

National Aviary Celebrates Hatching of Endangered Grey Crowned-crane

A new arrival to the National Aviary, an endangered Grey Crowned-crane chick, was about the size of a large pear when it hatched on July 27. The chick is growing and thriving, and it won't stay little for long. In just three months, it will reach its full adult size of over 3 feet tall, with a wingspan of 6.5 feet! The chick delights visitors during daily walks in the historic Rose Garden, where it exercises and practices for its role as an educational ambassador for its species.

This daily exercise is vital for the chick's growth and development. Grey Crowned-cranes are precocial birds, ready to begin exploring their world within hours of hatching, and their long legs require some serious stretching from an early age. As our chick grows, visitors might catch it displaying "stamping" behaviors: striking the ground with its feet to stir up insects as it walks.

While it is covered in buff, downy feathers now, by 18 months the chick's brown and tan feathers will be replaced with beautiful adult plumage. The striking markings of the Grey Crowned-crane, in particular its distinctive crown of yellow feathers, make it one of the most recognizable crane species in the world.

Grey Crowned-cranes face declining numbers due to the loss of critical wetlands habitat in Africa. Since 1985, wild populations dropped from over 100,000 mature birds to just 22,000 today. Through interactions with our Grey Crowned-crane chick, visitors will learn about steps they can take to protect wetlands, like limiting the use of harsh chemicals that can be returned to the environment.

Visit the National Aviary this fall to watch our crane as it struts and stretches during daily walks in the Rose Garden! ■



Collaboration is Key for Saving High Andes Habitats



In addition to our efforts to successfully breed Andean Condors here in Pittsburgh, the National Aviary is undertaking significant work to build capacity among conservation leaders on the ground in the Andean Condor's native habitat, another step toward fulfilling our mission to save species and protect habitats. Our work in the high Andes has been extensive, encompassing research, breeding, husbandry, veterinary care, and education.

Now, new research employing long-term data sets is providing a roadmap for conservation priorities in the high Andes. And, a new staff exchange

program with our partner institution, Bioparque Amaru, is building capacity in Ecuador and at the National Aviary. Our partnership relies on a wrap-around approach to addressing needs for animal care and breeding, field research and conservation, and program development to sustain operations. When National Aviary staff visit Ecuador, it's an opportunity to observe high Andes species in their natural habitats and bring back insights that can improve breeding programs.

One of the world's most biologically diverse hotspots, Ecuador also hosts the highest concentration

From the Director

A Holistic Approach to Saving Species



At the National Aviary, we take a holistic approach to caring for our birds. From the specially formulated diets made on-site every day, to the exceptional veterinary care provided by our staff and growing team of interns, we consider the unique needs of each bird. We respect their preferences, and honor their personalities. Dozens of people's individual actions add up each day to ensure the best possible outcome for every bird in our care.

We use that same framework to address the problems that species are facing around the globe. In our work with the Andean Condor, for example, a holistic approach that integrates this species' many needs — breeding, habitat conservation, field research, specialized veterinary care, and a collaborative partnership with a zoo in their native habitat — holds promise for long-lasting impact.

The peaks of the Andes, or the islands of the South Pacific may seem distant from our vantage point in Pittsburgh, and that can make our actions at home feel small. Yet, in our interconnected world, our actions do matter. Travel can help us get a better view of the big picture. Join us for a trip to New York City next spring and watch thousands of tiny warblers fill the trees of Central Park on their migration journey. Or travel with us to Costa Rica, and see how our partner, Rescate Zoo Ave, uses a holistic approach to conservation.

As you look ahead to fall and the holiday season, I invite you to visit the National Aviary. In fall, you can watch our new Grey Crowned-crane chick grow, and grow in your knowledge of all things birds with exciting classes from our ornithologist. Late hours in the holiday season offer wonderful opportunities to escape the wintery chill and explore our lush habitats, browse our gift shops stocked with thoughtful surprises for loved ones, and have an immersive experience that brings you closer to nature. That connection to nature can help us step back and look at the bigger picture as the year draws to a close.

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Tracy
Executive Director



NATIONAL AVIARY
PITTSBURGH, PA

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

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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.



Revamped Educational Programs Attract New Student Groups

The next generation of avian scientists are stationed in the Tropical Rainforest, pencils and notebooks at the ready, each with their eyes trained on a particular bird — a Victoria Crowned Pigeon, a Hyacinth Macaw, a Marbled Teal. Just like National Aviary staff do, this group of teenagers in the Science and Animal Behavior program is conducting ethograms, cataloging the behaviors they observe in their target species. The National Aviary's free-flying habitats are perfect for seeing behaviors like flight, grooming, and social interactions among birds.

