



Cosley Tails

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ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS

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

The Sandhill Crane: Life Is A Dance

by Jenny Rudnick-Volz, Zookeeper

A truly majestic bird, the crane has fascinated humans for generations. A Miocene crane fossil, believed to be about 10 million years old, is structurally identical to the modern Sandhill Crane. This gives the Sandhill Crane one of the longest fossil histories of any bird still found today, and makes it the oldest known bird species still in existence! As writer Christopher Cudworth stated, "Perhaps it is this lineage, some preservation of original creation, that makes cranes seem so valuable a species today." Sandhills are the most common of all the world's cranes. Today these large birds are found predominately in North America, but range south to Mexico and Cuba, and as far west as Siberia.



On average, Sandhill Cranes are about 4 feet tall and can weigh up to 14 pounds. They have a wingspan of over five feet, making them very skilled soaring birds. They can stay in the air for hours, requiring only occasional flapping of their wings using little energy. Their average lifespan in the wild is about 20 years, with the oldest known Sandhill Crane being documented at 36 years old. An adult Sandhill Crane is overall gray in appearance, with a red forehead, white cheeks, a long dark pointed bill, and black legs. Instead of being a straight tube, a Sandhill Crane's trachea loops like a saxophone. This helps the bird to emit a call that can be heard for over a mile! Ecologist Aldo Leopold once wrote about the Sandhill Crane, "When we hear his call, we hear no mere bird. We hear the trumpet in the orchestra of evolution."

Sandhill Cranes are opportunistic eaters, changing their diet based on what is available. They enjoy plants, grains, berries, snakes, amphibians, insects, worms and small mammals such as mice. They often feed with their bills down to the ground as they root

The Sandhill Crane: Life Is A Dance

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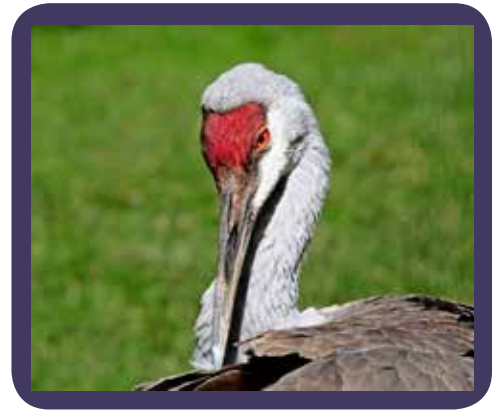
around for seeds and other foods in shallow wetlands or various upland habitats. Their soil digging can at times cause significant crop damage, bringing them into conflict with farmers.

As a conspicuous ground-dwelling species, Sandhill Cranes may face a variety of predators, including foxes, coyotes, bobcats, falcons, and owls. Sandhill Cranes will forcefully defend themselves from predators, especially when protecting offspring. When attacking avian (bird) predators, they fly up at the predator and kick with their feet. When facing ground predators, they move toward the hunter with their wings open and their bill pointed towards the attacker. If the predator persists, the hissing crane will strike, kicking with its feet and stabbing with its bill, which is powerful enough to pierce the skull of a small carnivore.

One of the most beautiful natural phenomena in the United States is the annual gathering of the Sandhill Cranes. Each March, over 500,000 Sandhill Cranes meet on a 75-mile stretch of the Platte River Basin in Nebraska to rest and eat before they finish their migration to their northern breeding grounds, which includes the state of Illinois. This assembling of the cranes is known as a “survival group,” coming together to feed and roost. They sleep in the river, and then at sunrise they fan out to the surrounding countryside where they feed. The harvested cornfields along the river provide perfect feeding grounds for the cranes. The birds repeat the routine for a month or so, fattening up for their flight north. It is during this time that single cranes will pair-up, performing unison calls to create a lifelong bond. When the pair reaches the northern breeding grounds, they mate. During mating season, Sandhill Cranes perform dancing displays. Although the dancing is most common in the breeding season, the cranes can dance all year long. The dance can involve wing flapping, bowing, jumps, and stick and plant throwing. Cranes are perhaps the best choreographers in the bird kingdom. Their dancing is the most ornate and intricate of all the birds. It is generally believed to be a normal part of motor development for cranes and prevents aggression, relieves tension, and strengthens the pair bond.

After breeding, the pair builds a nest to prepare for their young. Sandhill Cranes usually nest in wetlands and create a structure from whatever plants are available. Females typically lay one to three eggs, which both parents incubate for about 30 days. Males take responsibility for

defending the nest. When the chicks, called “colts,” hatch, they are covered in down, their eyes are open, and they are able to leave the nest within 24 hours. The parents care for the young until they reach independence at around nine months of age. After leaving their parents, the chicks form nomadic flocks with other subadults and non-breeders. They remain with these flocks until they form breeding pairs and begin breeding between the ages of two and seven years old.



