



birdcalls

Celebrating 70 Years of Saving Birds and Protecting Habitats

In 1952, a bold, innovative idea came to life when the Pittsburgh Aviary opened its doors.

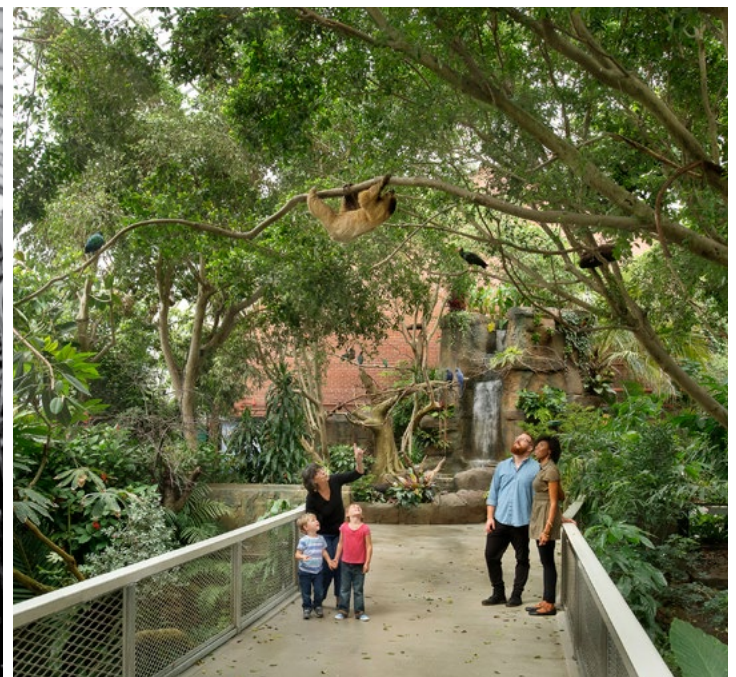
Comprised of one room, the conservatory-aviary introduced a new way of experiencing nature and seeing birds. In a large habitat with a soaring glass roof, birds lived among lush greenery and sunned themselves in natural light, and visitors would find themselves immersed in their world.

Throughout 2022, the National Aviary will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of its founding with a year of exciting events to engage our community, including the return of the National Aviary Hike-A-Thon in September. Get ready to hike, walk, or stroll to fund critical conservation work during this month-long event. The Hike-A-Thon and all National Aviary 70th Anniversary Fundraising Events are Presented by UPMC Health Plan.

So much has changed since 1952, and over the decades, the Pittsburgh Aviary established itself as a beloved cultural asset.

The Pittsburgh Aviary went through the process of privatizing to become a nonprofit, spearheaded by a dedicated group of volunteers, "Save the Aviary, Inc." Through an Act of Congress, it became the National Aviary. The National Aviary has grown, adding immersive habitats like the Wetlands,

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A view of the Tropical Rainforest habitat in the 1950s, and in 2018 shortly after undergoing a renovation.

Celebrating 70 Years of Saving Birds and Protecting Habitats *cont.*

Grasslands, Penguin Point, Canary's Call, and Condor Court. The Aviary has continually adapted and innovated to reach new audiences, advance standards of care for birds, and further conservation aims.

What has not changed in the last 70 years is the National Aviary's work to connect people to nature, and a commitment to saving birds and protecting habitats. This work is captured in a forthcoming special commemorative book that documents the history of the National Aviary from its founding to the present day. The Aviary's innovations in veterinary medicine and animal care, participation in Species Survival Plan® programs for many vulnerable species, and conservation work at home and around the world are highlighted alongside beautiful, full-color portraits of iconic Aviary species.

Milestone anniversaries offer the chance to reflect, but also to look ahead. This summer, exciting changes are coming to the National Aviary as the renovation of the Wetlands, the largest and second oldest habitat, begins. This major undertaking will update the habitat's highly customized mechanical system, and replace the massive room's original glass, among other updates for efficiency and beauty. The Aviary will again collaborate with Vitro Architectural Glass and Walker Glass, whose work can be seen in the Tropical Rainforest and The Garden Room. The existing glass in the Wetlands will be replaced by bird-friendly glass featuring a special pattern designed to keep birds safe inside and outside and maximize the natural light that enters the habitat. Upgrades to the Wetlands will provide a comfortable, natural home for the more than 130 birds that live in the habitat, and make the experience of being in the habitat even more immersive for guests.

