



# birdcalls

Volume 4, Issue 1 • January 2011

The latest news from the National Aviary

## awaiting the pitter patter of little penguins

In a secluded, off-exhibit area at the National Aviary, away from people traffic and the jostling-chasing-braying-squabbling activity of their cousins, **African penguins Owen and Kristin are getting to know each other.**

The pair has been given a honeymoon suite fitted with all the accoutrements that would inspire a penguin couple to settle down and start a family – quiet surroundings, water for swimming, sand, rocks and a box for constructing the ideal nest, and plenty of fresh fish hand-delivered daily by humans anxious to see the two make a connection.

There's a reason for all the fuss. In September 2010, African penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*), a species native to Namibia and South Africa, were officially given Endangered status by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service because of their rapid population decline.

According to *BirdLife International*, the global African penguin population has declined 60.5 percent (from 141,000 pairs in 1956-1957 to an estimated 25,262 pairs today), and at the present rate, it is highly possible that the birds will be extinct in the wild within 10 years. African penguin population loss is due to a number of factors, many of which are impacted by human population growth. These factors include competition for food with the commercial fishing industry; rapid ecosystem changes; major shifts of fish resources to areas outside the penguins' accessible foraging range; habitat destruction; and chronic oil spills.

In an effort to maintain a healthy population of African penguins in captivity, over 40 zoos across the country that are accredited with the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) are working together to match and breed genetically diverse birds through the African Penguin Species Survival Plan (SSP).

Steve Sarro, the National Aviary's Director of Animal Programs, is the National Coordinator for the African Penguin SSP, and one of the individuals keeping a close watch over Kristin and Owen.

"The decline of these birds in the wild is dramatic and relentless," says Sarro. "Each year we see their numbers drop, and there is no end in sight. Penguins need our help, and while we at the Aviary and other zoos are

working with conservation groups in South Africa to help address the issues of habitat loss and overfishing, we are also collaborating to ensure that the penguins in our zoos are and will remain genetically healthy for generations to come."

Owen and Kristin are in the spotlight because their genetics make them an excellent match for producing offspring that will further the diversity of penguins in the North American zoo-based population. Because of this, their courtship is being followed and cheered as they show signs of nest building (for an African penguin this entails pushing sand around and gathering twigs).

If Owen and Kristin breed successfully, they will likely produce two eggs, with the second smaller egg laid four days after the first. In the wild, both male and female incubate the eggs and share the task of brooding (keeping warm) the downy grey chicks after they hatch. If food is plentiful, it is possible that both chicks will survive; if food is scarce, the smaller chick is often pushed away from the nest. Owen and Kristin will face no shortage of food and will be given a nutritionally power-packed diet of herring, sardines, capelin, squid, anchovies and smelt which they in turn will regurgitate and feed to their chick(s).

(cont'd on page 2)

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Stay tuned for Sky Deck – opening in May! Read more about it on page 7.



## A Message from the Development Associate at the National Aviary

Greetings! My name is Roy Aguiar. As the new Development Associate at the National Aviary, I welcome and thank you for your support of the National Aviary.

Before joining the Aviary as an employee, I was a member for two years. My four year old daughter and I have wonderful memories of a lot of weekends spent here. Together we continue to learn the similarities between bird and human behavior. In fact when she found out that I got a job at the Aviary, she was excited that I would be working with her bird friends every day.

With the recent expansion of the National Aviary, our leadership plans to further enhance visitor experiences; we can achieve this through your continued support. At the Aviary, we have different levels of membership tailor-made for your unique needs. If you are a member, I invite you to be an advocate for the Aviary by considering a gift membership for your near and dear ones. We also have other opportunities in which you can support us to fulfill our mission of conservation and education.

I look forward to hearing your feedback and to serving you better. If you need direct assistance with your membership or have feedback you would love to share with us, I can be reached at [roy.aguiar@aviary.com](mailto:roy.aguiar@aviary.com).

Roy R. Aguiar

## awaiting the pitter patter of little penguins (cont'd)

After three weeks, the chick or chicks at the National Aviary will be hand-raised by the Animal Programs staff and given the very best veterinary care to ensure the highest probability of survival. The chicks will grow rapidly and reach their full height and weight in just 10-12 weeks. At that point trainer staff will begin the chick's swim training and will watch over the chicks as they enter and exit their bathing pool.