For young scientists and conservationists, the National Aviary's curricula provide unforgettable interactions with ambassador animals and opportunities to spark curiosity. Programs like Birds and Conservation, Veterinary Experience, and Science and Animal Behavior, where students learn from ornithologists,

veterinarians, and field researchers, give students a glimpse into the worlds of field research and animal care. Students use the tools scientists employ to record animal behavior and gain experience in research methods through in-class activities and observation in the National Aviary.

For Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, offerings like Outdoor Art, Conservation Careers, and Habitats encourage exploration of the natural world within and outside of the National Aviary. Owl Prowls led by National Aviary Ornithologist Bob Mulvihill can accommodate up to 30 Scouts on a trek into the woods at night to look and listen for owls.

Since rolling out updated programs in late 2018, requests for conservation-driven education curricula for older students have been on the rise. ■



To book a program for your school, science club, or scouting group, call Kate Campbell at 412-258-9439.

Saving High Andes Habitats

continued from page 1

of the world's vulnerable birds. Habitat degradation puts species' survival at risk.

Recently published research from the National Aviary's Director of Conservation and Field Research, Dr. Steve Latta, is helping conservationists glean important insights into the population trends of more than a dozen high Andes bird species. Researching survivability in the high Andes is a challenge, and long-term studies documenting survival and population trends are rare. The National Aviary is conducting a long-running study with colleagues in Ecuador that may result in recommendations for changes to land use and conservation to preserve species' habitats.

Kurt Hundgen, the National Aviary's Director of Animal Collections, has visited the region and works closely with Bioparque Amaru's Andean Condor program. Collaborating with zoos around Ecuador and other South American countries, he is sharing expertise in the breeding of Andean Condors in human care, working with them to improve habitat design, and assisting with the creation of a regional program that ensures optimal breeding pairs are selected.

Dr. Pilar Fish, National Aviary's Director of Veterinary Medicine, has assisted Bioparque Amaru in setting up its veterinary clinic and developing protocols for emergency triage and preventative medicine. National Aviary veterinary staff have also provided training opportunities for veterinarians throughout South America, facilitating workshops and on-site training.

In June, we were thrilled to welcome Bioparque Amaru's Victoria Arbeláez, to the National Aviary. As Amaru's Administrative Director, Victoria is responsible for the strategic growth of the zoo. She spent a week observing operations, meeting with National Aviary senior leadership, and learning best practices for growing their zoo's financial capacity and integrating conservation messaging in their education, fundraising, and marketing. She also gathered ideas for programming and encounters that can be important sources of revenue. What she learned during this trip will be the basis for changes she implements at Bioparque Amaru.

The factors that threaten the long-term survival of high Andes birds and the habitats on which they rely are varied,

and our approaches to countering them must be integrated, comprehensive, and collaborative. For the National Aviary and Bioparque Amaru, our holistic approach is fostering cooperation and bringing hope to species and habitats on the brink. ■

Innovative Approaches to Teaching Avian Medicine

by Dr. Pilar Fish, Director of Veterinary Medicine



Not all veterinarians are trained to treat birds. In veterinary school, the average curriculum focuses on dogs, cats, horses, and cattle, and students often don't learn about birds. Yet birds are vastly different from mammals, and specific training is required to work with these unique and diverse creatures.

In the United States, there are over 20 million pet birds, 200,000 birds living in AZA accredited zoos, and 64,000 injured wild birds admitted to wildlife centers each year. Despite this need, few programs are available to train students to become avian veterinarians. The National Aviary's Teaching Hospital was established 16 years ago to help meet the educational

needs of pre-veterinary and veterinary students. Interns receive hands-on training in the specialized practice of avian medicine, learning to perform physical exams, administer preventative medicine treatments, and even do emergency triage.

This year, the National Aviary has already taught and mentored 40 veterinary interns. Since the Teaching Hospital was established, more than 400 students from across the country and internationally have been trained. The National Aviary strives to help educate and inspire the next generation of avian veterinarians, and to help meet the growing needs of wild, domestic, and zoological birds worldwide. ■

National Aviary Fall Events

September 12
Classes for Bird Lovers:
1, 2, 3... Bird ID!
 10 - 11:30 am
 See description below.

September 19
Classes for Bird Lovers:
Appreciating Avian Architecture — Bird Nests
 10 - 11:30 am
 See description below.

September 20
Ladies Night Out
 presented by **TRIB TOTAL MEDIA**
 6 - 10 pm
 See full description on back page.

