

PRESS RELEASE

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See video of the new chicks: <https://youtu.be/QcgyjLpWCc8>

Screamer chicks go wild! ***New hatchlings signal spring has arrived***

SEATTLE—Screamer chicks have gone wild at Woodland Park Zoo—birds, that is. A pair of crested screamer birds, both females, hatched in early March. The chicks represent the first offspring between the 15-year-old mother and 23-year-old father. The last successful hatching of this species at the zoo was in 2002.



The new family is currently off public view to allow animal keepers to monitor the chicks closely and weigh them regularly to ensure acceptable weight gains. At 2 weeks old, the chicks are fluffy and downy and currently weigh about 6 ounces. "So far, we're pleased to report the chicks are experiencing good weight gains," said Mark Myers, bird curator at Woodland Park Zoo. "They're eating well and the parents are very attentive. The chicks need lots of food and exercise to grow. Based on how they're doing, we're optimistic they'll continue to thrive under the care of their parents and our animal care staff."

Unlike many bird species, screamer parents do not regurgitate food for their chicks. Instead, they lead the chicks to food and drop tasty treats as a lesson on how to peck for food. Myers said the zoo's family dines on a blend of gamebird, waterfowl pellets, fresh romaine—lots of it—and broccoli florets.

Screamers are aptly named for their loud, distinguished call, making them among the loudest of any bird. Native to Bolivia and southern Brazil to northern Argentina, these large goose-like birds are common in tropical and subtropical wetlands, including marshes, estuaries and lowland lakes. Another distinctive feature is a large, sharp spur on each wing which the birds use to defend themselves against predators. Screamers form monogamous relationships and both adults take part in incubation and caring for the chicks. Although the crested screamer population is not threatened in their home range, screamers and many other species of waterfowl are threatened by habitat loss due to human-imposed activities.

The adults were paired under the Crested Screamer [Species Survival Plan](#), a conservation program coordinated through the Association of Zoos & Aquariums to help ensure a healthy, self-sustaining population in zoos. Woodland Park Zoo participates in more than 100 Species Survival Plans, from invertebrates to big cats; some plans also involve a variety of other collaborative conservation activities such as research, public education, planned reintroduction and field projects.

Woodland Park Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums and certified by the rigorous American Humane Conservation program. The Humane Certified™ seal of approval is another important validation of the zoo's long-standing tradition of meeting the highest standards in animal welfare. Woodland Park Zoo is helping to save animals and their habitats through more than 35 field projects in the Pacific Northwest and around the world. Each year, the zoo engages more than a million visitors of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and walks of life in extraordinary experiences with animals, inspiring them to make conservation a priority in their lives and a difference in our planet's future ecological health and sustainability. Visit www.zoo.org and follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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