For the past 70 years, the National Aviary has been driven by innovation and a deep dedication to its mission to inspire respect for nature through an appreciation of birds. The work of the National Aviary has never been more critical, and with this solid foundation, the Aviary is poised to continue its exceptional leadership in animal care, conservation, and education for years to come.



Blue-crowned Pigeons strut in the Aviary in the 1950s, while their cousin, the Victoria Crowned Pigeon, brightens up the Tropical Rainforest today.



Letter From the Director



70 Years of History and a Bright Future Ahead

When I walk into our Tropical Rainforest habitat, I am struck by how much history is in that room. Initially, this space was the entire Aviary. But, it represented something truly inventive for the times: an immersive, walk-through

space where visitors could be close to birds and see them in a natural setting. Today, the renovated and award-winning Tropical Rainforest is one of several immersive habitats at the National Aviary. More than 90 birds—including the previously extinct in the wild Guam Rail—are at home in this beautiful, light-filled space where visitors can observe them foraging, courting, and nesting.

This year, the National Aviary celebrates its 70th anniversary! We have so much to look back on, and much to celebrate. The Aviary has grown from a one-room aviary-conservatory to become a nationally recognized leader in avian care, medicine, and conservation. As an institution, the National Aviary holds itself to the highest standards, and our team is committed to evolving, growing, and challenging ourselves to exceed those standards in all that we do. Last year, we celebrated achieving accreditation through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, which we have maintained without interruption since 1984. These high standards have shaped us, and will continue to do

so as we look ahead to the future. Beginning this spring, we will be renovating our Wetlands habitat to update and further enhance this already immersive space where birds thrive among natural foliage, ponds, and beaches.

We have also weathered many storms, from the efforts to Save the Aviary in the early '90s, to the pandemic that has altered every aspect of life for us, and our community has rallied to support us every time. Most recently, when Kodiak the Steller's Sea Eagle got out of his habitat accidentally in September, our community responded with kindness and generosity, and celebrated with us when Kody was back home safe and sound. We look forward to sharing news of his habitat's completion and opportunities for guests to see him again in the coming months.

Through it all, we have remained committed to our work and driven by our mission. As we look to the future, the National Aviary is poised to continue growing. The National Aviary has built a legacy we can be extremely proud of, a mission that drives all that we do, and a wonderful community that helps to make our work possible. I can only imagine what we will have accomplished together 70 years from now.

Sincerely,

Cheryl L. Tracy
Executive Director



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Your donations support the National Aviary's work to save birds and protect their habitats.



LIGHTS OUT PITTSBURGH



Lights Out is a Bright Idea

Each year, about a hundred thousand birds pass over the Pittsburgh region on their migration journeys. Migration is a rigorous

undertaking for birds, and it can also be dangerous. Bright lights from windows can pull migrating birds off course and into areas where they run the risk of colliding with windows. Up to one billion birds in North America die in window collisions each year.

Last fall, the National Aviary partnered with the Building Owners and Managers Association of Pittsburgh, BNY Mellon, BirdSafe Pittsburgh, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership to facilitate Pittsburgh's participation in Lights Out. This voluntary program encourages businesses and residents to turn off unnecessary lighting during the peak of migration in the spring and fall. Turning off lights is not only helpful for birds: it reduces energy costs and carbon emissions, too.

Everyone can play a part in making birds' journeys safer.

Learn more, and sign up to participate for free at birdsafepgh.org!

This Sunbittern chick hatched in 2021 in the Wetlands.



