

Flappers

A monthly publication of the Flapping Feathers Parrot Club
Volume 7 Issue 10 October 2016



The Flapping Feathers Parrot Club



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Editor's Message

At our last meeting we decided to hold the November meeting one week early, on Wednesday, November 16th, due to Thanksgiving Eve being on our regularly scheduled meeting night.

We have a new classified ad this month. We get so few of them that this is big news.

Paula Ashfield from [Under My Wing Avian Refuge](#) is in desperate need of funds to complete an expansion of the sanctuary. Please check her website and help if you can.

Dr. Laurie Hess from the Veterinary Center for Birds and Exotics is doing a book signing of her new book "Unlikely Companions: The Adventures of an Exotic Animal Doctor (or, What Friends Feathered, Furred, and Scaled Have Taught Me about Life and Love)" at several locations in the area. [Check her website](#) for more information. I know her from the LIPS Expos where she usually is every year at the vet table.

Some messages from World Parrot Trust on the uplisting of African Greys to CITES Appendix I:

[UN Bans International Trade in Wild African Grey Parrots.](#)

[A review of the original proposal](#) (this is from CITES and is long).

[Answers to Frequently Asked Questions.](#)

[An 18+ minute podcast from WPT on CITES and the uplisting.](#)

Some other interesting links:

[An Eagle with Super Human Strength.](#)

[Beautiful Birds.](#)

[African Grey Species in Decline](#) from Cornell Lab.

This is childish, but I still thought it was cute (you can tell that I've been working too hard on the newsletter). [Click this link](#), then scroll down to the middle of the page until you see an animal (probably a horse). Then click the circles around the animal to hear it speaking in different languages. Click the right and left arrows to get to the next / previous animal.

The [Parrot Lover's Cruise](#) leaves in a few days. Have a great time if you're going.

Don't forget, if a picture has a blue border around it, it means you can watch that video related to the article that contains it (if you are connected to the Internet). I'm mentioning it again because there are a few of these in this issue.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving,
Shelly Orloff
Executive Director and Newsletter Editor
Flapping Feathers Parrot Club of NJ
sheldono@sprynet.com or
editor@flappingfeathers.org
201-791-0245

∞



November 2016 Meeting

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

7:30 pm

[Land and Sea Diner and Restaurant](#)

20-12 Fair Lawn Avenue

Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

201-794-7240

Repeating stuff follows for the regular meetings that we have at the diner:

Everybody receiving this newsletter, and even those who do not receive it, are welcome to attend any or all of our meetings. I usually send out an email a few days before each meeting as a reminder to everybody I know in this area whose email address I have. If you happen to read this newsletter and you did not get a reminder message, it probably means I do not have your email address; please [email it to me](#) if you wish to be notified.

If you wish to check the menu before coming to a meeting, [click this link](#) and then click the Menu button. You will then need to click the lightly colored menu pages, one page at a time. Or [click here](#) to see the entire menu as one scanned pdf document.

Please let me know 1 or 2 days before each meeting if you are coming or if you think you may come, so that we can arrange for the correct number of tables to be set up. You can also come without notice, but it's a little better if we know ahead of time. Contact Shelly at sheldono@sprynet.com or 201-791-0245 to let me know if you wish.

So far our waitresses have been giving us separate checks, which is very convenient. Hopefully this will continue. But even if they don't, each of you will just pay for what you order; the bill will not be equally split. So if you just have a cup of coffee, you will not have to pay \$10 for it.

Hope to see you at the meeting,
Shelly ∞



Flapping Feathers Parrot Club

Web address: www.flappingfeathers.org

[Visit our Facebook Page](#)

Email: flappingfeathers@flappingfeathers.org or info@flappingfeathers.org

Phone: 201-791-0245

Location: Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

[Instructions for viewing and printing the newsletter](#)

[View the cover movie](#)

October Birdie Birthdays



Catalina Macaws Skittles & Sprinkles (brother and sister)

Birthdays: October 5 and 7

Age: 1 year

Parent: Akilah Howard



**Blue-fronted Amazon
Grizwold**

Birthday: October 20

Age: 21 years

**Parents: Jane and Charlie
Volkman**

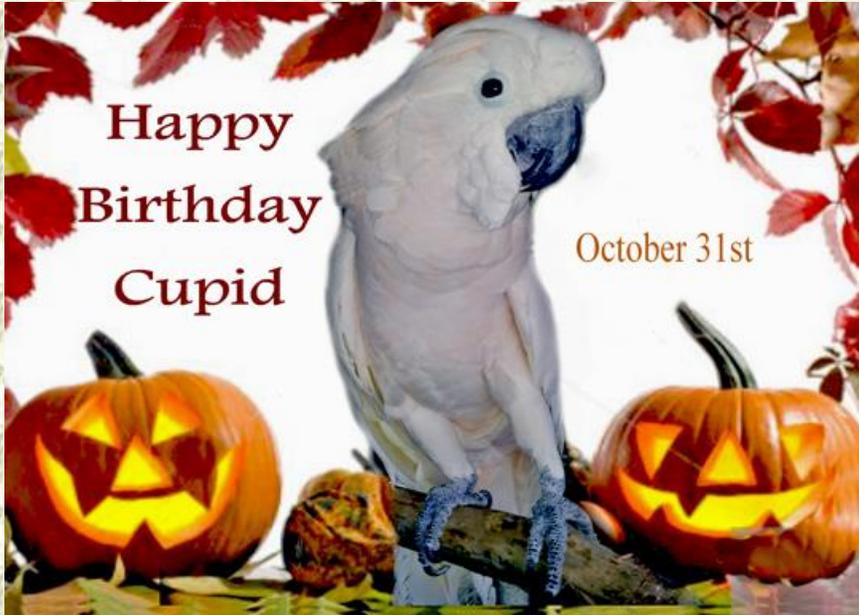


Please submit pictures of your bird(s) the month before their birthday(s) for inclusion on our Birdie Birthday page.

Email to Shelly at sheldono@sprynet.com.



October Birdie Birthdays



Moluccan Cockatoo Cupid

Birthday: October 31

Age: 22 years

Parent: Linda Costello



African Grey Phinny

Birthday: October 31

Age: 11 years

Parent: Linda Costello



Please submit pictures of your bird(s) the month before their birthday(s) for inclusion on our Birdie Birthday page.

Email to Shelly at sheldono@sprynet.com.



Out and About with Pookie

by Steve Plafchan

VP and Editor

Rainbow Feathers Bird Club and Rescue

www.rfbirdclub.com

October 2016

Reprinted with permission from the author

We're doing our best to cope with Steve's issues resulting from his exposure and affliction with the Cockamaw virus. To be honest, the changes in his behavior when we are driving in the car, at the park or a farmer's market are completely unchanged. The major changes are happening at home during the middle of the night.

During daylight hours Steve is very much like his old self; he takes us (Sparky, JB and me) to the outdoor markets, senior shows and to weekend festivals. As an addendum I must add that my magnetic personality and charming allure just absolutely wow the crowds. My status as the star of the show is still firmly entrenched; everybody still thinks I'm a baby bird and just the cutest bird ever seen.

The overnight hours are when his alter ego emerges and the chasing and caterwauling commences. Imagine this scenario: it's the middle of the night, dark inside the house and everyone is quietly sleeping, then Ricky starts to scream like an air raid siren. We then hear Steve get out of bed and start talking to Ricky, then he opens up his cage. Ricky bursts

through the door because this is a major invitation for him to play one of his favorite games; chase the piggy's. The next thing we see is Steve rapidly running through the kitchen and our room with Rickey hot on his heels attempting to bite his toes or socks. They trade whom is chasing whom but it is always with a large amount of banging and clanging along with a loud yowl when Rickey succeeds in getting a toe in his beak; much to Steve's dismay.

On a whole, the acclamation and acceptance of Ricky into our Grey household has been completed. We have learned to tolerate the behavioral quirks of a Cockatoo even though the outbursts of screams are above 90 decibels. He has agreed to limit the loud singing and screaming to daylight and early evening hours and maintain a quieter demeanor at night, except when Steve decides to start exercising with him. Ergo all of the noise in the middle of the night can mostly be attributed to Steve for startling Ricky and beginning the game of chase. All we have to do is train Steve to leave sleeping Cockatoos alone in the middle of the night.



Until next month
Chirps and Squawks
Pookie

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A Word From Me...

