



PRESS RELEASE  
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For Immediate Release  
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## **Rare White-naped Crane Hatches**

*Zoo thrilled to add rare bird to population*

**Jackson, MS June 10, 2011**

The staff of the Jackson Zoo are delighted to announce that its pair of White-naped Cranes have successfully hatched an offspring on Thursday, June 9th. With only about 5,000 individuals remaining in the wild, this addition is significant.

The Jackson Zoo's male crane is 18 years old and was hatched at the Cincinnati Zoo. The female is 27 years old and was hatched at the Bronx Zoo. They both came to the Jackson Zoo in February 2010. They may be viewed in their exhibit next to the Red Panda.

A second egg was laid but did not hatch (it is being monitored in an incubator).

These cranes are rare due to ongoing habitat loss and overhunting in some areas. They breed in northeastern Mongolia, northeastern China, and adjacent areas of southeastern Russia.

The demilitarized zone between North Korea and South Korea is expected to be developed shortly, which may deprive the white-naped crane of one of its most important wintering sites. The possibility of a military conflict in the Korean DMZ poses an additional threat.

Nests are mounds of dried sedges and grasses in open wetlands. Females usually lay two eggs and incubation (by both sexes) lasts 28-32 days. The male takes the primary role in defending the nest against possible danger. Chicks fledge (first flight) at 70-75 days.

Their diet consists mainly of insects, seeds, roots, plants and small animals.



Female White-naped Crane and chick to left of her head.

Zoo admission is \$9.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children ages 2-12, and \$8.10 for senior citizens (65 and over). Children under the age of 2 and Friends of the Zoo members are admitted free of charge.

The Jackson Zoo is located at 2918 West Capitol Street in Jackson and is open daily from 8am- 4 pm. Visit [www.jacksonzoo.org](http://www.jacksonzoo.org) to check out exciting special events, animal updates, one-of-a-kind education programs, membership and adoption packages, and so much more. The Jackson Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). The AZA is America's leading accrediting organization that sets rigorous, professional standards for zoos and aquariums. The AZA is building North America's largest wildlife conservation movement by engaging and inspiring the 143 million annual visitors to its member institutions and their communities to care about and take action to help protect wildlife.

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### Other recent significant births



Male Malayan Tapir born May 26th.



Female Reticulated Giraffe born May 1st.