In September, Director of Veterinary Medicine Dr. Pilar Fish helped train more than 75 veterinarians from throughout Latin America at the International Conference of Wildlife Conservation Medicine. Held in Ecuador, this five-day conference included lectures at the University of San Francisco Quito’s Veterinary College and hands-on work with animals at the National Aviary’s partner institution, Bioparque Amaru zoo and wildlife center in Cuenca.

Addressing how to manage common medical problems such as head trauma, broken bones, and wounds, Dr. Fish reviewed the latest surgical techniques and medical options. She also discussed reproductive health, neonatal care, and preventive medicine. Dr. Fish even had a chance to partner with her mentor, Dr. James Carpenter, professor of Wildlife and Zoo Medicine at Kansas State University, where she trained 20 years ago. “That time was the most formative of my career, and who knew that years later we would be teaching together in Latin America!” says Dr. Fish.

Following the lectures, Dr. Fish consulted on cases including a hummingbird that couldn’t fly, a parrot with a broken leg, and a toucan with a damaged bill. She worked side-by-side with vets to show them techniques for working with Andean Condors, macaws, eagles and owls. Several vets said they currently had cases with the problems she addressed, and they couldn’t wait to try the new treatments.

Through continuous learning and collaboration, the National Aviary is honored to be a part of the international community of experts helping to improve avian care throughout the world.

Saving Penguins in South Africa

As five penguins waddled down the Cape Town beach, National Aviary Senior Aviculturist Chris Gaus and Education Trainer Jamie Travitz looked on with pride. For two weeks, they worked alongside the dedicated staff of SANCCOB, the South African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds, and they were witnessing the ultimate reward as these African Penguins returned to the wild.

African Penguins have experienced a rapid decline in their population, making them critically endangered. For years, the National Aviary has collaborated with SANCCOB as they provide education, training and research, and rescue and rehabilitate penguins and other seabirds that are abandoned or injured.

In late October, Gaus and Travitz made the 24-hour journey to the southern tip of Africa where Gaus helped to hand raise abandoned penguin chicks, and they couldn’t wait to try the new treatments.

“This was a day that I will never forget. Releasing African Penguins I helped rehab, seeing penguin chicks in the wild, having my feet in the South Atlantic Ocean... all this has fueled my passion to continue to help this critically endangered species.”

— Chris Gaus, Senior Aviculturist
Building Conservation Communities

Many people will never have the opportunity to see beloved animals in their natural habitats. Yet, thanks to the National Aviary, they can explore a tropical forest amid squawking macaws, see a penguin dip and dive, or watch a sloth meander through the trees. Done well, these close encounters help to build people’s connection to the animals, to increase their empathy, and to inspire them to act. In this way, we help to build a community that cares about the future of wildlife.

When you support the National Aviary, you directly contribute to the conservation of species around the world today, while helping to inspire future generations. Thank you, and I hope to see you around the National Aviary in the coming months!

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Tracy, Executive Director

Teacher Training Brings Science to Life

Today’s teachers are shaping the next generation of zookeepers, conservationists, and global citizens. That’s why the National Aviary is proud to offer special teacher training workshops to help them bring science to life. With opportunities to meet live birds, explore our interactive exhibits, and learn directly from people working on the front lines of conservation, our workshops provide a unique continuing education experience. This year, we will host two workshops — Flying Wild and Healthy Birds, Healthy Planet — offering age-appropriate and grade-appropriate resources to put conservation education into action.

Teacher Training Workshops

For more information visit aviary.org, or to enroll call 412-258-9439

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Workshop Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEB 18</td>
<td>Flying Wild</td>
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<td>JUNE 10</td>
<td>Healthy Birds, Healthy Planet</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEPT 23</td>
<td>Flying Wild</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCT 14</td>
<td>Healthy Birds, Healthy Planet</td>
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</tbody>
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Twitter: @National_Aviary
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Editor: Robin Weber, Director of Marketing & Communications Robin.Weber@aviary.org
Groups of 15 or more can register in advance to receive admission discounts and special packages. Call 412-258-9463 for group options.

BirdCalls is published for members and benefactors of the National Aviary. Subscriptions are free with membership.

The National Aviary inspires respect for nature through an appreciation of birds.
The Black-faced Ibis is set to make a big leap in North America, thanks to the National Aviary, which has taken the lead to establish a new Candidate Species Program. The Candidate Species Program is an initiative under the authority of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) to promote the sustainability of selected species. We successfully petitioned the AZA to approve a program for the Black-faced Ibis, and it has taken off: in 2016, there were just three Black-faced Ibis in the country; today, there are 15.