"In the wild, penguin chicks will toddle down a flat beach area to the water's edge," says Sarro. "Their swimming ability is innate, but in a zoo setting like the National Aviary's Penguin Point exhibit, the penguin chicks must also learn to jump into and out of the water from the rocks. Aviary trainers will act as lifeguards while the chicks build their strength."

Once they are mature, the offspring of Kristin and Owen will also help to strengthen and grow the African penguin population at other zoos across North America.

**Note: at this writing no egg has yet been produced; however, Sarro and his staff believe it likely that the National Aviary will have its first African penguin chick in 2011**



# TAKE A SNEAK PEEK INTO PENGUIN POINT

**Tune in LIVE at [www.aviary.org/penguincam](http://www.aviary.org/penguincam)**

## National Aviary Offers Workshops for Prospective, Current Parrot Owners

**New Partnership with Parrot Education and Adoption Center Aims to  
Prepare Owners for Challenges of Parrot Ownership**



The National Aviary is offering a series of workshops for parrot owners and those considering adopting or purchasing a parrot as a pet, to better prepare them for the challenges of caring for these intelligent but demanding birds.

Two two-hour workshops will be offered, one covering basic care, training and behavior, and the other on enrichment, which encompasses strategies for keeping parrots actively engaged in natural behaviors, including problem solving. Basic Care & Behavior workshops will include live training demonstrations with National Aviary parrots. Enrichment workshops will offer participants the opportunity to make enrichment items for their birds. Both workshops will help owners develop stronger relationships with their pets.

"Parrots can be very challenging pets, and many people who purchase a parrot are not prepared," says Cathy Schlott, training manager at the National Aviary. "These birds are highly social, will often bond with only one human in the family, have very specific dietary needs, and have habits that can be daunting if you are not prepared. By teaching people specific ways to positively train and interact with their parrot, we can help them have a more positive relationship with their pets."

The workshops are open to the public and will be a prerequisite to anyone considering adopting a parrot through the Parrot Education

and Adoption Center (PEAC) of Pittsburgh.

"The Parrot Education and Adoption Center is excited to be partnering with the National Aviary in its effort to further the mission of a better educated parrot owner and support of adoption," says Scott R. Reichert, executive director, PEAC. "We receive a myriad of requests from people to help rehome parrots that they are either unable or unwilling to care for any longer. Factors include the owner's age (parrots can live in excess of 50 years, and some up to 80 years), health, family status, income, or living arrangements. Behavior issues can also leave a bird a very inhospitable and sometimes even dangerous companion. Parrots can scream, bite, destroy property, and pick their feathers out. These issues are often caused by an uninformed pet owner who has inadvertently reinforced undesirable behavior and can usually be improved with proper education of the owner and conditioning of the bird."

### Parrot Basic Care and Behavior Workshops

**January 15, March 12, May 14, July 23,  
September 24, November 12**  
10 a.m. - 12 noon

**Fee:** \$25 / \$20 for National Aviary and PEAC members

In this workshop, participants looking for a better relationship with their pet parrot will learn how to interact with and train their parrot in a positive

way. The class will cover common behavior issues in the home and cover information on healthy diets and basic care practices. Participants will leave with information and resources that provide insight into the basics of positive reinforcement training and steps to take for a healthier parrot. Workshop will include live training demonstrations with the National Aviary's parrots. Participants are asked to leave their bird at home.

### Parrot Enrichment Workshop

**February 12, April 9, June 4, August 13,  
October 22, December 10**  
10 a.m. - 12 noon

**Fee:** \$25 / \$20 National Aviary and PEAC Members

Enrichment encompasses activities that encourage natural behaviors that enrich and improve the quality of life for captive animals. Enrichment can provide a wide variety of benefits to pet birds, including fewer undesirable behaviors and more opportunities for meaningful interaction between owner and bird. In this workshop, we will discuss different kinds of enrichment and techniques that you can use with your own birds. Included in the workshop is the opportunity to make an enrichment item to take home. Participants will be given a binder of information and training resources to take home.

### About PEAC:

Parrot Education & Adoption Center (PEAC - pronounced "peace") is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to educating current and potential owners on the care of companion parrots. Unwanted or found parrots are accepted at PEAC and in turn are placed with qualified, educated applicants. Founded in San Diego, California in 1996, PEAC now has chapters in Anchorage, Alaska and Cleveland, Ohio, as well as Pittsburgh. More information at [www.pitpeac.org](http://www.pitpeac.org).



