



birdcalls



Hello, Marijo! National Aviary Welcomes a New Andean Condor Chick

Though she was just the size of a mango, when an Andean Condor chick hatched at the National Aviary on June 7, it was a big deal! The chick is one of only three Andean Condors to hatch in a North American zoo in the past year, and her hatching represents a major step forward for the species, which is Vulnerable throughout its range. In Ecuador, where the National Aviary has worked to help condors rebound after their populations have declined, the species is Critically Endangered.

Earlier this month, the National Aviary revealed the chick's name: Marijo (pronounced "Mary Jo"). Three generous friends of the Aviary selected the name, drawing on the first two letters of each of their names—Rich Caruso,

John DiDonato and Marianne DiDonato—to create a unique name for one very special chick. Their gift will support the critical conservation programs that are helping Andean Condors rebound.

Marijo has spent the first few months of her life nestled in with her mother, Lianni, in the Condor Court nest cave. The habitat, which opened in 2015, incorporates naturalistic features like craggy cliffs and caves that mimic the High Andes environs where the species lives in the wild. These elements encourage natural behaviors like courtship and nesting, making it a perfect spot to raise a young condor.

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Hello, Marijo! National Aviary Welcomes a New Andean Condor Chick *cont.*

Lianni is an extremely attentive parent and her chick is thriving! Marijo has been reaching developmental milestones and is growing quickly, not only in stature, but in curiosity, too. Condor chicks spend a significant amount of time in the nest, and each individual chick leaves on its own time. At the time of her naming this month, Marijo was beginning to peer out of the nest cave and take in the Condor Court habitat. This, among other signs like wing flapping to build strength, are indicators she is getting ready to venture out!

The hatching of this special chick represents a hopeful moment for a magnificent species that faces a number of pressures in the wild resulting from increases in human population. Among those pressures is poisoning from rodenticides and from lead bullets in the carrion condors ingest. Poisonings can be fatal and have seriously affected condor populations. Their slow reproductive cycle inhibits their ability to quickly rebound: Andean Condors lay only one egg every 12 to 18 months and care for chicks for several months after hatching. The National Aviary's comprehensive work in the areas of research, education, avian medicine, and the development of partnerships on the ground in Ecuador is helping the efforts to protect Andean Condors and preserve their habitats.

Marijo is continuing to grow and thrive, and she will soon be as big as her mother: over 25 pounds with a wingspan of up to ten feet! Caring for birds this big and working to conserve the species are no small tasks. But, Marijo's hatching and the support of a caring community of individuals like Rich, John, and Marianne are offering hope for the future of Andean Condors.

See Marijo's name announcement! ↪



Research Leads to Protections for Andean Condor Habitats

The National Aviary takes a holistic approach to its work with Andean Condors. The Aviary's Condor Court habitat is specially designed to encourage natural behaviors like bathing, sunning, and nesting, and dedicated teams of animal care professionals provide the best possible care for the condors that call the National Aviary home. The recent hatching of a female Andean Condor chick is a testament to this remarkable care, and an important advancement in a collaborative Species Survival Plan® that will help to safeguard this important species for the long term future. Our work extends to Ecuador, as well, where Andean Condor populations have declined so dramatically the species is now considered Critically Endangered. Pioneering research and a long-term monitoring program led by the National Aviary have helped scientists understand how Andean Condors are using habitat in Ecuador.

By monitoring condor populations, researchers have been able to identify the areas most vital to the birds for nesting, roosting, and scavenging, and make recommendations of which areas should be prioritized for conservation. This work helped to inform the designation of new protected zones that help keep Andean Condor habitat intact and represents an important step forward in ensuring a future for Ecuador's national bird. Our work goes further with local and international education programs, and the development and publication of life-saving veterinary procedures that have helped to save vultures around the world.

Letter From the Director



Wrapping Up a Milestone Year

The National Aviary's 70th anniversary year has been full of celebrations and surprises. It has been a joy to hear from so many friends of the National Aviary throughout this milestone year. You've shared your memories with us and joined us in celebrating

the release of our special commemorative book and the return of Night in the Tropics—our most successful signature fundraiser event yet—this July.

