

## Bald Eagle “ABBY” Back on Exhibit AFTER NINE WEEKS OF CARE

When an eight-pound American bald eagle isn't feeling well, **there is no such thing as a simple trip to the vet.**

In February, veterinary staff and trainers at the National Aviary became concerned when Abby, one of the Aviary's American bald eagles, showed signs of declining appetite. It was decided that given Abby's advanced age (Abby was injured in the wild in Alaska, and is at least 18 years old), it was important for her to be brought in for a check-up.

Easier said than done. Unless there are medical reasons that warrant it, the National Aviary avoids handling its exhibit birds to minimize any unnecessary stress to the bird. “Catching up” an eagle requires a carefully choreographed routine involving several staff. In Abby's case, Lead Veterinary Technician Jamie Travitz did the catch and carry, and transported her to the hospital for an exam and tests.

“Abby is a powerful animal,” says Director of Veterinary Medicine Dr. Pilar Fish. “It takes two people to hold her, and a third person to conduct the exam and administer treatments. Those holding her have to adjust their hand positions to allow me to examine different parts of the bird, all the while making sure they stay out of range of her beak and talons. It is an intricate process, and staff must practice their holds in advance to ensure that the bird can be treated as quickly as possible.”

Results of tests administered that day revealed that Abby had four serious infections affecting her respiratory and gastrointestinal tract. Abby was placed in intensive care, and for the next nine weeks, veterinary staff caring for Abby got plenty of practice in raptor handling.

Medications -- antibiotics, antifungals, gastrointestinal drugs and fluids -- were administered by injections in her chest muscle, and via fluids under her skin. And because her appetite remained poor, Abby was tube and hand fed.

“Hand-feeding her was undoubtedly the most challenging task,” says Dr. Fish. “First, you have to open her sharp powerful beak without getting bitten. Then you have to quickly insert your thumb as a gag in the corner of her mouth to hold her mouth open while the other hand gently but quickly pushes food that has been inserted with medicines down her throat. All of this has to be done in record time so that she does not hyperventilate.”

Abby also needed repeated blood tests, swabs and x-rays, all of which were administered without the use of sedatives. Sedatives are not safe to use on birds, and staff had to work fast to collect all the tests without stressing the massive eagle.

*(continued on page 2)*



**OPENS MAY 28!**  
Details inside!



# Lanner Falcons TAKE TO THE AIR



**This summer, the skies above Pittsburgh will be the backdrop to a species never seen here before.**

Isis, Amut, Horus and Squire, four young adult lanner falcons, will take flight twice daily when the National Aviary opens Sky Deck on the rooftop of the FliteZone Theater on May 28.

The lanner falcons were relocated to the National Aviary from African Lion Safari in Canada, and for weeks now have been in spring training as they learn to fly to lures. The Sky Deck shows will allow guests to experience at close range the rare and wonderful sight of these birds diving and swooping in for lures thrown out by trainers. The falcons will pursue the lures at full-speed, chasing the 'prey' until trainers time a final swing and allow the birds to catch their prize.

The National Aviary's black kites will also be part of the show, demonstrating their remarkable aerial maneuvers as they chase food thrown into the air. Dillon, the Aviary's majestic martial eagle, will also be featured.

"The Sky Deck shows will be a great way to see some of our most beautiful birds of prey in action as they perform hunting behaviors that would otherwise only be seen in the wild," says National Aviary Executive Director Patrick Mangus. "We are thrilled to be able to offer this one-of-a-kind experience to our guests."

**Sky Deck opens May 28,**  
*weather permitting,*

with shows running daily at  
**11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.**

