



NATIONAL AVIARY



*Please read on
to learn more...*

important work.

WE NEED YOUR HELP to continue this

from our planet.

critically endangered species from disappearing

even while we continue our efforts to protect

children and adults to birds both wild and wonderful,

These encounters have enabled us to introduce countless

For more than half a century, the National Aviary has offered visitors the unforgettable experience of interacting closely with rare and beautiful birds from around the world.

With your help, the National Aviary can continue to be **a force for protecting the birds with which we share our planet, and for inspiring a new generation of children with a love and respect for nature.**

Won't you please make your donation today? Our office and animal programs staff are here to answer any questions you might have about our programs, our birds, and our involvement in the AZA Species Survival Plan.

Sincerely,

Patrick T. Mangus
Executive Director

P.S. Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, additional donations made in support of our renovation and the construction of The Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater will be matched, **doubling your gift.**

NATIONAL AVIARY

AMERICA'S BIRD ZOO

Dear Friend

Around the world, more than **1,200 species of birds are now threatened with extinction.**

The National Aviary, America's only nonprofit zoo dedicated exclusively to birds, is working to protect many of the birds that are among nature's most fragile creatures, and **WE NEED YOUR HELP.**

Wild populations of many of the birds most loved by our visitors are facing tremendous pressures in the wild. They include the African penguin, whose total population has been sliced by 50 percent in just two years; the Bali mynah, of which less than two dozen remain in the wild; and the Micronesian kingfisher, of which only 100 remain, all in zoos.

It is our hope that in the future, conditions will change to allow wild populations of these birds to be reestablished in their native lands.

Until then, **the National Aviary, in partnership with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Species Survival Plan, is working to ensure that these endangered birds remain** for our planet, and for future generations.

ACCREDITED BY THE
ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS

Now more than ever **your support is critical** to our ability to continue this important effort.

Your gift will not only help with the costs associated with acquiring birds, it will also help to cover vaccinations, transportation and medical care, as well as the cost of providing for each species' specific dietary needs.

Your support will also enable us to continue to provide **outstanding conservation education programming** and outreach activities designed not only to educate visitors and students about our birds, but also to provide practical ways for taking conservation action.

Despite our official designation, **the National Aviary does not receive federal funding**, and in the coming year, we are facing the additional challenge of a **100 percent cut in state funding**. Like many other nonprofits, we are also facing reduced support from other traditional sources. We respectfully ask that you consider helping us bridge that gap by making a gift to the National Aviary today.

Here's a look at what your contribution can do to further the work of the National Aviary in the coming year ...



NATIONAL AVIARY

Your Gift Will Help Us ...

... Fund the acquisition and care of
a breeding pair of *Micronesian Kingfishers*



Originally found only on Guam, this iridescent blue and rust-colored bird met near annihilation after the accidental introduction of the brown tree snake to the island after World War II. Micronesian kingfishers are **extinct in the wild, and the National Aviary is one of the few zoos in the world to exhibit this bird.**

Your gift will make it possible for us to acquire a breeding pair and play a key role in their survival.

... Fund the acquisition and care of
a male *Rhinoceros Hornbill*



The magnificent size and appearance of the National Aviary's female Rhinoceros hornbill makes it one of the most breathtaking birds in our collection.

Rhinoceros hornbills are vulnerable to extinction due to habitat loss and poaching for their plumed tail feathers, which are still used in headdresses and decorative capes during cultural and religious ceremonies.

Your gift will enable the National Aviary to acquire a male hornbill to pair with the female currently on exhibit. If the mating is successful, visitors will have the opportunity to watch the birds' remarkable nesting habits. The female will enter a tree cavity built into the exhibit, seal herself in using mud, fruit pulp and droppings, and make a small slit. For the next three months, the male will bear the sole responsibility for feeding his mate and the chicks through the slit, a remarkable example of devotion.

- ▲ Nearly a third of our country's 800 bird species are endangered, threatened or in significant decline (*Source: Dept. of the Interior 2009*).
- ▲ Bird loss is nature's early warning system of where the rest of the environment is heading. At the National Aviary, students in grades K-12 learn about the interconnectedness of people and nature, and the responsibilities we all have in preserving and maintaining life on our planet. That message is also carried through our conservation education programs, which served more than 140,000 adults and children last year.
- ▲ Students and teachers from 68 school districts in 19 counties in Pennsylvania took advantage of our educational programs in 2008.

... Fund the acquisition and care of
a breeding pair of *Bali Mynahs*



Distinguished by its snow-white plumage and bright blue eye patch, the Bali mynah is prized for its beauty, contributing to its status as one of the world's rarest birds.

Native to Bali where it is the island's only surviving endemic species, the decline of the Bali mynah was and continues to be caused by illegal poaching for the caged-bird trade and the urbanization of the island.

It is estimated that **only two dozen Bali mynahs remain in the wild**. Your support will enable the National Aviary to acquire a breeding pair and help stop this bird from disappearing entirely from our world.

... Fund the acquisition and care of
a breeding pair of *African Penguins*



African penguins face a grim reality in the wild. Chronic oil spills, together with overfishing and loss of habitat, is decimating whole colonies of these penguins, which make their nests along South Africa's rocky beaches.

The National Aviary's new exhibit, Penguin Point, offers an optimal setting for breeding these birds. **Your gift will make it possible for the Aviary to acquire a genetically important pair of these birds**, and if breeding is successful, visitors and students will have the benefit and joy of watching the chicks hatch, develop and fledge via nest cams and windows built into the exhibit.

... Fund the acquisition and care of
a *Southern Ground Hornbill*



With its breathtaking up-close encounters with free-flying birds from around the world, the National Aviary's FliteZone™ bird show is an outstanding vehicle for inspiring a love for nature and a commitment to protecting bird life for future generations.

In order to better represent the stunning diversity of bird species with which we share our planet, the National Aviary is seeking to acquire a Southern ground hornbill. Massive in size, this species is noted for the brilliant orange-red patches of bare skin on its face and throat that give it a startling and almost prehistoric appearance.

Southern ground hornbills eat carrion as well as live prey, even going after snakes as venomous as cobras and puff adders. **Your gift will make it possible to acquire and care for this spectacular bird, whose notable stab-toss-eat style will be a behavior spotlighted in the FliteZone™ show.**