

Flappers

A monthly publication of the Flapping Feathers Parrot Club
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September 2010



The Flapping Feathers Parrot Club



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Editor's Message

It looks like this is bird discovery month. We have an article on page 17 on the discovery of a new population of the Grey-breasted Parakeet and an article on page 18 on the discovery of new colonies of the Baudo Oropenduala (I never heard of this one).

The World Parrot Trust is helping in the rescue of 500 African Greys in the Congo; read the press release on page 12. Warning: A couple of the pictures in this press release are not pleasant to look at.

The zoo mentioned in the penguin story on page 6 is in South Carolina; the article neglected to mention this because the article appeared in a local newspaper.

Michael Dalton, who wrote the article on recording parrot speech in last month's newsletter, was interviewed by Tampa Bay news. The article is on page 21. You can also read the article on the [Tampa Bay website](#) and you can click the video box on the site to watch a 5+ minute video of the interview.

The Catskill Exotic Bird Club Show mentioned in last month's newsletter for October 10th will not take place this year. They expect to continue with the show next year.

I had a good time at the LIPS Expo last weekend. I only missed one of them in the last 17 or so years. I designed and printed club business cards the night before to give out at the Expo. These cards are very similar to our membership cards except that I removed the member name and expiration date, and added when and where the club meets and my phone number. You can see a scan of the card on the bottom of page 23. I'll bring a bunch to our next meeting in case anybody wants some to give out. Thank you to member Linda Costello for the picture of her bird with the flapping feathers.

I still don't know if I will be going to Parrot Palooza the weekend of October 22nd. If anybody is going and wants to meet me there in case I go, please let me know.

My home PC has a busted video card right now. The video still works, but only when I use the default video driver that comes with Windows instead of the driver that was designed for the card. As a result, I have to run at a lower screen resolution than I normally do. The new video card that I need is back ordered, and I don't know when it will come in. I'm mentioning this because pictures in this newsletter may not look as good as they normally do as a result.

There are still some readers who read the newsletter page by page and think that the newsletter is too long because it takes a long time to go through the entire newsletter this way. Many of the articles they are not interested in, and it's a pain finding just the articles they are interested in this way. For this reason, I include links that make the newsletter very easy to go through once you know how. These links are invisible links; there is no indication that they are there, you just have to remember that they are there.

I mentioned before that I have online instructions for [how to read the newsletter](#) on the club's web site. I reprinted the information from this web page, with a few minor changes, on page 5. I also put on the bottom of page 5 my recommendations for how to quickly go through the newsletter and only read the articles that interest you instead of having to scroll through the entire thing. Most of these recommendations were taken from the instructions on the upper part of the page.

Shelly Orloff
Founder and Newsletter Editor
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201-791-0245

October 2010 Meeting

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

7:30 pm

Land and Sea Diner and Restaurant

20-12 Fair Lawn Avenue

Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

201-794-7240

We have to decide whether we want to soon schedule one of our upcoming meetings to be a weekend lunch meeting instead of the normal Wednesday night meeting. The last Sunday lunch meeting we had did not attract too many people, but that could be because it was the beginning of summer, and some people had outdoor activities planned. We can discuss this either online or at the next meeting.

Repeating stuff follows (mostly the same as last month):

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 means I do not have your email address; please [email it to me](#).

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 document (one of these days I'll rescan the menu to get it to look a little better).

Please let me know at least 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.

So far our waitresses have been giving us separate checks, which is very convenient. Hopefully this will continue. But even if they don't, everybody 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 \$15 for it.

Of course we will continue to have door prizes. At a minimum, they will be two 3.5 pound bags of ZuPreem FruitBlend Flavor pellets.

Hope to see you at the meeting,
Shelly



Flapping Feathers Parrot Club

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Instructions for Viewing and Printing the Flappers Newsletter

- There is a "movie" on the cover of the newsletter. You need Adobe Reader 9 (or Acrobat 9) in order to see the movie. If you do not see anything moving on the cover when you open the newsletter, then please go to the Adobe web site, www.adobe.com, and click the *Get ADOBE READER* button to download and install the latest release of Adobe Reader. It only takes about 4 minutes to download and install if you have a high speed Internet connection, and it's free.
- Click on any item in the Table of Contents on page 2 to jump directly to that item.
- Whenever you see 'Continued on page n' or 'Continued from page n' at the end or beginning of an article segment, click on that text to jump to the continued part. This is not too useful if the continuation is on the following or preceding page, but if the continuation is a few pages away, it can be very convenient.
- On the bottom right corner of each page, except the cover, you will see 'Table of Contents'. Click this link or the arrow right before it to jump to the beginning of the Table of Contents. On the cover, you can click the invisible link in the upper right or lower right corner of the background to jump to the Table of Contents.
- For our advertisers that have a web site, you can click anywhere in the advertisement to go to that web site. You do not have to look for the *www* link to click. Of course you have to be connected to the Internet for this to work.
- Wherever you see a web address that begins with 'www.' (this is called a URL), you can click it to go to that web site. Sometimes these URLs are in blue and underlined to make it obvious that you can click them, but you can click on any URL whether or not it is in blue or underlined. The same applies to an email address; just click on it to send a message to that address if your computer is set up to automatically launch your email program. Again, you have to be connected to the Internet before these clicks will work.
- Wherever you see '... on page n', click on 'page n' to jump directly to that page.
- Before printing the newsletter, it is best to first disable the movie on the cover to make sure that the cover prints properly. To do so, right click the movie and select 'Disable Content'.

