

To: Animal Acquisition Committee

From: W.A. Rapley
Executive Director
Conservation, Education & Research

Subject: **BIRD ACQUISITION FROM ASSINIBOINE PARK ZOO**

Date: 2010-07-29

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Toronto Zoo purchase Wood Pigeons (*Columba palumbus*), Triangle Pigeons (*Columba guinea*), Imperial Pied Pigeons (*Ducula bicolor*), Eared Pheasants (*Crossoptilon* sp.), Eurasian Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*) and Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) for the Kids Zoo, Africa pavilion and Indo-Malaya pavilion from Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg. Except for the Imperial pied pigeon, the species would be new to Toronto Zoo.

Financial Impact:

The most expensive bird will cost \$200. In total, 32 birds for 3 regions would cost approximately \$3500. All birds would be placed into existing exhibits. The pheasants would later be moved to the proposed pheasant aviaries in the present Marco Polo region.

Background:

The Toronto Zoo is presently holding its lowest number of bird species since the 1990's. Age and predation has taken species this year. Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park Zoo is going through some major changes and requires homes for many birds. The above species are birds that we can accommodate.

Comments/Discussion:

Although most of the birds being sought are not in the bird collection plan, they do fit well with the needs of the Zoo for display. The birds are all large and winter hardy. The indoor pigeons are very tolerant of other bird species so compatibility is not a worry. The outdoor species predominantly meant for the Kids Zoo will be used to replace the Canadian species that the Zoo could not get permits for. Crows and doves are also quite tolerant to the presence of people and therefore will adjust more readily than many other bird species.

John Tracogna
Chief Executive Officer

W.A. Rapley
Executive Director
Conservation, Education & Research