



ANNUAL REPORT

2025

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DEAR FRIENDS,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Brandywine Zoo's annual report!

This report is a snapshot of the zoo's past year, featuring projects and programs we are involved with, an insider peek at zoo operations, and a look into the future.

The Brandywine Zoo is one of the smallest AZA accredited facilities in the country. However, our conservation impact is felt from Madagascar to South America. In Delaware we partner with DE Fish & Wildlife and others to work with a diverse portfolio of species including bog turtles, copperheads, tiger salamanders, bats, monarch butterflies and native songbirds.

Our crowned lemur birth was one of only two of this endangered species born in the US in 2025. There are only 40 crowned lemurs in the country, so our babies are a valuable contribution to this population.

Our conservation learning programs reached a wide range of ages from pre-K through adults as different learning styles through on-site and off-site programs. These programs reached over 30,000 people in 2025 alone.

2026 promises to be an exciting year as Delaware State Parks celebrates its 75th anniversary and the zoo opens its new mixed species habitat, which is currently under construction. Be sure to visit the zoo to see what's new, as well as visit with some old friends.

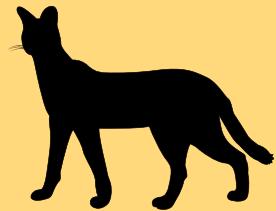
Brent Spencer
ZOO DIRECTOR
BRANDYWINE ZOO

2025 SNAPSHOT

ANIMAL COLLECTION

43 SPECIES

represented in the animal collection



7,587.35 lbs

of fresh produce
used in animal diets



53,000

individual crickets
used in animal diets



CONSERVATION

\$6,000

spent on field conservation globally



750

native plants distributed
across Delaware



3,783

pieces of litter removed from
habitats in Wilmington, DE

EDUCATION

30,707

guests were reached through

726

total educational programs



ATTENDANCE & MEMBERSHIP

1,006

current unique zoo memberships



61,000

guests visited, marking the highest zoo attendance in 10 years



CAPITAL PROJECTS & FUNDRAISING

\$510,200

raised towards zoo capital projects



\$112,000

raised at the Zoobilee Gala with

300

total guests in attendance



SOCIAL MEDIA & MARKETING

1,905

net followers gained on Instagram

1,630

net followers gained on Facebook



ANIMAL COLLECTION

OVERVIEW

In 2025, the zoo's animal collection represented individuals of 43 unique species from across the globe. This year, we mourned the passing of beloved 20 year old Bobcat, Squeakers, and celebrated the arrival of many new animals. Two Bennett's Wallaby were on exhibit through the summertime as a special temporary exhibit.



BIRTHS & HATCHINGS

This year, keeper staff welcomed the birth of a male Crowned Lemur, marking a huge success for the conservation of this endangered species. In another success for conservation, 34 bog turtle eggs were hatched at the zoo as a part of a head start and release program with DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife.