**For more information or to register for any of the workshops, call 724-378-7588, email [education@pitpeac.org](mailto:education@pitpeac.org) or register at website at <http://www.pitpeac.org/seminars2.php>.**





# What's Happening This Winter

at the National Aviary

## January

15

### Pet Parrot Workshop

Basic Care and Behavior



Do you want a better relationship with your pet parrot? Learn how to interact with and train your parrot in a positive way. The class will cover some common behavior issues that parrot owners have with these birds in the home and information on healthy diets and basic care practices. Participants will leave with information and resources that will provide insight into the basics of positive reinforcement training and steps to take for a healthier parrot. Workshop will include live training demonstrations with the National Aviary's parrots. *Please leave your bird at home.*

## February

### All Month!

#### Tweetie for your Sweetie

Adopt a penguin or owl for your valentine at any level and receive a free 6" plush of your bird. Call 412-258-9437 or visit [www.aviary.org](http://www.aviary.org) to order.



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### Pet Parrot Workshop

Enrichment

Enrichment is anything that encourages natural behaviors, and in doing so, enriches and improves the quality of life for captive animals. Enrichment can provide a wide variety of benefits to pet birds, including fewer undesirable behaviors and more opportunities for meaningful interaction with your bird. In this workshop, we will discuss different kinds of enrichment and techniques that you can use with your own birds. Included in the workshop is the opportunity to make an enrichment item to take home.

For more information on what's happening at the National Aviary, please visit our website at [www.aviary.org](http://www.aviary.org)



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### HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

## March

12

### Pet Parrot Workshop

Basic Care and Behavior

17

### Rainbow Bird Scavenger Hunt

Find a bird of each color of the rainbow using our clues and get a free take-away after completion. Free with admission and open to children 12 and under.



## April

9

### Pet Parrot Workshop

Enrichment

16

### Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

8:30 am

### Lunch with the Easter Bunny

11:30 am

Hop around the Aviary with the Easter Bunny when he stops by for breakfast and lunch on April 16th.



Enjoy either a hot breakfast or a buffet lunch, a craft, a special take-away treat and posing for photos with the Easter bunny. Some of your favorite feathery friends may also make an appearance.

*Parents: Bring your own camera for the photos!*

Advance reservations are required. \$20 per person, children under 2 receive free admission. Call 412-258-9439 to reserve your spot. Price includes admission to the National Aviary and VIP seating in our Wings! bird show (11:00 am show for breakfast guests; 1:30 pm show for lunch guests)

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### HAPPY EARTH DAY!



28

### DelMarVa Trip

Bird watchers and wildlife enthusiasts unite for a weekend getaway with Steve Sarro, Director of Animal Programs at the National Aviary. The annual Delmarva Birding Weekend takes place April 28 – May 1, 2011 at Delmarva, the combined peninsula of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. The area teems with local and migratory birds, as well as a host of ecotourist adventures including kayaking, canoeing, boating and hiking tours lead by regional expert birders. Visit <http://delmarva-almanac.com/index.php/contrib/birding-weekenddates/> for more information on birding excursions or contact Steve Sarro at 412 323-7235 x448 for details.

### Stay tuned...



### opening in May!

Read more on page 7

# SUMMER CAMPS

at the NATIONAL AVIARY



## FEATHERS & FUN CAMP

What's in an egg? Why do birds have feathers? Do parrots really eat crackers? *Make so e feathery friends at the National Aviary's Summer Day Camp for 4 and 5 year olds!* Campers will learn what makes birds unique through games, crafts, stories and up-close visits from Aviary birds. A snack will be provided.

Ages 4-5

June 20-24, 2011

9 a.m. to 12 p.m. daily

Members \$110, Non-members \$125



## TEEN CAREER CAMP

Discover what it takes to care for, feed and train more than 600 birds in this hands-on day camp experience. Join other teens and spend the day working with National Aviary staff and the animals that call the National Aviary home. This is a one-day experience and both camp days feature identical curriculum.

Ages 13-15

July 15, 2011

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Members \$55, Non-members \$65.



## TEEN ORNITHOLOGY CAMP

This is your chance to become a real "Pittsbirder!" Spend a whole day at the National Aviary learning how to watch birds—first, inside the Aviary in the wetlands and tropical rainforest free-flight exhibits, and then 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!

