

birdcalls



National Aviary Welcomes Aurora

There is hope for love in the air as Kodiak, the Steller's Sea Eagle (Kody), is bonding with his new potential mate.

In the fall of 2023, the arrival of a female Steller's Sea Eagle prompted unprecedented support from the community when all were invited to vote on the possible names for the magnificent new addition to our flock. After several weeks of online voting, and with more than 12,500 votes and \$14,000 in donations, she was named **Aurora**!

Steller's Sea Eagles are found throughout Russia, South Korea, Japan, and China. They are listed as Vulnerable to extinction by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Populations of these large, majestic birds are currently

declining in the wild, with fewer than 5,000 remaining. The National Aviary supports conservation efforts for this species by participating in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) - collaborative breeding program. These programs ensure the entire Steller's Sea Eagle population remains healthy and genetically diverse for the long term.

Aurora and Kody have continued to acclimate with one another since her arrival and regularly show positive behavioral signs through vocalization and other behaviors. Kody has been busy collecting nesting materials to place on a perch they sometimes share in their habitat in The Charity Randall Foundation Eagle Hall. We remain hopeful that the pair will raise chicks in the future to boost the Steller's Sea Eagle population.

Letter From the Director



Since the conclusion of our previous summer season, guests at the National Aviary have been delighted to delve into "Forests" themed programming, partake in a myriad of festive "Holiday Happenings," and now can embark on a refreshing "Coastal Getaway" as part of our ongoing winter and spring seasonal theme!

Children and their families have enjoyed our interactive play spaces, new daily talk, and feedings, while being transported to a tropical paradise right here in Pittsburgh's historic Northside.

In addition to increasing unforgettable experiences, the last quarter of 2023 brought exciting new arrivals, hatchings, and immense progress in a number of our conservation efforts. The arrival of Aurora, the Steller's Sea Eagle brought us unparalleled engagement with and generous support from our community.

Also in the fall of 2023, two new African Penguin chicks hatched in Penguin Point. We were recently excited to reveal the genders of our newest African Penguin duo, now grown into healthy full-fledged juveniles! See page 9 for the reveal. We remain hopeful this duo will join their friends in our Penguin Point habitat later this spring. In late February of this year, we also announced the arrival of a new male

Andean Condor named Bud, who joined our flock as a potential mate for resident adult female, Lianni! Read more on page 10.

Attendance for special and seasonal events continues to be at an all-time high! Enthusiastic visitors wore their finest pink attire to celebrate all things Flamingo during our annual *Flamingo Fest* in February. Guests enjoyed craft-making, feedings, talks, and a special edition of *Brushes & Birds* with our dear friend Maria DeSimone Prascak of Maria's Ideas (mariasideas.com). It was followed by *Eggstravaganza* in late March, where guests enjoyed a visit from the Easter Bunny, an egg-themed scavenger hunt throughout the Aviary, a fun discovery zone, and more! With the last animal-loving celebration of this season, *Penguin-Palooza*, approaching in late April, the National Aviary is the perfect place to continue welcoming spring!

And as we continue sales for our upcoming signature, summer event, *Night in the Tropics: Island Oasis* Presented by UPMC Health Plan, we hope to see you in July for the ultimate tropical-inspired celebration. Proceeds support our mission to protect birds and their natural habitats.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl Tracy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Cheryl Tracy
Executive Director



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

Coastal Getaway



This Spring Only! Your Coastal Getaway is Sailing Away...

Every season at the National Aviary opens a new door into a world of birds and their natural habitats. Escape the Pittsburgh cold and go on a “Coastal Getaway” from now through the end of May at the National Aviary! Our current seasonal theme includes new and recurring daily activities, many included with admission. Making its debut this winter, the daily *Birds of the Islands Talk* held at Canary’s Call Presented by Dollar Bank introduces guests to tropical species, like Mariana Fruit Doves, Crested Partridges, and...Malayan Flying Foxes (an adorable fruit-eating bat!). Guests can visit our Wetlands habitat to peek at stand-out species like American Flamingos and Inca Terns during a feeding with a National Aviary expert, and explore the rocky coastline of Penguin Point to meet an African Penguin colony! The Tropical Rainforest is the best place to continue this warm, immersive staycation with gorgeous birds like a family of Victoria Crowned Pigeons perched in lush trees, ready to fly overhead!

