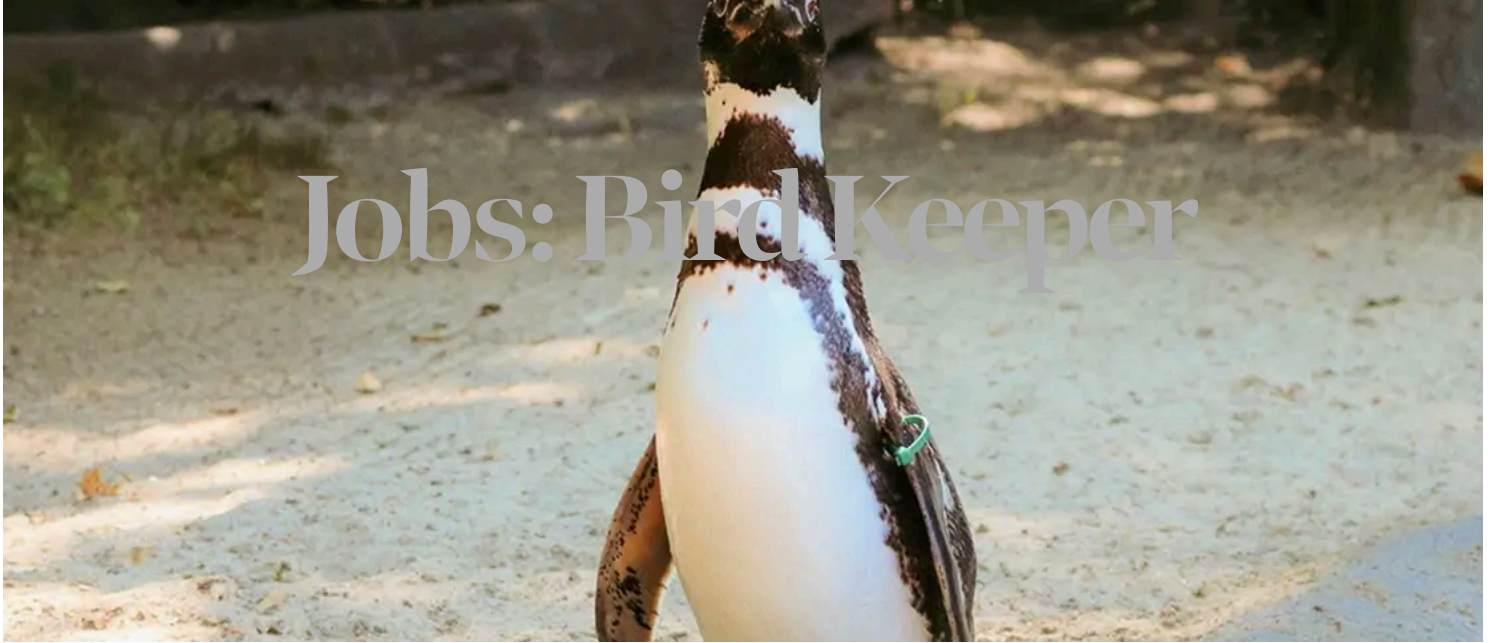


🕒 Today's hours: 10:00am - 4:00pm



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**GO BACK**

**JOB TYPE**

Full-Time

**DEPARTMENT**

Birds & Reptiles

**EXPERIENCE**

4 Year Degree or Relevant Work Experience

**POSTED**

April 23, 2026

The Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines, Iowa is a non-profit organization and home to more than 2,800 animals representing nearly 240 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish, and is fully accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The mission of the Blank Park Zoo is to inspire an appreciation of the natural world through conservation, education, research and recreation.

**Position Purpose**

This position is under the direct supervision of the Bird Supervisor and is responsible for performing a variety of tasks related to animal care of approximately 35 species of birds including Cassowary, Crowned Cranes, Sarus Cranes, Budgerigars, Kori Bustards, Blue Cranes, Kookaburras, Cinereous Vultures, Tawny Frogmouth, Green-naped Pheasant Pigeon, Black Swan, Eclectus Parrot and 2 species of reptiles including Aldabra Tortoises. Please note that this team does not take care of the zoo's penguins.

