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Weekend Bird Trips with Our Expert

March 19
Waterfowl Migration
$85 nonmember, $75 member

April 30 - May 1
Bird Banding & Warbler Watching
$225 nonmember, $200 member

Registration required: audrey.beichner@aviary.org or 412-258-9463. Hurry and reserve your spot, these trips sell out quickly! Learn more at aviary.org.

New Show Debuts: Nature’s Voice

Travel around the world and through time with colorful Flamingos, crafty Burrowing Owls, and the incredible Palm-nut Vulture. This amazing new show will tell the stories of our legendary birds and inspire audiences to hear the whisper of Nature’s Voice. The new show debuts January 8 with a special free member preview and will show twice daily at 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Science, Art, and Heart: Specialized hand-rearing saves a Gouldian Finch chick

At only 0.9 grams, the newly hatched Gouldian Finch chick was extremely vulnerable. To create a natural atmosphere, the chick was kept in a secluded room, away from other humans and birds, where Travis played a soundtrack of Gouldian Finch noises. All caretakers were instructed not to speak in the bird's presence and to cover their faces when interacting with the chick.

Next, our resident educator and artist, Caitlin, crafted a “feeding model” the size, shape, and color of an adult finch. The model had a special slot so that Travis could insert the feeding syringe through the back of the model’s head, with the tip coming through the “beak.” This way, when the bird received food, it would think that it was being fed from a parent’s beak. This “puppet rearing” method has been done successfully with cranes and condors, but never on a bird so small.

National Aviary Receives High Praise In Accreditation Renewal

Joining one of the world’s largest species of owls and an inquisitive group of African penguins, Kris Vehrs, the Executive Director of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) announced in a landmark press conference in October 2015 that the National Aviary had successfully achieved accreditation. Accreditation means that the National Aviary meets the highest standards in all aspects of its operations — not just in animal welfare and safety, but in human resources, finances, and governance. It’s a distinction earned by less than 10% of licensed animal exhibitors in the United States, and the National Aviary has been continuously accredited for more than 25 years. For achieving this milestone, the National Aviary was further recognized with the AZA’s prestigious Quarter Century Award.
Eagle Scout Donates Nest Boxes

Birds at the National Aviary and around Pittsburgh will have a new place to nest thanks to 17-year-old Antonio Casadei. For his Eagle Scout project, Antonio built approximately 125 nest boxes customized for different types of birds. The National Aviary’s fruit doves are already nesting in their boxes, while screech owls will make their homes in boxes designed for different types of birds. The National Aviary’s fruit doves are already nesting in their boxes, while screech owls will make their homes in boxes designed for different types of birds. The National Aviary has committed to improving waste management practices demonstrated via an audit that involved digging through a day’s worth of trash.

Because our staff and volunteers are so invested in the mission, it’s important to me that we invest in them. Each year, we create development plans that allow our staff to learn at conferences, participate in international organizations, and develop their leadership skills. We also dedicate resources to volunteer training and management.

All of this hard work is evident when I get letters from visitors extolling their experiences. Whether they attended a wedding or a fundraiser, enjoyed a private tour, or visited the exhibits and shows, they always compliment our staff and volunteers.

As a supporter, you play a key role in the National Aviary’s success. You make it possible for us to invest in new exhibits and birds, ongoing staff development, and community outreach that brings our conservation message to the world. I hope you will come in and visit your National Aviary again and again; we always look forward to seeing you!

Cheryl L. Tracy, Managing Director/Chief Operating Officer

Farewell Dorothy

In December, Dorothy, the 16-year-old Peregrine Falcon who nested atop the Cathedral of Learning, disappeared. Her disappearance marks her demise, which was further confirmed by the presence of a new female who was observed in courtship behavior with Dorothy’s former mate, E2. The new female has been confirmed to be “Hope,” who previously tried nesting at a site on the Tarentum Bridge, some 15 miles away. Dorothy’s disappearance marks her demise, which was further confirmed by the presence of a new female who was observed in courtship behavior with Dorothy’s former mate, E2. The new female has been confirmed to be “Hope,” who previously tried nesting at a site on the Tarentum Bridge, some 15 miles away. Over the past 14 years, we all have enjoyed watching Dorothy hatch, protect, and care for her 43 fledglings. We look forward to the “Hope” of continued Peregrine nesting success at the Cathedral of Learning.

It’s a Flamingo Roundup

How do you get seven flamingos to their annual physical?

In September, a team of eight staff, including aviculturists, vet techs, and a veterinarian rounded up all of the flamingos in the Wetlands to take baseline measurements that will allow us to keep them happy and healthy in their habitat. During the roundup, staff weighed each flamingo and examined the birds’ eyes, wings, and beak. They also took pictures of each bird’s feet to check for “bumble.” Flamingos in captivity are susceptible to growths on their feet because they are typically heavier and stand on their feet longer. Not all growths need to be treated, but growths that change in size can cause infection.