Add-on experiences include feeding vibrant Rainbow Lorikeets in their newly updated habitat as they land directly on guest’s outstretched hands and feed on a cup of sweet nectar! Visitors can take the flight of a lifetime on Birdly®, a virtual experience where guests can soar over a city or glide through the ocean like a penguin. PLUS, getting even closer to birds and mammals during one of our Animal Encounters is always an option!



Junior coastal explorers can enjoy interactive play spaces, such as shopping for penguin-approved sustainable seafood options at a Grocery Store, putting on a one-of-a-kind production in our Puppet Theater, and using their imagination to explore a pretend seashore at our Coastal Sensory Table! Island-inspired décor and photo ops makes a visit to the National Aviary the ideal way to spend the season. Don’t miss out! Coastal Getaway sails off at the end of May.

Daily Activities Schedule

10:30 am	Penguin Feeding Penguin Point
10:30 am	Rainbow Lorikeet Feeding  Canary's Call Presented by 
11:00 am	Habitat Heroes Show Presented by   Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater GUEST FAVORITE
11:30 am	Tropical Rainforest Feeding Tropical Rainforest
12:00 pm	Wetlands Feeding Wetlands
12:00 pm	Rainbow Lorikeet Feeding  Canary's Call Presented by 
12:30 pm	Birds of the Islands Talk Canary's Call Presented by 
1:30 pm	Tropical Rainforest Feeding Tropical Rainforest
2:00 pm	Habitat Heroes Show Presented by   Helen M. Schmidt FliteZone™ Theater GUEST FAVORITE
2:30 pm	Rainbow Lorikeet Feeding  Canary's Call Presented by 
2:30 pm	Wetlands Feeding Wetlands
3:00 pm	Birds of the Islands Talk Canary's Call Presented by 
4:00 pm	Rainbow Lorikeet Feeding  Canary's Call Presented by 
4:00 pm	Penguin Feeding Penguin Point

 = Requires additional ticket or fee. Please purchase at our Visitor Services Desk.

An Aviary Itinerary for Loved Ones

Let us help you plan your visit to the only Aviary with national designation!



Bring the Family

Cost of Admission + \$8 per person
All Ages Welcome | Members visit for FREE!

Visit the colorful Rainbow Lorikeet habitat with a cup of sweet nectar—our inquisitive lorikeets will fly down to gently land on your outstretched arm to drink. Experience the thrill of majestic birds, like a Bald Eagle and Eurasian Eagle-Owl, demonstrating their incredible “superpowers,” or adaptations during *Habitat Heroes!* Guest Favorite: a Wetlands Feeding offers you a chance to learn all about the inquisitive and colorful birds in this coastal-inspired habitat, like flamingos!

Morning Itinerary

10:00 am	Welcome!	
10:30 am	Rainbow Lorikeet Feeding	Book Now
11:00 am	Habitat Heroes, presented by 	Book Now
12:00 pm	Wetlands Feeding with a National Aviary Expert	
12:15 pm	Purchase lunch at Atria's & enjoy Interactive Play Spaces	

Afternoon Itinerary



1:00 pm	Welcome!	
2:00 pm	Habitat Heroes, presented by 	Book Now
3:00 pm	Wetlands Feeding with a National Aviary Expert	
3:15 pm	Enjoy Interactive Play Spaces	
4:00 pm	Rainbow Lorikeet Feeding	Book Now



For the Graduate (and Their Parents!)

