



# NEWS RELEASE



*For Immediate Release*

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## Six Humboldt Penguin Chicks Hatch at Rosamond Gifford Zoo

Syracuse, N.Y. (March 23, 2016) – County Executive Joanie Mahoney joined staff at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo today to announce that six Humboldt penguin chicks have hatched at the zoo this season. Mahoney introduced one of the chicks at today’s press conference.

“It is always wonderful to welcome new babies at our zoo. We look forward to the arrival of penguin chicks each year. Congratulations to the staff on their continued success,” said Mahoney.

Humboldt penguins are named after the Humboldt Current, a nutrient-rich ocean current in South America that flows along the coast of Peru and Chile. Only 10,000-12,000 Humboldt penguins remain in the wild.

There are currently 37 penguins in the Rosamond Gifford Zoo’s colony. The zoo has hatched 48 chicks since 2006. The newest 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 and summer.

“The Rosamond Gifford Zoo plays an important role in conserving Humboldt penguins. Our penguins are part of a North American population that is genetically and demographically managed by the Species Survival Plan. Penguins from our colony travel to other AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums to ensure efforts to continue populating the species,” says Zoo Director Ted Fox.

Zookeepers have named the first three chicks. The first, a female, is Estrella which means “star” in Spanish. The second, a male, is Luis which means “famous warrior” in Spanish. The third, a male, is Elmer. Elmer’s egg, which suffered a crack early on, was successfully hatched after Zoo Director Ted Fox applied Elmer’s Glue to repair the fissure.

### New Humboldt Penguin Chicks at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo

Birth Date	Gender	Name	Birth Weight	Father/Mother
Dec. 5, 2015	Female	Estrella	77 grams	Cuzco/Pilar
Feb. 20, 2016	Male	Luis	80 grams	Mario/Montaña
Feb. 21, 2016	Male	Elmer	66 grams	Frederico/Poquita
Mar. 3, 2016	Undetermined	TBD	80 grams	Veinte/Isa
Mar. 3, 2016	Undetermined	TBD	78 grams	Santiago/Nero
Mar. 7, 2016	Undetermined	TBD	78 grams	Veinte/Isa

The community will be invited to help vote on a name for one of the three other chicks. A contest will

be announced at a later date, once zoo staff determines the chicks' genders. Contest details will be shared via a media alert and on the zoo's website and social media platforms.



The fourth Humboldt chick hatched at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo (photo by Maria Simmons)

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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](http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org).

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[www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org](http://www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org)

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

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