

A hatching 36 years in the making: Zoo celebrates new red-crested turaco chick

SEATTLE — As 2020 draws to a close, Woodland Park Zoo is celebrating an eggstrordinary hatching almost three decades in the making: say hello to the zoo's red-crested turaco chick, hatched November 16. Chick this out — it's the first of its species hatched at the zoo since 1984!



Months ago, the zoo's female red-crested turaco laid a couple of eggs. In the past, previous fertile eggs had failed to develop, so this time around our experienced animal care staff decided to incubate the eggs behind-the-scenes and hand-rear any chicks. Hand-rearing requires precisely timed feedings throughout the day and into the evening with careful monitoring of brooder temperatures to ensure the chicks are comfortable and healthy. Two chicks initially hatched. One didn't survive, but the other—which was recently determined to be a female—is thriving and growing by the day!

As a young hatchling, this chick was quite the fluffball, but now she's getting bigger and already starting to grow colorful feathers on her body. Soon, her head will be bright and colorful too, just like her parents. At 42 days of age, the growing chick now weighs about 6 ounces. Adults of this species weigh a little over half of a pound, and are about 18 inches long. The chick's personality is only now just starting to show, and keepers say she is very observant and curious, just like her parents.

There are 24 different species of turacos—all of them native to Africa. Red-crested turacos, named for the crimson-colored crest feathers on top of their heads, are primarily found in Angola. They spend most of their lives in the canopy, hopping, jumping and gliding from treetop to treetop feeding on fruit. While not listed as endangered, it is believed that their wild populations may be in decline due to habitat destruction and collection for the pet trade.

At the zoo, our red-crested turacos live at the Conservation Aviary. You might, though, be able to hear these vocal birds before you can see them: the sound of their call is often compared to a monkey! With current health and safety protocols in place, the Conservation Aviary is not currently open for visitors—so for now, we hope you enjoy seeing these pictures until the time comes when you can see them in person.

Woodland Park Zoo is now open to the public! Reserve your timed entry ticket now at www.zoo.org/visit.

For more information about Woodland Park Zoo, visit www.zoo.org and follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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