\$79 per person | Members: \$66.60 per person
Ages 6+

Owl species have long been considered symbols of wisdom, and they make the perfect birds to visit when celebrating your recent Graduate! Hold an owl on your gloved hand as you learn about their unique adaptations, from their uncanny ability to turn their head almost all the way around to their incredible vision during an Owl Encounter! Experience the thrill of majestic birds, like a Eurasian Eagle-Owl, demonstrating their incredible “superpowers,” or adaptations during *Habitat Heroes!* Visit a Burrowing Owl and a Barred Owl in their habitats for “owl” the fun!

1:00 pm	Welcome!	
1:30 pm	Owl Encounter	Book Now
2:00 pm	Habitat Heroes, presented by 	Book Now
2:30 pm	Visit Burrowing Owls in Canary's Call Presented by  , and a Barred Owl in Condor Court	



Animal Lover's Itineraries

Lovebirds Date at the Aviary

\$54 per person | Members: \$48.60 per person

Make your date unforgettable with a Penguin Encounter: meet a real African Penguin up close and touch its soft feathers! Next, watch as birds like Snowy Egrets and Superb Starlings fly overhead to catch their lunch during the Tropical Rainforest Feeding. Stroll through lush, immersive habitats and listen to the sounds of beautiful birds all around you – a tropical getaway right here in the city! Stop by Canary's Call for *Birds of the Islands Talk* and learn all about island species like the Luzon Bleeding-heart Dove! End the day by visiting some of our other lovebirds out in Condor Court, like Niles and Daphne the Demoiselle Cranes, or spot a pair of Owl Finches in the Grasslands!


11:45 am	Welcome!	
12:00 pm	Penguin Encounter	Book Now
12:30 pm	Birds of the Islands Talk	
1:00 pm	Visit lovebirds throughout the Aviary including Kody and Aurora the Steller's Sea Eagles!	
1:30 pm	Tropical Rainforest Feeding	
2:00 pm	Visit lovebirds in Condor Court	

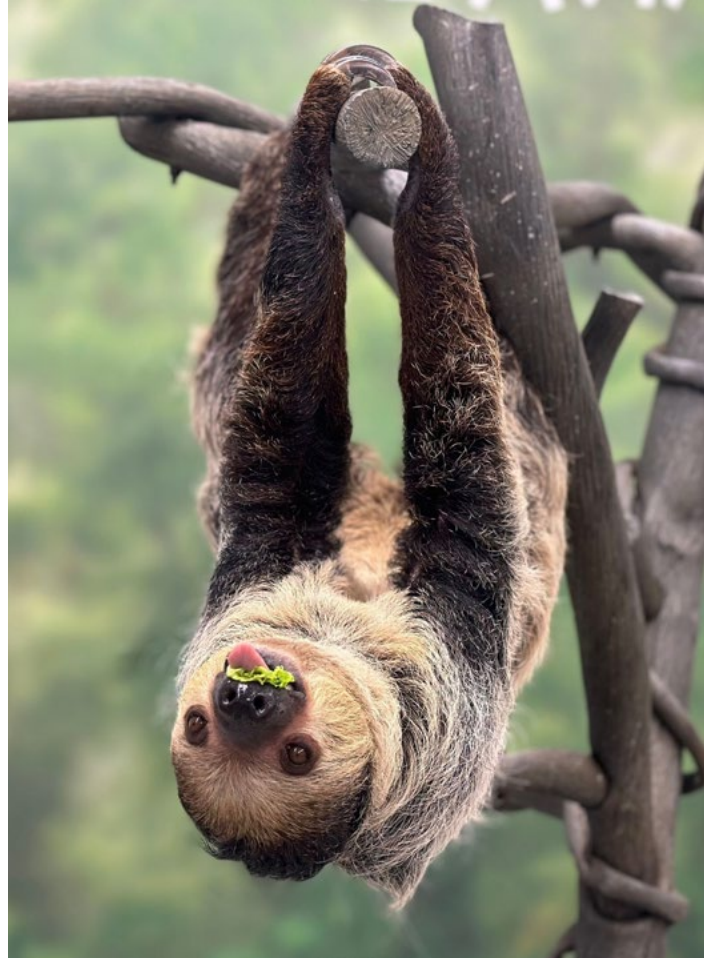
Penguin Lovers

\$59 per person | Members: \$62.60 per person

Upgrade to Interactive Penguin Feeding for \$45 per person and hand-feed our colony their favorite fish on the rocky shores of Penguin Point! | Ages 6+