National Aviary Achieves Gold Standard in Zoo Accreditation

In November, the National Aviary received accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), the gold standard for zoological institutions. The Aviary has maintained accreditation continuously since 1984, a reflection of a commitment to providing exceptional care for the more than 500 animals who call the Aviary home. It is also a reflection of the quality of the Aviary's education programs and conservation

work. Zoos apply for accreditation every five years. The accreditation process is rigorous and involves a close evaluation to ensure a zoo's animal welfare and well-being, veterinary care, conservation efforts, education programs, safety, and financial stability, among other criteria, meet the high standards set by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

National Aviary Executive Director Named Among Outstanding CEOs in Pittsburgh



The Pittsburgh Business Times honors exceptional leaders in the Pittsburgh region each year with the Fox Rothschild Outstanding CEOs and Top Executives Awards. After a comprehensive peer-review process, Cheryl Tracy, the Executive Director of the National Aviary, was selected to receive this prestigious award for 2021. Awardees demonstrate excellent leadership, a customer service philosophy, contributions to the community, and outstanding employee relations.

Through the challenges of the pandemic, Cheryl's steadfast leadership has ensured that the National Aviary is able to continue to serve its mission, provide the highest quality of care for the birds and mammals at the Aviary, and position itself for growth in the future.

Congratulations to all of the honorees of the Pittsburgh Business Times 2021 Fox Rothschild Outstanding CEOs and Top Executives Awards! Thank you for your community leadership throughout Pittsburgh.



TROPICAL Paradise

Escape the Winter Weather at the National Aviary

This winter, come in from the cold and experience the sights, sounds, and warmth of a Tropical Paradise! Explore the vibrant world of the tropics and venture through sun-filled habitats, home to beautiful birds. Toco Toucans, Hyacinth Macaws, and Victoria Crowned Pigeons add a splash of color to lush tree canopies in immersive habitats where birds fly, walk, waddle, and swim close by.


Daily programs like Meet a Tropical Friend and the Tropical Rainforest Feeding offer the chance to see birds up close, learn about their adaptations and their habitats, and find out

how to help with their conservation. Head to Canary's Call for a Tropical Bat Hangout, a chance to see a surprisingly adorable megabat species, and learn about their important role in tropical ecosystems.

Plan your visit today!

For a truly tropical experience, book an **Animal Encounter** with a Linnaeus's Two-toed Sloth!

Daily Activities Schedule

 = Requires additional ticket. Purchase online during checkout or at the Visitor Services Desk.

10:30 am

African Penguin Feeding
Penguin Point

11:00 am

African Adventure Presented by  
Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater

11:30 am

Lorikeet Feeding 
Canary's Call | Presented by 

12:00 pm

Tropical Rainforest Feeding
Tropical Rainforest

1:00 pm

Meet a Tropical Friend
Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater

1:30 pm

Tropical Bat Hangout
Canary's Call | Presented by 

2:00 pm

African Adventure Presented by  
Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater

2:30 pm

Tropical Rainforest Feeding
Tropical Rainforest

3:00 pm

Lorikeet Feeding 
Canary's Call | Presented by 

4:00 pm

African Penguin Feeding
Penguin Point

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

In Memory of Marge the African Penguin



We are deeply saddened to share that Marge the African Penguin passed away in October. Marge was a very special and well-loved bird who led an active and fulfilling life. She enjoyed greeting visitors, swimming with her colony mates, and eating the biggest fish at mealtime. She hatched at the National Aviary in January 2021. In October, Marge's caregivers noticed that she was not feeling well and immediately brought her to the National Aviary's ICU, where she received customized nursing care and comprehensive tests. It was determined that Marge had an underlying immune condition, which she likely had from birth. We take comfort in knowing that Marge was well-loved, and that the veterinary team did everything they could to keep Marge comfortable when she fell ill. Marge was named after Margaret Caruso, mother of Richard Caruso, a friend and Board Member of the National Aviary. This spirited little penguin will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Conservation Impact: Saving One of the World's Rarest Raptors

The Ridgway's Hawk is a Critically Endangered species that was once a common sight in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Habitat loss has severely affected these impressive raptors, and today fewer than 500 birds remain in the wild in a restricted range in northern Dominican Republic. The bird had not been seen in Haiti since 1962. But, incredibly, in 2019 three of the hawks were spotted on small islands off the coast of Haiti.

