

## **Inspire, Entertain, and Educate.**

By

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Children these days are flooded with multimedia experiences from pre-school to college. It is therefore not surprising that environmental and conservation educators have an increasingly difficult time making a connection with them. Add to that the ever widening gap between the lives of children and nature and we have an even bigger task connecting children to the world in which they live.

It has been said that people, and kids are people too, only protect and cherish that which they have experienced, that which in a sense they can “call their own”. The challenge for environmental educators is to take their presentations to a higher level of professionalism and to employ entertainment to make that vital connection.

Laughter is a wonderful catalyst for raising awareness of the natural world; while one’s audience is laughing one has the opportunity to form a relationship, to bring them closer, and to introduce them to nature and wildlife.

There are those that recoil at the suggestion of using entertainment to deliver any serious educational message. This is particularly true when one sets out to entertain and educate using live animals. The tendency is to think of the parrots riding bicycles and pushing carts across the stage. However, if the behaviors used in the presentations are based upon the natural skills of the animals and what is seen can be related to those natural skills the experience can be inspirational for the audience. This is particularly true for children as they form their own perspective of life on earth, nature, and animals; a perspective that will be the basis of how they perceive the natural world for the rest of their lives.

Avian Ambassadors has as its goal raising awareness of the natural world by presenting entertaining and educational free-flying bird shows. The birds are from around the world and each brings its own unique personality and behavior to the stage. The audience is encouraged to begin recycling by Kumbi the African pied crow (*Corvus Albus*) who with the help of some young volunteers demonstrates how to recycle soda cans and also keep the stage clean. Other birds show their flying skills both on the stage and over the heads of the audience. In addition to some basic biology about each bird the show also delivers some short stories intended to inspire the audience and reconnect them with some of the wonders of nature.

To learn more about Avian Ambassadors please visit our web site <http://www.AvianAmbassadors.com> or call (505) 281 5210.