



Inspection Report

Decatur Park District
71 S. Country Club Road
DECATUR, IL 62521

Customer ID: **2568**
Certificate: **33-C-0040**
Site: 001
DECATUR PARK DISTRICT

Type: FOCUSED INSPECTION
Date: 28-OCT-2024

3.150(a) **Critical** **Repeat**

Facilities, general.

On the morning of October 26, 2024 at approximately 7:30 am a keeper on thier morning checks found that both of the 10 yr old Screech Owls were killed overnight by what the zoo thinks is a possible mink. There were no other birds in the primary enclosure, only the male and female Screech Owls. There were no bird carcasses found inside the enclosure, only some feathers located beside a 1.5 x 2 inch gap under the wooden based/wire fence along the back of the primary enclosure where it appears the predator gained entry into the enclosure.

While there is 2 x 2 inch wire fencing covering the entire dirt floor, there was nothing connecting the 1 x 2 inch side wire with a wooden base to the floor wire. It appears the predator was able to dig under the wall and make a 1.5 x 2 inch gap between the base of the wall and floor wire and gain entry. There were no other gaps or holes anywhere else in the enclosure where a predator could have gained entry or exited with the owl carcasses or any tracks or other clues to identify what predator came into the enclosure and killed the Screech Owls. The zoo has had problems with mink within the past month and currently have been trying to remove them from the property and are now going to seek assistance from other sources. On October 26, 2024 all of the other birds housed outside in other enclosures in the zoo have been moved inside to winter housing.

The lack of secure predator proof enclosures for bird species can cause possible stress to the animals by allowing predators to enter the primary enclosures to harass, injure or kill the regulated species.

Housing facilities for birds must be designed and constructed so that they are structurally sound for the species of bird housed in them. They must be kept in good repair, protect the birds from injury, and restrict other animals from entering that may negatively affect the welfare of the birds within.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representative.

Prepared By: ANNMARIE COMPTON
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care
Title: ANIMAL CARE INSPECTOR

Date:
29-OCT-2024

Received by Title: Facility Representative

Date:
29-OCT-2024



Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
2568	33-C-0040	001	DECATUR PARK DISTRICT	28-OCT-2024

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000002	<i>Megascops asio</i>	EASTERN SCREECH-OWL
000002	Total	