



## AVIARY OVERVIEW



FIRST YOU'LL HEAR THEM. Then, one by one, you'll begin to see them. A spot of deep royal blue darting through the palm fronds. A black and yellow flash soaring across a waterfall. As you search among the greens and browns that make up

PIED HORNBILL

the rain forests and wetland marshes of our tropical Southeast Asian environment, patient observation will reveal the hundreds of birds exhibited here in naturalistic surroundings.

Welcome to the world of tropical birds. And make no mistake about it, you're in their world now. As in the wild, every bird has staked out its own territory. Each competes for food space, perching spots, nest sites, ground space, even nesting materials. They range from ground-dwelling birds, water birds, shore and shrub birds to flocking birds and those that live in tree-top canopies.



You're seeing them on their terms. So watch carefully. And Listen. Look up. Look around. Observe and help the children to observe. Above all, be patient. As you become a part of their world,

RHINOCEROS HORNBILL PURPLE SWAMP HEN

they'll reveal themselves to you.

YOU'RE IN ONE OF THE WORLD'S OUTSTAND-ING AVIARIES. Metrozoo's 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> acre, 65 ft. high free-flight aviary is among the largest

and finest in the world. And it's perhaps the most innovative. You're surrounded by 100

Species of tropical plants, many of them rare. Exotic palms. A variety of hardwoods. Fruit trees with berries, nectar and fruit which the birds naturally feed on. Wings of Asia is the home of over 300 birds, more than 100 species. Through breeding programs and new acquisitions, our collection will be continually changing

and growing. One of the most unusual aspects of our aviary is the presence of entire flocks of birds which fly as a group throughout the aviary's expanse. Other birds were selected to be part of Wings of Asia for their size, like our wading birds. Some were chosen for their vivid colors. And still others for their distinctive songs.

EDUCATION. CONSERVATION. AND PURE ENJOYMENT. Our major goal in recreating their native Southeast Asian home is to encourage the birds to behave as they would in the wild. And the most natural behavior of all is reproduction.

Reproduction is vitally important to the zoo's aim of conservation, especially for the endangered or extremely rare species in our aviary. What's more, this behavior enables you to observe the birds' natural breeding displays and rearing of their young.



Of course, the ideal way to catch the subtleties of behavior and intricate beauty of a bird is through a pair of binoculars. And, by the way, the birds are fed twice daily, around 10:30 a.m. and 4:00



p.m.—a great time to see a lot of activity and talk with the zookeepers.

Throughout the aviary, you'll notice original watercolor paintings created by the Metrozoo design team. Take a moment to study the signs and try to identify the birds they represent. But remember. Nature doesn't always reveal its treasures immediately. Take time and get the most out of this unique experience.



WINGS OF ASIA IS SPONSORED BY THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF FLORIDA. The Society supports the zoo's commitment to education, conservation, research and recreation. It generates funds which go toward maintaining and enhancing Metrozoo's educational programs, special exhibits and recreational activities. And the Zoological Society helps to finance major projects, including our aviary.

Society members receive free admission to Metrozoo and to special "members only" events, plus discounts on educational programs and many other benefits. If you'd like to be a part of this very special group, please give us a call at 255-5551.

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THE HANGING BRIDGE