Ages 13-15

July 20, 2011

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Members \$55, Non-members \$65.



## FLIGHT CAMP

Do you love animals? Have you ever wanted to spend the day at the National Aviary with 600 different species of birds?

Ages 6-8

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily

Individual Sessions, sign up for one or for all!

July 13, 2011 – Penguins

July 29, 2011 – Rainforest

August 3, 2011 – Raptors

Ages 9-11

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily

Individual Sessions, sign up for one or for all!

July 22, 2011 – Penguins

July 27, 2011 – Rainforest

August 5, 2011 – Raptors

Members \$55 for each session or \$135 for all three

Non-Members \$65 for each session or \$160 for all three

TO REGISTER FOR CAMPS CALL 412-323-7235 EXT 439 OR EMAIL [EDUCATION.PROGRAMS@AVIARY.ORG](mailto:EDUCATION.PROGRAMS@AVIARY.ORG)



## Rhino Hornbills

# Have you ever seen a "rhino" at the National Aviary? WELL YOU CAN NOW!



**With the addition of a new male rhinoceros hornbill (*Buceros rhinoceros*) to pair with its resident female, the National Aviary is now home to two of these distinctive birds.**

Rhino hornbills are mega-sized, amazing birds of the deep rainforests of the Malay Peninsula, Singapore, Sumatra, Java and Borneo. In their native rainforests, they are considered "near threatened" due to hunting and other human impacts including rainforest destruction. Their populations are continuing to decline.

The most notable feature of the rhino hornbill is its colorful beak and casque. Although it looks quite heavy, the beak and casque of a hornbill are hollow and made of keratin — the same material found in human

finger-nails — making them remarkably light. It has been suggested that the casque amplifies the calls of the hornbill in its dense rainforest habitat.

In the wild, rhino hornbills eat fruit, insects, small reptiles, rodents and small birds. Captive diets include a variety of fruits, meat such as mice, and a moistened, pelleted food specifically designed for hornbills and toucans.

The National Aviary participates in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Rhinoceros Hornbill Species Survival Plan (SSP). The SSP manages the hornbill population based at AZA-affiliated zoos and makes breeding recommendations for pairing males and females based on genetics and demographics. In short, it is a computer dating service for hornbills!

Recently, the AZA developed recommendations to allow our single female hornbill (Mrs. T) to be paired with a new male from the Santa Barbara Zoo. Tony and Mrs. T are a good match, and if breeding is successful, their future offspring will help grow and strengthen the overall captive population. That's if they navigate the elaborate courtship and process for producing and raising a clutch of hornbill chicks.

In a zoo setting such as the National Aviary, the birds first need to be introduced and given time to get used to one another. For Tony and Mrs. T, this process began late this past fall in an off-exhibit area. The birds exhibited a positive relationship, and Tony was seen passing food to Mrs. T. This was a strong indication that the birds were bonding, and that breeding would be a possibility. The pair was moved to their

newly renovated space in January, and are being observed closely by trainers for signs of courtship.

If mating occurs, Tony will seal Mrs. T into a hollow of the artificial tree located in the center of the exhibit, using food, mud and even feces! Mrs. T will lay her eggs and incubate them in the hollow tree. She will remain sealed in the tree for 37 – 46 days incubating the eggs. After the chicks hatch, only Tony will be responsible for feeding her (and the chicks) through a small slit.

As the chicks grow, the hollow tree will get more and more crowded. Eventually, Mrs. T will chisel her way out and start helping Tony feed the growing youngsters. Amazingly, once the female leaves the tree, the chicks will re-seal the opening, a behavior in the wild that offers protection for the young birds. After approximately 80 days, the chicks will fledge and break out of the nest.

If Tony and Mrs. T are successful at raising their chicks, the offspring will be sent to other zoos that participate in the Species Survival Plan, where they will act as ambassadors for this wonderful species.

**Come visit the National Aviary soon and often to observe, first-hand, to enjoy the remarkable courtship of the rhinoceros hornbill and (hopefully) observe their unique nesting behaviors!**



## Association of Zoos & Aquariums GRANTS ACCREDITATION TO NATIONAL AVIARY

The National Aviary has been granted a renewal of its accreditation by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA).