Moving Again?

by Flapping Feathers member Elise Negrin

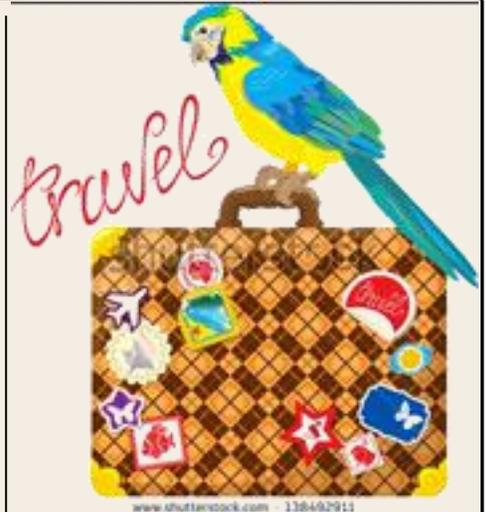
October 2016

I move around a lot. I am someone who thrives on change, and so it goes, my birds have to adjust accordingly. Just think, birds in the wild have to adjust every moment. Whether they move from branch to branch or neighborhood seeking food or a mate, they too, thrive or at least adapt with change.

While in NY, I moved 4 times from 1997 to 2011. Those moves were fairly easy since they were local. In 2011 I left NY for the sunny shores of South Florida. Six years later I am in my 4th apartment, so those moves also were local and fairly easy. What about that 1500-mile trip from NY to FLA? I was lucky to have a friend with an RV. The cat loved sleeping in the upper area where the sun shined and 3 birds enjoyed the trip as well. Some things are key to making your birds comfortable with moving around and here I go again; this year I will be relocating to Virginia and moving my guys in a sedan. My friend will be with me, so we will drive straight through. I have had to test run smaller cages and then there's a challenge with a cat litter box. (I'm going to open the rear 60/40 (40 side) split and put the litter box in the trunk. ☺) Once on the road, we will be sure to stop often enough for ourselves and check on the birds' food and water. We have decided to begin our drive after

dinner. Our trip should take about 15 hours so the majority of the driving will be through the night. I am leaving a warm climate for a cold one so I saved an old heavy cover for the bird cages. Being positive with your pets is very important. Talk to your birds often except when they are sleeping. For the water, if your bird likes fruit, a little piece of fruit sitting in a small amount of water works. Pellets are a go. And of course during the day I will share my egg sandwich. I will not be using carriers; rather my birds have small travel cages. No hanging toys required. Strategically placed perches, a little thicker than usual work well. My birds like shredding calculator tape or paper. I will make sure they have something to occupy their time. I will bungee cord their cages into the rear seat with the seat belts. I am going to put the smaller cage on top of the larger cage. If you travel and use a carrier, make sure you never take your bird outside of the carrier in the open elements. Your trip can be easy with a little positivity. I have already put my birds in their cages and placed them in the car for a test run in my community.

Now for me. I hope this is my last move at least for a very long time. Although I move a lot, I want to settle down and this is a great opportunity for me. I will



be seeking my nearest bird club of course and I will still be mentoring my successor of the Parrot Society of the Palm Beaches where I am the founder. Education is always first and foremost in my life regarding our parrots. If you have any questions, contact me. If you know someone in the Palm Beach area, have them join the club. I just love to see people benefit from something many of us already know. I have met so many nice people but as the saying goes, every day is a new day, gotta move on. Wish me luck!

As for Flapping Feathers, I am taking a hiatus until January to facilitate my relocation. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and Happy New Year! Virginia is for Lovers, here I come!

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Maureen's Musings - Halloween – Boo!!

by Maureen Halsted

Member of the Budgerigar & Foreign Bird Society and Flapping Feathers

www.bfbsbirdclub.com

October 2016

Reprinted with permission from the October 2016 Budgerigar & Foreign Bird Society newsletter

Halloween – Boo!!

What happened to summer?? Chicks are back in school. Many of the summer cottages have already been closed down for the season. The balance will be 'winterized' this month. Mom says that means getting them ready for winter, so things do not 'freeze'. Well *huh!* Just sounds like a lot of work; no wonder you hear humans grumble so much this time of year! Come to think of it, they seem to do a lot of grumbling year 'round.

The colorful leaves are also falling softly to the ground, necessitating dragging the rakes out of the shed and raking the leaves into huge piles. *MORE* grumbling! Mom mulches the leaves in our yard with that noisy, smelly, green contraption called a lawn mower, (when and if it decides to start!). We, the Clan & I, will not burn your ears with some of the names we have heard Mom calling that thing! Tsk! Tsk!

Since the "Bobbie" incident last month, Mom and Bobbie appear to have declared an armed truce (must remember to look that word up). Pretty sure Mom will not be trusting Bobbie again anytime soon. For her part, Bobbie is attempting to behave, however we all know how it is with 'youngsters'. The rest of the

Clan & I have been *EXTRA* good. We have even made certain our cages are all neat and tidy, however Mom has not appeared to have noticed our efforts in that department. I guess she just does not appreciate all the time and effort we put into the paper arrangements on the floor of our cages.

Mom also gave up on her old pick-up truck and purchased a newer one. She said it was getting embarrassing; all the tow truck drivers were waving to her! Not sure what that meant. The Clan & I have no idea what she was thinking though... with this new one there is no way any of our cages will fit into it! We held an Emergency Round Cage meeting, then approached Mom with our concerns. She assured us she had still kept the big ole Yukon (SUV), so we don't have to be worried about being left behind, should the need arise to move us all quickly (in case of an emergency). *WHEW!* That was a relief! Feather Busters! We were so stressed out over that worry, that Heidi started feather plucking.

October is hunting season up here, the one time of year we do not like much. None of us like to hear guns being fired, so we are hoping it will be a quiet hunt again this year. While there is no hunting allowed on either our



property or the adjoining land, still, some hunters hunt across the road. Ignoring the fact they are NOT supposed to be hunting anywhere near houses.

There is ONE event we, the Clan & I, are eagerly awaiting, and that is THANKSGIVING! This is when many nests, in our area at least, are prettily dressed in autumn colors, leaves, gourds, whatever that is (must add that to my list of words to look up the next time I can reach the dictionary), bales of hay and stuff. All that is fine, however *we* are looking forward to Thanksgiving DINNER!

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Cockatales - My Bird Flew Away

by Dave Kearsley

President, Durham Avicultural Society of Ontario

www.twitter.com/durhamavicultur

October 2016

Reprinted with permission from the author from the October 2016 Durham Avicultural Society newsletter

I have to say that this summer has certainly been one of the worst I can remember for lost, found, and sighted but unrecovered pet birds ever. Yes, it happens when a bird slips out an opened door and is gone for good, but this year the numbers are staggering. Budgies mostly, but Cockatiels, Conures, African grays to name a few, and I have to wonder... WHY??

The Kijiji ads are full of ads of birds for sale... or free to good homes postings. Are there that many careless people out there? But I suspect, and I've had the odd person admit it, that some are being deliberately released. We hear of dogs, and cats being taken out into the woods and turned loose, but birds? Sad to relate, but it is true. And how many are there which are never seen again, their fates unknown? Well, the following are some fictionalized short accounts of what may befall such a bird, based on experiences told to me or my own observations of some of these unfortunates.

(1) Corky

Corky was a 5 year old male normal gray Cockatiel well loved by his owners. He was very tame and a great talker. One day they had a backyard party with a number of guests there. It got lively, and one of them careened into Corky's cage and it toppled. The bottom fell off and Corky badly frightened, flew off over the neighbourhood. A search party tried to follow, but he was gone. Corky flew several kilometers until fatigue forced him to land, in a tall maple tree. He sat there on a limb, confused and disorientated, not knowing which way to turn. He was unaware that other eyes had noted the bird and his vulnerability. Corky preened himself, and looked around for someone he might recognize. He never saw the Coopers Hawk swoop down upon him and snatched him off his perch. A few gray feathers floated down as the hawk flew off with her prey.

(2) Indigo

He was a Sky Blue budgie who had lived with an older couple for many years. He spent a lot of time out of his cage, riding on the shoulders of his owners. One afternoon the gentleman had



Indigo with him when he went outside to meet the mailman, totally forgetting the budgie on his shoulder. A neighbour dropped a garbage can lid and Indigo took wing, flying up into the top of a densely leaf shrouded oak. He could hear the man calling him but like Corky he had no idea where to turn. Then a black squirrel bounded onto his branch, and he flew out of the tree, landing on the balcony of a 5th storey apartment. No one saw Indigo huddled there as the temperature began to drop. Some pigeons landed nearby and he took refuge behind a large potted plant. He sat there all night as the rain came off and on through the night. With morning the sun rose and Indigo moved to the edge of the balcony, warmed by the sun. He noticed some sparrows and flew down to join them at a nearby feeder. Off and on, he

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fed and roused with the 4 wild birds, but now he was infested with lice, picked up from the much used feeder.