*Seating is limited.  
Ages six and up.*

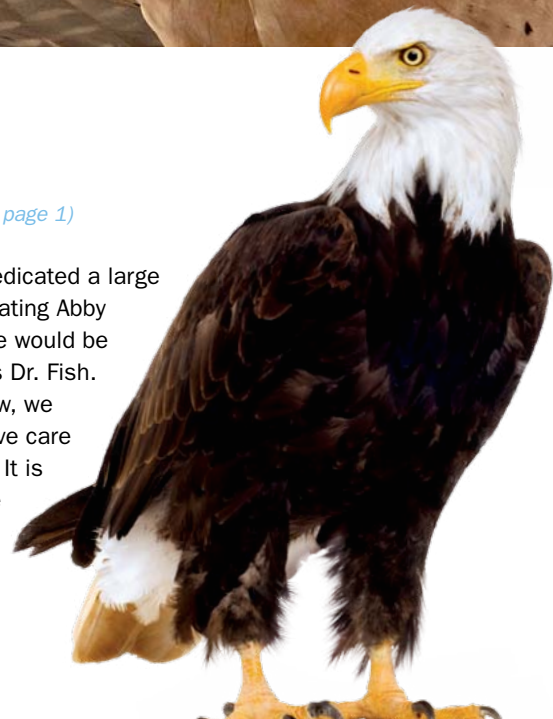
## Bald Eagle "ABBY" Back on Exhibit AFTER NINE WEEKS OF CARE (continued from page 1)

Despite the gravity of her condition, Abby gradually improved and regained her strength and energy, so much so that in the last few weeks of her recovery she was very difficult to medicate.

"Abby never tamed down as some animals do when they are intensively cared for," says Dr. Fish. "She still acts like a wild eagle, which is fascinating since it has been more than 16 years since she lived in Alaska."

Abby has fully recovered, is eating on her own, and tests show that her heart, lungs, kidneys and other systems are strong and functioning well despite her age. She is back in her outdoor exhibit, where she can be seen regally staring back at the visitors passing by her window.

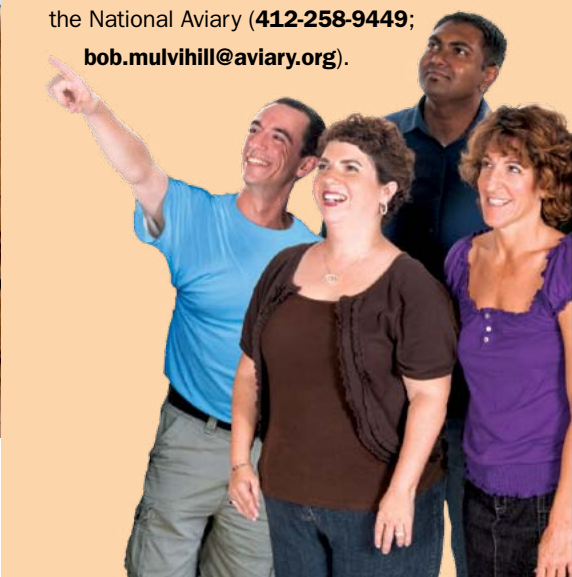
"The hospital staff dedicated a large amount of time to treating Abby without knowing if she would be able to recover," says Dr. Fish. "Looking at her now, we know that the intensive care was worth the effort. It is truly rewarding to see a patient make a full recovery and have a normal life again."



## National Aviary Seeks Docent Volunteers

The National Aviary is looking for volunteers to be interpretive docents who can meet and greet visitors, provide informal talks, and answer questions related to birds found in the Aviary's exhibit areas. Volunteers must be 18 years or older and be able to spend at least one day (for 3-4 hours) a week at the Aviary for a period of at least six months. Volunteers will receive training and both printed and online reference materials about the birds found in the Aviary's exhibits. Prior knowledge of birds is helpful, but a strong interest in birds and bird conservation, and an eagerness to share those interests with our visitors, is the main requirement. Prospective volunteer docents should be good communicators and naturally outgoing and enthusiastic.

Contact **Bob Mulvihill**, Director of Education, to set up an appointment if you're interested in becoming a volunteer interpretive docent for the National Aviary (**412-258-9449**; [bob.mulvihill@aviary.org](mailto:bob.mulvihill@aviary.org)).



**follow us on facebook**  
for daily news, special offers and behind-the-scenes photos.

# It's not too late to book your special event for 2011

**Still looking for the perfect place for your company's summer picnic? Or perhaps a fun and fanciful venue for your next family reunion?**

**Then look no further!** The National Aviary still has select weekend dates over the summer and many more available into the fall – perfect for planning your next memorable gathering. More interested in planning a tropical escape for next winter instead? We still have many dates available in November and December as well! Treat your guests to an evening where they can wander amidst our lush Wetlands and Tropical Forest exhibits, perfect for warding off the chill!