This summer, we were delighted to share the exciting news that an Andean Condor chick hatched at the National Aviary. The arrival of this little chick is a symbol of hope for this impressive species. We have worked for many years to save Andean Condors, leading research initiatives in Ecuador that have helped to protect critical habitat, partnering with Ecuadorian colleagues to engage local communities, and providing the highest standards of care for these special birds at the Aviary. This hatching is a testament to that work and an important step forward for Andean Condors.

Our conservation work continues to make an impact. Our collaborative work with Project Principalis, which seeks to document and protect the iconic Ivory-billed Woodpecker, has earned international attention as conversations continue on the future of this important species. By applying our expertise, the National Aviary

has been able to make a measurable difference for species around the world, from Guam Rails to Andean Condors, and now for the wildlife relying on the critical bottomland forest habitat where the Ivorybill is found. Protecting one species can have a ripple effect on entire ecosystems.

There is more to celebrate as we round out our 70th anniversary year. The National Aviary will take visitors on an adventure with fall programming all about Forests. Enjoy interactive play spaces like our Draw Alive! station and Dynamic Floor, engaging daily activities like feedings and expert talks, and relax in our warm, lush habitats. Then, visit again after Thanksgiving for holiday décor, special event weekends, and Holiday Lights and Late Nights!

Plan a visit to the newly renovated Wetlands habitat when it reopens later this season. The transformation of our largest habitat will result in a beautiful, coastal-inspired space that offers an immersive experience like no other for visitors and a gorgeous, naturalistic home for the birds living there.

I hope you will join us - we have so much more to look forward to in this momentous year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheryl Tracy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

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.

FORESTS

THIS FALL



Back for Fall: Learn All About "Forests" at the National Aviary

Forests cover just 30% of the planet, but they are home to more than 80% of all the land animals on Earth, including birds! This fall, the "Forests" seasonal theme returns to the National Aviary with fun daily activities and new interactive play spaces offering chances to learn about these important habitats, from dense pine forests in North America to lush rainforests in tropical climates, and the fascinating birds and mammals that are part of these complex ecosystems.

New play spaces will get your kids moving and exploring! Watch your very own drawings come to life on screen at the Draw Alive! station and see the game respond to your movements as you walk, skip, and hop along the Dynamic Floor. Learn about the layers of the rainforest and the birds and animals living in them with a hands-on magnetic play board. Visit Condor Court to get to know the newest member of the National Aviary flock: an Andean Condor chick! Join an expert for a Condor Chick Chat, where you may also see the chick as she explores her habitat. Think you know your nests? A fun, interactive experience will help you learn about the many kinds of birds that nest in forests and explore their different nesting styles ranging from huge nests built high up in the treetops to nests tucked away in tree cavities.

Spend fall relaxing in immersive, walk-through habitats and enjoy opportunities to meet fascinating forest birds like Victoria Crowned Pigeons, Andean Cocks-of-the-rock, and Barred Owls! Every season offers a new way to experience the National Aviary, get close to beautiful birds, and learn how you can help protect forest birds and their habitats.

Plan to visit again in October when the Wetlands Presented by Peoples reopens!

This historic renovation of the National Aviary's largest habitat includes more than 20,000 square-feet of bird-friendly glass from our exclusive glass partner, Vitro Architectural Glass. The habitat will reopen in October with a redesigned beach, sustainability upgrades, a beautiful new custom fabricated sculptural coastal tree with branches for birds to perch and benches for visitors to sit, and new bird species!

Enjoy more ways to explore the National Aviary



Early Childhood Activities

October 5, November 2, December 7 | 10:30 am

Bring your little learner for a special morning discovering the world of birds! Explore the incredible shapes, colors, sizes, and even sounds of birds through story time and sensory play activities! Included with admission.













Sensory Friendly
MORNINGS


Sensory Friendly Mornings

September 19, October 10, November 14, December 12 | 10 am - 12 pm

All visitors can make the most of their National Aviary experience. Sensory bags from Kulture City are available every day, and during Sensory Friendly Mornings, you can enjoy fun activities like the chance to see and touch biofacts, or watch a sensory-friendly version of *African Adventure* Presented by AAA Travel, a live immersive bird show presented with consistent lighting and low volume. **To learn more, call the National Aviary at (412) 323-7235.**