That night he took cover in some shrubbery beside the building and tried to sleep, but the lice infested his plumage. As he fluttered trying to dislodge them, he caught the attention of a feral cat which had entered the bushes, searching for roosting birds. She saw Indigo at once and caught him instantly. In a moment he was dead. A gardener found him the next morning.

(3) Twist

This was a lutino female cockatiel belonging to a young girl. The owner had thought Twist's wings were amply clipped, but as they were in the back yard of their home, a gust of wind picked up and lifted the cockatiel into flight. She fluttered about four houses down the street, before landing heavily on the ground on a lawn. The girl and her friends kept the bird in sight, and were able to get a hold of her. Her wings were re-clipped soon after.

(4) Colored Budgie

A man walked into a pet store and while browsing, noticed a very beautiful colored budgie in among several others. Believing his wife would enjoy the bird, he bought it. He was wrong. He had forgotten his wife was allergic to birds. He took it back to the store, but they refused the refund. Angrily, not knowing what to do with the bird, he took it to a nearby green space and released the bird. He watched it fly away. The unnamed budgie



was a Yellow faced Cobalt and was soon noticed by a home owner as it flew into the yard. He was watering the lawn and with the hose managed to soak the bird and it fluttered to the ground. He captured it and brought it inside the house. Wrapping it in a towel he dried it off and soon after the budgie was recovering in a small cage. This bird had no band and the family adopted it.

These shorts may be graphic, but such fates do fall upon loose pet birds. Let's try to safeguard our own birds and educate others.

See you at the meeting.

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Ahhhh! The delicious aroma of

food cooking, and that TURKEY!! YUMMY!! Can't wait!!

Hey, wait a minute... Turkey is a member of the fowl family. In other words it is a *BIRD!* One of *US!*

AWK! FEATHER BUSTERS!!! Think I have just lost my appetite for Thanksgiving dinner.

The chicks like this month, because on the 31st there is something called "Halloween". This is when the chicks and some 'mature' humans, dress up in

strange feathers (er costumes). Apparently the scarier the better. The Clan & I, being of the superior race, find all this to be very juvenile. But whatever, the chicks really look forward to this evening. Question: If they are having 'fun', why are they screaming so much at the top of their lungs? Feather Busters, but they are even louder than Bobbie (our Moluccan Cockatoo), and *that is loud!!!*

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Clever Crows Find the Best Stick for the Job

by Noel Kirkpatrick

www.mnn.com

September 15, 2016

Reprinted with permission from Mother Nature Network

It's easy for us humans to fish things out of jars with narrow openings. We have things like utensils and opposable thumbs and if all else fails, the ability to turn the jar over. Then, presto! We have that last stubborn pickle.

It's not so easy for other animals that don't have our flatware or thumbs, but that doesn't stop some of them. A [new study published in Nature](#) has found that the Hawaiian crow (*Corvus hawaiiensis*) is a crafty tool-user. The crows will turn to sticks into skewers to draw out pieces of meat from logs, and they'll even go about seeking out the best stick for the job. If one stick is too short, it gets tossed aside. Too thick? The bird moves on.

Given the fact that the Hawaiian crow is extinct in the wild, it would be reasonable to think that the birds' tool use might be limited to a certain group of birds that live in their sanctuaries, but that's not the case. Not only did [93 percent of the birds observed use sticks as tools](#) across the preserves, but researchers noted juvenile crows exhibiting tool-using behavior as well, and they did so without any social training from older crows.

As the video points out, the Hawaiian crow isn't the only bird that turns to tool-based solutions. Another tropical crow, the New Caledonian crow (*Corvus moneduloides*), has impressed researchers with its excellent use of tools, but up until this study, no other crow had demonstrated such finesse.



The two species grew up in similar environments, but they evolved independently of one another, meaning the crows weren't swapping tips on which stick is the best one for the job. Researchers think the birds' similar environments - including a lack of competition and predators - [gave them ample time to experiment with tool use](#). The same way we figure out whether or not the salad fork works better than the dinner fork for spearing that last pickle.

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Mom says there is another meaning to Halloween. The Celts celebrate 'Samhain' (pronounced sow-ane), meaning 'the end of summer'. Now I ask you; why would anyone celebrate the end of summer, huh?

Apparently the Jack-o-lantern also came from the Irish, only they used a turnip instead of a pumpkin.

QUESTION: How the heck did they carve a turnip??

Humans have some *very* strange customs.

For those interested, there is an Irish folklore in regards to the Jack-o-lantern. Some humans do not celebrate Halloween, however *we* do in our nest. So on that note, we are off to dig through Mom's costumes and see what we can 'adapt' for us to wear (without her seeing us do it of course, else she will hide them away).

Happy Thanksgiving, and Happy Halloween!!!

*Rikki, The Clan
and
Maureen Halsted*

∞





Sales Ethics for Breeders

by Rosemary Low

www.rosemarylow.co.uk

October 2016

Reprinted with permission from the author

It is the responsibility of all breeders to give the correct information on care to every purchaser of a young bird - especially if that person is inexperienced. Failure to do so can affect the health and happiness, and possibly the longevity, of that bird.

A recent example was not just poor advice but instructions that demonstrated true ignorance. I received a telephone call from a lady who had bought a six-week old, unweaned Rainbow Lorikeet advertised on the internet. She had previously kept only Zebra Finches and knew nothing about parrots.

After answering her questions about weaning and diet, I asked her what the breeder/seller had told her. I was shocked to find it was *all* wrong.

Food

She was told this young lorikeet needed only a hand-rearing food for parrots, made to a thick consistency, and orange. No information was provided about a nectar mixture or other foods to offer when it was weaned. She did not know that at about six weeks - earlier than all other parrots - it would start to feed itself if given warm nectar in a small flat-bottomed container. I suggested one of the small pots that face cream comes in to start with. A lory or lorikeet chick quickly learns to feed itself and

to fill its crop with warm, liquid food. They soon realise what to do if you lift the spoon only just above the level of the pot, instead of placing it in the beak. I never use a syringe as this is an unsuitable method of feeding most parrots, with many hazards.

Lorikeets are among the easiest of all parrots to hand-rear. Small pieces of soft fruit such as apple, pear or grapes and thawed sweetcorn kernels, also pomegranates, can be offered as an introduction to different types of food. Given access to warm food at six weeks, many will usually wean themselves in two or three weeks if they are fit and healthy!

Frequency of feeding

She was told to feed the lorikeet three times a day, at 9 am, some other time and very late at night. She had been staying up until 1 am to feed it - no doubt disturbing its sleep. It should have been fed by 7 am and at least three more times until about 10 pm. She was told on no account to feed it or give it access to orange while there was food in its crop - or it would die. I suspected this advice stemmed from the breeder's mistake. He had fed a chick with access to orange with food that was too thick or too cool, or the immediate environment was not warm enough, causing the food to



remain in the chick's crop too long. The crop did not empty, a bacterial infection resulted and the chick died.

Implement for feeding

Advice given was to use a syringe. Commercial breeders with large numbers of chicks need to syringe-feed because spoon-feeding is too time-consuming. However, for someone with a single chick or only a few, spoon-feeding is safer and more natural. For a lorikeet all that is needed is a teaspoon with the sides bent inwards. Then it more or less resembles the lower mandible, and chicks readily take warm food from it.

The dangers of syringe feeding for the inexperienced are:

- Feeding the food too hot so that it burns the crop, causing

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much pain, also injury, even death. Spoon-fed chicks will refuse the food if it is too hot or too cold.

- Food entering the windpipe and choking the chick (aspiration), which will die immediately.
- Beak malformation, sometimes caused by always syringe-feeding from the same side.

Wrong cage

Back to the lady who needed help. The vendor had sold her a parrot cage whose dimensions and type were totally unsuitable for a lorikeet. Also, the bar space was too wide. Lorikeets have liquid, sticky droppings and most people soon tire of these being squirted over floor and furniture.

She needed to replace the cage, either by having one made or by purchasing one of the plastic double breeding cages made for birds with only the front with bars. These have a partition in the middle and two doors. The partition can be removed - or replaced only for cleaning if it is not convenient to let the occupant out while this is carried out. The plastic interior makes cleaning easy. It will be necessary to add a spring clip or some other device to the doors as a lory can soon find out how to open them.

For a custom-made cage the best design is a one made from Melamine which can easily be wiped clean. It should be longer than it is high with only the front open - that is, made from welded mesh or perhaps even

two or three ready-made cage fronts. Lorikeets are very active and need to play, especially on the floor. The cage she was sold had a floor grid that could not be removed, making play difficult and cleaning more laborious.

