

# National Aviary welcomes Director of Conservation Dr. Todd Katzner

by **Tiffany Sander**, Director of Marketing and Public Relations

The National Aviary is pleased to announce Todd Katzner, Ph.D. as Director of Conservation Programs and Research. It is with great enthusiasm that we add this new position as we further our goal of becoming the pre-



Dr. Todd Katzner bands and examines a live Griffon Vulture before its release.

eminent avian conservation organization.

Dr. Katzner joins the Aviary from a National Science Foundation International Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at Imperial College in London, England. There he developed mathematical models of eagle populations in Kazakhstan to improve

the understanding of the factors that limit these populations and to develop improved monitoring programs. He also studied Griffon Vulture populations to better understand the threats to

these populations, especially in light of current threats to vultures around the world.

Dr. Katzner's education includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Oberlin College, a Master of Science degree in Zoology and Physiology from the University of Wyoming where he conducted research on pygmy rabbits, and a Ph.D. in Biology from Arizona State University where he led research on the ecology of eagles at a nature reserve in Kazakhstan.

Dr. Katzner has led or participated in bird research within Minnesota, Arkansas, Hawaii, Idaho, Wyoming, and Pennsylvania, as well as in the United Kingdom, Kazakhstan, Russia, Republic of Georgia, India, and China. He has also advised and assisted students in the United States, United Kingdom, Kazakhstan and Russia. He has been published in a variety of national and international research journals and wildlife magazines including *Wildlife Conservation* and *Conservation Biology*.

His new position at the National Aviary will expand our conservation projects and partnerships on regional, national and international levels.

## Feathered Jewels Gala, a soaring success

by **Patricia Rambasek**, CFRE, Director of Development

The 2004 Feathered Jewels Gala, held on September 10th, attracted nearly 750 longtime supporters and newcomers to celebrate the National Aviary with honorary co-chairs Jackie and Bob Capretto, Shelly and Dan Onorato and Judy and Jim Stalder, and Event Chairs, Vince Locher and wife Lari. During the evening, Darlene and Jack Mascaro were recognized with The Phoenix Philanthropy Award for their generous support of the National Aviary.

A stunning multi-image slide presentation of the Aviary's birds produced by Dollar Bank and a number of the Aviary's outreach birds brought the beauty of the National Aviary's collection right into the David L. Lawrence Convention center. The "World of Birds" free-flight bird show, under the direction of Steve Martin of Natural Encounters Inc., was an unprecedented opportunity to enjoy his unique collection of stars from an East African Crowned Crane to a Harpy Eagle. But it was Groucho, the Yellow-naped Amazon, who stole the evening with his singing of several songs including Alouette, complete with a French accent!

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors and guests, including Presenting Sponsor Sky Bank, the evening raised nearly \$400,000 for our avian conservation and education programs! We are grateful for the efforts of our Board of Directors, Host and Hospitality Committee, volunteers and National Aviary staff that made the evening such a success.

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