**During the summer and early fall months,** guests will cherish an evening spent amidst the blossoming garden, surrounded by ivy-covered walls and English roses. Renters can utilize the Rose Garden Tent courtyard to provide a casual or refined atmosphere for a summer-time cocktail party or barbeque cookout with the openness of the outdoor atmosphere.

**Year-round,** renters can host intimate soirées in our newly renovated Atrium, while dancing the night away under the indoor Victorian-inspired sparkling glass dome. Guests of all ages will delight at mingling with our African

Penguins in the adjacent PenguinPoint Vestibule and taking a walk on the wild side through our Wetlands and Grassland exhibits. Also available is our new 130 seat state-of-the-art Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater and our Sky Deck roof patio nestled in the treetops of West Park. Make the most of the nontraditional venue and enjoy the entire facility for a cocktail reception of up to 450 guests.

The National Aviary is proud to partner with **Big Catering** of the Big Burrito Restaurant Group, **Bistro to Go**, **Opening Night Catering**, and **Rania's Catering** to offer rental clients the highest quality and most diverse menu selections. Clients can plan for a traditional sit-down or buffet meal, or create an innovative menu ranging from themed stations, to barbeque picnics, and everything in between. The variety of culinary possibilities and customization is endless!

The National Aviary is a distinctive variation on the typical venue that includes access to the naturally planted exhibits, complimentary parking in the onsite lot, security, tables, and seating.

Contact **Jessie K. Baird** at **412-258-9433** or [jessie.baird@aviary.org](mailto:jessie.baird@aviary.org) to schedule an appointment to tour the facility and discuss the details of your next fantastic event!



# What's Happening This Summer at the National Aviary

## May July

25 - 27

### Sky Deck Member Preview

May 25 and 27: 11 am and 3:30 pm  
May 26: 3:30 pm

Be among the first to experience the remarkable lure-flying demonstrations on Sky Deck, the Aviary's newest outdoor space on the roof of the FliteZone Theater. Witness lanner falcons flying full-speed in pursuit of lures, and watch the aerial acrobatics of the Aviary's black kites.

Space is limited.  
Reservations required.  
RSVP to Roy Aguiar at  
412-258-9437 or  
roy.aguiar@aviary.org.



## June

4

### Pet Parrot Workshop - Enrichment

10 am - 12 pm  
A must for parrot owners and those considering adopting or purchasing a parrot as a pet, this workshop will better prepare you for the challenges of caring for these intelligent but demanding birds.

Non-members: \$25; National Aviary and Parrot Education and Adoption Center (PEAC) Members: \$20. Price includes binder with information and resources.  
Registration required via [www.pitpeac.org](http://www.pitpeac.org).

20-24

### Feathers & Fun Summer Camp

Ages 4-5  
9 am - 12 noon

What's in an egg? Why do birds have feathers? Do parrots really eat crackers? Campers will learn what makes birds unique through games, crafts, stories and up-close visits from Aviary birds.\*



9

### Lories Birthday Day Party with Radio Disney

11:30 am - 1 pm

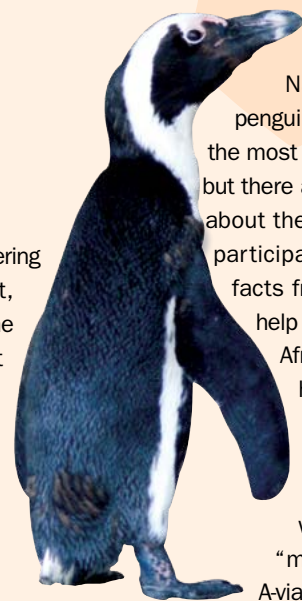
Help us celebrate the birthday of the Aviary's rainbow lorikeets by decorating enrichment toys for the birds. Radio Disney will join us with games, prizes and giveaways, and we'll offer discounts on nectar cups for feeding the lories. Sponsored by Dollar Bank. We'll also announce the winners of the Best Birdhouse in the 'Burgh design competition.