The moral of this story

It should go without saying that someone seeking a bird of any kind should:

- Buy from a reputable, experienced breeder.
- First research the accommodation and dietary needs of the species in question.
- Not buy unweaned parrots unless he or she has lot of experience in hand-rearing. Even then, caring breeders are unlikely to sell unweaned young because they know about the problems -- often fatal - that can arise for the chick.

When a breeder sells to someone who has never before had a parrot as a companion, they need to emphasise that parrots - even the smallest species - are highly sentient creatures. They have a complex range of emotions, including grief, contentment, love, fear, frustration (sexual and otherwise), depression, dislike and jealousy. The latter is often observed in companion parrots - jealousy of a human companion or another avian one.

Sentience - that is - being capable of feelings and emotions, is a subject that is rarely discussed in books on parrot care. I would refer those who want to know more to my book *Understanding Parrots - Cues*



from Nature. Emotions run high in most parrots, even if this is not recognised by their "owners". It is something that until quite recently was almost totally neglected. Whether you have aviary birds or house companions, there is a golden rule: "Try to put yourself in the place of your bird or birds and ask yourself what you can do to improve its life and wellbeing."

This is advice that should be passed on by every breeder with every young bird.

Unwanted parrots

If you breed parrots you have to face the reality that a proportion of those of them will become unwanted eventually. This might be because they are too loud and demanding or because they start to pluck themselves and no longer look beautiful. Or perhaps the owner has died and the relatives are not interested in inheriting a parrot. It is time that breeders and others started to take a responsible attitude to the problem, that is, they act in a way that minimises the numbers of unwanted birds.

Dedicate an aviary

I would suggest that every breeder sets aside one aviary for unwanted parrots. I do not mean taking unwanted pets that

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will be paired up with the possibility of producing more problem birds. I am referring to parrots *from aviaries* that are old or difficult to rehome for some other reason. A breeder could dedicate a large aviary with a large shelter or indoor section for several birds of different species that can live together amicably, enjoy life and never be moved on.

You sometimes hear people talk about parrots that they have “rescued” – to pair up and breed from. This is not rescue – it is obtaining cheap or free parrots for profit.

I also believe that breeders have an obligation to look after their pairs that are no longer producing due to age – not to sell them at the next big sale day.

Question your conscience

Cockatoos are among the most problematical of hand-reared parrots - often because purchasers do not understand the huge degree of commitment needed to keep a cockatoo happy and healthy. In the UK, a former cockatoo breeder now devotes her time and energy giving aviary space to unwanted cockatoos. In Canada, a respected company that hand-rears young for the pet trade ceased to breed cockatoos. In 2005 Mark Hagen told me: “Large cockatoos seem to be the ones with the majority of behavioural problems, leading to abandonment. We used to breed a dozen baby Moluccans every year from five pairs and stopped this years ago. We do still breed Goffin’s.”

Breeders created the problem. If

they have a conscience, they will stop hand-rearing young. There are now too many unwanted cockatoos and other parrots for rescue centres to cope.

Opt for parent-rearing

Parent-rearing takes longer, thus reducing production, but parent-reared young are more stable emotionally and better able to amuse themselves, therefore less demanding and less likely to be re-homed. Parent-reared young of many species are not only suitable for aviaries. If their parents are unafraid of humans, and if they are removed from them as soon as they are independent, they can make more suitable pets than hand-reared parrots. However, this will be dependent on the mind-set of the new owner who must have patience and a lower level of expectation of taming progress than if he or she had purchased a hand-reared parrot.

Be a responsible breeder

Several years ago I heard about Rosellas that were being sold for the equivalent of \$2 each in the Netherlands. How can it happen that living creatures as beautiful and as easy to care for as these parakeets, can be sold at such a low price? It is simply a case of supply exceeding demand. Unfortunately, most people with a pair of parrots let them breed without any thought as to whether the young will be wanted. When a parrot is sold for almost nothing, it is likely to be acquired by an inexperienced person who buys a small, cheap cage and places it in the living room, like an ornament. This person is ignorant of the aviary

space needed for such active birds, or the level of attention they require.

If you have pairs of inexpensive species that you know are difficult to sell to suitable homes, please do not breed from them. Let them lay! Do not thwart their instinct to breed. Then replace the eggs with the ceramic false eggs that pigeon fanciers use. If you remove her eggs the female will lay again – and again, possibly depleting her calcium reserves with fatal consequences.

Owners of pairs of more expensive parrots should consider very carefully what they are doing when they sell their young into the pet trade. In pet stores the unfortunate birds, unloved and lonely, often languish for months because the price is so high. Breeders who sell to stores are increasing the risk of problem parrots that end up unwanted. Early neglect (lack of close contact with humans) results in parrots that will soon have behavioural problems with which inexperienced purchasers are unable to cope. I have even seen young hand-reared parrots in stores offered for sale in glass cages. This is inhumane. They are even denied any physical contact with people.

To decrease the number of young of certain species available for the pet market will seem like a curious aim to commercial breeders. The fact is, however, that certain species, notably white cockatoos and Grey Parrots, are more likely to end up in rescue centres because they are so demanding when hand-reared, especially in

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Research Finds That Birds Behave Like Human Musicians

by Dean Maskevich

www.njit.edu

September 15, 2016

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The tuneful behavior of some songbirds parallels that of human musicians. That's the conclusion presented in a recent paper published by an international team of researchers, among them David Rothenberg, distinguished professor of philosophy and music in NJIT's Department of Humanities. Other members of the team are from the City University of New York (CUNY), the Freie Universität Berlin and Macquarie University in Australia.

["Temporal regularity increases with repertoire complexity in the Australian pied butcherbird's song"](#) was published online in *Royal Society Open Science*, a peer-reviewed open-access scientific journal launched in 2014. Founded in England in the 17th century as the Royal Society of London for Improving Natural Knowledge, the Royal Society continues to be one of the most prestigious organizations promoting the discovery of new knowledge across the full spectrum of science.

A Very Musical Species

The pied butcherbird, a very musical species, provided a wealth of intriguing data for analysis by co-author Eathan Janney, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Psychology at CUNY's Hunter College. Janney

based his analysis upon years of data collected and also analyzed by violinist and biomusicologist Hollis Taylor of Macquarie University, who has previously published extremely detailed analyses of butcherbird songs. "Since pied butcherbird songs share so many commonalities with human music," Taylor writes, "this species could possibly revolutionize the way we think about the core values of music."

In the past, claims that musical principles are integral to bird-song were largely met with skepticism and dismissed as wishful thinking. However, the extensive statistical and objective analysis of the new paper demonstrates that the more complex a bird's repertoire, the better he or she is at singing in time, rhythmically interacting with other birds much more skillfully than those who know fewer songs. The accompanying video includes a sample of a butcherbird's solo song, as well as the song of another butcherbird and an Australian magpie.

Co-author Ofer Tchernichovski, professor in the Hunter College Department of Psychology, finds that the butcherbirds "balance their performance to keep it in a sweet spot between boredom and confusion." Constance Scharff, a co-author



who directs the animal behavior laboratory at the Freie Universität Berlin, says "pied butcherbirds, not unlike jazz musicians, play around with their tunes, balancing repetition and variation." This finding suggests that such musical virtuosity may signify more than just the evolution of a way for birds to establish territorial dominance and facilitate mating. It may also provide evidence that musical ability in birds was a precursor to the evolution of the many dimensions of musical ability in humans.

Inclusive Multidisciplinary Research

The paper is the product of inclusive multidisciplinary

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research. It integrates input from biologists, neuroscientists, musicians and engineers, including co-author Lucas C. Parra, a member of CUNY's Department of Biomedical Engineering.

Rothenberg, who provided his unique perspective, says, "Science and music may have different criteria for truth, but sometimes their insights need to be put together to make sense of the beautiful performances we find in nature."

The recipient of the NJIT Overseers Excellence in Research Award for 2010, Rothenberg has written extensively about the bond between hu-

mans and our surrounding natural world, a world we share with myriad other creatures. An earlier paper that he co-authored, "Investigation of Musicality in Birdsong," published in *Hearing Research* touched upon aspects of the same topic explored in the recent Royal Society publication. Rothenberg's book *Why Birds Sing* is an in-depth look at the subject that challenges neuroscientists to seriously consider music as a tool to help understand birdsong.

