

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Woodland Park Zoo's baby boom continues with new tawny frogmouth chick

Seattle—This spring and summer have been very productive at Woodland Park Zoo...the newest addition to its baby boom is a tawny frogmouth chick!

Other animals born or hatched at the zoo since March include a baby tapir, baby gorilla, agouti pups, penguin chicks, scaly-sided merganser chicks, pudu fawn and mountain goat kid.

The new chick represents the 38<sup>th</sup> frogmouth hatched at the zoo since the species' first hatching in 2009. The zoo is currently home to seven adult tawny frogmouths.

Tawny frogmouths are nocturnal birds native to Australia. During the day, they perch on tree branches, using their cryptic camouflage to blend into their environment. The plumage of the tawny frogmouth is silver-gray, slightly paler below, streaked and mottled with black and rufous. Frogmouths are often mistaken as owls; although they have many habits similar to owls, they are actually more closely related to nightjars and whip-poor-wills, and do not have the strong, curved talons of owls.

The new tawny frogmouth chick hatched to first-time parents, both 2 years old. The parents were paired under the Tawny Frogmouth Species Survival Plan, which is a cooperative, conservation breeding program across accredited Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) zoos to help ensure a healthy, self-sustaining population.

"This breeding pair is genetically valuable as the parents' blood lines trace directly back to wild lineages in Australia," said Mark Myers, bird curator at Woodland Park Zoo and the coordinator for the Tawny Frogmouth Species Survival Plan. Under the leadership of Myers, Woodland Park Zoo was recently honored with an Association of Zoos & Aquariums' (AZA) Species Survival Plan Sustainability Award for its successful breeding efforts for the species. There are currently 187 frogmouths in the AZA population at 72 institutions.

Both parents are providing parental care in an off-view area. In addition, animal keepers are providing supplemental feedings when necessary to ensure good weight gain. "So far, based on the chick's daily weight gains, we can tell the parents are doing a great job of feeding it," said Myers.

"A newly hatched tawny frogmouth chick resembles an oversized cotton ball," explained Myers. "In the coming weeks it will start to acquire its juvenile plumage and darker contour feathers that act as camouflage, blending into the color and texture of tree bark."

While tawny frogmouths are not endangered, the species suffers losses due to pesticide use in their home range. Locally, everyone can take action by avoiding the use of pesticides, chemical herbicides, and rodenticides in their backyards to support a healthy community for local and migratory bird species. Using these products has an impact on the foods that birds eat.

Woodland Park Zoo participates in 111 [Species Survival Plans](#), overseen by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. Led by experts in husbandry, nutrition, veterinary care, behavior, and genetics, these plans also involve a variety of other collaborative conservation activities such as research, public education, reintroduction and field projects.

Woodland Park Zoo has reopened—visit now! Go to [www.zoo.org](http://www.zoo.org) to purchase timed-entry admission tickets and to learn about changes to help keep zoo visitors, animals and staff



healthy. For additional ways to support your zoo, consider a membership or contribute to the Relief Fund at [www.zoo.org/relief](http://www.zoo.org/relief). The zoo appreciates the community support!