Kick off the day by watching an African Penguin Feeding at Penguin Point. Get tickets to see our live immersive bird show *Habitat Heroes*, presented by AAA Travel and watch birds of prey fly overhead. Next, meet a real African Penguin up close during a Penguin Encounter! Touch its soft feathers and learn all about what makes this species unique and how you can help them in the wild. Photos are encouraged! Explore the immersive Wetlands habitat to see other coastal birds like flamingos and Brown Pelicans. Finish your day of penguin fun by stopping in the Gift Shop to take home an African Penguin plush or other souvenir!

10:15 am	Welcome!	
10:30 am	Penguin Feeding	
11:00 am	<i>Habitat Heroes</i> , presented by  Book Now	
12:00 pm	Penguin Encounter	Book Now
12:30 pm	Explore the Wetlands!	




Sloth Lovers

\$104 per person | Members: \$93.10 per person

All Ages Welcome | Upgrade to Sloth Encounter + Painting for \$26 more per person and take home a one-of-a-kind piece by resident artist, Valentino!

Visit the National Aviary before we open to the public during a Sloth Encounter! Meet Vivien, a Linnaeus' Two-toed sloth, touch her soft fur, and hand her a treat! Enjoy our live immersive bird show *Habitat Heroes*, presented by AAA Travel and experience birds of prey flying overhead, plus see a Southern Three-banded Armadillo- a distant relative of the sloth! End your day in the Tropical Rainforest and watch a feeding- and try and spot Wookiee, our other Linnaeus' Two-toed Sloth high up in the trees!

9:15 am	Welcome!	
9:30 am	Sloth Encounter	Book Now
11:00 am	<i>Habitat Heroes</i> , presented by  Book Now	
11:30 am	Tropical Rainforest Feeding - Spot Wookiee!	



Night in the Tropics Returns on a NEW Day!

Journey to the North Shore Friday, July 26 for summer's hottest party, Night in the Tropics Presented by UPMC Health Plan!

Pittsburgh's must-attend event offers all of the tropical thrills and frills that one can expect from an Island Oasis. Give yourself the VIP treatment: those tickets offer free valet parking, early party access, exclusive interactions with National Aviary animals, and full bar service with premium spirits. All partygoers will indulge in gourmet bites and sip signature cocktails, craft beer, and delicious wines while dancing the night away with live music, including Pittsburgh's favorite, *No Bad Juju!*



Don't Miss *Colors in Flight!*

May 25 through September 2, get ready to take off and explore our summer seasonal theme, *Colors in Flight*. get ready to take off and explore our summer seasonal theme, *Colors in Flight*. Engaging new daily activities included with admission will highlight the vibrantly-hued world of birds while shining a light on how different species utilize their feather pigmentation to attract mates or even ward off predators.

Experience engaging play spaces throughout the National Aviary, designed for little learners to use their creativity and imagination. Visitors can upgrade their visit with add-on experiences only offered during summer, including the return of the live rooftop theater show *SkyDeck*, presented by Pittsburgh International Airport, where a color palette of grey, black, and white bird species fly freely overhead. Lightning-fast Lanner Falcons swoop down, demonstrating their agility and impressive speed, while sleek Black Kites soar through the sky. Hooded Vultures, a Critically Endangered species found in Africa, take flight from the rooftop, gliding on air currents as they circle over Allegheny Commons Park.

Shop with Us!