As a musician - he plays the clarinet and saxophone - Rothenberg has added the dimension of music to research connecting the living sounds of the natural world to traditions



of global rhythmic innovation and improvisation. His book *Thousand Mile Song* is about making music with whales, and *Bug Music, How Insects Gave Us Rhythm and Noise* offers the provocative premise that listening to cicadas, as well as other humming, clicking and thrumming insects, fostered an innate sense of musical rhythm and synchronization over the long history of human evolution.

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(Continued from page 15)

inexperienced hands. The same breeders could be producing birds that make wonderful pets that are easier to cope with, such as Cockatiels. The problem is that these lovely birds do not have the same kudos as larger parrots. Responsible pet store owners could play their part here by promoting suitable species as pets - not promoting most strongly the high-priced ones.

Educate buyers

Many breeders (and almost all pet stores) give inadequate advice or information about the parrots they sell. One cannot blame the seller entirely as most purchasers do not make an effort to read reliable literature about the species they are

buying or on general parrot behaviour. Often they search the internet where there is much conflicting and incorrect advice. Books by acknowledged avicultural authors with many years' experience are recommended.

Normally there is absolutely no warning from the seller about possible behavioural problems. Neither are there suggestions about training parrots to perform simple actions such as stepping up that make them much easier to live with. Although it is commendable to recommend books about parrot behaviour, many parrot owners are not interested in buying books.

What can the breeder do? He or she can purchase books beforehand and include them in the

selling price of the bird. I know one breeder of Grey Parrots who includes a copy of my book *A Guide to Grey Parrots as Pet and Aviary Birds* in the purchase price and another who advises that they read the book before they collect their bird. If a breeder does not wish to do this, he or she could easily photocopy the relevant pages about behaviour-related problems so that the potential purchaser is aware of these.

There are many breeders who try hard to find the most suitable homes for their young birds. These are the truly committed ones who see every bird as an individual that deserves the best that its human companion can give.

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Which is the Best Way to Set Up a New Pair of Parrots?

by [Tony Silva](#)

www.parrotsdailynews.com

August 15, 2016

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Almost every breeder retains part of their production each year. These young, on maturity, will form the next generation of breeders. When and how these birds should be treated and then paired is an often asked question. Because each parrot group has its own idiosyncrasies it is not possible to over generalize beyond a certain point, but it is important to know the best husbandry method to insure that those youngsters develop physically and psychologically to the point that they can reproduce.

Without this preparation, imprinting, the perception that the bird is a feathered human, depression, plucking or mutilation and even mate killing can all become a problem. These problems can be experienced with parent-reared young but are most common in improperly socialized hand-reared young. When these hand-reared young are reared in groups and properly socialized, they display the same qualities as parent-reared young and can become equally as successful future breeders.

Most parrots produce multiple chicks in a clutch. The exception are single egg layers, which include Palm and Glossy Black Cockatoos. Multiple chicks increase the chances of a successful outcome. These chicks normally segue into flocks on fledging. These flocks include their parents and most commonly others of their kind. The flocks normally

travel in pursuit of available food supplies. The process of learning to identify foods, evade predators, find the best roosting locations and flock cohesion is key to survival.

While this didactical experience is underway, the birds come in contact with unrelated individuals. It is in these sorties that pairs form. In species like the Yellow-winged Amazon *Amazona aestiva xanthopteryx*, which are easily identifiable by the color of their head and wings (which normally varies from individual to individual) I found during fieldwork conducted in the mid 1980s that within months of fledging the chicks began to display strong attachments. These birds if they survived to maturity then bred. At least this was the observation in two pairs that I could distinguish from year to year.

How chicks are treated after they wean is important. If they are hand-reared, they must segue from their human parent to becoming a bird. This is achieved by keeping chicks in same species or at the least similar species groups, which should be continuously exposed to enrichment. Filling a flight cage with fresh branches, palm fronds, some of the natural foods that they normally consume and moving them as a group around a collection replicate many of the natural behaviors. In my collection, we place the young in flights as soon as they are weaned. To these



Photo: Lubomir Tomiska

flights we add branches and enrichment.

As the young age, they are moved around; the cages are literally lifted and relocated. This action serves two purposes: it allows me to emulate nature, where the chicks move from area to area in the pursuit of food and in the process come in contact with other species (young are always kept within blocks of aviaries containing breeding adults) and it permits the birds to become familiar with the grounds. This has proved to be very important when a bird escapes. *Pyrrhura* conures and Amazon parrots treated to this experience almost always returned. Those that were weaned and placed in a cage that was permanent tended not to return.

The same process can be used with parent-reared young. We tend to leave these chicks with their parents for a few months but



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In general, Australian parrots might be very picky about their partner.

Photo: Lubomir Tomiska

then remove and place them in a flock. The flocks can then interact and play as they would in nature. This action also allows the young to develop individual personalities outside the shadow of the parents.

While in groups, we observe behavior closely. Invariably one bird will become the dominant individual in the flock. Its boldness will be evident by it being the

first to feed, the first to approach the enrichment and the one that has the best perching site. This same behavior is seen in the wild. This individual will teach the others how to behave. Golden Conures *Guaruba guarouba* tend to ignore toys and enrichment. The chicks seem to focus their attention on a sibling, whose tail and flight feathers they chew. In an attempt to stop this, I started adding an adult Sun Conure *Aratinga solstitialis* to the group of Golden Conures. The Sun Conure immediately took the lead and its behavior was emulated by the other flock members. This is how I enticed the Golden Conures to destroy the enrichment and not their feathers.

In groups, pairs will become evident. They will feed together, tend to play together and roost together. As they age, these birds can become breeders. I find that



chicks that select their future partners are the most successful breeders, displaying the best parenting skills and the highest fertility.

Understanding how to treat future breeders is key to breeding future generations of those species (i.e. white cockatoos, African Greys *Psittacus erithacus*, etc.) whose current avicultural stock consists of wild imports. Without this effort the level of species loss will be significant and future generations of aviculturists will have a poor selection of available species.

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McNikki

BY LINDA WIELKOTZ

I DON'T KNOW WHY DADDY WON'T GIVE ME THE BIG PUMPKIN HE BOUGHT



OH WHAT A MESS THIS IS TURNING OUT TO BE!!



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New Weapon Against Virus Killing Australia's Endangered Parrots

by Jared Richards

www.australiangeographic.com.au

October 5, 2016

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Findings announced this week could be the beginning of a cure for the disease threatening four endangered native parrots.

RESEARCHERS ARE ONE step closer to a vaccine for the virus that causes beak and feather disease, often fatal to Australian parrots. A [paper](#) published on Tuesday in the journal *Nature Communications* details how an Australian-led research team has uncovered the molecular makeup of the virus, a vital step in formulating a vaccine against it.

The breakthrough comes after years of research which began in 2009, led by scientists from Charles Sturt University's Wagga Wagga campus. "We now have a unique way of thinking about the virus and how it self-assembles," says Professor Jade Forwood, lead author and one of the university's biochemists. "We know at the atomic level the structure of the virus and how it fits together."

Other institutions involved in the discovery include the Australian Synchrotron in Victoria and Monash University, as well as the National Microbiology Centre and the Autonomous University of Madrid, both in Spain.

It's promising news for conservationists as beak and feather disease, also known as psittacine circoviral disease, is one of the

main threats to four endangered native parrots: the Norfolk parakeet (*Cyanoramphus cookii*), the swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*), the [western ground parrot](#) (*Pezoporus flaviventris*) and the orange-bellied parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*).

How beak and feather disease works

The virus attacks cells related to feathers and beaks; victims lose their feathers and their beaks soften, threatening them with death from starvation. The disease has been a major hurdle for conservation efforts as the disease can return years after seemingly having been thwarted in both wild and captive communities, suggesting the virus survives for long periods in tree hollows and potential nesting sites.

[RELATED FUNDRAISER: Nurture the night parrot](#)

Of particular concern is the critically endangered [orange-bellied parrot](#). Migrating each winter from Tasmania's southwest coast to coastal Victoria and South Australia, the parrot's population is dwindling in the face of coastal developments on salt marshes, the bird's traditional foraging ground.

Beak and feather disease makes conservation efforts a special challenge, says experts. Follow-



The western ground parrot is one of four endemic parrots threatened by beak and feather disease – it's estimated fewer than 140 remain in the wild.

Photo: Jennene Riggs

ing a 2014 outbreak, Emeritus Professor Barry Baker, chair of the National Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery Team, estimates a wild population of fewer than 30 parrots today.

He describes the affliction as an "an awful disease... Young birds with the virus are particularly susceptible and stand little chance of survival in the wild."