Through a competitive application process, Senior Aviculturist Nikki Hartman was selected by a national committee of avian experts to serve as the program leader. The National Aviary then arranged for the importation of the additional birds from a zoo in France, which will be managed by the National Aviary, Jacksonville Zoo and Bronx Zoo. Hartman monitors the birds’ population, records any hatchings, and keeps family trees. This record-keeping is essential to assuring the birds’ lineage so that as the population grows, aviculturists can ensure genetic diversity. She will also arrange for transfers between participating zoos.

Native to South America, and sharing the same range as our Andean Condors, the Black-faced Ibis is the fourth species of ibis to make its home at the National Aviary. (Others include the Scarlet Ibis, Hadada Ibis and Southern Bald Ibis.) Visitors can see the Black-faced Ibis flock in the Wetlands, where there are six birds between two and six years of age. “They’ll be noticeably active and noisy!” says Hartman.

Aviculturists nationwide are showing strong interest in the program, and four additional zoos have already contacted Hartman to participate. The Candidate Species Program is an important step to ensure the longevity and genetic diversity of the Black-faced Ibis in North America.

The Ellen DeGeneres Show Features Valentino and Violet

On her hit talk show, one of Ellen DeGeneres’ most memorable recent guests was Violet, a five-year-old cancer survivor. When Violet said her favorite animal was the sloth but that she had never seen one in person, the National Aviary invited her for a personalized tour to meet Valentino, the baby sloth. Violet’s visit to the National Aviary aired on The Ellen DeGeneres Show October 12 and generated a flurry of media attention, with hundreds of thousands of online views in just one day.

Look for our next national appearance on PBS’ Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood this winter!

Saving Penguins in South Africa continued from page 1

while Travitz worked with SANCCOB’s education team, including making environmental education more accessible to learners with special education needs. Each day, the two worked alongside staff and volunteers from around the world.

Gaus helped with feeding, preparing electrolyte fluid, and administering nebulizer treatments to penguin chicks. The work was non-stop, as the population grew from 30 chicks on his first day to 147 at the end of the visit! In addition to helping with feedings, Travitz learned how SANCCOB’s education staff creates inclusive activities for students with special needs, whether they use wheelchairs, have epilepsy, or are sensitive to loud noise.

During their stay, Gaus and Travitz encountered other seabirds, including the Pelican, Black Cormorant, Rock Hopper Penguin, and Kelp Gull, and visited historical and cultural sites such as Robben Island and the Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden. The highlight, however, was contributing directly to the penguins’ conservation through hands-on work as well as a donation of $1,800 from the National Aviary to SANCCOB. That donation was made possible by guests who purchased penguin paintings or made contributions at Penguin Point.

The National Aviary is dedicated to securing the African Penguin’s future through breeding, conservation education, and our participation in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums’ SAFE (Saving Animals From Extinction) program. We encourage guests to get to know these birds at Penguin Point and to learn what you can do to help African Penguins and other species.

You, too, can visit spectacular South Africa, see African Penguins in their natural habitat, and much more!

The National Aviary and AAA Travel are offering a once-in-a-lifetime tour October 12-25, 2017, with avian expert and veterinarian, Dr. Pilar Fish.

For trip details www.aaa.com/southafrica. To RSVP for a Travel Planning Session on March 8, contact AAA at 1-800-354-8761 or contact National Aviary Group Sales Coordinator Audrey Beichner at Audrey.Beichner@aviary.org or 412-258-9463.
January 8
Penguin Painting
3 p.m.
Full description at right.

January 14 - 16
Island Expedition
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Escape a cold winter day with our tropical island getaway! The National Aviary brings you closer to the equator during this weekend filled with tropical fun, crafts, and games. Experience the sights, sounds and birds of the Marianas, South Pacific, and Caribbean islands.
(included with admission)

February 4
Pet Parrot Care
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Full description at right.

February 5
Penguin Painting
3 p.m.
Full description at right.