Daily Activities Schedule

10:30 am	Watch an African Penguin Feeding Penguin Point	1:30 pm	Rainbow Lorikeet Feeding  Canary's Call Presented by 
11:00 am	African Adventure Presented by   Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater	2:00 pm	African Adventure Presented by   Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater
11:30 am	Rainbow Lorikeet Feeding  Canary's Call Presented by 	2:30 pm	Tropical Rainforest Feeding Tropical Rainforest
11:30 am	Tropical Rainforest Feeding Tropical Rainforest	3:00 pm	Wonderful Waterbirds Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater
12:00 pm	Wonderful Waterbirds Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater	3:30 pm	Condor Chick Chat Condor Court
12:30 pm	Know Your Nest Sponsored by  Atrium	3:30 pm	Rainbow Lorikeet Feeding  Canary's Call Presented by 
1:00 pm	Condor Chick Chat Condor Court	4:00 pm	Watch an African Penguin Feeding Penguin Point

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

National Aviary admission is included with interactive **Animal Encounters!** Schedule your Encounter today, starting at just \$16 more than general admission. Book Encounters online at aviary.org.

Sometimes Keeping Busy is the Key to Healing

By Dr. Pilar Fish, DVM

Anyone who has observed the Blue Jays in their backyard will recognize that these beautiful birds are every bit as active as they are intelligent.

Jays and other birds in the Corvid family are known for their keen problem-solving skills, curious personalities, and dynamic social structures. They are also known for being incredibly active and moving rapidly from branch to branch as they socialize, forage, and build nests.

Recently, an aviculturist noticed that Georgie, a one-year-old Plush-crested Jay, was favoring her right leg. She and her mate, Fred, had been busily nest building for days. Georgie and Fred are part of a Species Survival Plan® for Plush-crested Jays, which helps ensure populations remain healthy and genetically diverse for the long-term future. Nest building is a very active process: birds move almost acrobatically to gather materials and use their beaks and legs as tools as they construct their nests. It's not uncommon for a bird to injure itself during the intensive process.

Georgie came to the National Aviary's Avian Hospital for a full health exam that included X-rays and tests of her leg function. The results of the exams showed that she had broken her knee and torn tendons in her leg. We fashioned a tiny brace using layers of bandages for Georgie's leg. Stabilizing her leg so that it could begin to heal was only the beginning of our treatment plan for Georgie.

In caring for every animal at the National Aviary, we take into account their overall wellbeing, from their physical health to their mental and emotional health. To help Georgie heal, we had to think as jays think! Knowing how dynamic and active jays are, we knew that keeping Georgie mentally engaged while her movement was limited would be critical for helping her healing process.

We designed a specialized habitat for Georgie in our Avian Hospital, spending hours positioning perching, plants, and soft, grassy platforms so they would be easily accessible and encourage her to rest as much as possible. Georgie is a social, curious, and vocal bird, and our team made sure she was in the busiest area of the hospital where she had plenty of interaction with humans and other patients. She watched us as we went about our routines and cheerfully chattered "hi, hello!" when something grabbed her attention—jays are skilled mimics!



An animal care expert gently holds Georgie during an exam. Multiple layers of bandages were used to create a brace so she could heal.

We made sure Georgie's activities varied from day to day. This intelligent bird had puzzles to solve and games to manipulate. We played different sounds for her, ranging from the sounds of a jungle to opera, and she loved watching movies on an iPad. The bright colors, sounds, and movements in nature documentaries and movies kept her stimulated and engaged while she rested in her comfortable, temporary habitat.

After about six weeks of rest in the National Aviary's Avian Hospital, Georgie healed ideally and even regained full function in her leg. It was time for her to be reunited with her mate, Fred, back in their shared habitat. They were clearly happy to be together: Fred immediately fetched a peanut—a favorite food for Plush-crested Jays—and brought it to Georgie, welcoming her back home.

Helping Georgie heal from her injury wasn't just a matter of treating her leg. Knowing Georgie's individual personality and the characteristics of her species—their intelligence, curiosity, and sociability—made it possible for us to develop a plan that would nurture her overall wellbeing while she recovered.

New Developments in Project Principalis' Search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker, one of North America's most iconic birds, has been the subject of debate and research for decades. The Ivorybill's numbers dwindled as forests in the southeast were logged in response to human population increases and a higher demand for natural resources. The last widely accepted sighting of the striking woodpecker was in the 1940s, yet dozens of reports of the bird have been made by credible sources over the years. Following their protocol for evaluating the status of species of conservation concern, and with no recent accepted documentation of the Ivorybill available, in the fall of 2021 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service initiated the process that would officially remove the Ivory-billed Woodpecker from the Endangered Species List.

