



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 3, 2009

NEW PARAKEET ADVENTURE OPENS TODAY AT ZOO ATLANTA *Boundless Budgies Descend on the City of Atlanta*

WHAT: The parakeets have landed, and today, Zoo Atlanta's *Boundless Budgies: A Parakeet Adventure* opens with an official ribbon-cutting.

Long renowned for showcasing wildlife in naturalistic settings, Zoo Atlanta raises wild encounters to new heights with the debut of a 2,200 square-foot aviary, home to more than 500 parakeets (*also known as budgies*). The *Boundless Budgies* are free to fly, roam, and forage throughout their new habitat. Guests will have the opportunity to hand-feed the parakeets with specially-made seed sticks, encouraging up-close-and-personal interactions unlike any other ever offered in Zoo Atlanta's 120-year history.

"It's always exciting when a new exhibit opens at Zoo Atlanta, however what makes this experience so special is its interactive nature," said Dennis Kelly, President and CEO. "We are proud to bring citizens of Atlanta the largest aviary in the Southeast."

Representing one of numerous subspecies of parakeets, budgerigars, or "budgies" as they're familiarly known, are often seen in flocks numbering in the thousands in their native Australia. Gregarious and highly active during daylight hours, the birds roost in trees but are equally comfortable on the ground. Their outgoing nature and perpetually busy behavior also adds a visually stunning component to the aviary, which also features lush landscape work, pools and brooks.

The product of over a year of construction and design, the aviary is the largest of its kind in the Southeast and one of the largest in the U.S.

WHEN: Friday, April 3, 2009 10 a.m.

WHERE: Zoo Atlanta (Parakeet exhibit)
800 Cherokee Avenue, S.E.
Atlanta, GA 30315

VISUALS: Over 500 color parakeets
Colorful exhibit opening – (lush landscape, water elements)

CONTACT: Keisha N. Hines-Davis, Director of Public Relations and Communications
404.624.5980 – office
404.309.2238 – cell

khines-davis@zooatlanta.org

Simone Griffin, Public Relations Coordinator
404.624.2809 - office
sgriffin@zooatlanta.org

ABOUT:

About Zoo Atlanta

An accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Zoo Atlanta inspires value and preservation of wildlife through a unique mix of education and outdoor family fun. From well-known native wildlife to critically endangered species on the brink of extinction, the Zoo offers memorable close encounters with more than 1,000 animals from around the world. Zoo Atlanta is the proud home of Xi Lan, the only giant panda cub born in the U.S. in 2008, and the future home of the Southeast's largest parakeet aviary, an immersive experience opening in April 2009. Other highlights include one of the nation's most recognized collections of great apes and a global center of excellence for the care and reproduction of vanishing amphibians and reptiles. Zoo Atlanta is open daily with the exceptions of Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Keeper talks, interactive wildlife shows, education programs and special events run year-round. For more information, call 404.624.WILD or go to zooatlanta.org.

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