



birdcalls

WORLD OF OCEANS

THIS SUMMER ONLY!



Dive into a World of Oceans, This Summer Only at the National Aviary!

Each season offers a new way to experience the National Aviary and provides a different perspective on birds and their habitats.

During World of Oceans this summer, new daily programs create opportunities for close-up interactions with amazing seabirds and waterbirds like American Flamingos and African Penguins.

You will feel the thrill of getting closer than before to flamingos as one struts right past you during Wonderful Waterbirds in the Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater. New this summer are interactive play spaces from Breeze Creative that are fun and engaging for children and adults alike. Just a short waddle away from the Penguin Point habitat, the Dynamic Floor responds to visitors' movements.

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Get up close to American Flamingos and learn about these fascinating filter feeders during Wonderful Waterbirds.

Dive into a World of Oceans, This Summer Only at the National Aviary! *cont.*

You might be trailed by a school of fish as you stride, or see ocean litter disappear as you reach down to pick it up. At the Draw Alive station, get creative and draw your favorite underwater creatures. When you scan your art using the Draw Alive scanner, you can watch as your creation comes alive on screen! Outside in Condor Court, kids can make a splash with a water play table. Plus, photo ops, décor, and ocean fun facts throughout the Aviary will delight families as they explore immersive habitats.

The Tropical Rainforest Feeding has a waterfowl focus, highlighting ducks like Marbled Teal and Spotted Whistling-ducks as they waddle close to visitors on their way to mealtime. A National Aviary expert will highlight the habitats and adaptations of birds like Snowy Egrets and Masked Lapwings as they walk, fly, and flap past, grabbing


a nutritious treat on the go. Then, pop over to Penguin Point where a colony of charismatic African Penguins gathers for twice-daily meals of sustainable seafood.

Oceans make up more than 70% of the earth's surface, and are vital for the health and well-being of animals, plants, and people alike. Oceans affect the weather, temperature, and food resources for many species - including people! Throughout the summer, the National Aviary will explore how birds rely on oceans, the amazing adaptations they have for life in - and above - the water, and what each of us can do to help protect oceans. Our collective actions, even from right here in Pittsburgh, can make a difference.

Daily Activities Schedule

10:30 am

Lorikeet Feeding 

Canary's Call | Presented by 

10:30 am

African Penguin Feeding

Penguin Point

11:00 am

African Adventure Presented by  

Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater

11:30 am

Tropical Rainforest Feeding

Tropical Rainforest


12:00 pm

Wonderful Waterbirds

Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater

12:30 pm

Lorikeet Feeding 

Canary's Call | Presented by 

12:30 pm

African Penguin Expert Talk

Penguin Point

1:00 pm

Wonderful Waterbirds

Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater

2:00 pm

African Adventure Presented by  

Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater

2:30 pm

Tropical Rainforest Feeding

Tropical Rainforest


3:00 pm

Wonderful Waterbirds

Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater

3:30 pm


Lorikeet Feeding 

Canary's Call | Presented by 

4:00 pm

African Penguin Feeding

Penguin Point

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

Letter From the Director



Making a Splash!

As we continue the celebration of our 70th anniversary throughout the year, we are reflecting on the National Aviary's history and the countless people whose hard work and dedication brought the Aviary to where it is today. We have a long, impressive history of which we can be

proud. The Aviary was innovative from its beginnings, combining a conservatory and aviary for an unparalleled immersive experience. We continue to make a splash today!

Our summer season offers a chance to explore the World of Oceans and the birds that rely on them through new daily programs, new interactive play spaces, décor, and more. Daily programs and experiences with American Flamingos, African Penguins, and many other species illustrate the importance of caring for the world's oceans, and underscore the role we share in protecting these essential habitats.

The story of African Penguins, an endangered species that is threatened by overfishing and human encroachment on their nesting grounds, is deeply personal for the National Aviary. As the leaders of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) program for African Penguins, we are collaborating with international partners to address conservation challenges so these wonderful birds can thrive in the long-term future.

We provide outstanding care for our colony of penguins, and support our partners on the ground in South Africa. This summer during World of Oceans, visitors will get to know the importance of oceans for the well-being of life on earth, and the roles each of us can play in keeping the world's oceans clean and healthy. Our collective actions, even from half a world away in Pittsburgh, matter for African Penguins.

This summer, we are also embarking on the renovation of the Wetlands, the National Aviary's second-oldest habitat, and the largest. The Wetlands transformation will make this iconic habitat even more immersive for guests, beneficial for birds, and good for the environment inside and outside.

