For the first time ever, the National Aviary not only has two pairs of Guam Kingfishers, but each pair has produced a chick! Extinct in the wild, the Guam Kingfisher’s survival depends upon successful breeding in zoos. In the last issue of *Birdcalls*, we described how we were embarking on a new breeding plan, and we’re thrilled to report remarkable success.

As Vice Chair of the Guam Kingfisher Species Survival Plan™ (SSP) program, the National Aviary’s Director of Animal Collections, Kurt Hundgen, has been working in partnership with 25 North American zoos to promote the husbandry of the species.

After our bonded kingfisher pair spent several months on exhibit without breeding, Hundgen decided to move them off exhibit to the breeding center in hopes that the privacy would encourage them. Sure enough, in May the pair successfully hatched and parent-raised their first chick. Not only was this the first Guam Kingfisher chick for the National Aviary, but it was an extremely important milestone for a species for which just under 150 birds remain! Hatching and rearing require skills that don’t come naturally to all birds. Often, it can take two to three years of trial-and-error for birds to successfully lay fertile eggs, hatch the eggs, and rear chicks.

The second chick hatched in July to another set of new parents. During the spring, a female kingfisher came to the Aviary for our bachelor male. It was a great match, as they began courting shortly after introduction. Despite the parents’ successful brooding and hatching, the chick is now being hand-reared after taking a tumble from the nest.

Since both pairs are bonded and continue to mate, we will keep them in the breeding center so they may produce more offspring. In the meantime, we are delighted that visitors can now see the first young kingfisher chick in the Canary’s Call exhibit! Thanks to careful management, as well as some good matchmaking, the National Aviary is helping to secure the future of this endangered species.

The parent-reared Kingfisher fledged just a month after hatching and is on exhibit in Canary’s Call for a limited time.

At just two weeks old, the hand-reared Guam Kingfisher chick developed its pin feathers and was hand fed seven times a day!

Visit Spectacular South Africa hosted by the National Aviary and AAA Travel

The National Aviary has partnered with AAA Travel to offer an exclusive tour to a wildlife-lover’s paradise — South Africa. The National Aviary’s Director of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Pilar Fish, and a AAA Travel expert will accompany you through a tour of this breathtaking country.

Learn about the history of South Africa as you visit some of the most well-known sites, including Soweto, Johannesburg, and Cape Town. Photograph the magnificent game during a full-day drive in an open-air vehicle in Kruger National Park. Spend some time with African Penguins in their natural habitat on the shores of the Cape Peninsula. Meet with our partners at SANCCOB, a nonprofit organization the National Aviary helps support in working to save coastal birds like the African Penguin. With an avian expert on your team, you will gain unique insights into the avifauna of the land not available on other tours.

To learn more, please attend our information session at the National Aviary on November 1 from 6-8 p.m. Call 412-258-9463 to register for the information session.
AAfter last year’s smashing success, Wings & Wildlife returns this November with a full weekend of activities to entertain and delight. Dozens of locally and nationally known artists will showcase their wares in mediums from photography and painting, to metal, wood, and textiles.

Many of your favorite artists are returning, along with more than a dozen new artists from five states.

Under the guidance of event chair, Maris Bondi, Pittsburgh’s premier art show for wildlife enthusiasts begins with an elegant black tie soirée and benefit auction. Guests will mingle with the artists and get an exclusive preview of the pieces before the show’s public debut. Aviary experiences, works of art, unique trips and other one-of-a-kind items will be up for bid in silent and live auctions during this engaging evening.

The weekend continues with a public show and marketplace presented by UPMC Health Plan, where visitors can meet the artists and purchase unique pieces. Coming right before the holidays, the marketplace is also a great place to shop for one-of-a-kind gifts! The public show is included with general admission, but entrance to the black tie soirée and benefit auction is limited to advance ticketholders. Get your tickets today, before they sell out.

For ticket information or sponsorship opportunities contact Ted Bartlett at 412-258-9433.

Detail from “Kingfisher on Orange Wreath” by Ashley Cecil
Expanding Conservation in the Pacific Islands

Guam Kingfishers also benefit

For several weeks each year, a hotel on the island of Tinian transforms into an international research station, housing a hundred birds, as well as dozens of staff from zoos across the United States, including the National Aviary. This is the Marianas Avifauna Conservation (MAC) project, a collaboration of government and zoological organizations promoting the long-term survival of birds on this archipelago south of Japan. In April, National Aviary Director of Animal Collections, Kurt Hundgen, made his second trip there to assist with the translocation of birds.

