



Northern Cardinal

Photo © Tom Perucich



Painted Bunting

Photo © Stephen Wayne Roisch



Australian Pelican

Photo © Daniel V. Klein

table of contents
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FEATURES

Lofty Plans 1
 Water, Oil, Wildlife — A Deadly Mix 2
 A Winter Wonderland 5
 Andean Condor Baby Album 9

IN EVERY ISSUE

Notes from the Field 6
 Ask the Expert 7, 8, 12
 Nest Eggs 8
 Books of Interest 10
 Species Spotlight 11



NATIONAL AVIARY
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The National Aviary inspires respect for nature through an appreciation of birds.

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new directions...

Lofty Plans

high-tech theater to be setting for spectacular bird show

by **Linda A. Dickerson**, Chief Executive Officer

For the past several years, the National Aviary has planned a spectacular new addition that will enable visitors to enjoy the nation's highest quality bird shows year-round. By 2010, the National Aviary hopes to open America's first and only indoor bird theater.

Referred to as reverse theater-in-the-round, this theater will offer an eclectic array of educational and entertainment programming. The audience will sit in the center of the theater where the stage typically would be located. Three stages, a rock stage, a forest stage and a water stage, will line the perimeter of the room. During the show, birds will traverse the audience, demonstrating natural behaviors like swooping, diving and gliding, among others.

Using the power of high-resolution cinematography and special effects, this new theater will take audience members around the world to experience the habitats of every bird in the show. From the depths of a dense forest to the open expanse of the savanna, audiences will view birds' natural behaviors in their natural environment.

Doubling the footprint of the existing Aviary, the new theater will focus international attention on Pittsburgh. This one-of-a-kind theater will offer a unique visitor experience unavailable anywhere else in the world.

Over 50 rare and exotic birds now reside in the National Aviary's training facility in Florida where they are preparing to wow audiences of all ages and interests.

These birds include Hooded Vultures, Ruppell's Griffon Vultures, Trumpeter Hornbills, Black Kites, Scarlet Macaws and Silver Gulls. Without traveling the globe, most people never have an up-close-and-personal experience with any of these wonderful creatures.

Having hit the halfway point in its \$28.5 million capital campaign to build this remarkable theater, the National Aviary is reaching out to individual donors to help complete the campaign. An anonymous foundation provided the National Aviary with a \$1 million challenge grant to encourage individual donors to invest in the new theater. If the National Aviary raises \$1 million from individual contributors between now and 2010, this foundation will grant \$1 million to the capital campaign.

You can do your part by sending in your contribution to the National Aviary, Ridge Avenue & Arch Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15212. Please note on the check that you wish your contribution to be applied to the challenge grant. You may also contribute at www.aviary.org using our secure online donation form. Simply check the "Capital Campaign" box under Donation Information on the form.

No amount is too small. All contributions will help to build this state-of-the-art theater for everyone to enjoy.