Guests must be 21 or older with valid photo ID.
 \$75/individuals; \$60/person for groups of 6+
 Buy tickets at www.aviary.org.

September 26
Classes for Bird Lovers:
Flap, Glide, Hover, and Soar — Birds in Flight
 10 - 11:30 am
 See description below.

October 12
National Aviary Bus Tour:
Hand-fed Wild Birds on a Bird Lovers Adventure!
 8 am - 5 pm
 See description on back page.

October 19 & 26
Owl-o-Ween
 11 am - 3 pm
 Whooo's ready for Owl-o-Ween? Owls, raptors, bats, vultures and other creatures of the night will greet you at the National Aviary's annual family-friendly harvest festival. Come ready for costumes, candy, crafts, and amazing photo opportunities of winged creatures. Included with general admission.

October 24
Owl Prowl
 7 pm
Irwin Run Conservation Area
 Join National Aviary Ornithologist Bob Mulvihill for a guided, after-dark nature walk to look and listen for owls in Pittsburgh's parks. Bob will lead you into the woods as you search the treetops for Eastern Screech Owls, Great Horned Owls, and Barred Owls. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a flashlight for this nighttime adventure!
 \$10 per person
 Call 412-258-9463 to register.
 Space is limited; reservations required.



October 27
Owl Brunch featuring Atria's
Two Seatings: 10:30 am | 12:30 pm
 Relax in the National Aviary's heated Rose Garden tent and enjoy a host of delectable brunch items from Atria's, served buffet-style. Sip a brunch cocktail from the cash bar and enjoy visits from beautiful owls as you dine. After brunch, explore the National Aviary's immersive habitats for a perfect autumn Sunday.
 Member Adult: \$39, Member Child 4-10: \$19.50
 Adult: \$44, Child 4-10: \$22
 Children 3 and under: Free
 Includes general admission
 Call 412-258-9445 to register.
 Space is limited; reservations required.
 Tickets are transferable but not refundable.

October 29
Travel Planning Session
Explore Costa Rica in 2020!
 6 pm
 Explore the beauty of Costa Rica next fall! Learn more at this informative session. Call 412-258-9445 to register.
 See description on back page.

October 30
Owl Prowl
 7 pm
Olympia Park in Emerald View Park
 See description to the left.

Holiday Lights and Late Nights

10 am - 9 pm
 November 29 and 30,
 December 4, 11, 18, and 26.
 Additional dates will be added.
 Included with admission.

The National Aviary warms up the cold nights of early winter with extended hours and a holiday light display! Escape the chilly weather and spend a very merry evening exploring our lush, tropical habitats, where you'll get close to feathered friends in our free-flying rooms. Music, a cash bar with festive cocktails, and seasonal café offerings for purchase from Atria's make for a cozy evening as you take in the sights and sounds of the National Aviary at night.

November 2 - 3
Special Art Weekend
 Join the National Aviary for a special weekend celebrating the arts and find inspiration for your own creative pursuits in our colorful birds!
 See aviary.org for details.

November 29
Birds on Black Friday
 10 am - 9 pm
 Skip the lines at the mall and spend Black Friday with feathered friends at the National Aviary! Enjoy all of the National Aviary's regularly scheduled programming, including immersive experiences. Visit our gift shop to find unique gifts for everyone on your list, from gift certificates to interactive encounters with birds, armadillos, and sloths!
 Included with general admission.

November 30 & December 7
Photos with Santa and his Penguin Helper
 11 am - 1 pm

December 8
Brunch with Santa featuring Atria's
Two Seatings: 10:30 am | 12:30 pm
 Santa invites you to an extra special holiday brunch! Enjoy a host of delectable brunch items from Atria's, served buffet-style. Reservations include general admission to all of the National Aviary's exhibits, a special bird appearance, a children's craft kit, and photos with Santa and a penguin.
 Member Adult: \$39, Member Child 4-10: \$19.50
 Adult: \$44, Child 4-10: \$22
 Children 3 and under: Free
 Includes general admission
 Call 412-258-9445 to register.
 Space is limited; reservations required.
 Tickets are transferable but not refundable.

December 14 & 21
Photos with Santa and his Penguin Helper
 11 am - 1 pm

IMPORTANT CLOSURES

The National Aviary will be closed September 20, October 2, November 1, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Holiday Penguin Camps

Dec. 27 ages 5-8
Dec. 30 ages 9-11
 9 am - 3 pm

Enjoy a day of holiday fun with our penguins! Holiday day camps are a great way to stay active during the school break, learn something new, and have fun with feathered friends.