13

### Penguins Camp

Ages 6-8  
9 am - 3 pm



Campers will get up close and personal with the National Aviary's African penguins. Penguins are some of the most remarkable birds on earth, but there are many misconceptions about them; Aviary staff will help participants sort out the penguin facts from fiction. Campers will help prepare food for the Aviary's African penguins and see first-hand how these amazing birds are cared for every day by Aviary staff. At the end of the day, campers will take home an original "masterpiece" painted by A-aviary talented African penguin!\*

15

### Teen Career Camp

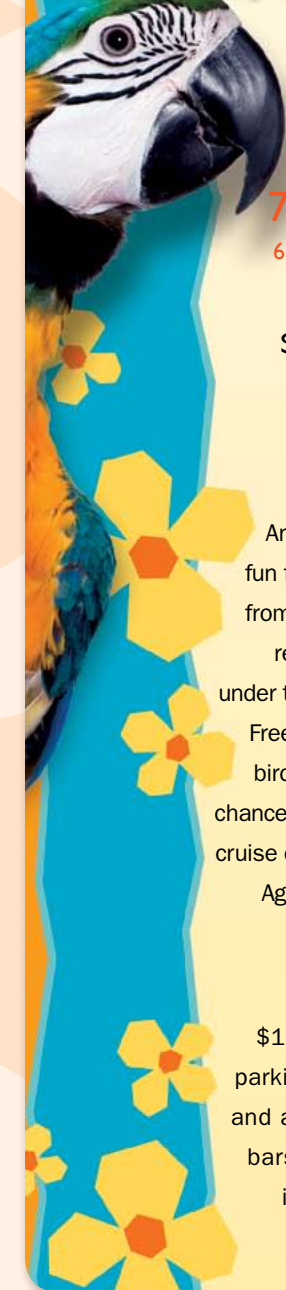
Ages 13-15  
9 am - 3 pm

Join other teens and spend the day working with National Aviary staff. Discover what it takes to care for, feed and train more than 600 birds in this hands-on day camp experience.\*



16

## NIGHT IN THE TROPICS at the National Aviary



Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>  
7 pm to 11 pm  
6 pm - VIP Reception

Must be 21+  
\$10 valet parking

Tickets on sale now!

An evening of tropical fun featuring selections from Pittsburgh's finest restaurants, dancing under the stars to the The Freedom Band, thrilling bird encounters, and a chance to win a Caribbean cruise courtesy AAA Travel Agency. Sponsored by BNY Mellon.

Tickets: \$50; VIP \$100 (includes valet parking, VIP reception, and access to VIP-only bars and restaurants in the BNY Mellon Hospitality Tent.)

20

### Teen Ornithology Camp

Ages 13-15  
9 am - 3 pm

Become a real "Pittsberder!" Spend an entire day at the National Aviary learning how to watch birds in the Wetlands and Tropical Forest free-flight exhibits, and outside on the Aviary grounds and in West Park. Aviary staff will teach campers how to use binoculars correctly (bring your own or we'll lend you a pair), how to spot birds, how to observe field marks, how to identify bird species, and how to watch bird behaviors. The Aviary's Director of Conservation and Field Research, Dr. Steven Latta (a professional ornithologist!) will talk to the campers about some of his bird studies. Campers will earn a B.A. ("Birder of the Aviary") degree in ornithology!\*



22

### Penguins Camp

Ages 9-12  
9 am - 3 pm

Campers will get up close and personal with the National Aviary's African penguins. Penguins are some of the most remarkable birds on earth, but there are many misconceptions about them; Aviary staff will help participants sort out the penguin facts from fiction. Campers will help prepare food for the Aviary's African penguins and see first-hand how these amazing birds are cared for every day by Aviary staff. At the end of the day, campers will take home an original "masterpiece" painted by A-aviary talented African penguin!\*



23

### Pet Parrot Workshop - Behavior and Care

10 am - 12 pm

A must for parrot owners and those considering adopting or purchasing a parrot as a pet.

Non-members: \$25; National Aviary and Parrot Education and Adoption Center (PEAC) Members: \$20. Price includes binder with information and resources. Registration required via [www.pitpeac.org](http://www.pitpeac.org).

27

### Rainforest Camp - Ages 9-12

9 am - 3 pm

Campers will spend a day discovering the rainforest, one of the most incredible and important habitats on Earth while meeting some of the two-legged, four-legged, six-legged and no-legged animals that call the rainforest home! Campers will learn why rainforests are home to so many different kinds of plants and animals and why it is important for all of us to do what we can to help protect them. Campers will have the chance to make a one-of-a-kind craft made from sustainable rainforest materials that they can take home with them.\*

29

### Rainforest Camp - Ages 6-8

9 am - 3 pm

30

### Animal Rescue Day

11 am - 2 pm

Talk with representatives from area rescue shelters and meet animals seeking a forever home.