Cosley Zoo guests can get a close up view of our resident Sandhill Crane, Ichabod, in the deer exhibit. A true wildlife success story, Ichabod was found in the wild with a fractured left wing that was frozen to a pond, was suffering from lead poisoning, and couldn't stand. During his treatment at a wildlife rehabilitation center, Ichabod was deemed non-releasable into the wild due to his injuries. Ichabod found a home at Cosley Zoo in 2011, and has become a favorite amongst animal care staff and visitors.

Ichabod has been chosen to compete in the zoo's “Day at the Races,” in which he is a contender for the 2013 coveted title of “Animal of the Year.” Ichabod will be up against some stiff competition with Gretchen the Norwegian Fjord Horse, Echo the Great Horned Owl, and Valentino the Bobcat joining him in the race. This summer, guests will have the chance to vote for their favorite competitor during their visit to the zoo.

The Sandhill Crane: a graceful creature with strong parenting skills and great dance moves. A survivor through time. After all that you have learned, what more could you ask for in a champion?

Thank you to all who donated
in memory
of Virginia “Jinny” Faesen.

Programs Requiring Preregistration

Summer 2013

Bookworms

Do you and your child love stories and animals? In this class, we'll read a story, meet an animal and complete an activity. Each week is different so join us for all sessions!

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
18 mos-4 yrs	5/8-5/29	W	9:30-10A	\$14.75/\$22.50	206505-01
18 mos-4 yrs	5/8	W	9:30-10A	\$5.75/\$8.75	206505-02
18 mos-4 yrs	5/15	W	9:30-10A	\$5.75/\$8.75	206505-03
18 mos-4 yrs	5/22	W	9:30-10A	\$5.75/\$8.75	206505-04
18 mos-4 yrs	5/29	W	9:30-10A	\$5.75/\$8.75	206505-05

Zoo Investigators

Use all your senses to experience the world as an animal would. Hands-on activities and animal interactions will guide your exploration of animals and nature.

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
5-7 yrs	6/14-7/12	F	4:15-5:15P	\$32/\$48	206204-01
5-7 yrs	6/14	F	4:15-5:15P	\$32/\$48	206204-02
5-7 yrs	6/21	F	4:15-5:15P	\$32/\$48	206204-03
5-7 yrs	6/28	F	4:15-5:15P	\$32/\$48	206204-04
5-7 yrs	7/12	F	4:15-5:15P	\$32/\$48	206204-05



Cosley Zoo Camps

Cosley Zoo Animal Camps are a week long exploration, for ages 4 to 15 that include live animal encounters, interactive discovery activities, games and more. Camps are divided into age appropriate groups and offer several themes. The registration fee includes all activities, materials, snack and a camp T-shirt.

For more information or to register, go to wheatonparkdistrict.com

It's easy to register for Bookworms, Toddler Time, Zoo Investigators and Camps. Visit www.wheatonparkdistrict.com, register by mail or in-person at the Wheaton Park District Community Center, 1777 S. Blanchard. *Become a member and take advantage of reduced program fees!*

Fun-damentals of Zookeeping

Do you want to be a zookeeper? Come spend part of the day and work side by side with 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 receive a certificate, special souvenir, and photo.

- Available Sunday or Friday all year from 9 am to 1 pm
- Ages 14 and over
- \$120/Cosley Zoo Member; \$150/nonmember

Morning Chores

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

- Available Wednesday or Saturday morning, April through September from 7:15 to 9:15 am.
- Ages 8-adult (Ages 8-13 must be accompanied by a paying adult)
- \$15/Cosley Zoo Member; \$20/nonmember

To register for Fun-damentals of Zookeeping or Morning Chores, please call the Cosley Zoo Education Department at 630.665.5534.

Toddler Time

Curious toddlers experience learning through play in this special class for 2-3 year olds. Led by a Cosley Zoo educator, our class features a live animal visit and animal-themed activities. Meet the instructor by the admissions booth. Note: Registering for the series? Check dates for each session to determine when class meets. *Cosley Zoo members: Register at the Community Center in person, or by mail, to take advantage of reduced fees for members.* (TR)

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
2-3	6/10-8/19	M	9:30-10:30A	\$41.25/\$62.50	306510-01
2-3	6/10	M	9:30-10:30A	\$8.25/\$12.50	306510-02
2-3	6/24	M	9:30-10:30A	\$8.25/\$12.50	306510-03
2-3	7/8	M	9:30-10:30A	\$8.25/\$12.50	306510-04
2-3	7/22	M	9:30-10:30A	\$8.25/\$12.50	306510-05
2-3	8/5	M	9:30-10:30A	\$8.25/\$12.50	306510-06
2-3	8/19	M	9:30-10:30A	\$8.25/\$12.50	306510-07

Special Events

Summer 2013



Turtle Day

Saturday, May 18 | 10 am-2 pm

Come and experience all things turtle (or chelonian)! Learn about the zoo's efforts to protect the Illinois Endangered Blanding's Turtle, meet live turtles and

tortoises, and take part in themed activities.

– **Free** event. Regular admission rates apply.