The measurements and pictures our staff took will allow them to monitor changes in the birds’ health over time, so the veterinarian will know when treatment is needed. The whole process took only 40 minutes, and we’re happy to say that all the flamingos passed their exams with flying colors.

Greening the National Aviary

Our staff and volunteers didn’t “waste” any time during the National Aviary’s first-ever waste audit. Last October an interdepartmental group of 15 staff and volunteers sifted through 151 pounds of trash to document the organization’s waste management practices and make recommendations for improvement. This is just one activity that our Green Committee has undertaken to make the National Aviary a leader in sustainable practices. Comprising staff from various departments, the Green Committee develops and supports initiatives including reviewing our purchasing practices, managing waste, and developing staff and community education programs.

During October’s waste audit, the team sorted through 151 pounds of trash to document the organization’s waste management practices and make recommendations for improvement. This is just one activity that our Green Committee has undertaken to make the National Aviary a leader in sustainable practices. Comprising staff from various departments, the Green Committee develops and supports initiatives including reviewing our purchasing practices, managing waste, and developing staff and community education programs. During October’s waste audit, the team sorted through 151 pounds of trash to document the organization’s waste management practices and make recommendations for improvement. This is just one activity that our Green Committee has undertaken to make the National Aviary a leader in sustainable practices. Comprising staff from various departments, the Green Committee develops and supports initiatives including reviewing our purchasing practices, managing waste, and developing staff and community education programs.

Over one year, that really adds up! By making a few changes to our daily practices, the National Aviary can divert about 39,000 pounds of trash from landfills each year – but we need your help. When you visit, watch for new signs and sorting bins that will make it easier for our recyclable and compostable waste to reach its proper destination. We also plan to host community information sessions to help you incorporate environmentally friendly practices into your daily routine.

With a few small changes, we can all have a big environmental impact.

Rediscover the National Aviary in 2016

In the coming months you’ll notice ads, news articles, and social media posts inviting you to “Rediscover the National Aviary.” We want you to explore the tropical exhibits you remember and experience the new interactive activities and exhibits you never could have imagined!

We are gathering photos showing people’s favorite National Aviary memories. Through the sharing of photos and stories, we hope to call on those nostalgic memories, create an emotional connection to the cultural asset we are, and bring many new and returning visitors through our doors.

Do YOU have a great photo or story about the National Aviary to share with the public? We want to hear from you! Message us on Facebook, or email Laura.Smith@aviary.org.

From the Director

Excellence – Every Day in Every Way

The excitement is palpable as we forge into 2016 powered by the momentum of some amazing year-end achievements, including the return of Wings & Wildlife and the renewal of our AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums) accreditation. Accreditation affirms that the National Aviary meets the highest standards in animal welfare, safety, and fiscal responsibility. It solidifies our role as industry leaders. And it provides formal recognition of something our visitors already know—that the National Aviary staff, volunteers, and board are a highly accomplished team who are passionate about living our mission each and every day.

Our team is equipped and motivated to take on any task to advance animal welfare and conservation. It can be seen in the effort staff put forth to develop an innovative protocol to raise small birds in a way that minimizes human imprinting; it can be seen in the dedication to improving waste management practices demonstrated via an audit that involved digging through a day’s worth of trash.

Because our staff and volunteers are so invested in the mission, it’s important to me that we invest in them. Each year, we create development plans that allow our staff to learn at conferences, participate in international organizations, and develop their leadership skills. We also dedicate resources to volunteer training and management.

All of this hard work is evident when I get letters from visitors extolling their experiences. Whether they attended a wedding or a fundraiser, enjoyed a private tour, or visited the exhibits and shows, they always compliment our staff and volunteers.

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Cheryl L. Tracy, Managing Director/Chief Operating Officer

Stay Connected

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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.

Excellence – Every Day in Every Way

The National Aviary inspires respect for nature through an appreciation of birds.

Stay Connected

National Aviary

Pittsburgh, PA

The National Aviary inspires respect for nature through an appreciation of birds.
**Birds of Paradise**

(does not include general admission)

$20 per parent & child pair

**Toddler:**

**FlamingoFest**

January 16 - 18

(includes general admission)

$30 adult, $20 child

January 16

(includes general admission)

$55 nonmember, $40 member

**New Show Debuts!**

January 8

Pet Parrot Behavior

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

$30 nonmember, $25 member

(does not include general admission)

**Penguin Painting**

3 p.m.

$35 nonmember, $40 member

(includes general admission)

**Outback Bash**

February 19

Don’t hop a plane to escape icy Pittsburgh, visit the National Aviary for this 21+ fund-raiser and fly away to the “land down under”. Leave your “jammers” at the door, grab a drink at the cash-bar, and dance the night away. Atria’s will fire up the “barbie” for hungry party goers and all of the exhibits will be open to explore. Purchase tickets via aviary.org and Showtix.

