



Juan and Jane Sample
1234 Main Street
Portland, OR 97000

Dear Juan and Jane,

As I began to write this, I saw a flock of Sandhill cranes gliding overhead. They seem to fly so aimlessly, so slowly, that it's hard to imagine they ever arrive at their destination.

Cranes are part of the nearly 500 bird species that use Oregon for some part of their life cycle. In fact, our state ranks 5th in the nation for bird diversity. As a former bird curator, I love that Oregon is such an amazing place for birds!

However, many of our native bird species are in trouble. We may one day miss the flight.

Nearly a quarter of the species found in Oregon are already critically imperiled or likely to become critically imperiled in the near future. The trends in our state reflect similar trends worldwide. And zoos play an important role in educating the public about the importance of birds to a healthy ecosystem—and the risks they face.

But we need your help to fulfill this role. Two of our aviaries, *Bamba du Jon Swamp* and *Cascade Marsh*, are over 20 years old and critically in need of repair and updates. Renovation of these habitats is urgently needed to build a world-class bird collection in environments best suited for them with the plant life that supports them.

Re-building our bird collection will also allow the Oregon Zoo to continue its role as a leader in sustainability especially as it applies to the long-term success of our animal collections. We must ensure generations to come will enjoy the same variety of species in zoos across the country. Analysis of 300 bird species included in American zoos found that only 24 (or 8 percent) are sustainable in zoo collections. This data is a wake-up call that business as usual will not work for future generations.

Collection sustainability emphasizes critical breeding levels and the genetic diversity needed to support zoo collections for the future —and with our expertise in avian management, to pioneer this work for our feathered friends.

But the impact of a strong bird collection spreads well beyond the zoo. This project will build on our success in connecting visitors to the issues that threaten our wildlife world-wide. It will allow us to tell the stories of the amazing bird species in our care. **With your help, we will tell the stories of our winged wildlife and the important role they play in our ecosystem. Please, don't miss the flight!**

The tragic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico offers one of those stories. The impact has yet to be felt by the migratory bird species that winter along the Gulf. Our zoo can show how these animals migrate and what dangers they face, not only during the journey but once arriving at summer or winter nesting grounds.

Join me in pioneering this era of collection sustainability and heightened conservation education by helping to restore ***Bamba du Jon Swamp*** and the ***Cascade Marsh***.

We will teach the community about the important role birds play in our ecosystem and improve viewing opportunities for visitors. We need your help to renovate these two aging bird aviaries so this new era can take wing.

Your support is essential to our success. With you by our side we've been essential to the survival of the condor and Humboldt penguin, and now it's time to *spread our wings* to other avian species.

Join me in supporting our birds and don't miss the flight! Your gift in any amount is urgently needed. And, if you are able, I would be especially grateful for your gift of \$250 or even more. As a token of our thanks for your \$250 gift you will receive a special set of Oregon Zoo binoculars to use on your next outdoor adventure.

Your past commitment to the zoo is greatly appreciated. We truly could not do what we do every day without the support of our members and donors. As one of the newest members of our flock I hope we can count on your support. Our feathered friends need us now more than ever.

Just like those Sandhill cranes, I know that together we can reach our destination!

On behalf of all of us here at the Zoo, please accept my wishes for a happy holiday season.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly A. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "K".

Kim Smith
Oregon Zoo Director