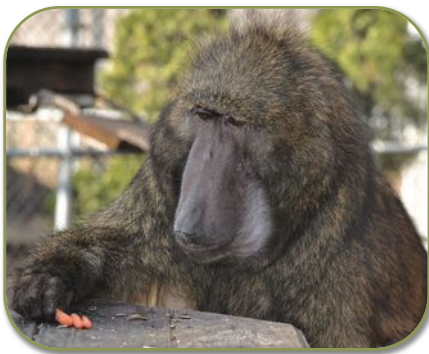




WINTER 2020

VOL. 30, NO 1

## Want to Help Feed Our Animals?



Our Popcorn Park residents eat a wide variety of food from soup to nuts. (Okay, maybe not soup, but definitely nuts.) While some of their diets are quite specialized, many of them eat foods that you can help purchase through a gift card at one of our feed suppliers.

(Continued on Page 3)

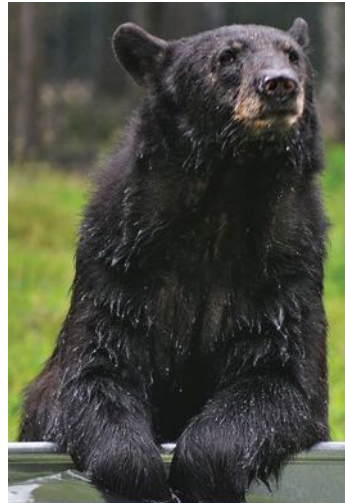
## A Bear's A Bear .... Right?

Not really!

North America is home to three distinct types of bears, and one of them is the American black bear. As a supporter of Popcorn Park, you're undoubtedly familiar with this bear, as we have three - BooBoo, Bonnie, and Maryann.



Above is BooBoo, who arrived from Iowa in 1998 at 2 years of age. At left is Bonnie from Ohio who joined Popcorn Park in 2005 with two other black bears at the age of 4.



The three North American species are black bears, brown bears (which includes grizzlies) and polar bears. It might seem that they're more or less the same, except for coloring, but even that can be confusing because black bears can be black, brown, or cinnamon. They can even be white like the Kermode bear - also known as the Spirit Bear - found only in certain forests in British Columbia, Canada. Grizzlies can range from black to blonde and every shade in between. Polar bears, of course, are noticeably white. But what *does* make them different then?

Continued on Page 3

## Who's Zoo?

1. This fella was kept in very poor condition, and mistakenly, as a pet. In the wild, he lives on an atoll in the Seychelles islands northeast of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. Who is he?

2. This gentle lady joined us back in 2006 with her mom and sister. Her owners could no longer afford the little family's care. Who could this be?

3. Perhaps not as brightly colored as her male counterpart - as is the case with many birds - this lady has a special beauty all her own. (Hint - name the smallest denomination coin in the U.S.) Who is she?

Answers Page 3

## Make A Difference Right Now

If you support the Popcorn Park Zoological Society, it's safe to say you care about animals and the world they - and we - all live in. Here are a few very do-able ways you can make a difference to our planet right now.

◆ **Consider what you eat** - buy local to reduce greenhouse gases associated with transporting food; avoid products with palm oil as the rainforest is being cut down to grow palm oil plantations; eat sustainably caught seafood to assure biodiversity in our oceans; eat more plant-based foods - 75% of all crops and pastures worldwide are used for livestock!

◆ **Help pollinators** - plant only native plants (Cont'd. Page 4)



Little Girl

## A Bear's A Bear .... Right? (Cont'd. from Page 1)



PHOTO COURTESY: DWAYNE REILANDER / WIKIPEDIA

### A grizzly bear near Jasper Townsite in Jasper National Park, Alberta, Canada

While polar bears are immediately identifiable by their white coat, what is it that sets the brown bears (regionally known as grizzly bears) and black bears apart? Diet is not a major factor, nor are their size and weight the critical factors one might suspect. Depending on location, brown and black bears can be almost interchangeable in these characteristics. But here are the critical differences:

◆ Shape of head - Grizzlies have a noticeably dish-shaped muzzle and forehead in profile, while black bears have a fairly straight line from top of the head to nose.



Note the nearly straight topline of Maryann's head in profile. Maryann and Bonnie came together and share a compound.

◆ Ears - Grizzly ears are on the small side, rounded and fuzzy, while black bears' ears tend to be longer, more pointy, and are set more erect on the top of their head.

◆ The grizzly bear has a pronounced hump behind the neck; black bears have a smoother topline with a rump that is a bit higher than the head.

