1pm.
- Ages 14 and up.
- \$75/Cosley Zoo Member; \$95/nonmember.
- To sign up, call the Cosley Zoo Education Department at 630.665.5534.

Duck Feeding

Offered daily from 10-10:30 am and 3-3:30 pm, weather permitting.

- Now through October 13.
- Cost: \$1/serving.
- All proceeds benefit Cosley Zoo.

Live at the Zoo

Thursday, September 25, 2014 | 5:30-9P
\$50/person | \$80/couple | A 21 and over event

Enjoy live entertainment in the zoo's front lawn, explore exhibits after hours, and partake in fun games, raffles, and silent auction activities. It's bound to be a wild night! Delight in appetizers and signature dishes from area restaurants. Two drink tickets are included; cash bar is available.



Come with friends, wine and dine your business associates, entertain visiting guests, or reward your employees. Casual attire appropriate for outdoor weather and flat shoes are suggested. The event is weather permitting. In the event of cancellation due to inclement weather, please consider your ticket purchase a donation to Cosley Zoo.

Register at cosleyzoo.org or by calling 630.665.5534.

Programs & Events

mid August-November

Pumpkin Fest

October 1-31

Taking in the beautiful fall colors at Cosley Zoo is a must do! Come see the animals in the crisp fall air, listen to the squeals of excitement from the children conquering the straw pyramid or finding their way through the corn stalk tunnel, and take in the thousands of pumpkins scattered on the zoo's lawn.



Apples, gourds, pumpkins, cider, cornstalks, and various sizes of straw bales are available to purchase. Be sure and check out the fall merchandise in the Wild Side Gift Shop too. Proceeds from your purchases benefit Cosley Zoo.

- Regular admission rates apply

Sponsored by:



Spooktacular

Friday, October 24, 5:30-7P or 7-8:30P

Don't miss this fall festival full of Halloween fun! Come dressed in costume to enjoy loads of activities. Take a stroll through our "not so scary" straw maze, a gander around the spooky pond path, meet live animals, carve or decorate a pumpkin, play games, enjoy refreshments, and make crafts. Stop at various stations along the Trick-or-Treat Trek to collect your supply of holiday goodies. Pre-registration is required. Space is limited so register early. Non-refundable payment is due at the time of registration. Call 630.665.5534 or stop in the Wild Side Gift Shop to sign up today!

- Cosley Zoo member fees: \$5 ages 3-14; \$2 ages 15-adult; Free ages 2 and under.
- Non-zoo member fees: \$10 ages 3-14; \$5 ages 15-Adult; Free ages 2 and under



Festival of Lights and Tree Sales

November 28-December 30

A winter time visit to Cosley Zoo has become a family tradition for many. Make sure it is one of yours! Cosley Zoo is transformed into a winter wonderland with 20,000 twinkling lights creating spectacular displays, an amazing selection of Christmas trees for you to purchase, hot chocolate, and holiday gifts. The Festival of Lights and Tree Sales begin the day after Thanksgiving (11/28/14) and continue through December 30. The zoo is open 9A-9P daily; lights come on at 3P. All proceeds support the zoo, its animals, programs, and development.



- Zoo admission is free during the Festival of Lights and Tree Sales. Donations are greatly appreciated.
- Cosley Zoo is Closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day
- Cosley Zoo is open 9A-Noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve

Christmas Tree Lane

Gather together your scout group, friends, coworkers, or family members to help decorate Cosley Zoo for the holidays! We provide a lit five foot tree and you provide wildlife-friendly ornaments and imagination. Trees are displayed through December. Payment is due upon reservation; trees are limited so call today! Call 630.665.5534 or stop in the Wild Side Gift Shop to sign up!

- \$40/tree
- Limit 30 trees
- Tree decorating to take place November 30-December 6, 2014

Santa's Craft Corner

Saturday, Nov. 29, Dec. 6 & 13, 10A-2P

Can't make it to the North Pole? Do the next best thing and come to Cosley Zoo where you can see Santa AND the animals! While visiting Santa, make a craft or two, and enjoy refreshments.

- \$5/family donation
- \$3 for printed photo with Santa



Thank You to Our Sponsors

The Cosley Foundation held the 31st Mike Williams Cosley Classic Golf Outing on August 4, 2014 at Arrowhead Golf Club. This fundraiser event raised much needed dollars and heightened awareness for the animal conservation efforts, educational programming, and care of animals at Cosley Zoo. Thank you to our many sponsors, golfers, and supporters at this year's outing. To learn more about how you can get involved with the 2015 Mike Williams Cosley Classic Golf Outing or our other special events, please call Sarah at 630.510.4986 or email sodonnell@wheatonparks.org.

Event Co-Sponsor



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TopGolf

*Make Cosley Zoo Your Autumn Destination
All October Long!*

Pumpkin Fest October 1-31

Pumpkins, gourds, cornstalks, and other fall decorations for sale. Fun for kids of all ages!

New this year... Kids' Rides!

Spooktacular Friday, October 24, 5:30-7P or 7-8:30P*

“Not so scary” straw maze, spooky pond path, pumpkin carving and decorations, games, refreshments, and crafts.

*Pre-registration is required. Cosley Zoo member fees - \$5 ages 3-14; \$2 ages 15-adult; Free ages 2 and under. Non-zoo member fees - \$10 ages 3-14; \$5 ages 15-adult; Free ages 2 and under

For more information, visit cosleyzoo.org/specialevents.htm.