Project Principalis, a partnership of independent researchers and the National Aviary, has been working to document the Ivorybill so that it can be preserved, along with the bottomland forests it inhabits which are critical to countless species. After many field seasons in Louisiana, in April the project released its first extensive analysis of cumulative lines of evidence on the bioRxiv preprint server. While the paper garnered international attention and fostered considerable conversation, Project Principalis remained focused on continuing to gather and analyze hundreds of hours of footage and thousands of images.

Among the thousands of trail cam stills and video was one incredible drone clip showing a bird flying with the undulating signature of a woodpecker swooping upward and landing on a tree. The bird is large, its body black and its wings remarkably white. With the wings closed, a white "saddle" pattern emerges on its back—a hallmark of the Ivorybill.

The timing of analyzing the clip was fortuitous. That same month, July of this year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced it would be extending its deadline for evaluating the available information on the Ivorybill, and opened up an additional public comment period. In a formal presentation before the Service, Mark Michaels, the co-founder of Project Principalis and a long-time Ivorybill researcher, shared the new footage and Dr. Steve Latta, the National Aviary's Director of Conservation and Field Research, submitted additional supporting comments.

A decision regarding the Ivory-billed Woodpecker's status on the Endangered Species List is expected in March 2023. Regardless of the outcome, the release of new evidence has changed the nature of the conversation about the Ivorybill, and Project Principalis' work to document and protect this storied bird and conserve this vital habitat will continue.



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.



Maris Dauer, Night in the Tropics Event Chair, and Cheryl Tracy, National Aviary Executive Director, with Jamie Travitz, Senior Education Trainer and Safety Specialist and Red the Scarlet Macaw.

Night in the Tropics Transports Guests on a Vintage Vacation

Night in the Tropics Presented by UPMC Health Plan pulled out all the stops for a sold-out crowd on July 16! After a two-year hiatus, guests were eager to gather again to flaunt their favorite tropical fashions, indulge in delicious bites from local restaurants including Atria's and Bistro To Go, enjoy exclusive interactions with National Aviary animals, and dance the night away to show-stopping entertainment. A Vintage Vacation theme highlighted the Aviary's 70th anniversary, with guests sipping signature cocktails like "The 1952" and "70th Sangria" while taking in photos and memorabilia from the Aviary's past. Chaired by Maris Dauer, Senior Director of Marketing Administration and Community Outreach for UPMC Health Plan, the event raised more than \$300,000 to support the National Aviary's work to save birds and protect their habitats.



Top: Maria DeSimone Prascak of Maria's Ideas created an upside-down speed painting of Bubba the Palm Cockatoo, completing the masterpiece in just over 3 minutes.

Bottom: LaTasha Wilson-Batch, Executive Director of Best of the Batch Foundation, and Charlie Batch, former Pittsburgh Steelers Quarterback with Vivien, a Two-toed Sloth.

Fall Events with the National Aviary



International African Penguin Awareness Day

Make a splash for penguin conservation! African Penguins are Endangered and their populations in the wild are in decline. Visit the National Aviary to learn what can be done right here in Pittsburgh to help these charming tuxedoed birds survive and thrive. Meet the colony, hear expert talks, watch the penguins swim and waddle by to enjoy a meal, and find fun activities throughout the day. Included with admission.

Saturday, October 8 | 10 am - 4 pm

Plan your visit!



Owl-O-Ween

Prepare to meet some of the most mysterious members of the bird world as Owl-O-Ween, the National Aviary's annual celebration of creatures that flap and fly in the night, returns! Enjoy goody bags with treats made from sustainable palm oil, fun owl-themed crafts, bird meet-and-greets, expert talks, and more! Included with admission.

**Saturday and Sunday, October 15-16 and 22-23
10 am - 4 pm**

Plan your visit!

Owl Prowls

Who-o-o will you hear on a twilight trek? Head out at dusk with a National Aviary expert to look and listen for the owl species sometimes found in Pittsburgh's park! Learn their calls, find out more about their behaviors, and explore habitats around town where owls can be found.