"Another outbreak of the disease in the wild would be a disaster," he adds. "So the ability to vaccinate would be a leap forward in parrot conservation, also benefiting captive populations and our ability to release to the wild."

By understanding the molecular structure of the virus, the study has isolated the two proteins it produces. The next step will be experimenting how to cut off these proteins, thereby creating a vaccine. ∞

Pigeons Have Quite a Way with Words

by Otago Research

www.otago.ac.nz

September 19, 2016

Reprinted with permission from University of Otago

Pigeons can learn to distinguish real words from non-words by visually processing their letter combinations, surprising new research from the University of Otago in New Zealand and Ruhr University in Germany shows.

The researchers found that pigeons' performance was on a par with that previously reported in baboons for this type of complex task. Their study, which is published in the prestigious international journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), is the first to identify a non-primate species as having "orthographic" abilities.

In the experiment, pigeons were trained to peck four-letter English words as they came up on a screen, or to instead peck a symbol when a four-letter non-word, such as "URSP" was displayed. The researchers added words one by one with the four pigeons in the study eventually building vocabular-

ies ranging from 26 to 58 words and over 8000 non-words.

To check whether the pigeons were learning to distinguish words from non-words rather than merely memorising them, the researchers introduced words the birds had never seen before.

The pigeons correctly identified the new words as words at a rate significantly above chance.

According to the study's first author, Dr. Damian Scarf of the University of Otago's Department of Psychology, they performed this feat by tracking the statistical likelihood that "bigrams", letter pairs such as "EN" and "AL", were more likely associated with words or non-words.

Professor Onur Güntürkün, one of the co-investigators from Ruhr University's Department of Biopsychology, says that "pigeons - separated by 300 million years of evolution from



Dr. Damian Scarf

humans and having vastly different brain architectures - show such a skill as orthographic processing is astonishing".

Another of the study's authors, Professor Michael Colombo of Otago's Department of Psychology, says "we may have to seriously re-think the use of the term 'bird brain' as a put down".

[Editor's note: Dr. Damian Scarf has offered to email anybody a PDF of the published paper if you contact him at damian@psy.otago.ac.nz]

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Photo Credits: The [cover](#) pictures (Phinny the African Grey, Cupid the Moluccan Cockatoo, and CooCoo the Blue-crowned Conure), the [page 2](#) pictures (McMurphy the Greenwing Macaw and CooCoo the Blue-crowned Conure), and the [page 3](#) picture (Phinny the African Grey) are courtesy of Linda Costello. Any picture(s) obtained from Wikipedia is / are licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 License](#). ∞

“Cockatoos 3: An Interview with Darlene Parker on White Cockatoo Pets”

Darlene Parker has for over 30 years now been the owner of one of the most reputable bird stores in the U.S., Feathered Friends of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her vast avicultural experience with domestically-raised hookbills spans literally decades of pet raising and training with dozens of psittacine species; while her notable clientele includes Hollywood movie stars, playwrights, and Los Alamos National Laboratory scientists. We approached her about doing a brief interview for inclusion in our three-part series of white cockatoo articles, and she kindly consented to share her expertise. Here is a transcript of that conversation.

1) Do you have any cockatoos in the shop right now?

No, not right now.

2) When is the last time you acquired a baby cockatoo to handfeed and sell in the shop?

Every year we get two baby Rose-breasted cockatoos from a trusted breeder in Florida. Rosies are the only cockatoos we sell anymore. We find them smaller than most cockatoos, less loud, less destructive. People do not tend to pass them on to new owners. They retail around \$2200.

3) Do you like cockatoos?

Yes, very much so. I think they are some of the sweetest birds around. But they can be a real handful as pets. It takes a committed kind of owner to have a happy cockatoo.

4) What species have you handfed and raised as pets in the past?

Moluccans, umbrellas, citrons, bare-eyed (little corella), medium and lesser sulphur crested, goffins, rose breasteds, Major Mitchell's, DuCorps. We have also had Tritons in the shop but not as babies.

5) Some cockatoo people claim the diminutive DuCorps makes one of the best pets. What do you think?

They are really nice, but they can be nervous and flighty.

6) So which species do you think make the best companion parrots in the home?

Well, rosies like I mentioned. Also the smaller the cockatoo, usually the less the challenges and problems that might arise. But let me be clear about this, I have known lots of great cockatoos that are happily settled in pet homes. Especially if they are in the right environment with plenty to see and do, like with a big outdoor play aviary where they can fly around sometimes. Why, one of our good customers has a twenty-eight-year-old umbrel-



la cockatoo that is wonderful. This couple takes the bird everywhere with them - downtown, to the market, everywhere. They never had kids and this parrot is their kid. If you have the time, cockatoos can be marvelous pets.

7) What percentage of the past pet cockatoos you have sold from Feathered Friends have come back to the shop for replacement or been passed on to different homes?

We have really only had two white cockatoos come back to us in the past because they were not working out with the new owners. How many were passed on without our knowledge, it is hard to say because we do not hear about them. We have not had a Moluccan for sale in over 15 years. My problem is I kept trying to talk prospective buyers out of buying one of our former cockatoo babies because it did not seem like the perfect home. One lady had her male Moluccan who was her good pet just “go off” one day

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while on her shoulder and it bit a hole through her lip. She got rid of it, of course. I have over thirty years of 'cockatoo stories' if we had the time... (laughs!)

8) What are the primary reasons preventing cockatoos from staying long term in a household pet situation?

There are four major reasons I have found. One, these parrots live a very long time. They quite often will outlive their owners and if someone in the family does not want to take them on, they are moved to another situation. Two, many persons end up being allergic to the white powder down. It can cause serious lung problems. Three, cockatoos tend to be very loud and very destructive. We know of persons who have gotten kicked out of an apartment because of the screaming. 'Termites with feathers' some people call them. One bird shop customer had a Triton Cockatoo that was loose and one day chewed up her \$20,000 antique grand piano! Four, they are very co-dependent birds. It is their nature; I never met a white cockatoo that was not co-dependent on its owners. And they are very sexual too. I could not own one because I do not have the time. For example, 'Beamer' my thirty-year-old eclectus male loves to hang out with us, but if we do not have the time or are busy, he is perfectly happy to be there and watch or be in his cage. He

does not screech to be let out or insist on being petted.

9) Do you know breeders who no longer breed cockatoos?

Some like Phoebe Linden, but when you have been in the business as long as I have, it is more common that the breeders of before have gotten out of it or have died. A friend on the east coast still breeds cockatoos; that's where I get my baby Rose-breasteds from every year.

10) Can you cite some subjective comparisons between male cockatoos and female cockatoos?

I have to admit I have always found the females to be a bit nicer, not as aggressive, they stay calmer with sexual maturity and tend to be in homes for a longer time. The males are more unpredictable, quicker to nip. It shows up in pairs of birds where the males can go off on their mate and rip part of the upper beak off the hen!

11) Have you known of many white cockatoo pets that disfigured their feathers? How prone do you find these parrots to be feather pickers?

Gosh, it has been so long since I regularly sold white cockatoos, but I have known some. Umbrellas, Goffin's for sure, Moluccans. You only need to visit an adoption agency. The white cockatoos are just like African Greys I guess. If you do not keep them in a good environment, these birds are just too smart; they will get bored and start picking. On the

other hand we have a lady who comes in to the shop and she has had her white cockatoo for over 25 years. She does not work, is retired; she makes little sweaters for her pet, bakes little cakes, and that parrot is spoiled! You need to make them a part of your flock, a part of your family.

12) What kind of advice would you give someone contemplating getting a white cockatoo as a companion parrot?

I would say to them: "Do your research." Learn as much as you can about a white cockatoo species before acquisition. Maybe consider a rescue bird because there are so many out there in need of a loving home and an older bird will show you exactly what they are going to be like. We know of one customer who bought an umbrella cockatoo and really loved that parrot. Then a year later she came into the shop and said she would like to 'strangle' that bird. It had chewed up all the window sills in the house. Cockatoos need structure in their lives to be taught to behave in a home. Realize this is a long term commitment--years. These birds need toys and lots of time out with their owners. Some sellers will emphasize the baby cockatoo, one of the sweetest parrots on the planet, and not mention any of the negative stuff. My problem was I told prospective owners so much that I ended up talking them out of buying a white 'too!

