

## Floof alert: First-ever spur-winged lapwing chicks hatch at Woodland Park Zoo

Say hello to the newest members of the zoo family! These four little cotton balls on stilts are spur-winged lapwing chicks, hatched during the last week of June. Their hatching is the first for this species at Woodland Park Zoo.



The chicks are only a couple inches tall – with their legs making up half that height! Their parents stand about a foot tall and have distinct brown, black and white feathers. The chicks’ amazing cryptic coloring allows them to blend into their surroundings to avoid predators. When it comes to defending against predators or intruders that get too close, the “spur-winged” part of this species’ name comes into play: there is a small claw or spur hidden on the front-facing “elbow” of each of their wings, which come in handy for protection.

The zoo’s dedicated animal keepers have given the new family plenty of space to bond, and they say these parents are doing a great job of protecting their chicks—offering plenty of loud harsh vocalizations and displays as reminders for everyone to keep their distance.

This young family lives in the African Savanna Aviary on the east side of Woodland Park Zoo. For the health and safety of guests, this is one of the areas that is currently closed to the public because it is an enclosed space where social distancing would be difficult. Just as well, since these parents have made it clear they want some extra space while their little ones are so young! So for now, *chick* out these pictures until the time comes when you can see these fluffballs in person.

Woodland Park Zoo is now open to the public! Reserve your tickets now at [zoo.org](http://zoo.org).

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