Island birds are particularly vulnerable to the effects of invasive species such as the brown tree snake, which eliminated nine out of 12 forest birds on Guam. To protect the birds of the Northern Marianas Islands from a similar fate, a consortium of AZA zoos developed the MAC project. Through captive breeding and public education and conservation programs, the MAC project gives these species the best possible chance of survival.

Rising before dawn each day, the team opened up to 24 mist nets and made rounds every half hour to remove birds from the nets. Non-targeted species were released, while the targeted species were transported to holding cages in the hotel. In this makeshift wildlife center, the project crew examined, fed, and monitored the birds. A total of 54 Tinian Monarchs and 48 Bridled White-eyes were selected for translocation to the island of Guguan. With a small crew, they made a 13-hour boat ride to the island, where a US Fish and Wildlife Service team stayed behind to conduct post-release surveys.

On his way to Tinian, Hundgen also stopped at Guam to visit with wildlife officials from the Guam Kingfisher program. Hundgen is Vice Chair of the Guam Kingfisher Species Survival Plan™ (SSP) program, and the trip allowed him to learn about his international colleagues’ efforts as they work together to plan for expansion of SSP activities.

Through the MAC project, as well as through our breeding program for Guam Kingfishers, the National Aviary is helping to propagate threatened species for generations to come.

However, our visitors don’t have to travel to the Pacific to see these fascinating birds. They can get an up-close look at Guam Kingfishers, Bridled White-eyes, Golden White-eyes, Marianas Fruit Doves, and White-throated Ground Doves right here at the National Aviary.

Waterside Dining for Ducks

There’s a new dining destination for ducks in the Wetlands — an automatic feeder! The self-serve system allows the ducks to use their natural behavior of feeding in water whenever hungry, but prevents wasted food and dirty water. The feeder was particularly convenient for our Ringed Teal mother duck. She could feed her five ducklings in the early morning and late evening, even though staff were not there.

It’s particularly interesting to see how different birds use the feeder in different ways. The Ruddy Ducks use their short, blunt beaks to spin the bar until food falls out. The Hooded Mergansers bypass the bar and use their longer pointed beaks to reach up into the hole and poke at the pellets. The flamingos have even gotten in on the game, pushing the bar with their heads and not using their beaks at all.

You can catch a glimpse of these behaviors at the only “swim-through” eatery on the North Shore!

New Recycling Center

The new Recycling Center in the atrium is designed with smaller holes to encourage thoughtful trash disposal, two different recycling options and a compost bin. Taking a moment to recycle can make a lifetime of impact. The National Aviary alone can reduce our contribution to landfills by 50% just by composting!

Tinian Monarchs and Bridled White-eyes, like this one, were translocated to the island of Guguan.

Kurt Hundgen, Director of Animal Collections at the National Aviary, participates in the capture and release of Tinian Monarchs.
September 10 & 11
Grandparents Weekend
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Celebrate grandparents and grand birds with plenty of intergenerational games, crafts and activities!
(included with admission)

September 11
Penguin Painting
3 p.m.
$55 nonmember, $40 member
(includes general admission)

September 15
Butterflies & Jazz
5:30 – 9:30 p.m.
$35 per person, $60 for two 21 and over
Join us for an autumn celebration complete with jazz, heavy hors d’oeuvres, a cash bar, and the opportunity to tag and release Monarch butterflies as part of a citizen science project. Purchase tickets online at aviary.org.

October 2
RADical Day
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
The National Aviary is excited to welcome more than 3,000 guests as we offer FREE admission all day!

October 9
Penguin Painting
3 p.m.
$55 nonmember, $40 member
(includes general admission)

October 16
Owl Brunch
featuring Atria’s
Two Seatings: 10:30 a.m. | 12:30 p.m.
Adult: $37, Child 4-10: $19.50
Member Adult: $32, Member Child 4-10: $17
Children 3 and Under: Free
Call 412-258-9445 to register. Space is limited; reservations required. Tickets are transferable but not refundable.

