



birdcalls

THIS SUMMER ONLY!

JOURNEY TO

AFRICA

Explore species of Africa's vast savannahs and lush tropical forests this summer at the National Aviary!

Presented by  **PEOPLES™**

Journey to Africa Presented by Peoples brings guests on an adventure through the habitats of a continent rich with biodiversity, all with enhanced safety protocols in place.

Discover the fascinating species found across Africa with exciting new daily programs, many of which are included with general admission! Meet a colony of African Penguins as they swim in the waters and waddle across the rocky shores of Penguin Point during twice-daily African Penguin Feedings.

Head to the Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater where two critically endangered Hooded Vultures fly overhead in an immersive flight demonstration. Learn about efforts to help protect these special birds that keep sub-Saharan African

ecosystems healthy. During Eagles of Africa, meet a Martial Eagle, an endangered species weighing more than 13 pounds, or a Golden Eagle, one of the largest birds of prey in the world.

Visit the Wetlands for a Flamingo Feeding to discover their unique adaptations and to watch a Pelican Talk—some guests could even get the opportunity to toss fish to feed a pelican for an additional fee! In Condor Court, meet the Andean Condors residing on the craggy cliffs of this outdoor habitat, and learn how the National Aviary is working to conserve these impressive birds. Stop by the Tropical Rainforest for an expert-led feeding offering the chance to see species visitors may never have noticed before. Gather at the watering hole for a Bird Meet and Greet to see an amazing bird, from a parrot to an owl, up close!

Go on a truly immersive adventure during African Adventure Presented by AAA Travel, the National Aviary's new live bird show. Take a trip from grasslands and savannahs, to deserts, and to tropical forests to encounter the abundant biodiversity found across the continent, from a Red-billed Hornbill to a Grey Crowned-crane.

Don't forget to snap a selfie from inside an all-terrain vehicle to remember the adventure. Journey to Africa continues through September 6. Visit the [COVID-19 Information page](#) for more information about the National Aviary's safety protocols. Peoples is the presenting sponsor of Journey to Africa.



Book timed-entry tickets today!

Letter From the Director



Welcoming a New Season

The last year has certainly been unlike any other, and many of us have looked forward with anticipation to the arrival of summer and the chance to experience something that feels like "normal." As the weather warms and we prepare to welcome this new season, we have much to look forward to, and much to reflect on.

This summer, we are thrilled to welcome visitors for the launch of our new season, Journey to Africa Presented by Peoples. This exciting new experience is packed with new daily activities, many of which are included with general admission, that bring you closer to the incredibly diverse birds found across the African continent. In each of the National Aviary's immersive habitats and during expert-led talks, flight demonstrations, and feedings, you can encounter beautiful birds from the grassy savannahs, lush tropical forests, and rocky coasts of Africa.

Our new immersive bird show, African Adventure Presented by AAA Travel, offers an exciting journey without ever having to leave Pittsburgh! During the narrated show, birds fly, walk, and waddle close by. You'll see a stunning Grey Crowned-crane in flight, an impressive Black Kite soaring overhead, and adorable African Penguins waddling by, all set against stunning visuals and music.

So much has changed in the course of a year. A year ago, the doors of the National Aviary were closed due to a statewide order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and it was unclear

when we would be reopening and welcoming visitors once more. Today, though the pandemic continues to affect nearly every aspect of daily life, enhanced safety protocols are allowing us to once again reconnect with our friends, family, and our favorite places.

Through it all, the National Aviary has been able to continue providing world-class care for the more than 500 animals who call the Aviary home, thanks to the help of our donors, friends, and supporters. Every time you visit the National Aviary, book an Animal Encounter, or participate in one of our virtual programs, you are supporting our mission and helping to create a brighter future for birds.

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Tracy
Executive Director



Stay Connected

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BirdCalls is published for friends of the National Aviary.

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Your donation supports the National Aviary's work to save birds and protect their habitats.





An African Adventure Awaits!

Presented by AAA Travel

An African Penguin waddling by, just feet away. A graceful Grey Crowned-crane gliding past. A Red-billed Hornbill zipping by. African Adventure Presented by AAA Travel, the National Aviary's new immersive bird show, offers an experience like no other, with diverse birds from across the African continent!

Go on a journey with National Aviary experts through the continent's many habitats. Meet iconic species in the grasslands, at the watering hole in the desert, deep in the tropical forest, and along beaches and shores. At each stop, encounter some of Africa's most fascinating species, learn about each bird's role in the biodiverse region it inhabits, and watch as the birds demonstrate their natural behaviors.