Lastly, we are excited to welcome you back to see Kody, Flinn, and Indy in their beautifully renovated habitats. Their habitats opened in May, and they feature a number of upgrades that the birds are enjoying. We were delighted to welcome these special birds to their new homes, and hope you'll visit them soon!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheryl Tracy". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cheryl Tracy
Executive Director

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BirdCalls is published for friends of the National Aviary.

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



Kodiak the Steller's Sea Eagle perches in his new habitat. The habitat redesign includes new spaces for perching and roosting.

Celebrating a Homecoming with New Habitats

Some familiar faces have returned to The Charity Randall Foundation Eagle Hall. Kodiak the Steller's Sea Eagle and his neighbors, Flinn and Independence (or "Indy") the rehabilitated Bald Eagles, are back home after their habitats underwent extensive renovations.

Their beautiful new habitats are constructed with the birds' needs and comfort in mind using state-of-the-art materials. The two habitats boast a number of features that encourage their natural behaviors, including new spaces for perching and roosting, and ponds and a new misting system that offer the birds options for bathing and playing. The habitat renovations include taller, weather resistant walls, an overhang awning offering additional shade and comfort, natural trees and plants, and completely new roofs allowing for fresh air and sunshine to enter the habitats. A generous gift from Robert and Kim Fanelli supported the renovations.

Birds are always communicating, and reading their body language can offer insight into how they are feeling. "When relaxed, raptors will often stand on one foot, stretching out one leg and leaning back as though they are reclining on a couch," Cathy Schlott, the National

Aviary's Director of Animal Programs and Experiences shares. "We can see that they are relaxed and content in their beautiful new surroundings."

You can see Kody, Flinn, and Indy on your next visit to the National Aviary.



Flinn and Indy the Bald Eagles at home in their renovated habitat, which features a new pond for bathing and playing.



Bring Home a Piece of National Aviary History

Since its founding in 1952, the National Aviary has brought people closer to birds than ever before

in immersive, walk-through habitats home to free-flying birds. Over the course of 70 years, the Aviary has grown from a single habitat in a conservatory-aviary to being the nation's aviary, home to more than 500 animals from around the world residing in award-winning, naturalistic habitats.

The National Aviary is celebrating its 70th anniversary with the release of *The National Aviary: Celebrating 70 Years of Excellence*, a stunning, limited-edition hardcover coffee table book featuring gorgeous, full-page color photos of some of the National Aviary's most iconic and beloved species. The book, written by the National Aviary's staff, chronicles the Aviary's history and impact in the fields of avian care and medicine, conservation, and education. Creation of the 70th Anniversary book was funded by generous donors listed within its front pages. *The National Aviary: Celebrating 70 Years of Excellence* is available in the National Aviary's Gift Shop and online.

Proceeds from the sale of this commemorative book support the National Aviary's work to save birds and protect their habitats.





Photo courtesy of Allegheny Conference on Community Development, Detre Library & Archives Division, Senator John Heinz History Center Pittsburgh, PA

Exciting Updates are Coming to the Wetlands!

A lush coastal retreat is coming to the National Aviary. The Wetlands habitat, home to more than 140 birds, is undergoing an exciting transformation this summer. Built in 1969, the Wetlands is the National Aviary's second-oldest habitat. In this expansive room, flamingos, herons, and egrets wade in the warm Wetlands pond while ducks dart about and songbirds perch in the towering natural trees that reach all the way to the glass panes of the ceiling.

The renovation of this much-loved habitat will include the replacement of more than 20,000 square-feet of original glass panels with gorgeous glass from Vitro Architectural Glass with bird-safe glazing from Walker Glass. The habitat's design incorporates two glass patterns that keep birds safe from window strikes inside and outside the space. With a special UV coating, the glass allows ample natural light in to support the plants and birds living in the habitat. Other changes, including upgrades to the mechanical systems, will enhance water flow within the Wetlands pond, improve air circulation, and increase the habitat's energy efficiency.

New plants will add to the already lush greenery that fills the habitat. But, the most interesting plant won't be growing from the habitat's natural substrate: along the refinished Wetlands walkway, a beautiful coastal tree sculpture will provide space for birds—and people—to perch. The soaring tree's sprawling branches will offer opportunities for birds

to perch and roost, while the tree's roots will form benches where visitors can rest and take in the sights and sounds of the sunlit room.