**The Ornithologist is In: Identifying Birds of Western PA**

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

$30 nonmember, $25 member

(does not include general admission)

February 13

**National Aviary Day Under: An Australian Adventure**

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Included with general admission

February 13 - 15

Spring is Coming Back

•

The Laugh is Coming Back

•

Thank you for being a member!

We understand that many of our members may be part of other organizations’ membership programs. Other perks on those select reciprocal admission days may include a 30 percent discount in participating gift shops or on memberships. We are happy to say THANK YOU for being a member!
Mutually Beneficial Gift
The Loughneys Make a
role in the Species Survival Plan (SSP) by
flock. The National Aviary plays an important
recently joined the Wetlands
Highly endangered in the wild, two
Tawny Frogmouths
Call exhibit.
Hatchings & Acquisitions

The Silver-beaked Tanagers
in the Canary’s Call exhibit.
also welcomed their first chick. Native
to Brazil, this is a new SSP species for
the National Aviary.
In the Wetlands, the Palawan Peacock
Pheasants, which are an SSP recommended
breeding pair, hatch one chick. Look for
these birds in the ochotrope exhibit.

Wings & Wildlife Soars
in Triumphal Return
A
after a 10-year hiatus, Wings & Wildlife made
a triumphal return in November. The weekend
kicked off with an elegant black tie soirée that
drew a notable crowd of nature and art lovers
to sample delectable hors d’oeuvres, sip refreshing
cocktails and bid on unique works of art.
The centerpiece of the auction was an original
painting, Penguins on the Rocks with a Twist, by
esteemed local artist John Prasack. This stunning
work will feature the nest of lucky auction winner
Ginny Merchant.
Throughout the weekend, thousands shopped the
stands of our 46 artists who featured work in ceramics,
sculpture, textiles, photography, watercolor, and more.
It was a wonderful weekend to welcome old friends and
to make some new ones, all while raising valuable funds for our mission.

Thank You Sponsors

National Aviary Receives High Praise
in Accreditation Renewal

Thank You Sponsors

As of 2016, the National Aviary has been
accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquaria
(AZA). Accreditation is an
important recognition from our peers, not only for the
efforts to maintain the highest level of excellence
in record-breaking admissions and earned revenue; cross-departmental
efforts to maintain the highest level of excellence
in record-breaking admissions and earned revenue; cross-departmental
efforts to maintain the highest level of excellence
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Strategic route is key. All you do is get
the routing number from the National Aviary and
ask your broker to transfer your shares.

Wings & Wildlife Soars
in Triumphal Return
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Wings & Wildlife Soars
in Triumphal Return
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NATIONAL AVIARY

DORON 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 Burbett at aviary.org or 412-258-9433.

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Gouldian Finch Chick
continued from page 1

For several weeks, Travis maintained an intensive schedule, feeding the chick every hour during daylight hours and three times at night. The caretaking team weighed the chick daily and monitored temperature, humidity, and the chick’s position. In between feedings, the chick rested in its “nest” under a soft and warm felt model of an adult bird, hand made by staff, to give it comfort. After six weeks of making good progress with hand feeding, the chick was reintroduced to the Grasslands. In the new bird-centric habitat, the fledgling learned how it watched other birds eat, forage and fly. Soon, a female Melba Finch began fostering the Gouldian Finch, feeding and protecting it as if it were her own chick. This helped the fledgling to adapt while also allowing the Melba Finch to practice her maternal skills. Seeing the finch grow from a fragile hatchling to thrive in its new habitat is a valuable reward. Yet, even more importantly, the National Aviary has the opportunity to share this protocol with other zoos and aviaries that may not consider hand-rearing such a small bird because of the unique challenges involved.

Visitors can spot the newest Gouldian Finch flitting about the Grasslands. It’s a drab grey color now, but will soon take on the vibrant markings of a mature bird. The Gouldian Finch shows the lengths the National Aviary goes to in order to care for even the smallest of our animals.

The Loughneys Make a Mutually Beneficial Gift

When their three children were small, the Loughney family spent countless hours at the National Aviary. Today, their adult children carry on the family tradition, and Patrick and Candy Loughney often visit with their grandchildren and children on visits.

“I love watching my grandchildren and their enjoyment,” Candy says. “Usually, children are busy on their electronic devices! At the National Aviary, the kids get to see birds interacting in their habitats, and they’re fascinated by them.”

With gains from a strong financial market, Patrick and Candy decided to do something special. They transferred mutual fund shares that had increased in value to the National Aviary. “It makes a lot of sense to give away capital gains,” says Patrick. “The organization gets the full value of the gift, and the donor avoids paying capital gains tax. It’s a great tax savings

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