

Houston Zoo at Home

BIRD BEHAVIOR: ATTWATER'S PRAIRIE CHICKENS

When it comes to finding a mate, Attwater's prairie chickens are total show-offs. Males have fancy head and tail feathers, colorful eyebrows and neck pouches, and best of all, they DANCE! This isn't just a little Blinding Lights either; they pick the perfect spot of land, fluff up their feathers, stomp their feet, turn in a circle, and, to top it off, make a loud booming noise to get the ladies' attention. A long time ago when hundreds of chickens did this together, it was said to sound like thunder across the prairie.

TikTok APC Dance Challenge

All Ages

Now's your chance to take part in the newest TikTok challenge – show us your best Attwater's prairie chicken dance moves! When you make your video, you can upload it to Tiktok, Facebook or Instagram with the hashtag #BoomChickaZoo.

Materials Needed:

- Space to dance!
- Tiktok app (a normal video, video to Facebook or IG are also fine)

How to dance like an Attwater's prairie chicken:

1. Take your right hand and make a peace sign. These will be your head feathers and go on the back of your head.
2. Take your left hand and spread your fingers out as wide as you can. These will be your tail feathers and go on your back.
3. Next, you'll squat just a bit and bend over to get the best position to start booming.
4. Finally, you'll stomp your feet, turn in a circle and let out a 'boom' sound to finish off the dance. Now you're an Attwater's prairie chicken!
5. If you have the Tiktok app, find the "boom chicka boom" song (toddler action learning songs) to put your dance to!

Search the Tiktok app for the hashtag #BoomChickaZoo and check out our APC dancing!

Share your project with us!

Tag your photo using #HoustonZoo or email us your story at communications@houstonzoo.org.

Have you ever seen a chicken scratching at the ground and wonder what it's doing? Attwater's Prairie Chickens have the answer! These chickens, like others, are foragers, meaning they search for their food by digging around and looking closely underneath leaves, grass, and mulch. Then, when they find a delicious bug, worm, or insect, they gobble it right up! And then keep searching for more of course.

Prairie Chicken Art

All Ages

Can you act like a chicken and forage around your home for things you can use to make an Attwater's prairie chicken of your very own?

Materials Needed:

Miscellaneous! You can find ANY thing, natural or not to complete this project

Steps:

1. We chose to search outside and use nature items, but you can use whatever you find! Get creative and enjoy the process!!
2. Once you've completed you APC, snap a photo and send it to communications@houstonzoo.org.



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