## August

3

### Raptors Camp - Ages 6-8

9 am - 3 pm

Campers will meet some the National Aviary's remarkable raptors, including hawks, owls, falcons and eagles. Participants will learn what these incredible hunters have in common and discover what makes them so perfectly suited to their ecological role in the wild as top predators. Campers will watch a demonstration of falconry, the ancient sport of hunting with a bird of prey, and will even dissect a real owl pellet! Campers will also learn about important raptor conservation efforts in Pennsylvania and around the world.\*

5

### Raptors Camp - Ages 9-12

9 am - 3 pm

16

### Pet Parrot Workshop - Enrichment

10 am - 12 pm

A must for parrot owners and those considering adopting or purchasing a parrot as a pet.

Non-members: \$25; National Aviary and Parrot Education and Adoption Center (PEAC) Members: \$20. Price includes binder with information and resources. Registration required via [www.pitpeac.org](http://www.pitpeac.org).



\*For more information on Summer Camps at the National Aviary, call 412.258.9439 or email [education.programs@aviary.org](mailto:education.programs@aviary.org).

**NEW!** in Summer 2011 **PENGUIN SWIM**

**Enjoy the ultimate penguin experience.** Help trainers keep track of what the Aviary's African penguins eat during the birds' daily feeding, then don a wetsuit and enter the Penguin Point pool for a swim with the penguins. Participants will enjoy a penguins' eye view of the birds as they fly under water. Participants must be able to climb rock steps in and out of the pool.

Daily 1 pm - 2 pm. *Must be 18 and over, and at least 5 ft tall. Must be booked a minimum of two weeks in advance.* For more information, please visit [www.aviary.org](http://www.aviary.org).

To register, email [education.programs@aviary.org](mailto:education.programs@aviary.org) or call 412.258.9439.

## "ASK THE EXPERT" Dave Miller Answers Your Questions About the *RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD*

During the spring and summer, the National Aviary receives many questions about the ruby-throated hummingbird. In the following article, Trainer Dave Miller, our on-site "Expert" who takes your calls and emails regarding a variety of bird questions, provides information to help you better understand and attract these magnificent emerald birds to your garden.

Ask the expert

Migrating male hummingbirds begin to arrive in the Pittsburgh area from mid-April into early May, with females following just a few days behind. Male hummingbirds have a bright iridescent red throat, green back and fork tail, while females have a plain whitish throat and a rounded tail with white corners. Ruby-throated hummingbirds are one of the world's smallest birds, weighing about three grams on average (about the weight of a penny!) Male ruby-throats, weighing as little as two and a half grams, are significantly smaller than females.

For their size, hummingbirds are surprisingly long-lived. The national age record for a wild ruby-throat is more than nine years (the smaller males live half as long, on average, compared to females).

The hummingbird's heart pumps up to 1,200 times per minute, and their wings beat 50-75 times per second. Territorial males expend a lot of energy performing a spectacular arching courtship flight display to potential mates throughout spring and summer.

Hummingbirds visit area gardens and feeders until late September, but most begin making their way back to Central American wintering grounds in mid-to late August. If you see a hummingbird at your flowers or feeders after mid-October, it almost certainly is not a ruby-throated hummingbird. Increasingly, western species of hummingbirds such as the Rufous hummingbird are observed migrating through western Pennsylvania in the late fall, and few may even try to overwinter here. If you see a hummingbird visiting your feeder or flowers in late October or November, please contact the National Aviary right away!!