NEW ARRIVALS



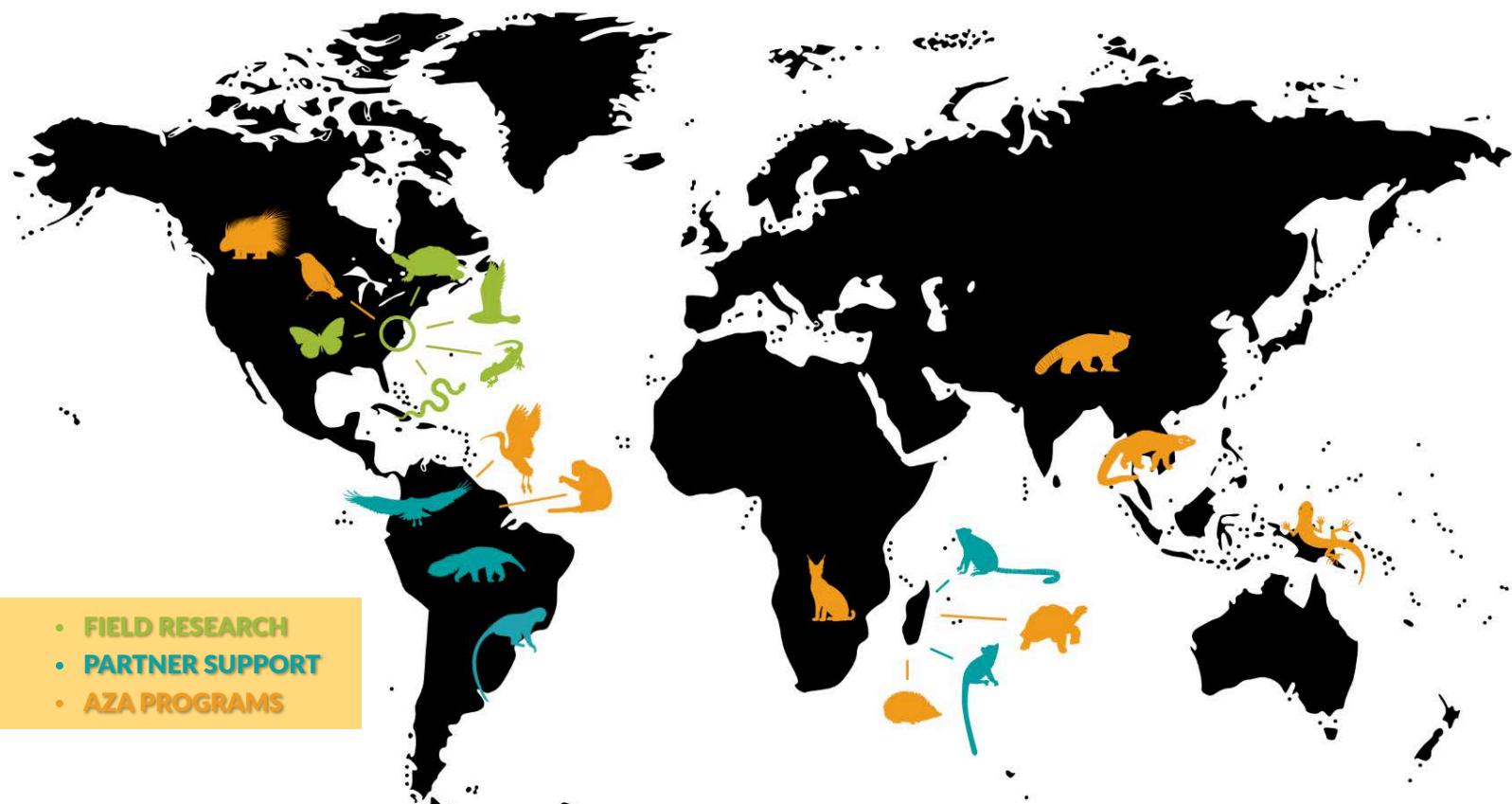
New arrivals to the zoo's animal collection included two Andean Condors, three Helmeted Guineafowl, and one Snowy Egret. The zoo's Ambassador Animal collection also welcomed a Lesser Madagascar Hedgehog Tenrec and a Screaming Hairy Armadillo. You may be able to see these new ambassadors during educational programming in 2026!



This year the zoo welcomed Luca, a male Andean Condor, who arrived at the zoo on his fourth birthday! Andean Condors like Luca are managed through collaborative AZA-managed breeding programs called Species Survival Plans.

Since 1989, 68 Andean condors, raised in American and Colombian zoos, have been released in Colombia, Venezuela, and Peru to re-establish these vulnerable birds in their range countries.

CONSERVATION SCIENCE



CONSERVATION GRANT

In 2025, the Delaware Zoological Society Conservation Grant (DZSCG) provided \$6,000 in funding for field conservation around the globe. With this funding, our partners at the Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership planted 26,000 trees as a part of reforestation efforts. Funding also supported projects at the Zoo Conservation Outreach Group (ZCOG), San Antonio Zoo's Project Selva, and the Delaware Council of Wildlife Rehabilitators.



AZA PROGRAMS

This year the zoo participated in Species Survival Plan (SSP) Programs for 14 species, collaborating in cooperative breeding programs for long-term population management. The zoo also participated in multiple Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) programs, focusing on nationwide conservation for North American Songbirds and the Monarch Butterfly.



