

THE PARK PRESS

July 2012

Volume 4

Issue 2

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Park Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Peacock

Photo: Park Staff

Q: Why are there peacocks loose in the park? Do they ever escape?

A: Unlike our birds of prey, our peacocks and other show-birds were gifts rather than rescued and rehabilitated. Peacocks are native to India, Java and Burma. They roost in trees, and eat insects and seeds. They don't leave the park since they're fed here; plus, peacocks naturally roost, feed and nest in the same territory day-after-day. They don't need to be penned since they're harmless and are too big to be preyed on. They make excellent natural pest control, and because they're so loud, make for a good alarm system as well.

Q: Where do the animals come from? Why aren't there exotic animals?

A: All the animals on display were either orphaned, raised in captivity, or have been permanently injured, so although rehabilitated cannot be released back into the wild. The Wildlife Park was started with displaying orphaned deer and rehabilitated pheasants and

we have continued to focus on showcasing native Canadian species.

Q: What do the animals eat? How do you feed the large carnivores?

A: All our animals have specially designed meal plans developed by zoo nutritionists. Everything is weighed out precisely so they get the correct calories and nutrients. This is why it's important not to feed our animals except from the provided dispensers. Their dishes are cleaned everyday and they all receive fresh water daily (more often as needed). Park staff follow safety procedures when feeding the animals. In some of the enclosures (like the carnivores) there's a gate system in place to keep the animals separate from staff while there's any work, like cleaning or feeding, to be done. The carnivores aren't fed live animals, they get fresh, inspected meat; often from local sources.



Timber/Grey Wolves

Photo: Park Staff

Latest Question:

Q: Where is the snapping turtle (aka Periwinkle)? After being hatched at the park almost four years ago, it was time to return Periwinkle to her natural habitat. While we enjoyed watching her grow, healthy wild animals belong in the wild and successfully returning an animal to its proper



home is always a delight. So farewell to Periwinkle! Be sure to stop by the Wetland Centre.

Featured Park Friend: Sandhill Crane



Sandhill Cranes Photo: Park Staff

Name: Sandhill Crane

Scientific Name: *Grus canadensis*

Size: Body – 80-120cm

Wingspan – 1.2-1.3m (5-6 feet)

Weight – 3-6.5kg (6.5-14 lbs)

Colour: Light grey body often stained reddish-brown from wetland mud. White cheeks and a red crest (forehead).

Lifespan: about 20 years.

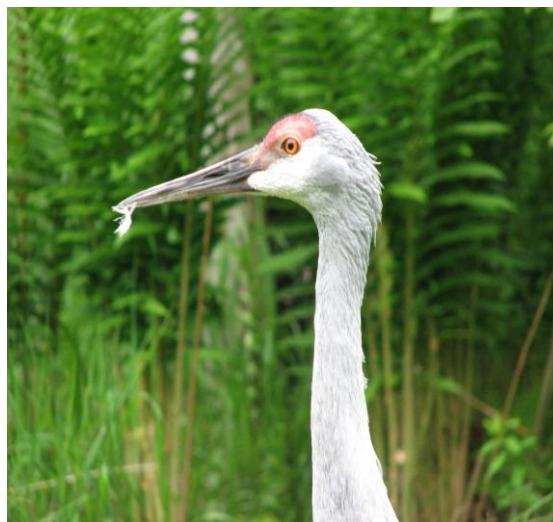
Habitat: Freshwater wetlands like marshes; plus, meadows or grain fields occasionally causing crop damage for farmers.

Range: Summer in Northern US and Canada spreading as far as Alaska and into Siberia. Migrate for the winter to the Southern US, especially Florida and Texas, and into Mexico. During migration three-fourths of all Sandhill Cranes use a single 120km stretch along the Nebraska Platte River.

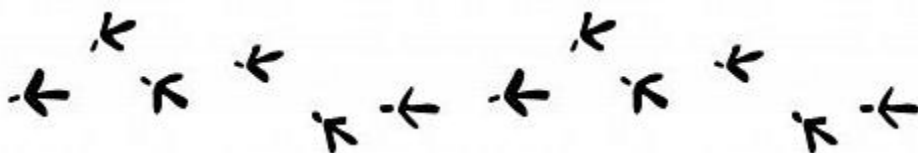
Feeding: Omnivores (plants, grains, mice, snakes, insects, worms, etc)

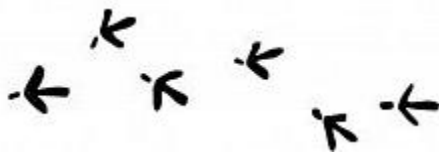
Breeding: Mated pairs stay together all year. They perform “unison calling” making coordinated duets. They build their nests on the ground near the water using plant materials. The female lays 2 eggs, which both parents incubate and defend, but usually only one offspring is successfully raised. The family migrates together and the young take a few years to mature themselves.

Fun Facts: They are one of the few crane species in the world that is not endangered. They make really loud, deep trumpeting and rattling calls. They fly with their necks fully extended rather than tucked in.



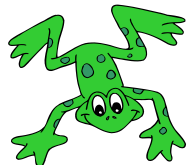
Sandhill Crane Photo: Park Staff





Upcoming Events

Toad and Frog Day



Sat July 21

1 - 4pm

How can you tell the difference between toads and frogs? You can ask us and search for some in their natural habitat. Learn about their life cycles up-close. View the toads and frogs on display at the wetland centre. Come explore our pseudo pond and make a craft. Celebrate Parks Day with us!

Nova Scotia

Sat July 28

Native Plant Hike

1-4pm

Explore our wetland hiking trail with experts from Acadia's Herbarium and our own Department of Natural Resources staff. Identify common and uncommon native plants and learn valuable knowledge on their uses.

No Slandering of the Snakes!



Aug 11

1 - 4pm

We are seriously celebrating Snakes with displays, a colouring contest, a snake race and a 'make-your-own-snake' craft using a recycled tie for \$2. Learn about Nova Scotia's five species of nonpoisonous snakes and meet some personally.

Regular Park Admission Applies.

For more info: call (902) 758-5316

e-mail legacycentre@gov.ns.ca



Did you know?

- **Ants** cannot chew or swallow solid food; instead they drink the juices they squeeze from their food.
- While hanging upside down, blood doesn't rush to the head of a **Bat** because they don't weigh enough for gravity to effect their circulation.
- **Blue Mussels** can pump 1.89 – 2.84 litres (2-3 quarts) of water per hour through their gills to filter out the plankton they eat.
- **Fireflies** are beetles not flies, and they create light without generating much heat through a chemical reaction.



Q: What happens when a frog's car breaks down?

A: He gets toad away!











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THE PARK PRESS

Answer
key

Oh, Canada! Sudoku

	 1		 2
 4			 3
			 1
 1	 3	 2	

Each row, each column and each of the large four squares should have one of each image. Fill in the blanks!