Alongside conservation partners Jeunes en Action Pour la Sauvegarde de l'Ecologie en Haïti and The Peregrine Fund, the National Aviary is working to protect this newfound population of Ridgway's Hawk and foster an appreciation for these special birds in the communities where they are found.

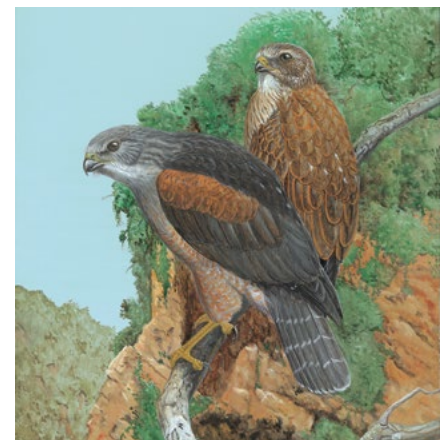
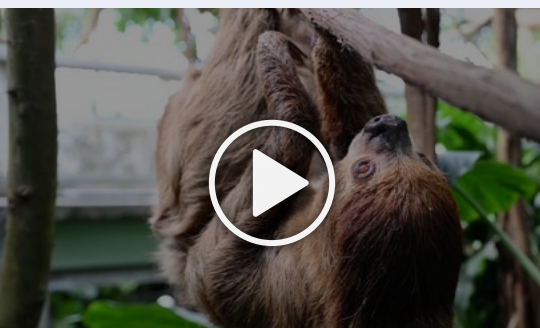


Illustration by Barry Kent McKay

Your support helps to save species.

Care and Compassion in Action: Caring for Sloths from Head to Toe

Watch Wookiee getting his nails filed while he enjoys tasty foods!



Sloths are built for life in the trees, from their fur, which grows backwards to help repel rainwater, to their long, curved nails that enable them to hang from branches with ease. And, just like our nails, they sometimes need to be filed to stay in tip-top shape!

The Linnaeus's Two-toed Sloths at the National Aviary are trained using positive reinforcement to participate in their own care. During a nail filing session, we gently buff Wookiee's nails, which helps them stay strong and perfectly curved so he can grasp branches. We also give Wookiee a gentle physical exam, inspecting his skin and fur to make sure he is in excellent condition, and even look in his ears! Wookiee enjoys some of his favorite foods, like sweet potato, and the chance to spend time with his caregivers. When he's done, he can climb back up into the canopy to do what sloths do best: hang out.

Winter/Spring Calendar of Events

New! Early Childhood Activities

Wednesdays, February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4

Included with admission



Visit with your little learner for a fun and engaging morning with sensory play activities designed for ages 2 to 5. Enjoy story time before you spend your morning exploring the National Aviary and seeing beautiful birds!

Learn more!



Flamingo Fest

Saturday and Sunday, February 26-27

Included with admission

Celebrate all things flamingo during a day of activities and talks, including a fun and engaging story time and a colorful craft kit to take home. Take in the sights and sounds of the Wetlands during a special flamingo talk!

Buy tickets today!



Penguin-palooza

Saturday and Sunday, March 19-20

Included with admission

Waddle to the National Aviary as we celebrate all things penguin! Learn what makes penguins unique through interactive activities, special talks, and even take home your own penguin craft. Plus, visit with the National Aviary's colony of adorable African Penguins, and learn about the Aviary's work to save penguins from extinction.

Buy tickets today!

New! Sensory Friendly Mornings

Mondays, February 14, April 11

Included with admission

Sensory inclusive experiences help all visitors make the most of their trip to the National Aviary. See and touch biofacts and borrow a Sensory Bag from Kulture City. For an additional fee, enjoy a sensory friendly showing of our immersive bird show, African Adventure Presented by AAA Travel, with low volume and consistent lighting.

Learn More

Learn more about accessibility at the National Aviary before your visit.

Winter/Spring Calendar of Events *cont.*

Eggstravaganza

**Saturday and Sunday April 9-10;
Friday and Saturday, April 15-16**

Included with admission

Hop over to the National Aviary to celebrate all things spring! Take part in a fun egg-themed scavenger hunt through the National Aviary's immersive habitats. Enjoy a special story time with a chance to meet a beautiful bird, take home fun prizes, and more!