Aloha nui loa,
EB ∞



Chicken Husbandry: What Owners Need to Know About Housing and Predators



by Janet L. Jones, LVMT, Veterinary Medical Center, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

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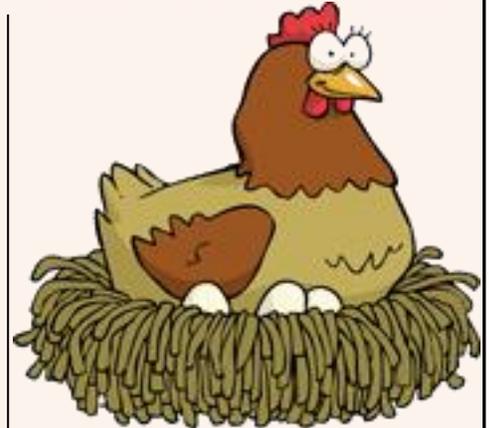
There are many considerations when backyard chickens are kept as pets. Owners must be aware of the time, effort, and knowledge required taking care of their chickens. Not only must the coop provide adequate space and ventilation, it must also be predator-proof as just about any predator will take poultry if they get a chance. On the list of predators are dogs; they tend to kill birds as a result of play with the chicken and are typically not maimed as in a predator attack.

Basic management of chickens includes housing, chick purchasing, brooding, daily care, and predator options.¹⁻² Good husbandry and housing is as vital for the wellbeing of backyard chickens as it is for other livestock. When choosing a breed of chicken, the outside environment must be taken

into consideration. Most chickens prefer to have free range during the day and secure housing to roost at night.

Housing design will affect the chickens care, comfort, welfare, and well-being. Housing should provide shelter from the wind and rain, protection against predators when the birds are shut in, a dry and safe area to sleep, and a secluded area where hens can lay eggs. The coop can range from a simple design of a small plastic pod to an elaborate house. The ideal structure would have a cement floor and be insulated with washable walls. Depending on the size of the hens, usually a 12" x 12" laying box is sufficient for most hens. Any openings in the chicken coop should be covered with hard wire cloth and the opening door should have a screen door. This may not always be possible with an outdoor run and the risks must be weighed.

Ventilation is important for moisture removal, excess heat removal, exchange of gases produced by the litter, and providing fresh air. The winter months can be the most difficult to maintain ventilation and moisture control. Usually with air inlets along the roof line and an opening where air can come in will achieve this. The temperature of the coop should be between 50° and 70°F. Birds



can get frostbite with their heads and feet being the most common to get frostbite. Birds that get heat stress will pant, spread their wings, increase water consumption, and decrease food consumption. Most chickens can grow sufficiently with normal daylight and do not need any special lighting. Birds that are egg producers should have a day length of 15 hours and 8 hours of dark. Egg production will naturally increase in the spring and decrease in the fall and winter months. The ideal bedding material should be absorbent, loose, and fairly inexpensive. The most common used is pine wood shavings. Hard wood shavings are not recommended due to potential presence of molds and fungus, which can result in respiratory infections.

When purchasing chicks, obtaining them from a reputable hatchery is recommended along with paying the extra few

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dollars and having them vaccinated for Merek's disease. The brooder pen should be set up 48 - 72 hours prior to chick arrival. The heat bulb should be centrally located with feed and water alternating around the heat source. Start with a 95°F temperature for the first week and decrease by 5°F each week until outdoor temperature is met. The chicks should be evenly distributed throughout the brooder. They should be fed a commercially made medicated starter diet. When they are in their grow-out stage at about 6 weeks of age, they can be given limited outdoor access as they will be predominantly feathered and can tolerate the environment better. The birds will learn to enter the coop at night as sunset approaches. At adulthood, usually 16 to 24 weeks of age, the hen will start laying. No additional management changes need to be made. Birds establish a social hierarchy and disrupting this can cause aggressive fighting

between birds. Hens may stop laying eggs while going through a molt, which can last up to 6 weeks. They should be fed a commercially made laying formula.

As a general rule, the space requirements for most birds are 377 square inches per adult bird. If chickens are too densely populated, they can become cannibalistic and peck at each other if they do not have enough feed, water, nest boxes, incorrect lighting, abrasions or tears as a result of injury or mating, dietary deficiencies, prolapse, or meanness of a breed. Usually increasing the space and additional enrichment may help reduce these behaviors. A broody hen will stop laying eggs, sit on a nest, and become more aggressive as she protects her eggs. It is recommended to remove eggs on a daily basis. Egg eating can develop from overcrowding, uneven nest space, nutritional deficiency, too bright of light, or disposing of broken or cracked eggs in the coop.

For predator control, ensure that all holes or other access into the chicken coop is secured. Raccoons, opossums, mink, skunks, foxes, coyotes, or weasels may find ways to enter the chicken coop and pull chickens through wire and holes to consume them. Wire fences should be buried 8 inches deep to ensure that predators are unable to dig under the fence. Bushes and shrubs can provide access to aerial attacks by raptors. Dogs can be responsible for what appears to be a predator attack but is the result of trying to play with the chickens.

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Classifieds

- Looking for help with parrot care in Ramsey area. Someone who enjoys interacting with these [beautiful parrots](#). I prefer year round help 2-3 hours day. Morning or evening, 2-4 days a week. Responsibilities include cleaning cages and feeding. Pay open. Email Ron Rado203@yahoo.com
- Christine Denny - Parrot Care Consultations. Experienced Caretaker, Educator, Rescuer & Self-Taught Behaviorist. Nail / Wing clippings. Home or Phone Consults Available. 201-475-8171. Cden23@aol.com.
- Grey Parrot Consulting, Lisa A. Bono, ACPBC. Problem Solving, Behavioral Issues, Positive Reinforcement Training. In home and phone consultations available. 609-698-0001. ThePlatinumParrot@verizon.net. 10% off consultation rate to Flapping Feathers members.
- Placing a classified ad is free for members. Contact [Shelly](#) if you wish to place one. ∞

CITES UPDATE: Huge Wins for Parrots, Rhinos, Sharks; Lions, Elephants Gain Some Ground

by [Azzedine Downes](#)

www.ifaw.org

October 3, 2016

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After a planned two-day hiatus, the 17th Conference of the Parties (CoP 17) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Johannesburg, South Africa, returned to vote on a number of proposals that affected parrots, lions, elephants and rhinos.

African Grey Parrots

CITES members voted decisively yesterday to uplist wild populations of African grey parrots to Appendix I, essentially putting an end to international commercial trade of the bird.

Live pet trade, habitat destruction and fragmentation have decimated African grey parrot populations in the wild. African greys are highly prized as pets due to their highly vocal nature and their ability to learn and mimic human language.

Many thanks to coalition members, the World Parrot Trust, Wildlife Conservation Society, WWF, Bird Life International, Zoological Society of London, Humane Society International, Defenders of Wildlife, SSN and Pro Wildlife, who helped us advocate for more stringent protection for this species.

African lions

The African lion decisions were a little more nuanced, and we are happy that we made some progress – even if incremental – on the protection of the species.

Members voted in favor of what we think is a diluted decision by establishing a zero annual export quota for bones and claws of wild lions to be traded for commercial purposes.

However, as the only country currently commercially trading specific lion parts from captive bred lion populations, South Africa will have to establish annual export quotas for trade in these lion parts and report to CITES each year. We hope that this annotation will begin to curtail what is unfortunately becoming an emerging market, as tiger bones become more and more rare.

We had hoped for a transfer of all populations of lions from Appendix II to Appendix I, thus prohibiting any international commercial trade in lions or lion parts.

African elephants

A number of bold measures proposed by African elephant range states encouraging Parties to destroy ivory stockpiles was watered down to a decision to only develop guidelines for the management of stockpiles including disposal. It was indeed a step backward.

However, while it was good news that Parties agreed to close domestic markets of elephant ivory that are contributing to elephant poaching and illegal trade, we were hoping for a stronger commitment. It's



African grey parrots got a resounding win at CITES yesterday, while elephants and lion vote outcomes were good for species conservation, but best wishes were not realized.

Parrot Photo: © Pond 5/Panu Ruangjan

impressive to see China, the world's largest consumer of ivory, take such a leadership role in pushing for the toughest measures possible to protect elephants with full closure of domestic ivory markets.

Rhinos

Parties today denied a proposal by Swaziland today to allow a regulated trade in white rhino horn, which would have had huge implications on the poaching of this species.

Swaziland's proposal would have altered the existing annotation on the Appendix II listing of its white rhino population so as to permit a limited and regulated trade in white rhino horn. Rhinoceros are more under threat than ever from poachers due to rapidly increasing black market prices in their horn, so the failure of this proposal is a relief.