"The National Aviary is one of the best in the world because it has met the highest standards in the world," said AZA President and CEO Jim Maddy. "It takes hard work and dedication to meet Association of Zoos and Aquariums Accreditation Standards."

To be accredited, the National Aviary underwent a thorough investigation to ensure it has and will continue to meet ever-rising standards in animal care, veterinary programs, conservation, education, and safety. AZA requires zoos and aquariums to successfully complete this rigorous accreditation process every five years in order to be members of the Association.



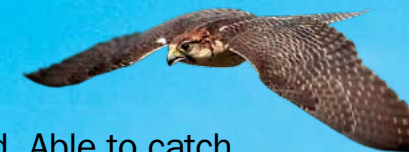
The accreditation process includes a detailed application and a meticulous on-site inspection by a team of trained zoo and aquarium professionals. The inspecting team observes all aspects of the institution's operation in areas such as animal care; keeper training;

safety for visitors, staff, and animals; educational programs; conservation efforts; veterinary programs; financial stability; risk management; visitor services; and other areas. The inspection team prepares an extensive written report for the Accreditation Commission. Finally, top officials are interviewed at a formal Commission hearing, after which accreditation is granted, tabled, or denied.

"We are delighted that our efforts to continuously grow and improve our facility and our programs have earned us this important recognition," said National Aviary Executive Director Patrick Mangus. "We have a dedicated professional staff that is always looking for ways to enhance the health and well-being of our birds, and to provide an ever changing, dynamic experience for our visitors."

# SKY DECK

Sleek. Agile. Built for speed. Able to catch prey head on, and on the wing. Pigeons beware – **Lanner falcons have moved in to the neighborhood.**



Isis, Amut and Horus, three young adult Lanner falcons, have been relocated to the National Aviary from African Lion Safari in Canada to train for lure-flying demonstrations on Sky Deck, the Aviary's newest show space on the roof of the Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone Theater.

Beginning in late spring, the birds will appear daily in shows that display their remarkable hunting techniques. Guests will 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-throttle, chasing the 'prey' until trainers time a final swing and allow the birds to catch their prize.

Like an aerial dance between two partners, the process of lure-flying requires training on the part of falcon and human to ensure that each partner's timing is synchronized. In preparation for the opening of Sky Deck, National Aviary Manager of Training Cathy Schlott and Trainer Christa Wright spent 10 days in England last year with world-renowned bird of prey trainer Jemima Perry-Jones.

"It takes a lot of work to learn the technique for swinging the lures at just the right speed and height for each individual bird," says Schlott. "You want the falcon flying in close to the lure, but you don't want them to catch it until you are ready. You have to make sure that you don't swing it at an angle or speed that discourages them, and you don't want to make it so easy that they catch the lure at first pass."

Keeping the lure moving smoothly and with a measure of grace has its challenges, even without raptors flying at breakneck speed just inches away from your face and body.

"If you're not careful you end up tangled in the line, which is something that I personally experienced in the first few days of training," adds Schlott. "The lure ended up wrapped around me, and the falcons were flying straight in - not fun!" she adds with a laugh.

The Aviary's Lanner falcons were raised by their parents and arrived untrained last year. During the winter months, Schlott and her team of trainers began slowly acclimating the birds to the lure, which is

basically a fake bird made of leather. Training starts with the birds learning to hop to the lure, on which a few pieces of meat are placed. They then learn to follow it a few feet at a time, until the concept that the lure represents food has been established.