February 11 - 12
Rainforest Adventure
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Go from slush to lush during our celebration of rainforests! Immerse yourself in the vegetation of our Tropical Forest, where parrots and other multicolored birds abound. Feed our colorful Rainbow Lorikeets; meet Valentino and Wookie, our resident sloths; and marvel at the beauty of wetlands birds.
(included with admission)

February 18 - 20
Visit for Presidents’ Day Weekend — Escape Winter
Escape winter right here at the National Aviary! Our exhibits are warm, the vegetation is lush, and the birds are in song. The only thing missing is you!
(regular admission rates apply)

February 18
Flying Wild Teacher Workshop
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
With birds as the focus, Flying Wild provides a service-learning tool for middle school teachers to engage students in hands-on learning, leadership development and conservation education. Our workshop will provide training in the curriculum and connect you to the live birds and resources of the National Aviary. Register online at aviary.org. $100 per teacher

March 8
Spectacular South Africa Travel Planning Session
6 – 8 p.m.
Learn more about how you can travel to South Africa with National Aviary veterinarian Dr. Pilar Fish and AAA Travel! Trip runs October 12-25, 2017. For trip details www.aaa.com/southafrica.
To RSVP for the Travel Planning Session contact AAA at 1-800-354-8761 or contact National Aviary group sales coordinator Audrey Beichner at 412-258-9463 or Audrey.Beichner@aviary.org.

March 11
Pet Parrot Behavior
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Full description at right.

March 12
Penguin Painting
3 p.m.
Full description at right.

March 18 - 19
FlamingoFest
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Rediscover everyone’s favorite pink feathered friends! Meet our incredible flamingos, play flamingo games, make flamingo crafts, and help to feed the flock.
(included with admission)

March 25 Details on page 8
Duck, Duck, Goose!
Waterfowl Watching Day Tour
Lake Arthur, Conneaut Marsh, and more
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
$95 nonmember; $85 member
Includes lunch
Registration required. Contact 412-258-9463 or Audrey.Beichner@aviary.org to register.

March 24
Pirates and Parrots 21+ Party
6 – 10 p.m.
Escape the cold with a tropical party!
Tickets and information at aviary.org.

April 1
Pet Parrot Enrichment
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Full description at right.

April 1
Create Psyanky Eggs
1 – 3 p.m.
Learn the traditional Ukrainian art of creating beautiful Easter eggs. Take your decorated egg and your decorating kit, so you can make more pysanky at home!
Call 412-258-9445 to register. $25 nonmember, $20 member (does not include general admission)

April 8
Members Morning with the Easter Bunny
9 – 10 a.m.
Members, bring your cameras and hop in to take pictures with the Easter Bunny, enjoy light pastries, make a craft, and explore the exhibits before we open to the public.

April 8 - 9 & 14 - 16
Eggstravaganza
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
The most egg-cellent spring celebration in Pittsburgh! As you explore the National Aviary and participate in Eggstravaganza activities, be sure to collect plenty of eco-eggs for your basket!
(included with admission)

April 9
Penguin Painting
3 p.m.
Full description at right.

April 16
Easter Brunch featuring ATRIA’S
Two Seatings: 10:30 a.m. | 12:30 p.m.
Adult: $35, Child 4-10: $17.50
Member Adult: $30, Member Child 4-10: $15
Children 3 and Under: Free
Celebrate the holiday with a new tradition and a new brunch menu delectably prepared by Chef Josef Karst of Atria’s catering! Dine in our heated Rose Garden tent and enjoy visits from some of the National Aviary’s most popular and colorful birds.
Call 412-258-9445 to register. Space is limited; reservations required. Tickets are transferable but not refundable.
May 13 & May 20  
Penguins, Penguins, Penguins!  
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Visit the National Aviary to show your support for African Penguins, which are facing extinction in the wild. There will be games, crafts, and penguins to meet! (included with admission)

May 14  
Mother's Day Brunch  
featuring ATRIA's  
Two Seatings: 10:30 a.m. | 12:30 p.m.  
Adult: $35, Child 4-10: $17.50  
Member Adult: $30, Member Child 4-10: $15  
Children 3 and Under: Free  
Call 412-258-9445 to register. Space is limited; reservations required. Tickets are transferable but not refundable.

May 14  
Penguin Painting  
3 p.m.  
Full description below.

Penguin Painting  
The National Aviary's talented African Penguins paint with their feet!  
Guests will choose colors for their 11"x14" painting and watch the artist at work.  
$40 per person (does not include general admission). Call 412-258-9445 to register.

May 20 - 21  
Details on page 8  
Spring Warblers Galore!  
Overnight Birding Tour  
Lake Erie's Southwest Shore  
Departs Saturday, 6 a.m.  
Returns Sunday, 6 p.m.  
Rates starting at $325 non-member; $300 member, double occupancy.  
Single occupancy also available.  
Includes transportation, lodging, 4 meals  
Registration required. Contact 412-258-9463 or Audrey.beichner@aviary.org to register.

May 21  
Flamingo Bingo  
Join us for an afternoon of bingo with a special National Aviary twist! Check www.aviary.org for more info.