Let the National Aviary help you celebrate all the Moms, Dads, and Grads in your life with a variety of unique gifts perfect for Mother's Day, Father's Day, and grad season.

Two Great Ways to Shop!

Admission is not required to shop in our Gift Shop. You can browse our online store for thoughtful gifts.



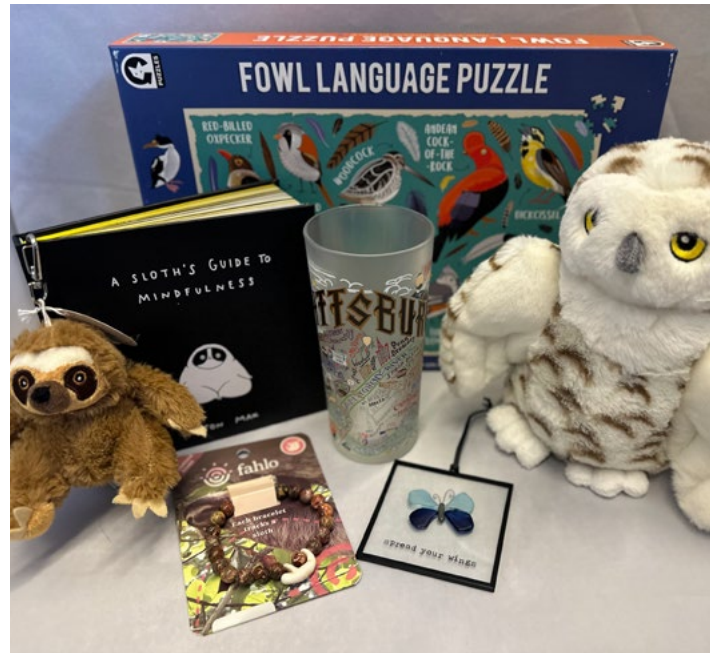
For Dad

As summer approaches, gift Dad a hat to protect him from the sun, a travel mug for his morning coffee, and give the gift of knowledge with a birdwatching book like this Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America!



For Mom

Gift a stunning piece of jewelry representing her favorite bird. Choose from an adorable selection of wallets and bags, or an adorable coaster! Or, show your love with the gift of relaxation: a new book to read, slippers, and a bird-themed wine purser!



For Grads

Prepare your graduate for their next chapter with a book like "A Sloth's Guide to Mindfulness." Choose from an array of board games or puzzles, perfect for that much-needed study break with roommates. Send them off with a little piece of home by gifting them a Pittsburgh-themed glass.



Sexes of New African Penguin Duo Revealed!

Last fall, Patrick and her mate, Owen, hatched two African Penguin chicks here at the National Aviary, marking an additional spark of hope for a species that is increasingly experiencing population declines in the wild.

We recently shared the genders of this new African Penguin duo, growing quickly into full-fledge juveniles under the care of their parents in a behind-the-scenes habitat. The Aviary's expert veterinary staff sent their fully-developed feathers to a lab for DNA testing.

Weighing 6.97 pounds, hatchling one is a **boy** and weighing 6.35 pounds, hatchling two is a **girl**!

Stay tuned to our social media channels to find out when these two will join the colony!





New Male Andean Condor Arrives

With immense wingspans that can reach up to 10 feet, few birds are more awe-inspiring than an Andean Condor.

In late February, the National Aviary announced the arrival of Bud, a male Andean Condor. Bud came to Pittsburgh from the Dallas Zoo and lived behind-the-scenes for several months, acclimating to his new space, before moving to a habitat in Condor Court alongside the Aviary's resident adult female, Lianni. At 43 years old, Bud serves as an ideal new potential mate for Lianni.

Andean Condors are listed as Vulnerable throughout their range in South America, and Critically Endangered in Ecuador and are increasingly declining in the wild. The National Aviary plays an important role in their

conservation through participation in the Association of Zoo and Aquarium's (AZA) Species Survival Plan® (SSP) for Andean Condors. Bud's arrival offers an important breeding opportunity for the conservation of their species. Three of Lianni's hatchlings in past years have been released into their native range within Colombia and Venezuela.

