

## The world's largest living bird returns to the Sac Zoo collection

(Sacramento, CA) -- March 12, 2020 – The Sacramento Zoo is thrilled to announce that the world's largest – and heaviest – bird species has returned to Sacramento as a part of the zoo's collection for the first time since 2015.

The two female ostriches, Cinnamon and Clove, recently arrived in Sacramento from the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. At two-years-old and roughly six-feet-tall, the siblings are full-grown, but young, with an average life expectancy of from 30 to 40 years.



Although they cannot fly, speed and movement are not an issue for ostriches. These flightless birds are strong, capable runners and can sprint up to 43 miles per hour!

Native to the African savanna and deserts, ostriches get most of their water from the plants that they eat. Their diet typically consists of plants, roots and seeds, but in their harsh, native habitats they will sometimes eat insects, lizards or other creatures. Ostriches in human care typically enjoy grain pellets and grape treats as well.

Catch a glimpse of these tall, new additions in the Sac Zoo's zebra yard where they'll be sharing their exhibit space with three Grevy's zebras. This type of mixed-species exhibit isn't new to the Sac Zoo or the birds. Historically, the zoo's zebras have had a long history of cohabitating with ostriches and Cinnamon and Clove lived in a mixed-species environment at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.

Like many native African species, ostrich populations are declining in the wild. By current estimates, there are fewer than 150,000 ostriches remaining in the wild, with their main threats being habitat encroachment and destruction. Your visit to the Sacramento Zoo helps to care for this incredible species and many others, both at the zoo and in the wild.

*Fun fact: Contrary to popular belief and lore, ostriches don't actually bury their heads in the sand. As a defense mechanism, or when ostriches sense trouble, they will lay low to the ground and flatten their heads and necks out in front of them as their plumage and coloration blend well with the habitat around them.*

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Open since 1927, the Sacramento Zoo is home to nearly 500 native, rare and endangered animals and is one of more than 200 accredited institutions of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The Sacramento Zoo, managed by the nonprofit Sacramento Zoological Society, inspires conservation awareness and action through education and recreation. Daily admission is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; zoo grounds are open until 5 p.m. General admission is \$17.50; children ages 2- 11 are \$12.50 and children one and under are admitted free. For information, call 916-808-5888 or visit [saczoo.org](http://saczoo.org).

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