

A BENEFIT LUNCHEON FOR BLACK ROCK FOREST

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13TH, 2026

Small Birds, Extraordinary Memory What Chickadees Reveal About the Brain



- Eleonora's Falcon** (*Falco eleonora*) **\$30,000**
These stunning raptors breed on rocky outcroppings in the Mediterranean and prey on migratory flocks of birds. Falcons have taken food-caching behavior to the extreme. Swooping down on their prey, they take live prisoners and store them in hidden rocky crevices for later consumption! Eleonora's Falcons are named after Eleanor of Arborea, whose royal decree protecting the falcons became the first wildlife protection law in human history. *Premium Table for 8*



- Northwestern Crow** (*Corvus brachyrhynchos caurinus*) **\$1,400**
Previously classified as a separate species, Northwestern Crows are now considered a subspecies of the American Crow. In the Pacific Northwest, these crows have adapted to the gigantic waxing and waning of the tides. They walk out onto extensive mudflats at low tide to collect clams and cache them above the tide line. Cached clams provide crows with a reliable food source later, during the flooding of the high tide. *One Premium Ticket*



- Lidith's Jay** (*Garrulus lidithi*) **\$15,000**
A gorgeous, colorful species of jay endemic to a tiny Pacific island of Amami. How did such a unique bird become isolated on a remote island, with no similar species anywhere nearby? We don't know. But a clue might be their unique food-caching specialization. Most of the Amami forests consist of native chinquapin trees, whose nutritious nuts the jays cache into the ground for the winter season. *Preferred Table for 8*



- Acorn Woodpecker** (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) **\$750**
Common in the American West, these woodpeckers cache acorns by hammering hundreds of them into surfaces of trees, wooden light posts, and sometimes unfortunate homeowners' property. Storage trees are called "granaries" and are fiercely defended by the flock. *One Preferred Ticket*



- Loggerhead Shrike** (*Lanius ludovicianus*) **\$7,500**
Common in the American South, these small, hook-billed birds are adept predators, often hunting prey larger than their own size. Their carnivorous habits have earned shrikes the Latin name *Lanius*, or "butcher". Shrikes are equally notorious for their gruesome food-caching behavior: to store food for later, they impale their prey on plant thorns — or sometimes on barbed wire! *Table for 8*



- Gray-headed Chickadee** (*Poecile cinctus*) **\$375**
A lighter-headed cousin of our familiar Black-capped species, these tiny birds spend winters deep in the frozen Arctic. On one Siberian island, a chickadee has been documented making 5,000 food caches in a single winter day — a feat that requires extraordinary memory. *One Ticket*

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail _____

Are you planning on attending? Yes / No

If no, are you an **event underwriter** or **sponsoring a ticket** for an attendee? (circle if applicable)

Names of attendees: _____

Do you have any special meal requirements? _____

Total payment info: _____

Enclosed is a check

I will be paying with my Donor Advised Fund/Foundation at _____



All credit or ACH payments should be made using the online portal on our website.

Send this form and payment to:

Black Rock Forest
65 Reservoir Rd.
Cornwall, NY 12518

Any other information we need to know: _____

Contact Susanne Vondrak 845-534-4517 or svondrak@blackrockforest.org with any questions.