



birdcalls

The Latest News from the National Aviary

Volume 1, Issue 1 • Summer 2008



WE'VE RE-FEATHERED OUR NEST!
Come check out our new website at
www.aviary.org

FLITEZONE at the National Aviary

This Year's Free-Flight Bird Show

The National Aviary is excited to introduce our free-flight show FliteZone, which took off on May 24th, 2008. If you have been to the National Aviary recently you may have caught a glimpse of some of our birds in training. There are macaws flying through the park, owls testing the wind in the rose garden, and numerous other species flying in all areas of the facility! We train our birds using positive reinforcement, basically giving them something they like for doing a behavior that we ask. *(By the way, this also works on kids, spouses and bosses!)* We have lots of new cast members this summer and the National Aviary trainers have been spending lots of time preparing them for their role in our summer show. Bam Bam is a red-legged seriema that came to the National Aviary from Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo. He is a young bird and will be showing off a unique natural behavior this summer. If you are a National Aviary regular you may have caught a glimpse of him in a training session in the Atrium. Since he is a new show bird we've been spending lots of time getting him used to an audience.

Our flock of macaws has been stretching their wings around the rose garden in the past few weeks. This is a sight that is a favorite of guests, and difficult to forget. These brilliantly colored parrots make quite an impression on all those who see them flying together. We have two new members to our flock this summer – be sure to come by so that you can see them doing what they do best.

You may have also seen Minnie, the American crow, in our indoor bird show. Minnie came to the National Aviary from a rehab center this spring as she was a bird that could not be returned to the wild. Minnie is working hard to help her wild bird friends by collecting donations at the end of our shows. The National Aviary is supporting SANCCOB, which is an organization based in South Africa that protects and rehabilitates African penguins and other coastal sea birds. Our guests have helped us raise over \$5,000 for this organization! Our colony of African penguins also has a new member, Sidney! Be sure to come and say hello to Sidney this summer during FliteZone. The show runs through Labor Day, Wednesdays through Sundays at 11:30 am and 2:30 pm.



Meet our Show Coordinator

Cathy Schlott is the National Aviary's new Bird Show Coordinator. One of her many responsibilities is developing our new FliteZone free-flight show this summer. Cathy started her career at the National Aviary five years ago in the Education Department after studying biology at the University of Pittsburgh. She worked in the Education Department

for years, but always had an interest in training birds.

In 2005 Cathy pursued an opportunity to work with Natural Encounters, Inc. as an intern at their yearly show at the State Fair of Texas. Cathy then became involved with the Animal Behavior Management Alliance, which is an organization

that focuses on the behavior management of animals. Using the knowledge and skill that she has gained in the past five years, Cathy has worked with trainers at the National Aviary to produce an entertaining and educational bird show for our guests. We hope that you are able to come see the results of her hard work this summer at our new FliteZone show. The show runs through Labor Day, Wednesdays through Sundays at 11:30 am and 2:30 pm.



**Come see the show
ALL SUMMER LONG!**
Wednesday through Sunday
11:30 am and 2:30 pm

GET WINGED



the **GIFT SHOP** at the NATIONAL AVIARY

Check out what we have available at our gift shop!

Bird feeders

Decorative garden stakes

Hand-held bird call identifiers

Fair trade jewelry and purses

National Aviary and FliteZone

tee-shirts for kids and adults



Watch a behind-the-scenes look at the National Aviary on Comcast On Demand!

Go to the "Your Town" section of your On Demand menu and click on "Animal Stories."



West Park Wildlife Walk

The National Aviary is a wondrous wildlife adventure for visitors of all ages. Inside the walls, over 175 species of animals are on display with most exhibited in naturalistic environments. But have you considered the wildlife outside the National Aviary's Rose Garden? The National Aviary values our unique, urban location and has created a daily program to highlight West Park and its birdlife.

West Park is an amazing green space that teems with its own wildlife. Our newest program, called "West Park Wildlife Walk," will take our guests outside the National Aviary's steel, glass and brick. Guided by one of our Animal Programs Team, the tour will focus on the birds that are commonly seen in and around our city park. To encourage better views of the birds, the National Aviary has added special feeders to draw interesting species. The tour will wander near a nectar feeder for hummingbirds, a safflower feeder that may attract cardinals and black-capped chickadees, a thistle feeder that will call to American goldfinch and house finch, a platform feeder for chipping sparrows and tufted titmice and a mixed feeder with a special "anti-squirrel" addition that will prevent those pesky seed-eaters. The National Aviary Guide will carry a field guide, have a unique bird call device to play bird songs, and will pass out a bird check-off list for the walk. Expect to see the "usual suspects" in the park such as European starlings and rock doves (AKA: city pigeons) but occasionally we may see yellow warblers, mallard ducks and perhaps even a peregrine falcon zipping through the park! Tours will meet at 10:30 am in the Atrium, rain or shine!



