

This year the Aviary's involvement took a new turn. We added a triage station where veterinarians could examine every bird after they were banded. The healthy birds were immediately released and monitored by Dave as they swam back to the nursery. Any stressed or ill birds were taken to a "hospital" made on the beach and evaluated by Pilar and the other vets. When long-legged birds such as flamingos are ill, they cannot easily stand up and can unfortunately hurt themselves when struggling. To avoid injuries, Sea World has designed a padded, waterproof sling to hang weak birds in. These slings were made so the weak ones could hang in them while they received medical treatments. The birds adjust quickly to being placed in the slings and they recovered better. Prior to the trip, Dr. Fish held a donation drive to collect medical supplies and drugs for the Mexican wildlife preserve. *Special thanks goes to the veterinarians and physicians of Pittsburgh who generously donated the much-needed medical supplies.

The National Aviary is honored to contribute time, resources, and expertise

to this crucial project to help preserve these threatened flamingos. The flamingo roundup and banding process for the 400 chicks takes only two hours, with a team of 20 biologists, three vets, and 100 people from El Cuyo, all coming together to make a difference. The benefits are long-lasting. Little is known about the migration, diet, breeding, rearing, and health of the flamingos. Biologists can now use the data collected to learn more about the flamingos and identify hazards to their survival. Once a problem is identified, then a solution can be made, with a long-term goal of protecting this special area in Mexico and its amazing flamingos.



Pilar's Thoughts:

Wildlife conservation is a complex and controversial topic. The continually-growing human population does have a detrimental impact on wildlife. Almost all the problems threatening the flamingos are from people: pollution, diseases, and loss of habitat. We have a responsibility to find a solution to the problem. There are many ways to directly or indirectly contribute to wildlife conservation. If you would like to hear more about how to become involved in the flamingo project, please contact us at the National Aviary.

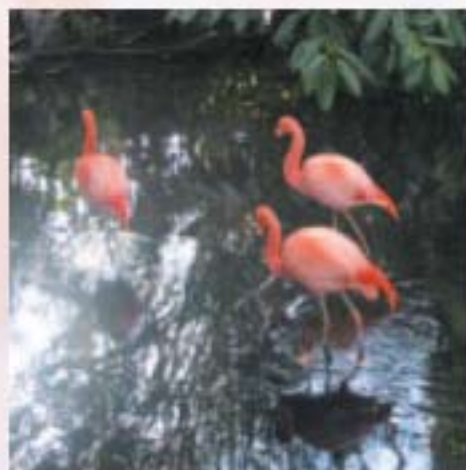
Dave's Thoughts:

My personal belief is that every conservation issue is due to human population, and the effect we have on our world. I feel it not only is my job as an aviculturist at the National Aviary, but as a human being sharing this planet, to make a change and leave behind a world that is beautiful, and majestic for the children of the future. If there's anything, I would like for you to take from the National Aviary's conservation efforts and other conservation programs, it is the realization that everyone can make a difference. Please visit the Aviary to learn more about what you can do to help our conservation projects.

Sponsor a Flamingo through our Adopt-A-Bird program! (page 9)

CONSERVATION

by **Pilar Fish D.V.M.**, Director of Veterinary Medicine & **Dave Miller**, Aviculturist



*SPECIAL THANKS:

Bondbrook
Bradford Hills
Veterinary Hospital
Butler Veterinary
Associates
Castle Shannon
Animal Hospital
Gerry DeLucia
Audrey Donovan
Harris Run
Animal Clinic
Met Vet South
Kathy McDonald
Audrey Mimick
Mary Beth Molnar

Pittsburgh Holistic
Network East
Pittsburgh Veterinary
Surgery
Pittsburgh Zoo
& PPG Aquarium
Sewickley Veterinary
Hospital
Amy Smith
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West Liberty
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