Stunning visuals, engaging music, and a powerful message make African Adventure Presented by AAA Travel an unforgettable experience.

Book your timed-entry tickets today!



This Summer: Electronics Recycling at the National Aviary


A piece of the African continent is with most people at all times: coltan, a mineral mined across the continent, is an essential component in many electronics, including smartphones.

Coltan mining operations vary, and unfortunately some are associated with unethical practices that affect humans and have serious environmental impacts. Coltan recycling can help reduce the need to mine for new minerals.

Throughout the summer, visit the National Aviary to recycle old electronics and help reduce the demand for coltan mining. ECO-CELL, a recycling company that has recycled over 700,000 cell phones since 2002, will accept electronic items smaller than a laptop.

[Click here to learn more about recycling your electronics!](#)



Presented by  AAA Travel

Neonatal Care Helps to Hatch Hope

By Pilar Fish, DVM, Senior Director of Zoological Advancement and Avian Medicine

In the National Aviary's Avian Hospital, we provide advanced, comprehensive health care throughout a bird's entire lifecycle,

from helping hatchlings make their way into the world to providing a loving and comfortable home for senior birds.

The National Aviary's Neonatal Health Care Program helps see delicate, fragile chicks through their journey from egg to entering adulthood.

Neonatal care begins in the egg. We use a tool called a candler to check the embryo at varying stages of development. The candler projects a light that illuminates the inside of the egg, allowing us to check the size of the embryo, the shape and size of the nutrient-rich yolk which feeds the embryo, the blood supply, and the air cell, which the chick uses to breathe while hatching. This winter, we used these indicators to observe the development of our endangered African Penguin chick and our endangered Scaly-sided Merganser chick.

It's amazing what a little chick can accomplish! The intricate process of hatching takes about two or three days for most species, and the chick needs to progress through each step on time if it is to successfully make its way out of the egg and into the world.

All of the energy that goes into hatching can leave a chick too tired to complete the process, and some chicks turn around in the egg and into a breeched position. At the National Aviary, we are able to carefully monitor hatchings and provide the chick with the help it needs to complete the hatching process. Both the African Penguin and the Scaly-sided Merganser did well after receiving some assistance in their hatching.

Using a warming light to keep the egg at a consistent temperature and instruments created for delicate human eye surgeries, we carefully remove parts of the shell, allowing us to visualize the chick and work around the blood vessels that line the egg's shell.

Once hatched, the chick enters a delicate and intensive period of growth. Chicks grow incredibly fast, and each day is important for the growth of a healthy chick. This means that very young birds eat a lot! At the National Aviary, most chicks eat every 2 to 3 hours, consuming ten percent of their bodyweight.

As chicks grow and develop, they receive regular health checkups and preventative medicine to support them on their journey to adulthood. This critical neonatal period also helps us to better understand the needs of each bird and put into place the customized care that will enable each bird to thrive.

For Marge, the African Penguin, the comprehensive care she received in chickhood enabled us to diagnose slight vision loss in her right eye early and make modifications to her habitat and her care so that this special bird can adapt well and go on to live a full, active life.

The National Aviary's world class Neonatal Health Care Program has helped hundreds of hatchlings make their way into the world and develop into thriving adult birds. For species like the African Penguin and Scaly-sided Merganser, whose numbers are dwindling, each hatchling represents hope for the future of its species. Providing outstanding care to these precious birds in their earliest days is just one way the National Aviary is helping to save species.

You can support bright futures for our hatchlings. Donate today.



Top: This Scaly-sided Merganser is the first of this endangered species to hatch at the National Aviary. **Bottom:** At just a few days old, Marge, an endangered African Penguin, receives a health checkup.