FIELD CONSERVATION & CITIZEN SCIENCE

This year zoo staff worked closely with partners around the state to make a difference for wildlife in Delaware! Since 2022, the zoo has reared 97 endangered Bog Turtles for release with the DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife, making a huge difference for their estimated population of around 20 adults in Delaware. Staff also assisted with bat hibernacula surveys and acoustic monitoring, the annual Peregrine Falcon Fledge Watch in Wilmington, and much more. Zoo staff participated in and led trainings for the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, expanding the project's reach across the state. Citizen science projects like a public mothling evening at the zoo and iNaturalist BioBlitz studies were also held throughout the year.

CONSERVATION LEARNING

OVERVIEW

This year, educators led 726 total programs reaching 30,707 guests both on zoo grounds and off. Traveling Zoo programs brought education opportunities to 1,688 students and teachers. A record number of 565 free guest experience programs and events were held this year, making conservation learning more accessible than ever before and reaching 20,846 guests. Zoo Volunteer Docents and VolunTEENs delivered a record breaking 2,257 hours of educational programming for 23,145 guests visiting the zoo.



SUMMER CAMPS

Each year from June through August, Summer Camps are held at the zoo's Education Building. 11 total Summer Camps were held this year, engaging 161 total campers from ages 4-14! Campers engaged in a wide variety of games and activities while learning about wildlife and conservation all summer long.





'PANDA CUBS' EARLY YEARS PROGRAMMING

This year was the third year of the zoo's Panda Cubs Early Years program, bringing inclusive and accessible educational opportunities to students with varying learning needs at Title I Early Years Programs in Wilmington, Delaware. With the support of the M&T Bank Charitable Foundation, 64 total programs were held this year across 18 classrooms at two schools, including 4 field trips to the zoo.

ADULT PROGRAMS

New evening Trivia programs were held this year for zoo guests ages 21 and up looking for a fun way to test their animal knowledge. The success of these events continues to grow, and each event has raised money for the zoo's conservation fund!

ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS



This year, our talented keeper staff led animal encounters that allowed guests to get up close and personal with Giant Anteater, Lemurs, and Red Panda. 345 tickets total were sold, with guests attending from 14 states. Revenue from these programs goes directly to keeper staff development and animal enrichment.