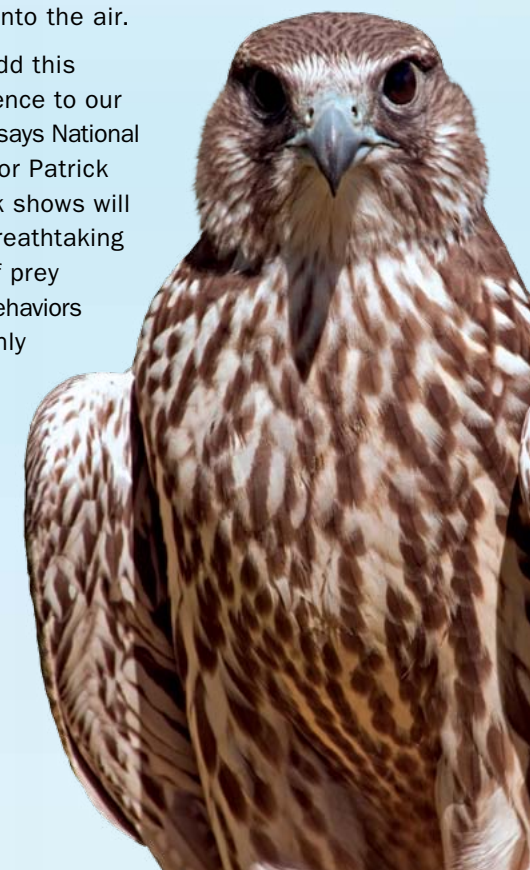
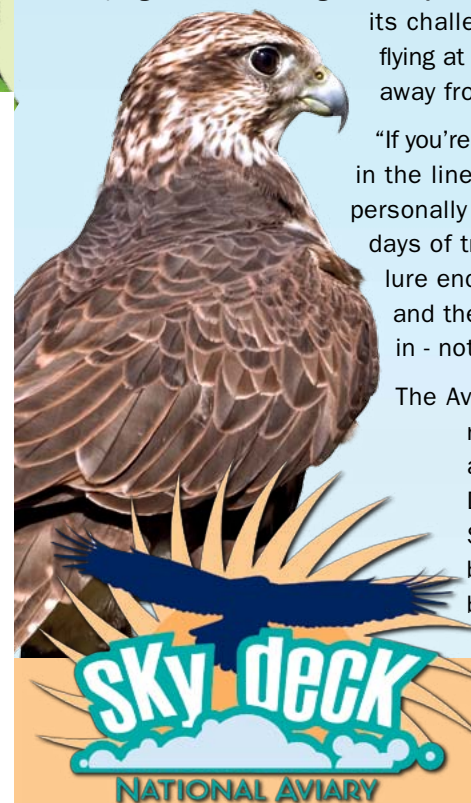
Once outside temperatures rise above 40 degrees (the Aviary's species of Lanner falcon are native to Africa), the birds will be taken up to Sky Deck and the process of teaching them to catch the lure in mid air will begin. Training will progress from simple tosses, to full circular swings, with each session ending with the falcon successfully catching the lure for a food reward.

"Falcons hunt on the wing, and this is a natural behavior for them," says Schlott. "But these are not wild birds. We have to progress slowly to give them time to build up their wing muscles. By the time we start presenting shows on Sky Deck, these young birds will be fully ready to wow audiences."

Also joining the Lanners for shows on deck will be the Aviary's magnificent martial eagle and a flock of black kites. Black kites are also known for their flight maneuvers and ability to change direction at lightning speed, a skill they will demonstrate as they dive for pieces of food thrown into the air.

"We are delighted to add this remarkable new experience to our program of encounters," says National Aviary Executive Director Patrick Mangus. "The Sky Deck shows will afford visitors a truly breathtaking encounter with birds of prey performing the hunting behaviors that would otherwise only be seen in the wild, or by falconers. If you are fascinated by raptors, this is something you won't want to miss."

*Sky Deck will open in late spring, with shows running daily, weather permitting. For show times and details, log on to [www.aviary.org](http://www.aviary.org) or call 412.323.7235.*



**Sky Deck will open May 28, 2011.** Showing daily, weather permitting. Tickets - \$5 per person. Space is limited. Please call 412-258-9444 to reserve your space.



THE NATIONAL AVIARY HOSTS SPECIAL EVENTS WITH

# Im"pec"able Taste

Experience a world of birds at the National Aviary and host a special event at this perfectly unique location. Following the recent completion of our grand construction project and facility-wide facelift, the National Aviary now offers new and improved event spaces for any type of occasion from weddings to corporate functions.

During the summer 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 summertime cocktail party or barbeque cookout with the openness of the outdoor atmosphere.

Year-round, renters can host intimate soirees under the indoor Victorian glass-domed Atrium. Mingle amongst the African penguins in the adjacent PenguinPoint Vestibule. Utilize the new state-of-the-art Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater and seat 130 guests for a lecture, performance or movie preview. Ride the elevator to the Sky Deck roof patio nestled in the treetops of West Park for an intimate gathering under the stars. Make the most of the nontraditional venue and enjoy the entire facility for a cocktail reception of up to 450 guests.