### What plants can I put in my flowerbeds to attract hummingbirds?

Planting a mixture of plants that provide continuous blooms through the season can ensure that hummingbirds stick around your garden all summer long. Here are my favorites:

- Trumpet Vine (*Campsis radicans*)
- Strawberry Foxglove (*Digitalis mertonensis*)
- 'Coral Reef' Beebalm (*pink*) (*Monarda didyma*)
- Red Beebalm (*Monarda didyma* 'Jacob Cline')
- Purple Beebalm (*Monarda didyma* 'Grand Marshall')
- 'Marshall's Delight' Beebalm (*pink*) (*Monarda didyma*)
- Red Hot Poker (*Kniphofia uvaria*)
- 'Swan' Burgundy and White Columbine (*Aquilegia xhybrida burgundy and white*)
- 'Winky' Columbine (*Aquilegia vulgaris red and white*)
- Coral Bells 'Bressingham Hybrids' (*assorted colors*) (*Heuchera sanguinea*)
- Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
- Crocoshmia 'Emily McKenzie' (*Crocoshmia x crocosmii flora*)

### Can you tell me about hummingbird nesting here in Pennsylvania?

The ruby-throated hummingbird lays two tiny white eggs (8mm x 13mm) in a nest made of spider webs, soft plant material and lichen. Its choice of material helps disguise the dainty cup from predators. Incubation is left up to the female and usually lasts 14-16 days (sometimes, if the weather is cool, incubation can take as long as 21 days). The female must remain on the nest, leaving for only

five to 10 minutes every hour to feed.

When the chicks hatch, they spend about three weeks in the nest until they can fly and begin foraging on their own.

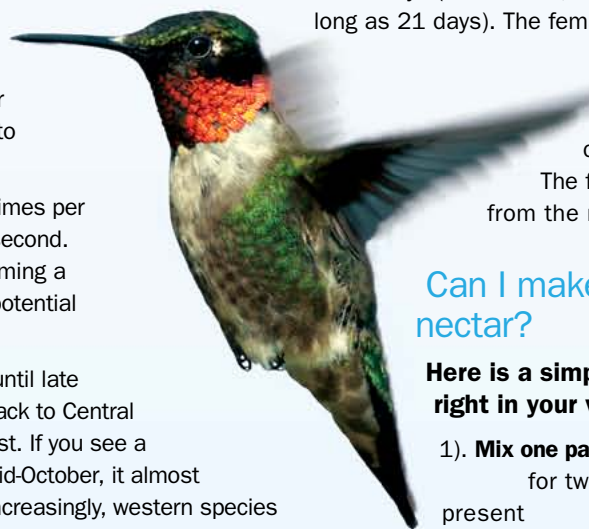
The female cares for their young without any help from the male.

### Can I make my own hummingbird nectar?

Here is a simple recipe to make your own nectar right in your very own kitchen!

- 1). **Mix one part sugar with four parts water.** Bring to a boil for two minutes (to kill any mold or bacteria present and to neutralize chlorine in the water)...  
*Example: (one cup sugar to four cups water).*
- 2). **Cool and fill feeder.**
- 3). **Extra sugar water may be stored in a refrigerator for up to two weeks.**
- 4). **Red dye, honey, and brown sugar should never be used!** They don't help attract more hummingbirds to your feeder, and they aren't good for the hummingbird's diet.

**If you have a bird-related question for Dave, email him at [Dave.Miller@aviary.org](mailto:Dave.Miller@aviary.org) or phone him at 412-258-9459.**



## Join the National Aviary for a Safari Tour of Kenya! October 16 - 27, 2011

### Join us for an unforgettable tour of Africa!

National Aviary Director of Animal Programs Steve Sarro and seasoned safari tour leaders Adventure Seekers will be your guide for this unforgettable trip through the wildlife sanctuaries of Kenya.

You'll begin in Nairobi, where you'll explore the private gamelands of the Ol Pejeta Conservancy and the Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary. Enjoy guided bush walks, camel trekking, and nighttime game drives. From there, it's on to the Samburu Game Reserve, where you will likely see reticulated giraffe, Somali ostrich,

olive baboon, Grevy's zebra, elephant, impala, gazelle and buffalo. Here you will also have the opportunity to actively seek out elusive cats, including leopard and cheetah.

Your safari includes an overnight at the exclusive Kigio Wildlife Conservancy camp. This 3,500 acre camp is home to over 200 bird species as well as hippo, hyena, endangered white rhino and others. Dining areas overlook a cliff that is home to a colony of bee-eaters - beautiful colorful birds that catch insects on the wing.