A Little Green Owl Brings Two Pittsburgh Organizations Together

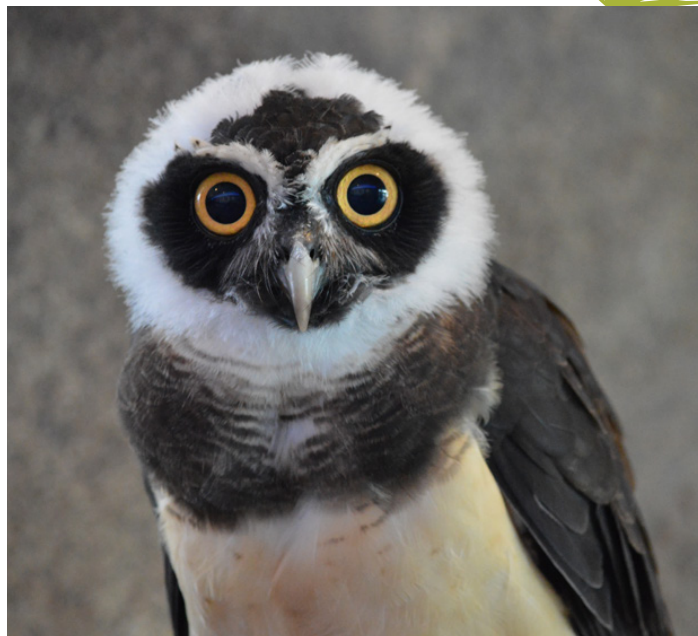
The National Aviary is home to a diverse range of owls, from small Eastern Screech-owls to massive Eurasian Eagle-owls, but one owl you won't find in any of the National Aviary's habitats is a small, green owl named Duo.

Duo is the official mascot of the Pittsburgh-based language-learning platform, Duolingo, and a friend of the National Aviary.

Duolingo's relationship with the National Aviary began with their sponsorship of the Burrowing Owls habitat. Since then, what started as a way for this Pittsburgh company to give back has grown into a fun and collaborative partnership, resulting in **bird naming ceremonies**, real owls making appearances during **Duolingo's virtual Camp Duo** in 2020, and **owl horoscopes** on Twitter.

"As a Pittsburgh-based company with a widely-known owl mascot, it's been a delight to partner with the National Aviary, a similarly mission-driven organization with a wide impact," said Michaela Kron, Duolingo's Lead Public Relations and Social Media Manager. "Since kicking our partnership off in 2019, we have been proud to support the incredible work that the National Aviary is doing to promote conservation and inspire respect for nature through an appreciation of birds."

Duolingo and the National Aviary have more than just owls in common. With missions rooted in education and ties to Pittsburgh, this partnership is an owl-around great match!



Top: Cathy Schlott, National Aviary Director of Animal Programs and Experiences, appeared with a Eurasian Eagle-owl during Camp Duo. Bottom: Seen here in her juvenile plumage, Duo, a Spectacled Owl, was named by Duolingo in honor of the company's mascot.

Learn more about corporate partnerships with the National Aviary.

New! Name-A-Bird and Make a Difference

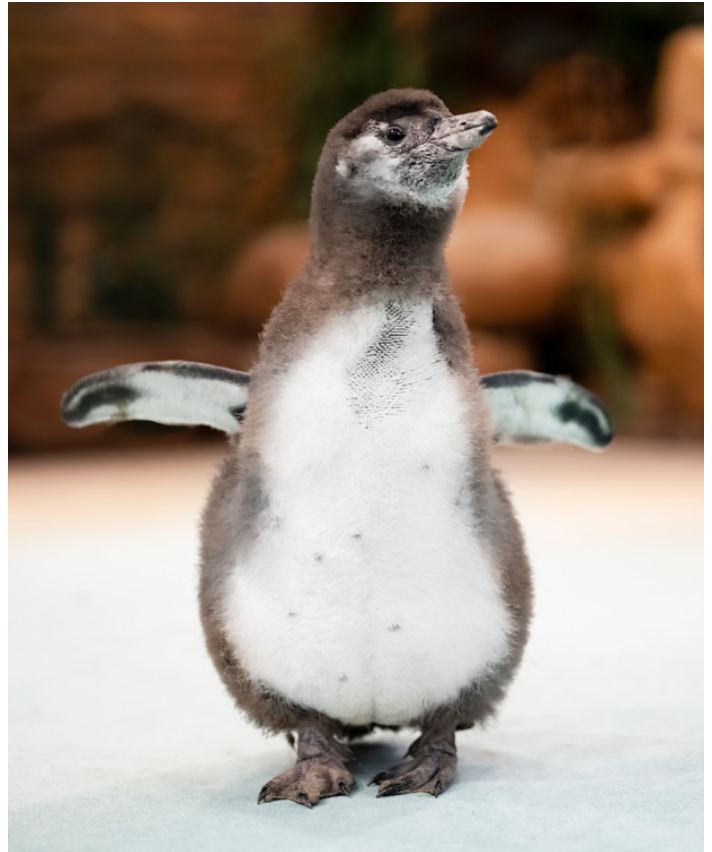
Have you ever wondered how birds like Marge, the African Penguin, get their names? While birds are often named by staff, they can also be named by National Aviary supporters!