The National Aviary's redesigned interior, adorned with new wall and exhibit graphics, provides a fresh and more contemporary environment to serve as an elegant and festive backdrop for special events. While guests mingle and explore the exhibits, the

colorful plumage of the feathered residents adds that certain-something that other venues cannot provide, particularly when the animal trainers present birds for up-close encounters with guests. What other venue offers partygoers the opportunity to mingle with 200 different species of birds?

In addition, the National Aviary partners with four wonderful catering companies. Big Catering of the Big Burrito Restaurant Group, Bistro To Go, Opening Night Catering and Rania's Catering offer rental clients the highest quality and most diverse menu selections. Clients can plan for a traditional sit-down dinner or opt to provide an innovative, roving stations menu with a pasta bar, fajita station or even Caribbean-, Asian- or Pittsburgh-themed stations. The variety of culinary possibilities 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, tables, seating, and security. Contact **Aimee J. Plotz** at **412-258-9433** or **aimee.plotz@aviary.org** to schedule an appointment to tour the facility and discuss the details.



Exciting **NEW!** nose-to-beak

# ENCOUNTERS



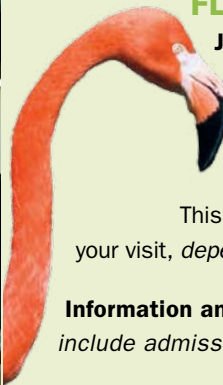
## PENGUIN CONNECTION

**Have you ever wanted to get up close with an African Penguin? Well now you can with the National Aviary's newly redesigned Penguin Connection.**

Guests will have an opportunity to mingle with one of the Aviary's most recognizable birds in this interactive experience. See what they eat for every meal, join our penguin in an enrichment activity, and take unforgettable photos of your experience. This 20-30 minute Connection can be booked in advance or purchased the day of your visit, *depending on availability*.

**Information and Pricing:** \$30 when booked in-house, \$25 for members. *Does not include admission.*

## FLAMINGO CONNECTION



**Join our flock of flamingos in the Wetlands of the Americas exhibit as you enter their environment during our Flamingo Connection.** This one-of-a-kind experience will allow guests the opportunity of being surrounded by frolicking flamingos while learning more about these intriguing birds. You may also be groomed by one of our flamingos before offering them their favorite food.

This 20-30 minute Connection can be booked in advance or purchased the day of your visit, *depending on availability*.

**Information and Pricing:** \$20 when booked in-house, no member discount. *Does not include admission.*

## PARROT PAINTING

**We all have pictures at home, but how many people can say they have one painted by one of the National Aviary's Blue-fronted Amazons?** Well now you can! You get to pick the colors and watch the masterpiece transform right in front of your eyes

with our brand new Parrot Painting Connection. While our parrot is busy painting, a trainer will explain how we work with and train these amazing birds. This 20-30 minute Connection can be booked in advance or purchased the day of your visit, *depending on availability*.

**Information and Pricing:** \$20 when booked in-house, no member discount. *Does not include admission.*



## OWL CONNECTION



**Whoooo wouldn't want to delve inside the mind of an owl? You can do so during our new and exciting Owl Connection,** where one of the Aviary's most magical and mysterious residents will join guests as they discover what makes owls such amazing hunters. Guests will also have the opportunity to see first hand what owls eat every day and even dissect an owl pellet. This 20-30 minute Connection can be booked in advance or purchased the day of your visit, *depending on availability*.

**Information and Pricing:** \$30 when booked in-house, no member discount. *Does not include admission.*

Please call **412-258-9439** for more information or to book your connection today! Advance registration required. Space is limited and these experiences fill up fast! Don't forget your cameras!

Have your very own  
**Bird-Day Party**  
at the NATIONAL AVIARY

Plan your next birthday party at the National Aviary. Our basic Bird-Day party package includes a two-hour room rental and full-day general admission to the Aviary for up to 20 guests; each additional guest is \$8. You are welcome to bring any food or non-alcoholic drink to the Bird-Day room at the Aviary for your party. All food and drink is the responsibility of the party planner. The party can be further customized by adding any of our special Bird-Day Party experiences.

### National Aviary Bird-Day Party Package includes:

- A room rental for 2 hours, either 11 am-1 pm or 2 pm-4 pm
- Same day general admission for 20 guests (*this includes children and adults*)
- A discounted admission of \$8 for each additional guest

Cost is \$250 for non-members, \$200 for members

### Extra Bird-Day Party Options:

- Private Lories & Friends experience
- Penguin Painting
- Avian Serenade
- Single Bird Encounter
- 3 Bird Encounters
- Chicken or Duck Feeding
- Penguin or Owl Craft
- Goody Bags
- Special Gift for the Birthday Child

To book your child's special day or for more information, call our Program Scheduler at **412-323-7235 ext 439**.