The Presenting Sponsor of the renovation of the Wetlands habitat is Peoples. Vitro Architectural Glass is our Exclusive Glass Partner, and we have received additional support from the Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD), Buhl Foundation, Caroline Fredricka Holdship Charitable Trust through the PNC Charitable Trusts Grant Review Committee, and Walker Glass Company Ltd. This Project was financed in part by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Commonwealth Financing Authority.



Project Principalis Releases Findings on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker

Aside from the Bald Eagle, perhaps no bird in North America is as storied as the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. This massive, showy woodpecker has inspired awe and captured imaginations for centuries. It has also provoked debate: the last generally accepted sighting was documented in the 1940s and the bird has been thought by some to be extinct, but reports from credible sources continue to trickle in decades later.

Dr. Steven Latta, the National Aviary's Director of Conservation and Field Research, was not expecting to see an Ivory-billed Woodpecker when he first traveled to Louisiana in 2019 to join Mark Michaels, a long-time Ivorybill researcher, on an expedition into the bottomland forests. But, that is exactly what he saw, and the experience of watching the enormous woodpecker with the telltale white edges on the wings, he said, left him visibly shaking. Importantly, Dr. Latta's sighting also left him with a profound sense of responsibility to do what he can to protect these birds.

Project Principalis (which gets its name from the woodpecker's scientific name, *Campephilus principalis*) is a years-long search effort and collaboration between the National Aviary and Mark Michaels. The initiative aims to find and document surviving Ivory-billed Woodpeckers, with the National Aviary bringing resources and technology to build on Michaels' multi-year search, which he operated with the late Frank Wiley under the name Project Coyote.

The National Aviary is applying its years of experience and expertise in working with vulnerable species around the world, including some that are extinct in the wild,

to the search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Combining good old-fashioned boots-on-the-ground fieldwork, new technologies, and institutional resources, Project Principalis has amassed an enormous body of evidence over multiple field seasons. This spring, Project Principalis released the first of its findings in a manuscript available to read on **bioRxiv** ("Bio-Archive"), using a preprint service to share its work in the interest of making data immediately available to scientists and conservationists. The manuscript is unique in its approach: whereas other studies have centered on a single video or photo from a single sighting, the Project Principalis team has documented multiple encounters over a period of several years. Some encounters involve as many as three apparent Ivory-billed Woodpeckers.

The manuscript has generated considerable discussion, and the Project Principalis team continues to evaluate evidence and collect data. Importantly, Dr. Latta says, the manuscript is moving the conversation away from debating the bird's possible survival. Instead, he says, people are wondering how the species has managed to hang on and what steps must be taken to ensure Ivory-billed Woodpeckers, and the hundreds of species relying on the sensitive habitat of the south's bottomland forests, will persist.



Far Left: Ivory-billed Woodpeckers illustrated by John James Audubon. Courtesy of the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, Montgomery County Audubon Collection, and Zebra Printing.

Left: Mark Michaels, left, and Steven Latta, right, examine markings made by a woodpecker on a tree at their study site in Louisiana.

Volunteer Janet Robb is the National Aviary's 2021 Volunteer of the Year



For more than 13 years, Janet Robb has made the 45-minute trek from her home in Port Vue Borough near McKeesport to the National Aviary every Saturday and Sunday. When she retired from a 39-year career teaching public speaking at McKeesport Area High School, Janet wanted to keep learning and stay engaged. She began volunteering at the National Aviary in 2009 expecting to help with guest services. She never dreamed that she would have the chance to learn to lead Animal Encounters, docent in habitats with more than 130 birds, and assist with education programs that reach thousands of area students. Since she started volunteering, Janet has logged more than 10,000 hours of service at the National Aviary.

Through her leadership, expertise, and enthusiasm, Janet has helped countless visitors have unforgettable experiences with animals and deepen their connection to nature. We are proud to call Janet Robb the National Aviary's 2021 Volunteer of the Year! Thank you, Janet, for all that you do!

Night in the Tropics Returns with VIP Upgrades and Unforgettable Entertainment



Take a Vintage Vacation when Night in the Tropics Presented by UPMC Health Plan, the National Aviary's signature summer party, returns! Celebrate the National Aviary's 70th anniversary with a tropical throwback getaway right on the North Shore. Give yourself the VIP treatment and enjoy free valet parking, a full hour of early access, exclusive interactions with National Aviary animals, and full bar service with premium spirits. All partygoers can enjoy unlimited bites from some of Pittsburgh's best restaurants, including Atria's, and sip signature cocktails. Enjoy The Garden Room's open-air access to a beautiful terrace and garden, watch show-stopping entertainment from Tuika's Island Magic and Steeltown, and take in the sights and sounds of the National Aviary's tropical habitats during this can't-miss summer soiree.