The National Aviary's new Name-A-Bird program launched last month, opening up naming opportunities for some of the Aviary's most iconic species—like American Flamingos and African Penguins—and other distinguished birds with unique histories and fascinating conservation stories.

Marge was named by generous donor, board member, and friend of the National Aviary, Rich Caruso. Rich named Marge in honor of his mother, Margaret Caruso, for her one hundredth birthday. Rich's gift has made a tremendous impact on the National Aviary and has supported the customized care that Marge received at every step of her journey, from hatching to joining the colony at Penguin Point.

Naming-A-Bird at the National Aviary supports the Aviary's work to save birds, protect their habitats, and provide world-class care. There are perks for you, too, including VIP visits and special memorabilia to help you deepen the bond with the animal you've named.

[Learn how you can Name-A-Bird!](#)



Hike, Bike, Bird, Explore, & Support the National Aviary

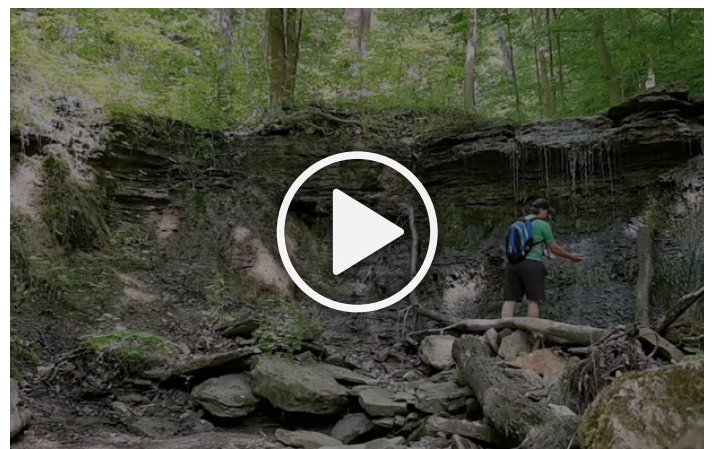
Registration for the inaugural National Aviary Hike-A-Thon Presented by UPMC Health Plan is now open!

Throughout the month of September, get outdoors and hike, bike, explore, and engage family and friends in raising funds for the National Aviary. Registration for this exciting new virtual event is easy and fun. Find out more and learn how to register and begin your Hike-A-Thon journey!

[Register today!](#)



[Learn More Here!](#)





Experience the Beauty of Birds in 2022 with the National Aviary and AAA Travel

There's no better way to travel than with the National Aviary and AAA Travel!

Join National Aviary Ornithologist Bob Mulvihill for a birdwatching getaway to Tucson or Nebraska. Enjoy comfortable accommodations in the company of interesting travelers and build your birdwatching skills.

Arizona Birdwatching and Tucson Adventure *January 17-23, 2022*

Head out for Tucson to experience the wonders of the southwest on this expert-led trip that includes stops at Saguaro National Park, Kartchner Caverns, and the birding destination of Cochise County. Birdwatching opportunities in deserts, among mountains, and at wetlands provide the chance to see dozens of species, including Sandhill Cranes at Whitewater Draw wildlife area.

Great Sandhill Crane Migration: An Adventure in the Heartland *March 20-26, 2022*

Witness one of the most incredible migration journeys in North America, when over 500,000 Sandhill Cranes gather on the Platte River in Nebraska during their spring migration. Visit the largest known Prairie Chicken lek in Nebraska to watch these stunning birds perform courtship displays at dawn. Enjoy the sights, sounds, food, and wildlife of America's Heartland!

[Learn more and plan your trip!](#)



Summer Calendar of Events

Birding Expeditions with Bob

Saturday, July 10
8:30 am - 11:30 am

\$50 Members
\$55 non-Members

Meet up with National Aviary Ornithologist Bob Mulvihill for physically distanced outdoor birding at Cook Forest, a southern outpost for many northern bird species like Swainson's Thrush and Blackburnian Warbler. Learn techniques to enhance your birding skills in one of Pennsylvania's most impressive habitats: old-growth hemlock forests! This is a meet up-style program; participants travel independently to the location.