Run for the Animals: 5K/10K and Zippity Zoo Run

Saturday, June 1 |

7:30 am (5K/10K start time)

Voted Best 5K/10K in Midwest/Competitor Magazine Don't miss this great run that supports Cosley Zoo! The first 2500 registered runners receive a long sleeve Tech T-shirt and are all invited to stay for post-race refreshments and awards ceremony. Be sure and stick around and enjoy the festivities of Taste of Wheaton.

Sponsored by Cadence Health, Borter Heating & Air Conditioning, Whole Foods, Newsome Physical Therapy, and Gerald Subaru.



The ½ mile Zippity Zoo Run steps off at 8:45 a.m. for children ages 6 to 12. All Zippity Zoo participants receive a shirt and medal.

For registration information please visit www.active.com.

Campin' at Cosley

Friday, June 28-Saturday, June 29 | 5 pm-8:30 am

Ever wonder what it's like to spend the night at the zoo? Here's your chance to find out! Bring your tent and sleeping bags as you join staff for a memorable overnight experience. Enjoy activities including a night hike, roasting marshmallows, morning chores and a hearty breakfast. Space is limited to 25 families so be sure to sign up early. Registration required by June 14. Nonrefundable payment is due at time of registration. In case of inclement weather, the event will be rescheduled for July 26-27.

– Cosley Zoo Member Families *\$50;

– Nonmember families *\$75

*Family is defined as a group of up to 5 people. Each additional person staying in the same tent will be \$10 each. One tent per registration, additional tents will require a separate registration.

Cosley Zoo Uncorked

Thursday, July 18 | 5:30-8 pm

Looking for a wild night out? We have just the thing! Enjoy a distinctive wine tasting experience, complete with the



animals and atmosphere of Cosley Zoo. Join us for wine sampling, hors d'oeuvres, raffle, giveaways and more! You must be 21 years or older to attend. Registration is required by Friday, July 12. Payment is required at the time of registration.

– \$35/person; \$50/couple

– Purchase tickets at www.wheatonparkdistrict.com/tickets.

Mike Williams Cosley Classic Golf Outing

Monday, August 5 | 10:30 am-6 pm

Get your foursome together for the 30th annual Mike Williams Cosley Classic Golf Outing at Arrowhead Golf Club. Golfers enjoy lunch, a steak dinner, gifts, awards, raffle prizes, and a silent auction. Take your shot at winning a hole-in-one. This is the perfect outing to share with friends and business associates. For registration information call, 630.665.5534.



Save the Date!

Curious George is coming to Cosley Zoo on Friday, June 28. Stay tuned for more information!

Make Your Visit Special

Bobcats Backstage–NEW!

Look for this new program May 19.

A truly 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. You will even be able to take home a special souvenir!

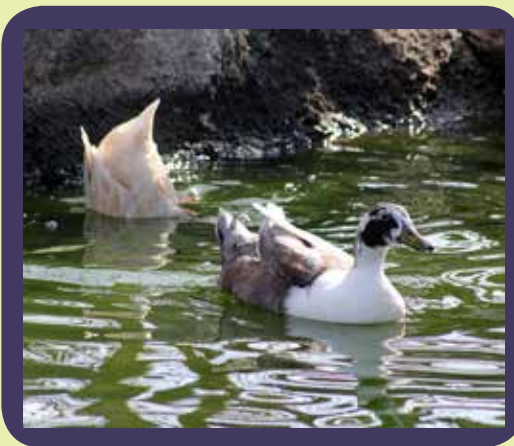
- Available daily 11-11:30 am
- Sign-up in the Wild Side Gift Shop during your zoo visit. First-come, first-served; maximum of 6 participants each day.
- \$10/Cosley Zoo Member; \$12/nonmember



Eco-Exploration Backpack Tours

These eco-friendly packs are filled with activities and discovery items that families can enjoy while at the zoo. Each pack focuses on a different theme and acts 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.

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



Duck Feeding

Daily through mid-October

Offered daily from 10-10:30 am and 3-3:30 pm, weather permitting. \$1/serving. All proceeds benefit Cosley Zoo.

Discovery Stations

Discovery Stations offer visitors the chance to enjoy many different experiences through various activities including animal training sessions, story time, amphitheater programs, or animal visits! These programs are **free**; donations are always appreciated.

- April – May, Saturdays and Sundays 10:30 am and 1:30 pm
- June-August, daily 10:30 am and 1:30 pm





Consider Cosley for your upcoming celebration events!

We offer unique rental space perfect for a casual outdoor picnic, graduation party or an inclusive cocktail event.



Rental options include...

- Vern Kiebler Learning Center/second floor, climate controlled room
- Duck Pond Pavillion/covered picnic area
- or a Full Facility Rental with exclusive use of the entire zoo.



Contact Cosley Zoo for available days and times.

Mother's Day Special



Purchase one novelty ice cream and get a second of equal or lesser value

50% Off

Valid: May 12, 2013

Code: CTMDay13

Must present coupon at time of purchase. Can not combine with any other offers.

Father's Day Special



Purchase one novelty ice cream and get a second of equal or lesser value

50% Off

Valid: June 16, 2013

Code: CTFDay13

Must present coupon at time of purchase. Can not combine with any other offers.