October 22 & 29
Owl-o-Ween
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Wear your costume and come prepared for candy, crafts, and even a creepy crawly bug race.
(included with admission)

October 30 & 31
Happy Birthday Valentino!
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Valentino, the baby sloth, is turning one and you’re invited to his very special birthday party!
(included with admission)

November 7
Wings in Winter Returns!
Winter is back at the National Aviary with the return of Snowy Owls on exhibit, musical Holiday Show, and a brand new feathery and festive scavenger hunt. Visit daily for seasonal fun and special holiday bird appearances.

November 9
Holiday Show Begins
11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
Daily except Tuesdays
Back by popular demand, the Holiday Show returns to fill our theater with classics like “I’m Dreaming of a White Chicken” and “Silver Gulls.” Sing-along, dance, and be amazed during this one of a kind free-flight show featuring macaws, kestrels, owls, and even a visit from Santa!

November 11
Holiday Shopping Day
Enjoy a 10% discount in the Gift Shop and Garden Shop (20% for members).
Excludes gift certificates, camps, and encounters.

November 13
Penguin Painting
3 p.m.
$55 nonmember, $40 member
(includes general admission)

November 26
Photos with Santa and His Penguin Pals!
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
(included with admission)

Toddler & Pre-K Classes
Sept. 13  Penguins!
Oct. 11  Owls
Nov. 8  Little Veterinarians
Toddler Class, ages 2 - 3: 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
Pre-K Class, ages 4 - 5: 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Under 2’s will explore our exhibits and participate in play activities. Ages 3-5 will participate in stories and crafts designed to develop their innate curiosity.

$20 per parent & child pair
(does not include general admission)
Register for the complete fall series of classes and receive a discount!

Pre-registration is required for Toddler and Pre-K Classes. Call 412-258-9439 or email education.programs@aviary.org
Brunch with Santa... and a Holiday Bird Show! featuring Atria’s

December 4
Brunch with Santa... and a Holiday Bird Show! featuring Atria’s
Two Seatings: 9 a.m. | 11:30 a.m.
$45 per person, $40 per member

December 11
Brunch with Santa... and a Holiday Bird Show! featuring Atria’s
Two Seatings: 9 a.m. | 11:30 a.m.
$45 per person, $40 per member

December 10
Member Morning with Santa
9 – 10 a.m.

December 10
Photos with Santa and His Penguin Pals!
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
(included with admission)

Kids Holiday Penguin Camps!

Dec. 28 - ages 6 - 8
Dec. 29 - ages 9 - 12
Dec. 30 - ages 13 - 16
Help prepare breakfast for the penguins, attend a private feeding, and learn what makes these endangered birds so special. Camp includes a close-up encounter and an original masterpiece painted by one of our penguins.
$85 non-members | $75 members
Preregistration required: 412-258-9439 or education.programs@aviary.org

December 11
Penguin Painting
3 p.m.
$55 nonmember, $40 member
(includes general admission)

December 11
Brunch with Santa... and a Holiday Bird Show! featuring Atria’s
Two Seatings: 9 a.m. | 11:30 a.m.
$45 per person, $40 per member

December 17
Photos with Santa and His Penguin Pals!
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
(included with admission)

December 17
Fleury’s KIDS ONLY Night Out
5 – 9 p.m.
$50 per child ($5 additional for dinner)
Kids discover a different side of the National Aviary, with stories, bat feedings, crafts to take home, a scavenger hunt, flashlight hike and opportunities to meet a penguin up close!
Registration Required: call 412-258-9439 or email education.programs@aviary.org.

December 4
Brunch with Santa... and a Holiday Bird Show! featuring Atria’s
Santa invites you to a very special holiday brunch! Includes general admission, a special bird appearance, a children’s craft kit, tickets to the Wings in Winter Holiday Show, and photos in the theater with Santa and a penguin.
Call 412-258-9445 to register.

Space is limited; reservations required. Tickets not refundable.
Hatchings & Acquisitions

ACQUISITIONS: A new female Saipan White-eye was introduced in the Grasslands. An endangered sub-species of the Bridled White-eye, this bird is native to the Mariana Islands in the Pacific. We hope the species will breed on exhibit.