Register at www.aviary.org or contact 412-258-9439 or education.programs@aviary.org.
 Space is limited; reservations required.



Photos with Santa and his Penguin Helper!

Nov. 30 | Dec. 7 - 14 - 21
 11 am - 1 pm

Bring your camera, and don't forget your wish list! Santa and his penguin helper will be visiting the National Aviary to help you prepare for the holiday season. Visitors will have the opportunity to take photos with Santa and a penguin!
 Included with general admission.

Daily Schedule

10:30 am	Wetlands Feeding Wetlands
11:00 am	Amazing Amazon Presented by Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater Daily, Except Tuesday
11:30 am - 12:00 pm	Lorikeet Feeding Canary's Call Presented by
11:30 am	Interactive Storytime Atrium
12:00 pm	Hornbill or Toucan Feeding Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater
12:00 pm	Meet a Bird of Prey Penguin Point
1:00 pm	Penguin Feeding Penguin Point
1:30 pm	Amazing Amazon Presented by Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater Daily, Except Tuesday
2:00 pm	Wetlands Feeding Wetlands
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Lorikeet Feeding Canary's Call Presented by
3:00 pm	Bat Feeding Canary's Call Presented by
3:30 pm	Hornbill or Toucan Feeding Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater
4:00 pm	Penguin Feeding Penguin Point
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Lorikeet Feeding Canary's Call Presented by

= requires additional ticket/fee

Classes for Bird Lovers

September 12, 19, 26 | 10 - 11:30 am

Join National Aviary Ornithologist Bob Mulvihill for a series of classes focusing on unique aspects of birds, from behavior to appearance. Classes will include both classroom time and time walking in and around the National Aviary. Refreshments will be served!

September 12
1, 2, 3... Bird ID!
 Seeing birds with binoculars is one part of the process — correctly identifying them is the other! Learn a practical method for identifying birds and take a field trip inside and outside the National Aviary!

\$25 per class for members; \$35 per class for nonmembers
 Buy 3 classes and save \$10 per class!
 Call 412-258-9445 to register for classes.

September 19
Appreciating Avian Architecture — Bird Nests
 Bird nests take a number of forms, from plain-and-simple to ornate and complex. Get to know the fascinating techniques and materials birds use to create safe places for their eggs and young, and observe nests in the National Aviary.

September 26
Flap, Glide, Hover, and Soar — Birds in Flight
 Can you identify a type of bird by the way it flies? The surprising answer is... yes! Learn about the relationship between wing shape variation and flight behaviors, and observe the flight styles and strategies used by birds in the National Aviary.



Toco Toucans

Hatchings & Other Happenings

Meet Mango & Tango!

We are thrilled to introduce these two **Toco Toucans** who live in the newly redesigned habitat, the TreeTops, presented by Peoples. Watch these striking birds as they hop along branches, rotating their bodies as they jump. The dynamic duo got their names from a public naming contest. Mango and Tango are bonding nicely, and we hope they will breed when they are old enough!

Two recently hatched **White Crested Laughingthrush** chicks have fledged and are being raised by their parents in the Tropical Rainforest. They also received supplemental feedings from avian care specialists to ensure they had plenty of calcium to grow.



White Crested Laughingthrush



Marbled Teal



Spotted Whistling Duck



Edwards's Pheasant chick



Guam Rail parent and chicks



Red Siskin

Two **Spotted Whistling Ducks** and two **Marbled Teals** hatched in the Tropical Rainforest.

Our **Edwards's Pheasant** pair successfully bred soon after arriving at the National Aviary! Native to Vietnam, these birds were last seen in the wild in 2000. The chick that hatched at the National Aviary will play an important role in the continuation of its species as it moves on to another zoo to participate in the Species Survival Plan®. You can visit the proud parents in the TreeTops, presented by Peoples.

We welcomed three **Red Siskins** to our Grasslands habitat. Other Red Siskins are living in the Breeding Center. These birds will become part of an important breeding program to help this species rebound.

Six **Guam Rails** hatched at the National Aviary, an important addition to the population of this species, which is extinct in the wild. ■

Night in the Tropics Takes the Party to Rio!

PRESENTED BY UPMC HEALTH PLAN

Over 1,300 attended the sold-out Night in the Tropics event that raised \$300,000 to support the National Aviary's work to save species and protect habitats at home and internationally. Animal ambassadors and Brazilian dancers in feathered costumes set the scene for guests as they entered the National Aviary.