Hatchings and Happenings

This spring we welcomed the hatching of a Raggiana Bird-of-Paradise! These magnificent birds have over-the-top plumage and elaborate courtship rituals. This successful hatching supports the Species Survival Plan® for Raggiana Birds-of-Paradise and is a testament to the naturalistic habitats at the National Aviary and the outstanding care these special birds receive!



The **Victoria Crowned Pigeon** flock grew by one when a chick hatched in the Tropical Rainforest early this year. The Tropical Rainforest is the perfect spot for these forest-dwelling birds to court and nest. Each hatching supports the Species Survival Plan® for these birds, which are considered Near Threatened.



Get Ready to Hike, Bike, and Explore... No Matter Where You Are



This September, get outside to hike, bike, and explore where you are during the National Aviary's second annual Hike-A-Thon Presented by UPMC Health Plan. Register now, form your teams, and begin fundraising, from anywhere in the world! Whether you're climbing mountains, commuting to work by bike, or taking a stroll around your neighborhood, you can be raising funds to support the National Aviary's critical work to save birds and protect their habitats. A new, intuitive platform helps you track your progress and engage your friends and family in your efforts—you can even win great prizes!

Summer Events with the National Aviary

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 or animal. Optional material kits are available for purchase for virtual participants. Materials and admission are included for in-person participants.

Saturday, August 27 | 11 am - 1 pm EST

Take it slow with a leisurely lesson in painting an adorable *Two-toed Sloth!*

Reserve your spot today!



Riverboat Birding

Join National Aviary Ornithologist Bob Mulvihill and the Rivers of Steel Explorer boat captain for a birding experience like no other! Participants in this morning cruise will board the Explorer a half hour before setting sail. Bob will help you spot river birds, such as cormorants, eagles, herons, mergansers, and songbirds before returning to the dock at noon. You are welcome to bring your own brown bag lunch and non-alcoholic beverages.

Saturday, September 3 | 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Boats depart from the Rivers of Steel Dock
at 1 Allegheny Avenue

Visit aviary.org to register. Space is limited; registration required.

Reserve your spot today!

Birding Expeditions

Saturday, July 9 | 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Travel to Cook Forest, a southern outpost for many northern bird species, like Swainson's Thrush, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Dark-eyed Junco, Winter Wren, and Blackburnian Warbler. In addition to seeing and hearing these birds, experience one of the rarest and most impressive habitats in all of Pennsylvania—old-growth hemlock forest.

Saturday, September 10 | 8:30 am - 11:30 am

National Aviary Ornithologist Bob Mulvihill helped operate the bird banding station at Powdermill Avian Research Center in the Ligonier Valley for almost 30 years. Join Bob to see a wide variety of migratory birds (like warblers, thrushes, vireos, and flycatchers) up close with an experienced bird bander. Learn about the important research conducted at Powdermill that is helping scientists understand migratory birds and their conservation needs.

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, July 10 | 6 pm - 9 pm

Enjoy a scenic sunset as migratory birds like blackbirds, vireos, and tanagers settle in to roost at dusk.

Sunday, August 14 | 7 am - 10 am

Learn Birding Basics to get you started, from setting up binoculars to using field marks to identify birds, with the guidance of a National Aviary expert!

Reserve your spot today!



Donor Society

Thank you to the following individual supporters who made donations of \$500+ so far in 2022. 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.

2022 Donor Society

Martial Eagle | \$2,500+

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In Memory of Joanie the Wattled Curassow

It is with deep sadness that we share that Joanie the Wattled Curassow passed away in February.

As a resident of the Wetlands habitat for more than 20 years, Joanie became an icon at the National Aviary. Visitors adored her for her big personality and outgoing nature, and enjoyed interacting with her as she strolled along the deck of the Wetlands. Joanie was 24 years old—a very advanced age for a Wattled Curassow. Our staff cared deeply for Joanie and her comfort and well-being remained our priority throughout her life. We were honored to care for Joanie and to provide this special bird a home where she thrived for more than two decades. We take comfort in the knowledge that Joanie was well-loved, and that this spirited bird touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. She will be sadly missed.

