



30th of June 2016

Press Release

This tweet is all over town

On the 30th of June, “The World of Birds” opened at Zoo Berlin

Have you ever tried your luck on a beak wheel? Or studied a flight-route map? Starting straight away, Zoo Berlin is inviting its visitors on an exciting “flight of discovery” through the world of birds. Fun interactive experiences are waiting for young and old explorers alike during an adventure-packed journey into the empire of feathers.

The building was opened in 2013 and is barely recognizable compared to the structure that had been there previously. With its grey concrete walls it would have only impressed a common swift at best. New plants, lots of natural light and lots more space ensure chirpily-happy residents who are obviously delighted with the results of the renovation work. “You notice that the animals are far more relaxed and at ease since the renovation work was completed”, confirmed the Zoo and Tierpark Director Dr. Andreas Knieriem. “The birds now have far more places to perch and fly to, as well as natural places to retreat to, should they want some peace and quiet”. And he is also certain that the visitors will also be flying through the gates of the zoo to see the new “World of Birds”.

“With its new bird house, Zoo Berlin has a new highlight to offer its visitors, while our feathered stars now have a new stage that does them justice”, confirmed the Chairman of the Zoo Berlin AG Frank Bruckmann. “Take a journey through the continents and discover and learn fascinating facts about the bird world. This is something that we can really be proud of.”

The number of different species of birds was reduced from 104 down to 97 and 48 small indoor and outdoor aviaries were combined into 35 larger ones. The two previous small free flight halls Australia and Africa were combined to create the large Africa free flight hall which now measures an impressive 450 m². With the help of artificial rocks, plants and natural soil, an absolutely unique habitat was recreated, in which the inhabitants have far more space to move around in. This also allowed special activity stimuli to be created for many of the bird species, while it also meant that all birds could live far happier lives in accordance with their natural behaviour. More plants were also planted in the 35 external aviaries. The birds now have more places where they can retreat to in order to brood for example, while the newly designed bird house also offers visitors a new and more detailed insight into what the birds’ daily lives are like.

Thanks to a new ventilation system and the heated door frames, a far better interior climate is created. The Red-Billed Leiothrix is particularly taken with the many places to sunbath in the spacious and sunlight-filled Asian tropical landscape which measures 405 m². Instead of walking past dreary, small exhibition cases, visitors now get the feeling that they are a guest in the natural habitat of the feathered inhabitants when entering the free flight hall. Where the thick jungle opens into a clearing,



the outline of an Asian bamboo village emerges from the soft-green of the jungle background. From its lofty location, the discoverer station gives visitors a spectacular bird's-eye view over the very large free flight areas Africa and Asia. Eagle-eyed visitors will be able to catch a glimpse of a Grey Peacock-Pheasant between the climbing plants, trees and rock landscapes or the shy White-Winged Wood Duck, and with a little bit of luck, even the male Blue-Capped Cordon-Bleu as he performs his courtship dance with a blade of grass in his beak.

There are four "loops" located around the free flight halls that give visitors the chance to get active themselves. On 65-inch touchscreen displays, visitors can learn about how the individual types of feathers and beaks function, as well as getting an insight into the anatomy of a bird. The bird building block allows visitors to create their own new and exotic types of birds. A QR-code means that the visitor can take their new creation with them and post it on social media via their personal account. The migration of the birds lifts the secret behind the unbelievable long-distance flights that are only possible due to a sophisticated interplay between physical efficiency and excellent navigation. In order to be able to put these three interactive learning stations in place, Zoo Berlin worked together with the inter-disciplinary studio for media scenography Tamschick from Berlin. The Tierpark und Zoo Berlin e.V. support association made a donation which made it possible to create the learning stations.

Penguins dive in the stairwell, flocks of birds fly by and the giant Moa makes its flightless relative, the Kiwi, look tiny: the illusion painter Lars Oschatz and the artist Bettina Bick did some absolutely amazing work in what is probably Europe's most modern bird house! The bare concrete walls have disappeared behind lovingly created drawings of animals in the midst of their artistically-created exotic home habitats. In vibrant turquoise, brilliant blue, sun-yellow and dramatic red, the parrots and songbirds enchant visitors with their wonderfully colourful feathers. All the colours of the rainbow live here together under one roof, and the beauty of this sea of exotic colours will make all visitors just one colour – green with envy of such beauty!

Besides the very much-loved inhabitants such as the majestic Hyacinth Macaw or the endangered Bali Myna, the "World of Birds" will also welcome a number of new arrivals. For example, the Golden-Headed Manakin, which is known for its spectacular courtship dance – it looks like it's doing Michael Jackson's "moonwalk". And the tame and trusting Nicobar Pigeon is particularly looking forward to greet the new arrivals personally.

There are now 221 birds from 97 different species who call the World of Birds their home. In total, 1,725 individual birds from 300 different bird species live in Zoo Berlin. The bird house was originally planned by the architect Lehrecke Witschurke.