Also on the itinerary is a day and overnight at the Masai Mara Game Reserve, one of

the greatest wildlife sanctuaries in the world. Large prides of lion, as well as wildebeest, cheetah, elephant and buffalo make their homes in this incredible land reserve. Birdlife there is also spectacular, and you can expect to see weavers, egrets, herons, hornbills and a variety of raptors during your stay. Your final stop will be the Amboseli National Park, at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

**For more information, contact Steve Sarro at 412.258.9448 or [steve.sarro@aviary.org](mailto:steve.sarro@aviary.org).**

## A Special Thanks to the National Aviary's Donors

The National Aviary is able to maintain high-level, interactive programming thanks to generous support from our community of donors. In addition to the public, corporate, and foundation donors listed below, we would like to thank each of our members and individual donors for their valuable contributions and for their partnership in our mission to inspire respect for nature through an appreciation of birds.

**\$100,000 - \$249,000**  
The Estate of Jane H. Judd

**\$5000 - \$9999**  
Buncher Family Foundation  
Dollar Bank Foundation  
Elizabeth A. Spence  
Nanette Spence and Jeffrey Geiger

**\$250 - \$2499**  
Donald and Gloria Casey  
Jane Fox Bradley Fund  
Jim Bulger  
Richard Caruso\*  
Patricia Eubank  
Graf Family Fund for Charitable Giving  
John Graf\*  
Kevin Keane  
Ish McLaughlin  
Paul R. Naim  
Kevin L. Orie  
Mark Perrott  
Charles G. Pfeiffer  
Pittsburgh Steelers  
Colin and Alicia Powell\*  
John H. Reed  
Donald Rodgers  
William R. Rost  
Mark R. Scalise  
Leonard L.\* and Joan Scheinholtz  
Dimitri\* and Ann Shiry,  
Judith A. Stalder\*  
William A. Thomas Jr.

Brian Uffelman

**\$100 - \$249**  
BNY Mellon Community Partnership  
Celia Boddington  
Elizabeth T. and David C. Brown  
Henry F. Devens  
Jeryllyn Donahoe  
Betty K. Hess  
Jack and Jean Ann Jones Fund  
Kerchner Family Fund, No. 2  
Joan and Michael Lotze  
Helen B. Miller  
Sam Newberry and Jan Myers-Newbury  
David and Landon Storrs  
Kathryn Wolfe

**Corporate Match Programs**  
Dominion Foundation Matching Gifts Program  
H.J. Heinz Company Foundation  
Highmark, Inc.  
Norfolk Southern Corporation Trust Account

**Special Events Corporate Sponsors**  
A. C. Dellovade, Inc.  
Alpern Rosenthal  
Avalotis Corporation  
Bloom Cigar Co., Inc.  
Blumling & Gusky, LLP  
BNY Mellon  
Bravo Foundation, Inc.  
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC

Carnegie Strategic Design Engineers LLC  
Cleveland Brothers  
Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhall & Furman P.C.  
Delprince Marketing Group  
DLA + Architecture and Interior Design  
Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh  
GQ Contracting LLC  
Heartland Restaurant Group, LLC  
Heidi Edwards  
Henderson Brothers, Inc.  
Huntington National Bank  
IBEW Local Union No. 5  
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union No. 5  
Klafters, Inc.  
Lisanti Painting Company Inc.  
Mascaro Construction Co., LP  
McKamish  
Meyer, Unkovic & Scott, LLP  
Oxford Development Company  
T.D. Patrinos Painting & Contracting Co.  
Tucker Arenberg, PC  
Wayne Crouse, Inc.  
Wholesale Builders Supply  
WPA Laborers Building and Defense  
Yellow Cab Company

**In Memorium**  
Jeffrey Case  
Lisle and Norma Jobe  
Jack Pattison  
Leo Petrulli  
Bette Spence



National Aviary in Pittsburgh, Inc.  
Allegheny Commons West  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-5248

NATIONAL AVIARY



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PITTSBURGH, PA  
PERMIT NO. 3316

# flight of the macaws

**NEW!** Daily, 10:30 am and 1:30 pm

**Enjoy the remarkable sight of scarlet and hyacinth macaws flying freely in the skies above the Aviary before settling down in the Rose Garden.** Audiences will learn the natural history

of these gorgeous birds, as well as the challenges of having macaws and other parrots as pets.

*Weather permitting. Free with admission.*