A female Troupial joined the male in the Wetlands. These natural “nest pirates” quickly took over an abandoned nest and we hope they’ll produce chicks soon!

Look for a Turquoise Tanager in the Grasslands. Native to South America, this brightly-colored species is rarely seen in North American zoos.

A new male Burrowing Owl is bonding with his female partner. Get up-close views of the pair next to Penguin Point.

HATCHINGS: For the first time, we’ve hand-raised a Hooded Pitta chick. Pittas are experiencing rapid decline in their native South Asia homelands, making this hatching an important SSP contribution. After a long hiatus, we’ve also hatched a male Malayan Great Argus chick. Visitors love meeting “Gus” in the Tropical Forest. Now a smaller Gus can be seen for a limited time in the Wetlands octagon exhibit!

The charming Marble Teal ducks parent-raised seven offspring, all on exhibit in the Tropical Forest. This is the second year that they have raised offspring, which represent a valuable new genetic line in North American zoos.

MOVING OUT: The magnificent Bateleur Eagles, named for the French word for “acrobat” for their aerial moves, will move off exhibit in October. This could be your last chance to see them. Don’t miss out!

Gift-Giving is in the Bag!

The holidays are only a few months away, and the National Aviary is your destination for fun, unique gifts for everyone on your list.

In our gift shop you will find...

- cuddly plush animals
- elegant tea services
- popular t-shirts
- books and toys
- as well as truly one-of-a-kind pieces, such as paintings made by our own penguins.

Honor someone in your life by having their name engraved on a brass plate at Penguin Point or recognize their favorite bird by donating to the Adopt-a-Bird program. With each symbolic adoption, the recipient receives a photo of the bird as well as other benefits, depending on the adoption level.

For a truly exceptional gift, consider a private animal encounter. Recipients will have the opportunity to meet one of our animals up-close and create memories that will last a lifetime. Encounters include African Penguin, a Flamingo Trek, and — for a limited time — a Sloth encounter with our baby, Valentino. Encounters can sell out months in advance, so book today!

Visit aviary.org for more gift ideas and to purchase!
Night in the Tropics

More than 1,300 guests made an exhilarating escape to paradise as they danced and dined their way through this year’s sold-out Night in the Tropics. Tuika’s Island Magic delighted the crowds with luau dances, fire performances, and photo ops with performers in authentic island attire. Our birds, butterflies, and baby sloth charmed guests, while the Lava Game and DJ Loyal kept them on their feet with a party beat. With more restaurants, more guests, more sponsors, and more activities than ever before, the National Aviary shattered our fundraising record. Thank you to BNY Mellon, all of our sponsors, and everyone who attended — we’ll see you next year!

DONOR SOCIETY

Thank you to the following individual supporters who made donations of $500+ in the past 12 months. Your generosity helps fund the care of our animals. To be a part of our Donor Society, contact Ted.Bartlett@aviary.org or 412-258-9433.

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The National Aviary values each of our donors and has made every attempt to accurately recognize every one. If you see an error or omission, please accept our apologies and contact Ted.Bartlett@aviary.org or 412-258-9433.

List as of 8-26-16

National Aviary Named Chamber Community Champion

The National Aviary was proud to be named the Non-Profit Chamber Community Champion at the Northside Northshore Chamber of Commerce Business Awards Luncheon in July. The Chamber’s committee nominated the National Aviary, and chamber members voted us as the winner! 

Aviary Executive Director Cheryl Tracy accepts the 2016 Non-Profit Chamber Community Champion award from Tom Murphy, John Graf, Robin Rosemary-Miller, Rick Sebak, Debra Caplan, and Scott Pipitone.
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Get your tickets for
NATIONAL AVIARY 
butterflies & JAZZ
2016  
ART SHOW
Wings & Wildlife 
presented by 
UPMC Health Plan
November 4-6
More than a dozen NEW artists join returning favorites!
Details page 2

Remember the National Aviary During Fall Employee Campaigns
New this year, the National Aviary is included in the national Combined Federal Campaign, so tell your friends and family outside of PA they can designate their contribution to us.

Great Holiday Gift Ideas Inside!

Wings in Winter Returns November 7

United Way Contributor’s Choice
#7196
State Employee Combined Appeal (SECA)
#8000-0342
Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)
#12380