Daily Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Sloth Feeding</td>
<td>Penguin Point</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Little Peepers</td>
<td>Early Learners Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Wetlands Feeding</td>
<td>Wetlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Nature’s Voice</td>
<td>Atrium</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Lorikeet Feeding</td>
<td>Canary’s Call Presented by Dollar Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Aracari Feeding</td>
<td>Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Wetlands Feeding</td>
<td>Wetlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Nature’s Voice</td>
<td>Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Wetlands Feeding</td>
<td>Wetlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Sloth Feeding</td>
<td>Penguin Point</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lorikeet Feeding</td>
<td>Canary’s Call Presented by Dollar Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Aracari Feeding</td>
<td>Learning Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Bat Feeding</td>
<td>Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Penguin Feeding</td>
<td>Penguin Point</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lorikeet Feeding</td>
<td>Canary’s Call Presented by Dollar Bank</td>
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Pet Parrot Classes  
Enhance your relationship with your pet parrot. These classes can also help prospective owners decide if they are up to the rewarding but complicated task of caring for a parrot for its lifespan, which can be up to 80 years!  
$35 nonmember, $30 member per session (does not include general admission)  
Preregistration required: 412-258-9445 or education.programs@aviary.org  
Classes are for humans only — Please leave your parrot at home.

Feb 4  
Pet Parrot Care  
Learn how to create the best environment for your pet, from cage design and perches, to safe toys and healthy diets.

March 11  
Pet Parrot Behavior  
Get the best results from your training through positive reinforcement. Includes live training demonstrations.

April 1  
Pet Parrot Enrichment  
Redirect chewing, screaming and other problem behaviors with natural activities your parrot enjoys, and make toys to take home to your pet.

Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures  
Ten Evenings  
The hawk was everything I wanted to be: solitary, self-possessed, free from grief, and numb to the hurts of human life.  
Helen Macdonald  
JAN 30, 2017 | 7:30 pm | Carnegie Music Hall  
Tickets $15-25  

pittsburghlectures.org  
412.622.8866

WINTER/SPRING 2017 | Page 5
Wings & Wildlife Soars!

Art and wildlife lovers enjoyed up-close encounters with featured birds, mingled over drinks and hors d’oeuvres and bid on one-of-a-kind items during the Wings & Wildlife Opening Soirée and Benefit Auction in November. The weekend raised nearly $50,000.

“The opening soirée is a chance to celebrate nature and the creativity of the artists, photographers and designers who inspire us with their work,” says Cheryl Tracy, National Aviary Executive Director. “This is one of my favorite events because of the emotional connection created through the combination of art and live birds; that feeling is very impactful.”

Thanks to All of Our Sponsors!

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EITC Helps Businesses Save on Taxes While Saving the Birds

The National Aviary has once again been approved as an educational improvement organization (EIO) under the PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) for fiscal year 2016-2017. The EITC program could enable your company to receive a Pennsylvania tax credit of up to 90% of your contribution to the National Aviary, and when you factor in the impact on federal taxes, your contribution could approach a 100% benefit for your company!

Learn more by contacting Laurie Nicholl at 412-258-9470 or visiting dced.pa.gov/programs/educational-improvement-tax-credit-program-eitc.

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Thank you to the following people who made qualifying gifts of at least $500 in the past 12 months. Your generosity is vital to funding the care of our animals. To be part of the Donor Society, visit www.aviary.org/Donor-Society, or contact Ted.Bartlett@aviary.org or 412-258-9433.

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Thanks to Our Champions of Conservation

The new National Aviary Avian Conservation Fund is off to a strong start, thanks to donors like you. This fund provides financial support for our breeding advances, conservation initiatives and research to help save birds from extinction. We are grateful to all the donors who are ensuring a successful tomorrow for birds everywhere.

To become an Avian Conservation Fund donor, you can make a gift at www.aviary.org/give.

List as of 12-16-16

The National Aviary values each of our donors and has made every attempt to accurately recognize everyone. If you see an error or omission, please accept our apologies and contact Ted.Bartlett@aviary.org or 412-258-9433.
**Thank you to the following people who made qualifying gifts of at least $500 in the past 12 months.**

Your generosity is vital to funding the care of our animals. To be part of the Donor Society, visit [www.aviary.org/Donor-Society](http://www.aviary.org/Donor-Society), or contact ted.bartlett@aviary.org or 412-258-9433.

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**ACQUISITIONS:** Three delightful Curl-crested Aracaris will amaze guests during special encounters.

A juvenile male Bald Eagle found a comfortable new home in Condor Court. No longer able to live in the wild after breaking his collarbone, he’s settled into domestic life with exhibit mate Liberty.

