

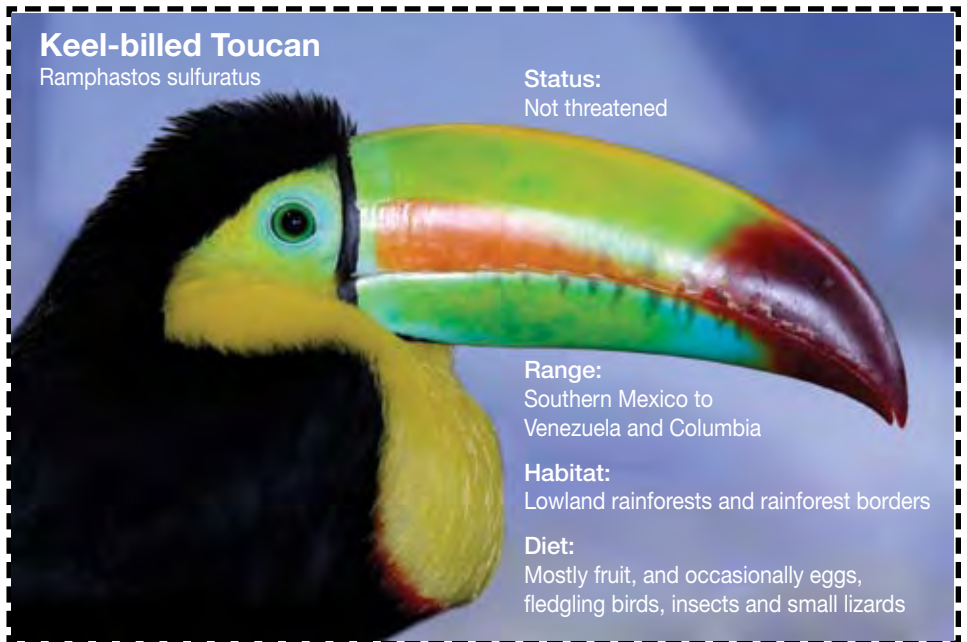
species spotlight: **Keel-billed Toucan**

by **Jess Horenstein**, Trainer, Animal Programs

The beautifully colored Keel-billed Toucan is a gregarious rainforest dweller that ranges from Southern Mexico through Central America and into parts of Columbia and Venezuela. The Keel-billed Toucan, also known as the Sulphur-breasted Toucan or the Rainbow-billed Toucan in parts of its range, is common enough in the country of Belize to have been chosen as their national bird.

Keel-billed Toucans, like many other toucan species, live in social family groups of about six to 12 birds. They are a very vocal species and their loud call has been compared to that of a frog croaking. This unique call can be heard up to half a mile away! Keel-billed Toucans are monogamous and generally like to nest in tree cavities where they will typically lay up to four eggs.

The 43 species of toucans in the world are widely recognized for their extremely large beaks. Their beaks are uniquely adapted to foraging for fruit in the rainforest. Their long beaks can snip fruit from small stems while their heavy bodies are perched lower or higher on much sturdier branches. Although their beaks may look exceedingly heavy,



they are surprisingly light because they are made from keratin and have a honeycomb pattern with air spaces. They also have a very long tongue that runs the entire length of their beak and has a “feathery” end that helps to catch food and fruit juices.

Although the destruction of rainforests in Central and South America has caused a decline in numerous bird species, the Keel-billed Toucan seems to be doing well in its range. It’s up to all of us to make sure

to do all we can so that the Keel-billed Toucan and other rainforest species can keep flying free in the wild. Remember — recycling one can saves toucans!

National Aviary visitors can experience for themselves the colors and sounds of our beautiful pair, “Bob” and “Louise.” The Keel-billed Toucan exhibit is sponsored by Louise and Robert Kahn, affectionately called the “two Kahns.”

Coming Events

spring and summer at the National Aviary

- June 2 • **Wings of the World** outdoor bird show opens
- June 2 • **Breakfast with the Birds**
- June 15 • **Fights and Feathers** at Heinz Field
- July 5 • Members preview of **Lories & Friends**
- July 7 • **Lories & Friends** opens

- July 9-13 • **Outdoor Adventure Camp**, Ages 6-8
- July 14 • **Night in the Tropics**
- July 16-20 • **Outdoor Adventure Camp**, Ages 9-11
- July 23-29 • **Outdoor Adventure Camp**, Ages 12-14
- August 6 • **Seafood Sustainability Workshop**

For Members and Friends

Pamper a Parrot or Feed a Falcon!

A Sponsor-A-Bird package is a unique and meaningful gift for that special person. Your sponsorship will be used for the care and feeding of your favorite bird. In recognition of your contribution, a complete sponsorship package with a photograph, information sheet and Aviary passes will be sent to the recipient.

Shop Online & Support the National Aviary!

Shop at your usual online stores, who donate a portion of your purchase to the Aviary at *no cost to you!* Over 650 participating stores. For more information, see www.aviary.org or

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Sponsorship Packages

When you Sponsor-A-Bird, you don't have to take care of the bird — you just enjoy a fun sponsorship package with:

- A certificate of sponsorship
- A picture of your sponsored bird
- A species factsheet
- A year-long subscription to *Birds Calls*, the National Aviary's magazine

Plus the following special benefits:

- \$25 Contribution — 1 free admission pass
- \$50 Contribution — 4 free admission passes
- \$75 Contribution — 4 free admission passes plus two conservation program updates
- \$100 Contribution — 6 free admission passes plus a special personal encounter with your bird at the Aviary!
- \$150 Contribution or greater: 6 or more free admission passes plus an opportunity to participate in a special enrichment or behind-the-scenes program at the National Aviary.

For National Aviary Members — Watch the mail for your invitation to the *Members Preview* of Lories & Friends! Thursday, July 5th, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.



Your Support Helps us Soar!

Be a Frequent Flyer – Join our Flock!

Join the National Aviary today and receive an entire year of unlimited free admission plus extra-special benefits including great discounts, an invitation to our annual member appreciation event, one personal tour, a free gift and more!

- Family Membership - \$55
- Individual Membership - \$45
- Family Plus Membership - \$70 (includes 5 guest passes)

Sponsor-A-Bird Program

See our website for a complete list of birds, starting at \$25. You can sponsor a Featured Bird, or any other bird in our collection, by visiting our secure website at www.aviary.org; or by calling the Aviary at 412-323-7235 ext. 235.

Join or Sponsor online at www.aviary.org!

Please allow approximately 2 weeks for the processing of your membership or sponsorship.

The official registration and financial information of the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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Allegheny Commons West, Pittsburgh, PA 15212-5248





PHOENIX SOCIETY
the Legacy Society of the National Aviary

Please consider leaving a legacy to the National Aviary by becoming a member of the Phoenix Society.

Contact Patricia Rambasek, CFRE,
Director of Development,
at 412-323-7235, ext. 214 for
more information.

Starting June 2nd!



Our summer bird show returns with amazing flights and close encounters!

Wings of the World returns

June 2nd to delight and amaze all visitors!

Open until Labor Day with shows
Wednesdays - Sundays 11:30am and
2:30pm, Weather permitting

Have a... **WILD ENCOUNTER!**



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Lunch on the Fly

- Enjoy a delicious box lunch with National Aviary bird trainers
- Explore what makes a bird a bird, while meeting some of our amazing education program birds
- Take a guided tour and enjoy the diverse birdlife at the Aviary
- Program lasts 1½ hours, including lunch and tour; menu available upon request
- Available year-round for groups of 10 to 40

Call Aimee J. Plotz at 412-323-7235, ext. 249



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