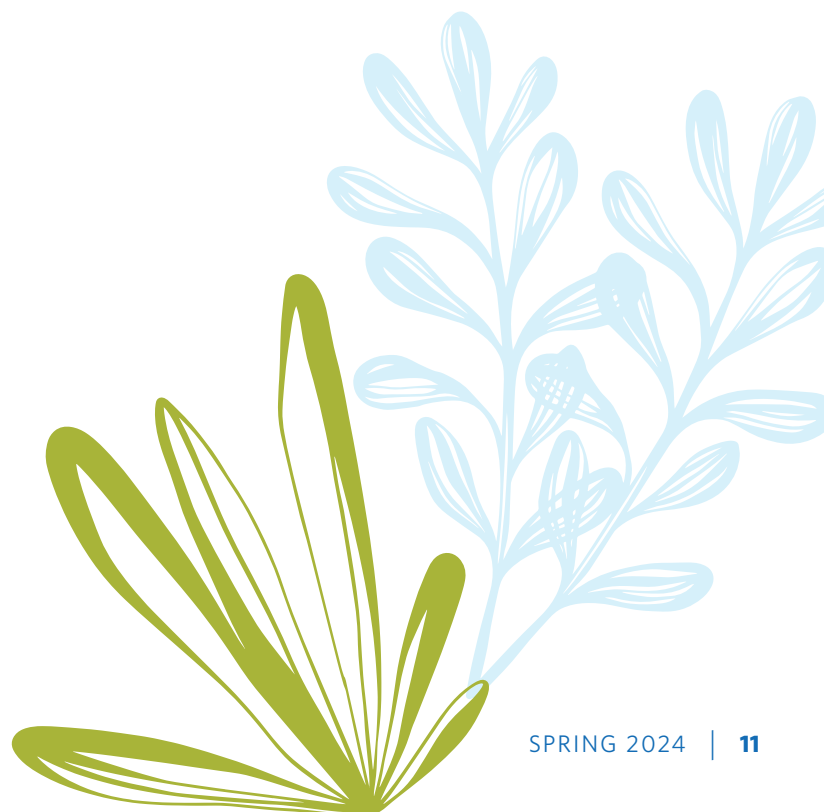
Lianni and Bud's bonding process is still in the developmental phase but the Aviary expert care team continue to see strong signs that the pair is acclimating well with one another. As the Andean Condor breeding season typically begins in early spring, we remain hopeful this pair will potentially raise a chick to boost their population within the next few years.



In Memory of Benito the Hyacinth Macaw

This past January, we said goodbye to one of the Aviary's oldest, and most beloved residents. Benito the Hyacinth Macaw. Benito came to us as an adult male in 1993, right before his claim-to-fame appearance on *Mister Roger's Neighborhood*.

Benito was extremely well-known and loved by all, including visitors and National Aviary staff, from our Executive Director to our newest Members. He was the ultimate jokester who loved to “wave” at everyone from his perch in the Tropical Rainforest. He could often be seen dangling from his beak and flapping his wings, which would always garner much attention from those around him. Benito passed away from an aneurysm, which can develop without symptoms with age in many species. We are incredibly grateful for the three decades he spent having a positive effect on everyone who had the opportunity to meet him at the National Aviary.



Upcoming Events with the National Aviary

Penguin-Palooza

Saturday & Sunday, April 27-28 | 11 am - 3 pm
Included with General Admission; Members visit for FREE!

Waddle over to the National Aviary to celebrate everyone's favorite flightless feathered friends: penguins! Meet the colony of African Penguins in Penguin Point, watch a fun feeding with National Aviary experts where you also learn how to help penguins and other marine life every day, and even make a penguin craft to take home!

[Learn More](#)

NEW Member Exclusive Expert Talks!