# 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.

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# Adopt-a-Bird & Memberships For Members and Friends

**An Adopt-A-Bird package is a unique and meaningful gift.** Your gift to the Aviary will be used for the care and feeding of your favorite bird, and a complete sponsorship package with a photograph, information sheet and Aviary passes will be sent to the recipient.

See our website for a complete list of birds, starting at \$25. You can sponsor a featured bird, or any other bird in our collection, by using this form; by visiting our secure website at [www.aviary.org](http://www.aviary.org); or by calling the Aviary at 412-323-7235 ext. 235.

## BIRD OF THE MONTH:

### Eastern Screech Owl (*Megascops asio*)

The plumage of these small owls (six-10 inches) can be gray, brownish gray or reddish-brown, with darker streaks on the body. Eastern screech owls have yellow eyes, and feathered ear tufts; females are larger than the males, a trait common to owls.

**FUN FACT:** Their "ear" tufts help them hide from predators by disguising them as a broken branch.



Receive a free 6" owl plush when you "adopt" a screech owl at the \$25, \$50 or \$100 level.

## Looking for the Perfect Gift?

**Why not give a membership to the National Aviary!** At only \$75 for a family or \$50 for an individual, you'll be giving an entire year of free visits, special discounts, and members-only opportunities. A new member gift and a subscription to our Bird Calls newsletter round out these special benefits. To purchase a sponsorship or annual membership, please use the form below or visit our secure website: [www.aviary.org](http://www.aviary.org).

## Your Support Helps us Soar!

### Be a Frequent Flyer – Join our Flock!

Join the National Aviary today and receive an entire year of unlimited free admission plus extra-special benefits including great discounts, an invitation to our annual member appreciation event, a free gift and more!

Family Membership - \$75

Individual Membership - \$50

### Adopt-A-Bird Program

#### Eastern Screech Owl

\$25 Level

\$50 Level

\$100 Level

Another Bird of Choice

\_\_\_\_\_ - \$\_\_\_\_\_

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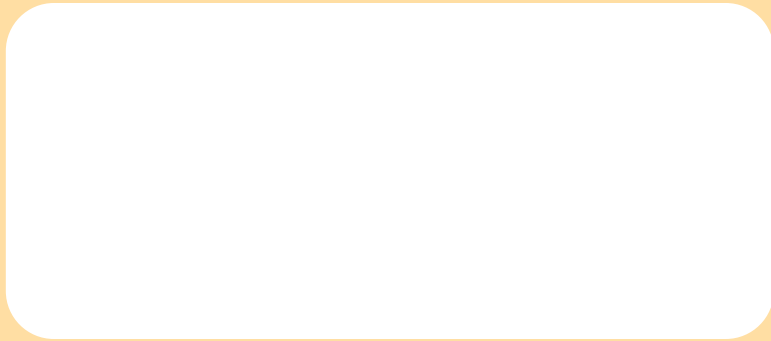
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Please return to: **National Aviary, Allegheny Commons West, Pittsburgh, PA 15212-5248**  
Join or sponsor online at [www.aviary.org](http://www.aviary.org).

The official registration and financial information of the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Please allow approximately 2 weeks for the processing of your membership or sponsorship.







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at the NATIONAL AVIARY

## FLIGHT CAMP

Do you love animals? Our new summer day camp experiences will focus on a different type of bird each day, **allowing our campers to get up close and personal with some of the residents at the National Aviary.**



## TEEN CAREER CAMP

Discover what it takes to care for, feed and train more than 600 birds in this hands-on day camp experience. **Spend the day working with National Aviary staff and the animals that call the National Aviary home.**



## FEATHERS & FUN CAMP

What's in an egg? Why do birds have feathers? Do parrots really eat crackers? **Make some feathery friends at the National Aviary's Summer Day Camp for 4 and 5 year olds!**



## TEEN ORNITHOLOGY CAMP

**This is your chance to become a real "Pittsbirder!"** Spend a whole day at the National Aviary learning how to watch birds and ear a B.A. ("Birder of the Aviary") degree in ornithology!