Hurry! Only a few spots left! **Register today!**

Birdwatching Kayak Tours with L.L.Bean

Sunday, July 25, August 29 | **\$75 per person, per session**

Participants must be 8 years or older; under 18 must be accompanied by a registered adult companion.

See birds in a new way: from the water! Meet up with the National Aviary and L.L.Bean at North Park Lake. Experienced guides from L.L.Bean will offer on-land instruction on kayaking and safety before a National Aviary expert leads kayakers out on the water. All equipment, including kayaks, safety devices, and L.L.Bean Discovery Binoculars, is included.

Sunrise Tour: Sunday, August 29 ▪ 7 am - 10 am

Wake up and head out with a National Aviary expert for a kayaking experience at dawn. Listen and watch as the avian world wakes up.

Sunset Tour: Sunday, July 25 ▪ 6 pm - 9 pm

Get a front-row seat to a spectacular summer sunset. Head out onto the lake to watch swallows sweeping across the water and listen for the sounds of birds settling in for the night.

Register today!



Virtual! Aviary Behind the Scenes

Tuesday, July 6
7 pm - 8 pm EST

\$13 Members
\$15 non-Members

Presented via Zoom. Open to all ages.



Explore the world behind the scenes at the National Aviary where older birds and birds with special needs are thriving. Join Dr. Pilar Fish for a look into the National Aviary's Teaching Hospital and meet the charismatic residents, hear their stories, and learn how Dr. Fish's team designs customized care plans for each bird.

Register today!

Brushes & Birds Virtual Art Classes featuring Maria DeSimone Prascak of Maria's Ideas

Saturday, June 26, July 10,
August 21, September 4

11 am - 1 pm EST

Cost per class: \$23 for Members; \$25 for non-Members, plus \$20 per person for optional material kit
Presented via Zoom. Open to all ages.



Create a masterpiece at home! Learn to paint an animal portrait with artist Maria DeSimone Prascak of Maria's Ideas; MariasIdeas.com. No painting experience is required to enjoy this fun experience!

Register today!

Saturday, June 26

Paint a Yellow-naped Amazon, a beautiful emerald green parrot with yellow accents.

Saturday, July 10

On the heels of the Fourth of July, paint a magnificent Bald Eagle!

Saturday, August 21

Take it slow as summer winds down and paint a Two-toed Sloth.

Saturday, September 4

Spread your wings and paint an Andean Condor, a bird with a wingspan of more than 10 feet!

Daily Activities Schedule

10:30 am

African Penguin Feeding
Penguin Point

11:00 am

African Adventure 
Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater | Presented by 

11:00 am

Flamingo Feeding
Wetlands

12:00 pm

Vultures in Flight
Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater

12:30 pm

Bird Meet and Greet
Atrium

1:00 pm

Pelican Talk
Wetlands

1:00 pm

Condor Talk
Condor Court

2:00 pm

African Adventure 
Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater | Presented by 

2:00 pm

Tropical Rainforest Feeding
Tropical Rainforest

3:00 pm

Eagles of Africa
Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater

4:00 pm

African Penguin Feeding
Penguin Point

 = Requires Additional Ticket or Fee

National Aviary admission is included with interactive **Animal Encounters!** Schedule your encounter today, starting at just \$16 more than general admission. Ask at the Visitor Services Desk!



Donor Society

Thank you to the following individual supporters who made donations of \$500+ in 2021. 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.

2021 Donor Society

Martial Eagle | \$2,500+

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Josh and Jacklyn Banyas
David and Elizabeth Brown
James L. Brainard
Richard Caruso
Jane and Michael Dixon
Estate of Lucienne Wald
Michael and Eileen Flinn
Ginny Merchant
Leigh Metcalf
Brian and Sandra Moroney
Louis and Kathleen Testoni
Yarone and Tiffany Zober

Snowy Owl | \$1,000-\$2,499

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Scarlet Macaw | \$500-\$999

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The Scaltz Family
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James Spagnola
Karen and Don Stump
Cheryl and Rick Tracy
George Weir
Thomas and Barbara Wiley

As of 5/28/21



Connect with Nature in The Garden Room

Host your next celebration in The Garden Room,
the National Aviary's new year-round event venue!

This versatile space offers exceptional views of the surrounding park and Lake Elizabeth, with open-air access to the garden that offers a connection to nature.

Book your next celebration, from weddings to corporate parties, in The Garden Room today!