National Aviary members receive access to our new series featuring insights from some of our favorite experts!

**Expert Talk with Bri Crane:
Marianas Avifauna Conservation
(MAC) Project**

September 8 | 11 am - 12 pm

[Register
for Free](#)

**Expert Talk with Kurt
Hundgen: Introducing the
Guam Kingfisher (Sihek)**

November 7 | 11 am - 12 pm

[Register
for Free](#)



Birdwatching Kayak Tours with L.L.Bean

Sunday, June 23 | 5:30 - 8:30 am

Sunday, July 21 | 6 - 9 pm

Sunday, August 18 | 6 - 9 pm

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. 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. No prior experience is necessary.

[Reserve Your Spot Today!](#)



Brushes & Birds featuring Maria DeSimone Prascak of Maria's Ideas

Join Maria DeSimone Prascak of Maria's Ideas; [MariasIdeas.com](#) in person for a creative and colorful class in painting your own fine and feathered masterpiece. In this course, designed for painters of all ages and abilities, follow Maria's step-by-step instructions to paint a portrait of a well-loved National Aviary animal.

**Evening Edition
for Penguin Palooza**

Thursday, May 2 | 5:30 - 8 pm

[Register
Here](#)

Sloth Birthday

Saturday, August 24 | 11 am - 1 pm

[Register
Here](#)

Upcoming Events with the National Aviary



Brunch in The Garden Room

National Aviary Admission Included

Father's Day BBQ Brunch

Sunday, June 16 | Seatings at 11 am & 12:45 pm

Bring your father or paternal figure to our Father's Day BBQ Brunch! Let Chef Josef Karst do the grilling for you, featuring mouth-watering entrees like brisket and kielbasa, alongside more traditional, gourmet brunch fare.

Reserve Your Seat at the Table

Summer Camps...For Adults!

Choice of packed lunch from Atria's included | 18+

Feel like a kid again at the National Aviary! Spend a day with Aviary staff and go behind-the-scenes to see what it takes to care for the more than 500 birds and animals that call the National Aviary home! Help prepare enrichment for the flock, get up close with Animal Ambassadors, and learn about National Aviary conservation projects across the globe.

Saturday, August 10 | 9 am - 3 pm

Register Here

Saturday, August 17 | 9 am - 3 pm

Register Here

Birding Expedition Bus Tour: Cook Forest

Non-Members: \$149 per person
Member Price: \$134 per person

Sunday, June 9 | 7 am - 2:30 pm

Pick-up and drop-off from and to the National Aviary is included PLUS a packed lunch from Atria's Specialty Catering will be provided. The birding expedition bus tour is open to participants 6 years or older; those under 18 must be accompanied by a registered adult

Join the National Aviary for an unforgettable birding expedition in Cook Forest. Spot diverse species soaring overhead and perching in surrounding trees and immerse yourself in beautiful natural surroundings complete with a gorgeous river winding through acres of white pine and hemlock trees. National Aviary Ornithologist Bob Mulvihill will help with bird identification and provide tips for future birding trips!

Reserve Your Spot!



Falconry: The Sport of Kings

National Aviary Admission Included

Sunday, August 25 | 10 am - 12 pm

Designed for ages 10 & up, under 16 must be accompanied by a registered adult.

Join National Aviary's licensed falconer, Cathy Schlott, for an exhilarating experience as you delve into the fascinating world of Falconry. Discover the ancient history of the sport that has been enjoyed by kings for thousands of years. Learn about the variety of birds that falconers hunt with and the individual considerations in selecting a species. You'll even get to enjoy a visit from one of the National Aviary's Ambassador Animals!

Reserve Your Spot Today!



Donor Society

Thank you to the following individual supporters who made donations of \$500+ in the first quarter of 2024. 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.

2024 Donor Society

Martial Eagle | \$2,500+

Anonymous (2)
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Snowy Owl | \$1,000-\$2,499

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