◆ Claws - Grizzly claws are light-colored, gently curved and are 2-4" long. A shorter, dark claw, 2" or less, and sharply curved identifies a black bear.



PHOTO COURTESY: WIKIPEDIA

**Polar bear wet from swimming and most likely, hunting, in Norway.**

bear fur appears white, but is actually translucent and often yellows with age. It is also hollow and oily so that they can easily shake water and ice after swimming. Their skin beneath the fur is black to absorb the sun's heat. Due to climate change and diminishing ice, the polar bear is currently listed as a vulnerable species.

Thanks to [bearaware.org](http://bearaware.org), the [Get Bear Smart Society at bearsmart.com](http://Get Bear Smart Society at bearsmart.com), and [polarbearsinternational.org](http://polarbearsinternational.org)

Polar bears evolved from brown bears approximately 150,000 years ago, and are the largest land-based predators in the world. Adult males stand about 4-5' at the shoulder and weigh between 800 and 1,600 pounds. Polar bears are primarily carnivores.

They have an elongated neck and muzzle to catch seals in the Arctic ice and powerful hindquarters enabling them to drag animals to the surface. They are also excellent and tireless swimmers.

### What happens to Popcorn Park's turtles in winter?

*Our tortoises all go inside and have lots of straw, heat lamps, and the same yummy diet they have the rest of the year. But what about our pond turtles?*

*Can they winter over outside?*

*Some probably could, but some definitely could not.*

*Most of our residents are red-ear sliders, but we also have a map turtle and a couple river sliders, which are not native to the area and would not survive outdoor hibernation. In addition, the turtle pond is shallow, only about 2' deep, so all the turtles are brought inside the barn around October.*

*Here the turtles are placed in artificial ponds that are temperature controlled and monitored to keep them healthy.*

*They come back out again around May, after their pond has been thoroughly cleaned, ready for a nice warm spring and summer.*

*Where do our turtles come from? They are generally surrendered by someone who obtained them from out of state as pets and no longer wanted them.*

*(Ownership is illegal in New Jersey.) Or they were found wandering on their own and brought to us by good Samaritans or retrieved by staff. These lucky turtles now live the good life with us at Popcorn Park.*



***"Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud." ~Maya Angelou***



*Always remember to be kind - help support the animals at Popcorn Park through the Zoological Society or our Wildlife Club. Lend a helping hand to an animal in need - we're here to help you!*

## Want to Help Feed Our Animals?



Winter is a chilly time and all our residents need extra fuel to keep warm.

Always needed? Hay and grain. It feeds all our horses, like Seven, left, as well as other farm animals such as our goats and sheep, and also deer. We use cracked corn, seeds and nuts to feed our ducks, chickens, peacocks, and other resident birds, as well as Snowball and Ponz!

To help feed many of our animals, request a gift card from Monmouth Feed Supply in Farmingdale at (732) 938-4646 and they can send it to you or

right to us with a weekly delivery. Or order a gift card from Tractor Supply in Waretown online at [tractorsupply.com](http://tractorsupply.com) or call them at (609) 693-3030. Thank you!

## Answers to Who'sZoo?

1. Our Aldabra tortoise, Max, is the boy in question. Unfortunately, even tortoises like these, which can live to be 150 years old and weigh an average of 550 pounds, have fallen into the hands of the pet trade, where owners are ill-equipped to provide proper care, and rarely for a lifetime. Today, the Aldabra tortoise is considered a vulnerable species.

2. This would be Jezebel, our very sweet donkey, who lives with her mom, Jenny. We happily accepted them when they needed us and have given them a good life. Jez is now a senior at 22 years old. Donkeys are often adopted as pets and as companions to other animals, such as horses.

3. Penelope is a very beautiful peahen, seen here fluffing her feathers against the winter cold, to which peahens adapt quite well. If you've visited Popcorn Park, you know we have a number of peacocks and peahens. The beauty of sponsoring Penelope is that you get quite a bargain - sponsor her, and you help support them all!



*We greatly value your support of the Zoological Society. If you would also like to sponsor an animal, all the Popcorn Park residents featured in ZoonooZ are available for Wildlife Club sponsorship online at <https://www.ahscares.org/AnimalSummary/19>*

## Who Cooks for You?

This simple line is how the call of one of our native owls is described - the Barred Owl, one of eight species that live in New Jersey. The other seven are: Northern Saw-whet Owl, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, Eastern Screech Owl, and the Snowy Owl. These are among nineteen species that live across North America.



