

MICRONESIAN KINGFISHER

- This small kingfisher is one of the most critically endangered bird species in the world – only about 60 of the birds remain, and all of them live in zoos.
- In the wild, these birds were native to the island of Guam, in the south Pacific, where they primarily ate lizards and small animals (not fish!)
- The reason for the Micronesian kingfisher’s decline is the brown tree snake which was brought to the island of Guam accidentally, sometime after World War II.
- The birds of Guam were not adapted to life with tree-climbing, predatory snakes and now 9 of Guam’s 11 native species of forest-dwelling birds are extinct. Five of these extinct species were found only on Guam, but two of them (the Micronesian kingfisher and Guam rail) were brought into captive breeding programs in the U.S. and Guam.
- Our kingfisher is a male and currently lives alone because Micronesian kingfishers are solitary unless they are a breeding pair. We hope to someday get a mate for him, but because there are more male kingfishers than females in zoos today, he is an “eligible bachelor” for the time being.

DID YOU KNOW? Different species of kingfishers can be found all over the world – we have the belted kingfisher right here in Pennsylvania.



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