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Upcoming Area (and some other) Events

- [Phoenix Landing Educational Seminars](#) - **Springfield, VA** (Nov 5 - Laurie Hess, DVM: Q&A) - **Chesapeake, VA** (Nov 5 - The Contented Companion) - **Rockville, MD** (Nov 6 - Positive Reinforcement Training) - **Cary, NC** (Nov 6 - Things I Wish I'd Known) - **Alexander, NC** (Nov 11-13 - Step-Up Advanced Workshop) - **Millersville, MD** (Nov 12 - Parrot's Point of View) - **Fairfax, VA** (Nov 19 - Parrot's Point of View) - **Alexander, NC** (Nov 19 - No Place Like Home) - **Springfield, VA** (Dec 10 - Gregory Costanzo, DVM) - **Fairfax, VA** (Dec 11 - No Place Like Home) - **Alexander, NC** (Dec 17 - The Contented Companion) - phoenixlanding@earthlink.net
- [Parrot University Classes](#) - Pineville Towne Market, 321 South Polk St., Suite 2C, Pineville, NC 28134 - **Nov 5** (Parrot 101 - 2 pm) - **Nov 6** (Fun with Food - 2 pm) - **Nov 12** (Toy Making - 11 am) - **Nov 13** (Positive Reinforcement - 2 pm) - **Nov 19** (Volunteer Orientation - 1 pm) - **Nov 26** (Sex & the Single Bird - 2 pm) - **Nov 27** (Avian Health & Medicine - 2 pm) - 704-889-2325 - parrots@parrotu.com
- Nov 5 Manchester, NH - [Birds of a Feather 29th Annual Bird Show & Mart](#) - All Dogs Gym, 505 Sheffield Road, Manchester, NH 03103 - 9 am - 4 pm - 603-362-6106 - editor@boaf.com
- Nov 5 - 6 Somerset, NJ - [New Jersey Family Pet Show](#) - Garden State Expo Center, 50 Atrium Drive, Somerset, NJ 08873 - Sat 10 am - 7 pm, Sun 10 am - 5 pm - 631-423-0620 - karen@familypetshows.com
- Nov 5 - 6 Fall River, MA - [Southeastern Massachusetts Canary Club 36th Annual Show](#) - Liberal Club, 20 Star St., Fall River, MA 02740 - Sat 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 8 am - 11:30 am - 508-916-1086 - semcanaryclub@gmail.com
- Nov 5 - 6 Forest Park, GA - [Tim Vogle's Southeastern Exotic Bird Fair](#) - Atlanta State Farmers Market, 16 Forest Pkwy, Forest Park, GA 30297 - Sat 9 am - 4 pm, Sun 9 am - 4 pm - 813-431-8799 - vlinenterprises@yahoo.com
- Nov 5 - 6 Orlando, FL - [National Animal Interest Alliance \(NAIA\) 2016 National Conference](#) - DoubleTree by Hilton, 10100 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32821 - 503-761-8962 - naia@naiaonline.org
- Nov 11 - 13 Miami, FL - [American Federation of Ornithology 1st National C.O.M. Show](#) - German American Social Club, 11919 SW 56th St., Miami, FL 33183 - open to public Sun 9 am - 12 pm - 305- 815 5206 - AgapornisBE@gmail.com
- Nov 12 Hartford, CT - [The Parrot Club Birdie Bash](#) - Veterans Memorial Clubhouse, 100 Sunset Ridge Drive, East Hartford, CT 06118 - 10 am - 4 pm - 860-416-5298 - info@theparrotclub.org
- Nov 12 - 13 Atlanta, GA - [Atlanta Pet Expo](#) - Georgia International Convention Center, 2000 Convention Center Concourse, Atlanta, GA 30337 - Sat 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 11 am - 4 pm - 800-977-3609 x114 - info@amazingpetexpos.com
- Nov 14 - 15 Providence, RI - [Rhode Island Pet Show](#) - Rhode Island Convention Center, 1 Sabin St., Providence, RI 02903 - Sat 10 am - 6 pm, Sun 10 am - 5 pm - 860-365-5678 x301 - monica@jenksproductions.com
- Dec 1 - 3 Charles, IL - [2016 National Cage Bird Show](#) - Pheasant Run Resort, 4051 East Main St., St. Charles, IL 60174 - Thu 10 am - 9 pm, Fri 8 am - 6 pm, Sat 8 am - 5 pm - 586-781-6429 - MTarsitano@gmail.com
- Dec 3 - 4 Lawrenceville, GA - [Tim Vogle's Southeastern Exotic Bird Fair](#) - Gwinnett County Fairgrounds, 2405 Sugarloaf Pkwy, Lawrenceville, GA 30045 - 9 am - 4 pm both days - 813-431-8799 - vlinenterprises@yahoo.com
- Dec 9 - 11 Manteo, NC - [Wings Over Water Wildlife Festival](#) - Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 14500 NC Hwy 12, Rodanthe, NC 27968 - 252-216-9464 - wow@CoastalWildlifeRefuge.com
- Dec 10 Kissimmee, FL - [20th Annual 2016 Florida Canary Fanciers Show](#) - Ramada Gateway Hotel, 7470 Highway 192 W., Kissimmee, FL 34747 - 8 am - 5 pm - 407-468-4255 - ruditour@aol.com

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- Jan 13 - 15, 2017 Oaks, PA - [Greater Philadelphia Pet Expo](#) - Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Avenue, Oaks, PA 19456 - Fri 4 pm - 9 pm, Sat 10 am - 7 pm, Sun 10 am - 5 pm - 631-423-0620 - karen@familypetshows.com
- Jan 14, 2017 Loxahatchee, FL - [Rainforest Parrot Seminars with Barbara Heidenreich and Dr. Susan Clubb](#) - Palms West Presbyterian Church, 13589 Okeechobee Blvd., Loxahatchee, FL 33470 - 9 am - 6 pm - 561-635-0676 - rainforestfeed@aol.com
- Jan 21 - 22 Forest Park, GA - [Tim Vogle's Southeastern Exotic Bird Fair](#) - Atlanta State Farmers Market, 16 Forest Pkwy, Forest Park, GA 30297 - Sat 9 am - 4 pm, Sun 9 am - 4 pm - 813-431-8799 - vlinenterprises@yahoo.com
- Jan 27 - 29 Houston, TX - [Parrot Festival 2017](#) - Doubletree Hotel Houston Intercontinental Airport, 15747 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Houston, TX 77032 - 713-557-2473 - parrot.festival@yahoo.com
- Jan 27 - 29 Allentown, PA - [Lehigh Valley Pet Expo](#) - Ag Hall at Allentown Fairgrounds, 17th and Chew Streets, Allentown, PA 18104 - Fri 4 pm - 9 pm, Sat 10 am - 7 pm, Sun 10 am - 5 pm - 631-423-0620 - karen@familypetshows.com
- Jan 27 - 29 Timonium, MD - [World of Pets Expo](#) - Maryland State Fairgrounds, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD 21093 - Fri 2 pm - 8 pm, Sat 10 am - 7 pm, Sun 10 am - 5 pm - 800-882-9894 - info@worldofpets.org
- Feb 10 - 12 Edison, NJ - [Super Pet Expo](#) - NJ Convention & Exposition Center, 97 Sunfield Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837 - Fri 3 pm - 8 pm, Sat 10 am - 7 pm, Sun 10 am - 5 pm - 301-564-4050 - info@allshowservices.com
- Feb 11 Croton, NY - [Teatown's EagleFest](#) - Croton Point Park, 1A Croton Point Ave., Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520 - 9 am - 3 pm - 914-762-2912 - info@teatown.org ∞

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Swaziland's proposal would have altered the existing annotation on the Appendix II listing of its white rhino population.

Sharks

At the end of the day today, CITES members voted to give protection to the silky shark, thresher shark and devil ray by including them in Appendix II. Such a designation allows trade only if it is not detrimental to the survival of the species.

Then the final vote on elephants: Namibia, South Africa, Zambia

and Zimbabwe refused to accept the consensus amongst elephant range states to uplist all elephants to Appendix I. The coalition argued against it, pointing to stable populations. Ultimately, the proposal to bring all the populations up to an equal designation failed.

Botswana, which is home to the most elephants in the world, showed courage in breaking from some of their neighbors in this instance. Botswana's Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism Tshekedi Khama said today, "Although Botswana has previously supported the limited legal ivory sales from countries that manage their elephant herds sustainably, we now recognise that we can no longer support these sales and we cannot deal with the issue in a vacuum. We must unite in solidarity with our



Thresher sharks were given Appendix II protection.

colleagues regionally and worldwide to stop this crisis."

We look forward to how this plays out in the future for elephant protection.

All of these votes are subject to a final in the Wednesday plenary session.

Congratulations to the entire IFAW delegation who together made this CITES such a success for animals.

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