Hazel the American Kestrel is ready for her close-up! Meet this small falcon during in-house and outreach education programs.

Specially chosen as a potential new mate for one of our females, a male Guam Rail moved into the Tropical Forest.

Two new African Penguins entertain visitors in Penguin Point. They’re part of the breeding program to protect this endangered species.

---

**HATCHINGS:** Three fledgling Boat-billed Herons will put a smile on guests’ faces in the Wetlands.

The Guam Kingfisher breeding program continues to yield amazing results. Two more chicks were hatched, bringing our total to four chicks successfully reared in the past year.

See the two juveniles that hatched last spring on exhibit in Canary’s Call.

Congratulations to first-time parents, our Victoria Crowned Pigeons! This is also the first hatching for this species at the National Aviary since 1999, and the chick is getting lots of care as it is hand-raised by staff using a staff-created, lifelike puppet.

---

**NEW Avian Encounters to Cure Your Cabin Fever!**

**You Can Feed a Toucan!**

If you love the Rainbow Lorikeet exhibit, you won’t want to miss our new **ARACARI FEEDING**. These toucans want to meet you during new family-friendly encounters twice daily in the theater. Learn toucan facts as they hop from arm to arm and even get a chance to feed them. Great for young children and the young at heart!

$5 per person; private bookings $150

---

**...or a Penguin!**

Yes, coming this spring, you can feed a penguin! Pull on boots and hip waders and join a **PENGUIN FEEDING INSIDE PENGUIN POINT**. Sit beside a trainer and learn all about how they feed – even feed a penguin yourself! You can also check out our reformatted penguin encounter. If it’s been a while, see what’s changed!

Penguin Feeding Experience: $100 per person, limit 2 people per day
Penguin Encounter: $40 per person, limit 8 per session
Book both and SAVE on a penguin package! $125 per person

---

**Behind-the-Scenes Adventures**

Did you know you can get a unique behind-the-scenes look at the National Aviary with a 3-hour **VIP EXPERIENCE** created just for you? It’s like camp for adults! Or a thrilling parent-child outing! Choose from a menu of options to customize a day of sensational shows and private encounters with a variety of birds.

$300/person; $500 for 2 people
(a $50 per person discount on groups of 2 or more!)

Want to know what it’s like to work with our birds? Become a **TRAINER FOR A DAY** and shadow our world-class aviculturists and trainers as they work up-close with a variety of species. You’ll get a trainer t-shirt as well as digital photos to remember your experience. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

$275/person; $450 for 2 people
(a $50 per person discount on groups of 2 or more!)

Call 412-258-9439 to make your reservation today.
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   Saving Penguins in South Africa
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6  Hatchings & Acquisitions
   New Avian Encounters

Escape Winter with New Bird Encounters!
more details on Encounters, page 7 — and more ways to Escape Winter, pages 4-5

Weekend Bird Trips with Our Expert

Timed for peak spring migration, these weekend bird trips offer close-up views of spectacular species with Ornithologist Bob Mulvihill as your expert guide.

March 25
Duck, Duck, Goose!
Waterfowl Watching Day Tour
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
$95 nonmember, $85 member
includes lunch
As we travel to important resting and feeding sites, you may witness hundreds — or even thousands — of ducks, grebes, loons, geese, and swans... and even Bald Eagles or Sandhill Cranes! Bob will share his spotting scope to ensure everyone gets an excellent view. Planned stops include Lake Arthur, Conneaut Marsh, Pymatuning Reservoir, and more.

May 20 - 21
Spring Warblers Galore!
Overnight Birding Tour
of Lake Erie's Southwest Shore
Departs Saturday, 6 a.m. | Returns Sunday, 6 p.m.
Rates starting at $325 non-member; $300 member, double occupancy
Single occupancy also available
Includes transportation, lodging, 4 meals
Witness the migration of thousands of colorful wood warblers on this weekend tour of some world-famous birding sites. Visit Magee Marsh, Crane Creek, and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge, and see songbirds in hand at the Black Swamp Bird Observatory bird banding and research facility. Enjoy sweet birding dreams during your overnight stay at the historic Island House Hotel in Port Clinton.

Registration required: Audrey.Beichner@aviary.org or 412-258-9463.
Hurry and reserve your spot; these trips sell out quickly! More details at aviary.org.

Follow Us!
For the latest news on hatchings, special events, and more, be sure to follow us on social media!
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@National_Aviary

Find some of our favorite tidbits at:
#WildBirdWednesday
#BirdFacts
#OnlyattheAviary