PHOTO: / WIKIPEDIA

Some of our owls are year-round residents and are found throughout North America, such as the Great Horned Owl, while others may appear in winter only, some even depending what part of New Jersey you live in, such as the Northern Saw-whet. They vary widely in size, weight, and wing span, some having spans of 4-5,' and some less than 2'.

All owls are carnivores and most survive by consuming rodents, why they're often a favorite of farmers, and other small animals which may include fish and even insects. The largest of the eight owls, the Great Horned Owl, may dine on rabbits, geese, groundhogs, and even other raptors.

Owls are active and hunting at night, but you still might spot one during the day napping on a tree limb up high. How can you tell which owl you hear at night? Listening for their calls is one easy way. The Eastern Screech Owl has a tremulous call, as well as a higher one, likened to a horse whinnying on helium. Other owls shriek, cackle, hiss, "bark", and of course, the familiar "Whoooo."

See whooo's in your neighborhood at:

<https://birdwatchinghq.com/owls-in-the-united-states/> or  
<https://abcbirds.org/blog20/owl-species-united-states/>

**Join the Zoological Society & save on visits all year long! You can also give a membership as a gift!**

*Yes! I want to help support Popcorn Park. Sign me up for the Zoological Society!*

Please sign me up as a new member at the membership level below:

Please renew my membership at the level below:

- \$75 - Family       \$60 - Single  
 \$50 - Golden Opportunity       \$90 - Sustaining  
 \$150 - Donor       \$500 - Patron       \$1,000 - Sponsor

Zoological Society General Support - Enclosed is a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please send me the ZoonooZ for one year!

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**You can also join online where you will receive the ZoonooZ digitally or you can request it by mail.**  
<https://www.ahscares.org/contentpage/4185>

# ZOONOOZ

Popcorn Park  
P.O. Box 43  
Forked River, NJ 08731-0043

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
ASSOCIATED  
HUMANE SOCIETIES

## Ready to play?

Animal lovers, it's been a while since we played "Name That Group!", and we have some real challenges for you.

Ready to play? Below is a list of animals - can you give the collective noun that describes them when in a group? Note - some have more than one. Good luck! (answers below)

1. Bats
2. Frogs
3. Pandas
4. Squirrels
5. Giraffes
6. Pelicans
7. Unicorns (!)
8. Wombats
9. Blue jays
10. Domesticated cats AND feral cats (different group names)



AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN BY MICHAEL L. BAIRD

Answers: 1. Bats - a cauldron. A colony in a cave, a cloud if in flight. 2. Frogs - an army. 3. Pandas - an embarrassment, bamboo or cupboard. 4. Squirrels - a scurry or dray. 5. Giraffes - a tower. 6. Pelicans - brief, pod, pouch, scoop or squadron. 7. Unicorns - a blessing. 8. Wombats - a wisdom. 9. Blue jays - a scold, band or party. 10. Domestic cats - a clowder; feral cats - a destruction.

## Make A Difference Right Now (Cont'd. from page 1)



in your yard; add plants like milkweed to attract butterflies; avoid pesticides and purchasing storebought plants that contain neonicotinoids which kill pollinators.

◆ **Lower your carbon footprint** - Consider such things as solar panels, composting, organizing your errands into one trip instead of several to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

◆ **Respect nature** - When you go birding, hiking, or traveling, be sure to leave behind nothing but footprints.

◆ **Support** environmentally friendly businesses and **research** political candidates to be sure they support your views of a beautiful and sustainable planet for wildlife and all life.

## Don't forget!



# ZOONOOZ

ZoonooZ is published by the Associated Humane Societies/Popcorn Park

ZoonooZ ..... Jeanne Balsam  
Popcorn Park Gen. Mgr. ... John Bergmann

Photographer  
John Bergmann

Please address all correspondence to:

John Bergmann/ ZoonooZ  
Popcorn Park  
PO Box 43  
Forked River, NJ 08731-0043



@ popcornparkzoo  
Web: ahscares.org  
E: NJHumane@ahsppz.org  
Phone: (609) 693-1900

Information filed with the Attorney General concerning this charitable solicitation may be obtained from the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey by calling (973) 504-6215. Registration with the Attorney General does not imply endorsement. Charitable Registration #-CH012-6200, Tax Exempt # 221 487122.

Our recently updated Popcorn Park Coloring Book is packed with information about animals, including those living at Popcorn Park, and fun to color! It is now available for free download on our website. Just go to [ahscares.org/giftshop](http://ahscares.org/giftshop) and then to Publications. You can also order a paper version for only \$1.00 each online or by mail at "Coloring Book" at our Popcorn Park address above. For safety's sake, we're all still inside quite a bit - why not have fun and learn about animals?