DELAWARE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

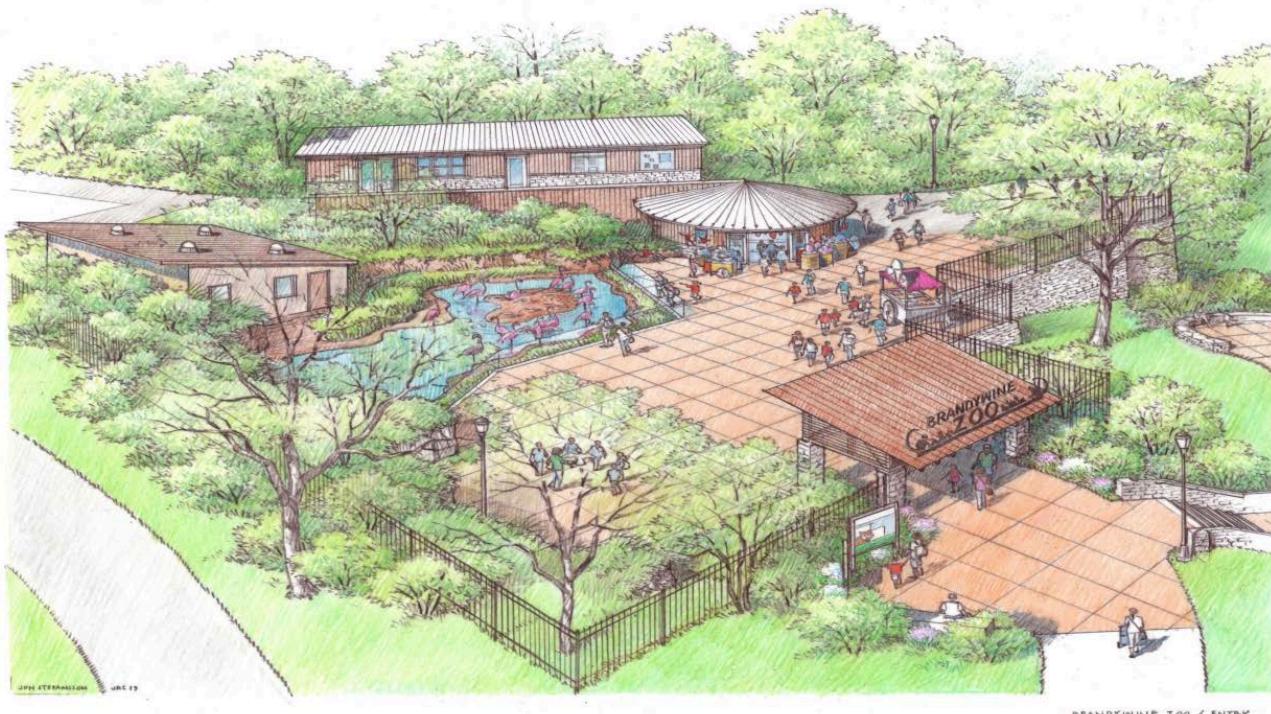
OPERATIONS

Throughout 2025, there was an increase in revenue at the zoo's gift shop and concessions stand. At both locations efforts to reduce plastic remained a priority this year, such as new plush toys made with recycled materials and minimizing plastic packaging. Be sure to visit our gift shop for new apparel designs coming in 2026!



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

This year marked many successes for the zoo's Capital Campaign, *Our Zoo Re-Imagined*. A Community Matching Campaign was held, raising a total of \$24,500 towards capital projects. Additionally, generous donors from the Ellice & Rosa McDonald Foundation, Rockford Woodlawn Trust, and the Bond Bill all contributed to a grand total of \$510,200.00 towards capital projects in 2025.





FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Celebrating the 120th Anniversary of the zoo, a special Zoobilee Gala was held this year, raising \$112,000 for the Capital Campaign. The annual Brew at the Zoo event hosted the highest attendance on record with 578 guests. Other fundraising events included Sip and Strolls, Boo at the Zoo, Family Fun Night, Spirits at the Zoo, and more! The annual Online Auction raised an additional \$6,279, and Guest Bartending events in Wilmington raised \$8,562.



COMING IN 2026

MULTI-SPECIES EXHIBIT

As of early January 2026, work has already begun breaking ground on a brand new multi-species exhibit that will allow for year-round viewing and learning opportunities for guests of all ages. The completion of the new habitat is expected in late spring of 2026.



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

With the completion of the new, multi-species habitat on the horizon, the Delaware Zoological Society and DNREC will be working this year on updating the zoo's master plan, and identifying the zoo's next projects.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 DONORS

ROCKFORD WOODLAWN FUND
ELLICE AND ROSA MCDONALD FOUNDATION
STATE OF DELAWARE BOND BILL

DELAWARE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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BRANDYWINE ZOO LEADERSHIP

BRINT SPENCER

Zoo Director



AMY HADDOCK

General Curator

LAUREN BARCZAK

Curator of Conservation
Science & Learning



ALLYSON COLEMAN

Assistant Curator



OUR VISION

For every guest and every visit, we strive to **inspire awe and action for wildlife**.

OUR MISSION

The purpose of the Brandywine Zoo and the Delaware Zoological Society is to engage and inspire wildlife conservation.

The Brandywine Zoo fulfills its mission by providing an informative, educational, and engaging experience; being respectful and responsible stewards of the animals and the physical and financial assets entrusted to it; and engaging in related conservation activities and research.

This mission requires an unwavering commitment to animal welfare, and therefore the policies and procedures governing the operation of the Zoo's animal programs are fundamental to the institution's success.



Delaware Zoological Society
supporting the BRANDYWINE ZOO



ACCREDITED BY THE
**ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS**

The gold standard for
animal care & welfare