**Essential Functions**

*Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform these essential functions.*



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- Participates in membership programs including tours, presentations and lectures.
- Adheres to established animal handling, chick, breeding, and related safety protocols. Participates in established animal escape drills and procedures. Under supervision, captures, restrains, and transports animals.
- Assists in protected and free contact training animals for husbandry and medical needs using operant conditioning.
- Performs minor repairs and improvements of exhibits under supervision.
- Identifies and communicates with maintenance repairs needed for the safety of animals, visitors and staff as well as overall upkeep of the facilities.
- Functions effectively in both team and individual settings, and works toward adopting and creating best animal welfare practices.
- Collaborates with area supervisor and team to achieve common husbandry goals.
- Actively supports area policies and procedures, mission, vision, values, and strategic plan of the Blank Park Zoo.
- Other duties as assigned.

#### Competencies

- Resourceful- Understanding of, or has the ability to, research all applicable topics as they relate to modern zoological management, operations of an attraction and customer service.
- Flexible- Ability to handle a flexible workload with a variety of assignments while also maintaining composure in an environment that can be stressful.
- Independent- Must be able to operate independently, exercise initiative, and demonstrate capacity for detail and follow-up.
- Positive- Must be a positive, effective team member and be able to establish professional working relationships.



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- Customer-oriented – Must be able to exercise professional customer service skills at all times, with many different types of people and all situations.

### Supervisory/Management Responsibilities

Assists with supervision of interns, volunteers, and seasonal staff.

### Work Environment

While performing the duties of the job, the incumbent is regularly required to stand, walk on even terrain, climb, and utilize manual dexterity to use various tools, machines, and equipment. Most of the job tasks are completed inside. However, the incumbent is occasionally exposed to all types of weather conditions including extreme heat and cold, snow, hail, wind, and rain. Some work is required in small and/or confined spaces. Incumbents are exposed to noisy environments such as mowers and motors.

### Physical Requirements

The physical requirements described are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of the job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to successfully perform the essential functions.

Ascending or descending ladders, stairs, scaffolding, ramps, poles and the like.

Never     Occasionally     Constantly

Moving self in different positions to accomplish tasks in various environments including tight and confined spaces.

Never     Occasionally     Constantly

Remaining in a stationary position, often standing or sitting for prolonged periods.

Never     Occasionally     Constantly

Moving about to accomplish tasks or moving from one worksite to another



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Never     Occasionally     Constantly

Repeating motions that may include the wrists, hands and/or fingers.

Never     Occasionally     Constantly

Operating machinery and/or power tools.

Never     Occasionally     Constantly

Operating motor vehicles or heavy equipment.

Never     Occasionally     Constantly

Assessing the accuracy, neatness and thoroughness of the work assigned.

Never     Occasionally     Constantly

Driving.

Never     Occasionally     Constantly

Stooping, kneeling, crouching, or crawling –

Never     Occasionally     Constantly

Reaching with hands and arms.

Never     Occasionally     Constantly

Tasting or smelling.

Never     Occasionally     Constantly

Vision



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### Required education and experience

- Four-year college degree in Biology, Zoology, Animal Ecology, or a related field.
- 1+ years of paid experience in animal husbandry (preferably in a zoo setting).
- Experience with Microsoft office, Excel spreadsheets, and Google drive are encouraged.

### Additional eligibility requirements

- Must be insurable to drive a zoo vehicle.
- Must be able to maintain work hours that will serve the needs of the Blank Park Zoo
- Must be able to operate various equipment, including skid loaders, trailers, and large vehicles.
- Must be able to maintain calm and act professionally in all situations such as emergencies and guest interactions

### Licenses/Certifications

Valid Iowa motor vehicle license or ability to obtain.

Willing to obtain First Aid/CPR Training.

### Other Duties

Please note this job description is not designed to cover or contain a comprehensive listing of activities, duties or responsibilities that are required of the employee for this job. Duties, responsibilities, and activities may change at any time with or without notice.

### Affirmative Action/EEO statement

Blank Park Zoo is an equal opportunity employer and give employment and promotional



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