We thank our energetic guests, sponsors, and National Aviary donors for their generosity, and board member Maris Bondi for serving as Event Chair! Special thanks to UPMC Health Plan, presenting sponsor for Night in the Tropics. ■



Pittsburgh Samba Group wowed partygoers — some even joined in.

Left to right: Executive Director Cheryl Tracy, left, and Event Chair Maris Bondi, right, are greeted by Christa Gaus, Manager of Visitor Experiences and Training, and Franklin the Spectacled Owl.



Pennsylvania's Second Lady Gisele Fetterman (in black) and her mother, Esther Resende, enjoy the sights and sounds.



Maria DeSimone Prascak, embellishes her canvas during a live painting session.



Proactive Conservation Keeps Threatened Species Safe

After an invasive species, the brown tree snake, decimated native bird populations on the island of Guam, the neighboring Mariana Islands took notice. The Marianas Avifauna Conservation (MAC) project, a collaborative effort of government and nonprofit organizations, formed to provide a proactive conservation strategy to protect species from future threats.

The National Aviary, home to four of the six MAC focus species, has been a key player in the project, providing on-site expertise in translocation on the islands for five years,

and developing breeding and husbandry protocols at home. For species like the Golden White-eye and Bridled White-eye, this multifaceted approach that involves education, translocation, and breeding might be what saves them.

Jennifer Haverty, Senior Aviculturist at the National Aviary, made her second trip to the Mariana Islands in April to assist with the translocation of vulnerable species from the island of Saipan to the island of Alamagan. Conservationists are hopeful that mitigation efforts will stop the spread of the snake to islands further away from Guam and Saipan.

Back in Pittsburgh, Jennifer watches as a Bridled White-eye hops gingerly from its nest. A tiny hidden camera captures its movements. Encouraging the birds to breed successfully in human care is a key step in protecting the population. The Bridled White-eyes at the National Aviary have made strides towards breeding since

Jennifer Haverty, Senior Aviculturist at the National Aviary, prepares a Golden White-eye for translocation from Saipan to Alamagan. Left: A Bridled White-eye.



they arrived in 2014, and one has fledged successfully, so far. Jennifer's focus is now on establishing protocols for use in other zoos. Nationwide, only two other zoos have Bridled White-eyes.

"This is one of the ways we at the National Aviary 'walk the walk' when it comes to conservation," says Jennifer. "We are there on the island assisting in the efforts to save them, and we are making important strides towards successfully breeding them." ■



DONOR SOCIETY

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List as of 8-1-19



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Ladies Night Out

Presented by **TRIB** TOTAL MEDIA

Friday, September 20
6 - 10 pm

\$75 for individuals

\$60 per person for groups of 6+

Get your tickets today at aviary.org!

Ladies (and gentlemen, too) are welcome for an evening of delectable fare, delightful drinks, and beautiful birds to see up close! Enjoy the National Aviary's lush habitats at night, sample offerings from event partners representing the spa, salon, cosmetic, clothing, jewelry, and travel industries, and win exciting prizes! All proceeds from this fundraising event will benefit the National Aviary's conservation, education, and animal care initiatives. This event is 21+. Tickets include food from Atria's Hand Crafted Catering; wine, beer, and signature cocktails; valet parking; and entry into a drawing to win prizes throughout the evening. ■

Spread Your Wings — Travel with the National Aviary!

There's no better way to observe wildlife than with the experts at the National Aviary. Bus tours and international trips offer opportunities to learn, explore, and connect with the natural world — and each other!

Hand-feed Wild Birds on a Bird Lovers Adventure! October 12

Join National Aviary Ornithologist Bob Mulvihill for a day of birding as you travel by bus to Blue Spruce Park and Yellow Creek State Park in Indiana County. Hand-feed chickadees, titmice, and nuthatches, and see dozens of fall migrant species!

Birds in the Big Apple May 15 - 18

Did you know that Central Park is one of the world's birding hotspots? Visit New York City with National Aviary Ornithologist Bob Mulvihill and see birds in a new way: at Central Park Zoo, on Audubon murals, in the collections at the American Museum of Natural History, and even from the Empire State Building!

Information Session — Explore Costa Rica in 2020! October 29, 6 pm

Join us for a planning session and prepare for adventure in September 2020 with National Aviary's Dr. Pilar Fish and AAA Travel. Get an exclusive tour of our partner zoo, Rescate Zoo Ave, and visit incredible beaches, jungles, and cloud forests in one of the world's biodiversity hotspots!

For more information about travel with the National Aviary, visit aviary.org or contact Audrey Beichner at 412-258-9463 or audrey.beichner@aviary.org.