**October 16, 23, 28, November 5, 6, 11, 12 | 7 pm - 9 pm
\$20 per person**

See locations and reserve your spot!



Brushes & Birds: Eastern Screech-Owl

**Art Classes featuring
Maria DeSimone Prascak of Maria's Ideas**

Pick up a paintbrush and let your creativity fly! Maria DeSimone Prascak of Maria's Ideas will teach you step-by-step how to turn a blank canvas into a colorful work of art. Painters of all ages and abilities will learn to paint a pint-sized Eastern Screech-Owl using the rustic colors of fall. Paint at the National Aviary or from the comfort of home with a virtual class!

Saturday, October 15 | 11 am - 1 pm EST

Virtual Class:

\$23 with a National Aviary Membership

\$25 for non-Members

(optional material kit for \$20 plus \$10 shipping)

In Person Class:

\$60 with a National Aviary Membership

\$65 for non-Members

(includes National Aviary admission and all materials)

Reserve your spot today!

**Save the date and paint an
African Penguin on December 17!**

Fall Events with the National Aviary



Dine in The Garden Room

Gather in The Garden Room, the National Aviary's cozy-yet-elegant event space for delectable dishes prepared by Chef Josef Karst of Atria's Specialty Catering. Add on a seasonal cocktail or a craft beer and enjoy a perfect Sunday morning! Choose from two seatings at 11 am or 12:30 pm. Brunch includes National Aviary admission.

Sunday, September 18 | Oktoberfest Brunch

**Brunch includes National Aviary admission.
Adults \$55; Children 12 and under \$35**



Welcome the start of the fall season and revel in delectable German cuisine prepared by Chef Josef Karst of Atria's Specialty Catering. Add on a tasty craft beer for the ultimate Oktoberfest experience.

Reserve tickets today!

Visit aviary.org for upcoming Autumn and Harvest Brunch dates.

Save the Date for Holidays at the National Aviary!

Season's Greetings Saturdays

November 26, December 3, December 10, December 17

Enjoy holiday cheer and a visit with Santa, included with admission!

Holiday Brunch in the Garden

December 11 & 18

Savor the season with a delicious meal from Atria's Specialty Catering in The Garden Room.

Holiday Lights and Late Nights

December 26-30

Keep the holiday joy going with a night at the National Aviary with festive décor, tasty seasonal treats from Atria's, live entertainment including trivia and dance performances, and more.

Winter Camp

December 27 & 28

Bring cheer to the end of the year with an engaging camp for kids, with behind-the-scenes experiences, bird meet-and-greets, and more.

Birding Expeditions

October 15 & November 13 | 8:30 am - 11:30 am

**\$50 with a National Aviary Membership
\$55 for non-Members**

Meet up with Bob Mulvihill, the National Aviary's Ornithologist, an expert with more than 50 years' experience watching, studying, and appreciating birds. Full-fledged birders and brand new birdwatchers alike will benefit from a morning spent learning to identify birds by field marks, observing fascinating bird behaviors, and exploring beautiful natural settings just a short drive from home.

**Saturday, October 15:
Allegheny Front Birding Expedition**

Take the scenic route to one of Pennsylvania's most beautiful landscapes: the Allegheny Front in the Laurel Highlands. Raptors like Sharp-shinned Hawks and even Golden Eagles migrate through this area in the fall, riding the winds that sweep along the sharp ridges of the valley. Birdwatchers will have a fantastic view from the ridgeline looking down on potentially hundreds of raptors migrating through the valley below.

Space is limited - book your spot!

**Sunday, November 13:
Yellow Creek State Park Birding Expedition**

Just 1.5 hours east of Pittsburgh, Yellow Creek State Park is one of the state's most reliable spots for watching birds during migration! Almost 150 species have been seen at the park, which attracts hundreds of waterbirds along with dozens of landbird species including Ruby- and Golden-crowned Kinglets, White-throated Sparrows, Fox Sparrows, and more.

Reserve your spot in advance!

Teen Job Shadow

Future conservationists, veterinarians, and animal care experts can get a jumpstart on pursuing their passions during the National Aviary's exciting Teen Job Shadow program. This engaging four-part series lets teens ages 14-18 go behind the scenes to experience the range of careers available to those aspiring to work with animals.

Saturdays, October 29 - November 19 | 1 pm - 3 pm

\$299 for full series of sessions

Learn More!



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.

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