

For Immediate Release

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County Executive Joanie Mahoney Announces New Penguin Chicks at the Zoo

Syracuse, N.Y. (February 4, 2015) – County Executive Joanie Mahoney joined staff at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo today to announce that three new Humboldt penguin chicks have hatched in the last three weeks.



The zoo's 42nd penguin chick. (Photo by Maria Simmons)

The zoo's 40th chick hatched on January 9 to Mario and Montaña and weighed 79 grams. The 41st chick hatched on January 17 to Frederico and Poquita and weighed 65 grams. The 42nd chick hatched on January 21 to Frederico and Poquita and weighed 61 grams.

Mahoney introduced the youngest chick at today's press conference.

Zoo staff were able to determine a gender for the 41st chick, which is a girl. Staff asked Mahoney to help name the chick. She chose Lucia, which means "light."

"I am happy to help name Lucia and to introduce the youngest of the three new additions to the zoo's successful penguin program," said Mahoney. "It is always wonderful to have new babies at the zoo. Each winter we look forward to the arrival of penguin chicks. Congratulations to our zoo staff on their continued success."

"The County Executive did a great job naming one of our penguin chicks, Cocotea, in 2012, so we invited her to name the first female chick of 2015," said Ted Fox, zoo director. "The Rosamond Gifford Zoo continues to play an important role in conserving Humboldt penguins. Penguins from our colony will travel to other zoos and aquariums to ensure efforts to continue populating the species."

Humboldt penguins live along the coast of Peru and Chile in the Humboldt Current. They are endangered, with an estimated 10,000 to 12,000 surviving in the wild.

The three chicks will remain under the care of their parents until they are weaned. They will join the rest of the colony on exhibit at Penguin Coast later this spring.

The community will be invited to help name the 40th and 42nd chicks. A contest will be announced at a later date, once zoo staff determines their genders.

Contest details will be shared via a media alert and on the zoo's website and social media platforms.

History of the zoo's penguin program:

Year	Number of Chicks Hatched
2006	4: Carlos, Diego, Montaña & Tierra
2007	5: Andrés, Nicolas, Raul, Sergio & Cuzco
2008	3: Horatio, Javier & Esperanza
2009	5: Pedro, Hugo, Marisol, Amaya & Viviana
2010	9: Esteban, Gabriela, Guillermo, JJ, Juntos, Veinte, Sonia, Eduardo & Beatriz
2011	3: Gisela, Santiago & Paddington
2012	6: Alberto, Ava, Cocotea, Hota, Isa & Rosalita
2013	1: Magdalena
2014	3: Ernesto, Desi, Filomena
2015	3: Lucia, 2 <i>undetermined</i>

Total number of penguins currently in zoo's colony: 35

Males: 16

Females: 17

Undetermined: 2

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Founded in 1914, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park is among the top 10 percent of zoos in the country as an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is dedicated to connecting people to the natural world by providing engaging guest experiences, exceptional animal care, and unparalleled conservation education.

The zoo actively collaborates with Friends of the Zoo to provide its guests "the best day ever," ensuring experiences that excite, memories that endure, and knowledge that inspires worldwide conservation.

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults (19-61), \$4 for youth (3-18) and \$5 for seniors (62+). Children two and under are free. For more information, call the zoo at (315) 435-8511 or visit rosamondgiffordzoo.org.

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County Executive, Joanne M. Mahoney • Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, Bill Lansley
Rosamond Gifford Zoo Director, Ted Fox • Friends of the Zoo President, Janet Agostini