Buy tickets today!

Brunch at the National Aviary

Celebrate special occasions throughout the season on select dates during delectable brunches served by the friendly staff of Atria's Specialty Catering. Choose from a selection of gourmet dishes from Chef Josef Karst. Cozy up in The Garden Room to sample fresh fruits and pastries with brunch cocktails available for purchase. With two seatings to choose from at 11 am or 12:30 pm, you can dine at your leisure then spend your day exploring the National Aviary—admission is included with brunch!

- Sunday, April 17** ■ Gather with your flock for *Easter Brunch*.
- Sunday, May 8** ■ Celebrate mom with a scrumptious *Mother's Day Brunch*.

Reserve your spot today!

Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 23

Included with admission

Connect with nature at the National Aviary during an Earth Day Celebration. Enjoy a conservation scavenger hunt in the National Aviary's immersive habitats, and experience fun games, activities, and take home crafts to learn about recycling, sustainability, and the importance of protecting the habitats we share with birds. And, learn how you can do your part to help the environment.

Buy tickets today!



Intro to Appreciating Birds

Saturday, March 19

It's not uncommon for people to feel nervous around birds. But, birds can also bring so much joy to our lives through their songs, beauty, and the important roles they play in our ecosystem. During this program, a National Aviary expert will share information about birds and why they're so special, answer your questions, and introduce participants to a small bird in a comfortable environment. Then, explore the National Aviary and meet beautiful birds in immersive habitats.

Reserve your spot today!





Winter/Spring Calendar of Events *cont.*

Brushes & Birds Art Classes featuring Maria DeSimone Prascak of Maria's Ideas: In Person and Online

Join Maria DeSimone Prascak of Maria's Ideas (MariasIdeas.com) in person or online for a creative and colorful class in painting your own fine and feathered masterpiece. In these courses designed for painters of all ages and abilities, follow step-by-step instructions to paint a portrait of a well-loved National Aviary bird. Optional material kits are available for purchase for virtual participants. Materials and admission are included for in-person participants.

Saturday, February 26 ■ Paint a perfectly pink *American Flamingo!*
Saturday, April 30 ■ Paint a portrait of a *Golden-breasted Starling!*

Reserve your spot today!

Birding Expeditions

Saturday, May 7

Meet up with National Aviary Ornithologist Bob Mulvihill for a physically distanced outdoor birding adventure at Presque Isle! Visit during the peak of spring migration for the potential to see scores of species, including warblers, orioles, and flycatchers. Stop by Erie Bird Observatory's bird banding station to watch researchers in action, and learn techniques to enhance your birding skills during this meet up-style program.

Reserve your spot today!



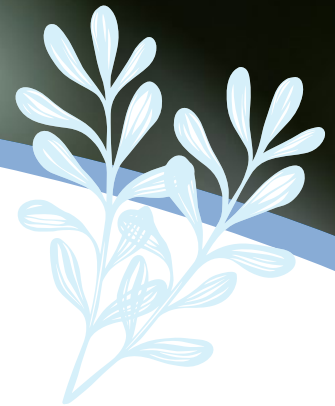
Birdwatching Kayak Tours with L.L.Bean

Take to the water with the National Aviary and L.L.Bean for a birding adventure by kayak! L.L.Bean's experienced and professional guides will provide on-land instruction on kayak equipment, basic strokes, and safety guidelines before a National Aviary expert leads kayakers out on North Park Lake in Allegheny County. Kayakers will scan the shoreline and surrounding forest for birds. L.L.Bean will provide all necessary equipment, including kayaks, paddles, safety floatation devices, and L.L.Bean Discovery Binoculars.

Sunday, April 24 ■ As spring carries on, each week brings new migrating species. Keep an eye out for shorebirds and even early warblers.

Sunday, May 15 ■ This is the peak of spring migration! Listen for the songs of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Scarlet Tanagers, and watch for warblers and orioles.

Reserve your spot today!



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.

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