A Window into the World of Veterinary Medicine

The National Aviary has opened a window into the world of avian veterinary medicine with the premier of its new Bird Hospital Annex. The Bird Hospital Annex is a veterinary facility that was constructed along the National Aviary's main hallway, and features a large glass window enabling visitors to observe avian medical procedures throughout the day.



In addition to providing National Aviary guests with a view of what goes on in a bird hospital, there is an intercom system through which the veterinary team can communicate with guests as they work. This means that if, for example, one of the birds is receiving an immunization, the veterinary team can explain how the bird must be handled, what kind of illness the immunization will help to protect against, as well as answer any questions generated by the audience.

The intercom is only one of the ways in which the Bird Hospital Annex will provide interactive experiences to National Aviary

visitors. In the Meet-A-Patient program sponsored by Highmark, a member of the dynamic veterinary team will bring one of the birds that have recovered from an illness or injury into the hallway to meet guests. While the visitors get an up-close look at an extraordinary bird, the veterinary technician will tell the bird's success story, explaining what makes that particular animal amazing.

During Meet-A-Patient, National Aviary guests could meet Gracie, a Swainson's toucan. Swainson's toucans are the second largest species of toucan, with vibrant yellow chests and hollow, colorful beaks. Gracie is one of the National Aviary's fascinating geriatric patients. Older birds may require special care and attention, but Gracie demonstrates how charming and engaging they can be, and what a reward they can be to interact with.

According to Dr. Pilar Fish, Director of Veterinary Services at the National Aviary, "Through the Meet-A-Patient program, National Aviary visitors will have the opportunity to interact with the remarkable birds that have overcome their health problems and emerged as unique, persevering individuals." Dr. Fish and her

team of veterinary technicians work hard to set the standard of care for special needs and geriatric birds, and the Bird Hospital Annex will showcase the results of their efforts.

The Bird Hospital Annex programs are rich educational offerings designed to inform and inspire guests of all ages. Many grade school children want to be veterinarians when they grow up, but rarely have the opportunity to observe veterinary medical procedures. The

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– Dr. Pilar Fish

Bird Hospital Annex will enable children to experience the veterinary world first-hand, raising awareness of bird medicine to children as well as their parents, relatives and friends.

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The Bird Hospital Annex is open daily for viewing. Interactive events such as Meet-A-Patient will take place in front of the Bird Hospital Annex at 12 pm.

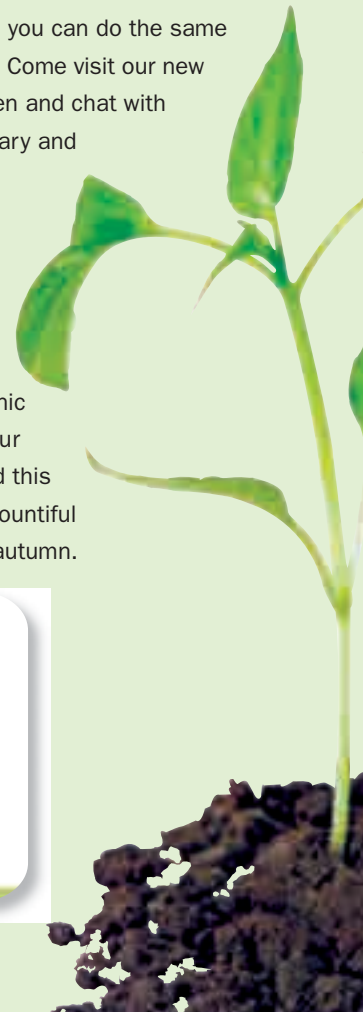
Going Green at the National Aviary

Introducing the New Bird Garden

Break out the trowels and garden hoses! The National Aviary is planting an organic vegetable bed, edible flower garden and berry patch in the green space next to our Andean condor exhibit. This new garden exhibit will showcase the benefits of growing food in an organic manner and explain how to do this for all of our guests. The “fruits” of our labors will be utilized in the Commissary for our bird diets. Freshly picked vegetables will add nutrients to diets, edible flowers will garnish food pans, fresh berries will add flair and all will provide enrichment and excitement for our avian friends. Another fantastic addition will be a composting bin that recycles organic Commissary waste as well as lawn trimmings and leaves into a rich loam for our garden.

The National Aviary is dedicated to becoming more “green” and this is our latest milestone in the process. Reuse and recycle are the watchwords for this garden... and you can do the same at your home. Come visit our new outdoor garden and chat with our Commissary and Horticulture Teams when they are out tending the crops!

Learn how to produce organic veggies in your own backyard this spring for a bountiful harvest this autumn.



Save A Tree!

If you would prefer to receive future issues of **Bird Calls** as a downloadable PDF, please email our editor at nuelsi.pales@aviary.org, making sure to provide your mailing address from this issue.