Recommendations for Quickly Reading the Newsletter

1. Open the newsletter and wait for the "movie" to start playing. If the movie, which is really just an animation, doesn't play, then read the first item in the instructions above.
2. Click either the upper right or lower right corner of the background on the cover. This will quickly take you to the Table of Contents.
3. Find an article that you want to read in the Table of Contents and click its title. This will take you right to that article.
4. If the article has 'Continued on page n' on the bottom, click on the 'Continued on page n' to jump right to the continued part. To go back to the previous part, click on 'Continued from page n' on the top of the continued part.
5. After reading the article, click on 'Table of Contents' in the bottom right corner of each page. This will take you back to the Table of Contents where you can select other articles to read.
6. When you see something that you want to go to that says something like 'Article is on page n', click on 'page n' to jump right to that article on page n.

Penguins on the March at the Zoo

by Joey Holleman

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jholleman@thestate.com

August 27, 2010

Reprinted with permission from The State

It was a potential zoo nightmare.

The first gentoo penguin chick born at Riverbanks Zoo was growing quickly, and at about 5 weeks old, had wandered away from his parents' nest to the edge of the pool. Suddenly, two of the much larger adult king penguins crept up behind him and nudged him into the water. (Don't judge. The penguins often push each other into the pool.)

The chick wasn't old enough to swim safely; his fluffy grey feathers weren't waterproof and would provide no protection from the 40-degree chill in the water. Fortunately, a zookeeper saw what happened, rushed into the penguin exhibit and scooped the chick out of the water with a long-handled net.

The scary incident led Riverbanks to take the chick, who has yet to be named, off exhibit until his waterproof feathers emerge. But the chick refused to eat food given to him by humans. So keepers decided to let the parent gentoos, Jack and Zoey, join the chick in the



Riverbanks Zoo has its first baby gentoo penguin. The little guy is still off exhibit until his non-bouyant baby feathers are replaced by adult feathers. The zoo has had plenty of rockhopper penguin births, but this is the first gentoo penguin born at Riverbanks. The young bird was born on June 27 and is being cared for by his parents, Jack and Zoey, in a climate-controlled area, off exhibit. Photo by Tim Dominick / tdominick@thestate

small off-exhibit enclosure,

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said Martin Vince, curator of birds.

The results have been so successful, Riverbanks might change its penguin procedure. This is the first gentoo chick born at Riverbanks since the zoo acquired eight gentoos from SeaWorld Orlando in 2006. But rockhopper and king penguin chicks have hatched at the zoo. Usually, penguin chicks are taken from their parents at about three weeks and hand-reared by keepers for several weeks until they are better equipped to swim.

“We found a happy medium that kept him with his parent,” Vince said.

Jack and Zoey haven’t seemed to miss the bigger exhibit pool for the three weeks they’ve been behind the scenes. In fact, Vince said, they probably would have been more stressed by not having their chick around. They feed him fish provided by the keepers and they’ve shown him by example



Photo by Tim Dominick / tdominick@thestate

how to swim in the shallow training pool.

The water in the training pool is a balmy 60 degrees, suitable for a penguin without waterproofing. But it won’t be long before the chick is ready for the big pool. He has shed, or plucked, all of his fluffy feathers except what appears to be a cross between a mohawk and a mullet hairstyle on the back of his head and neck. (That’s the one spot he can’t reach with his beak.)

Preening himself with oil from a gland near his tail, the chick has begun to waterproof his first crop of black and white feathers. As he finishes that job and his wings become more strong and stiff, he and his parents will return to the big pool. Vince suspects that might be about two more weeks.

“We need to be sure he has all his faculties about him before we put him back out there,” Vince said.

Photo Credits: The cover and page 2 pictures are courtesy of Linda Costello. The pictures on pages 8 - 9 were obtained from Wikipedia and are licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 License](#). The pictures on pages 12 - 13 and the bottom of page 16 are © 2010 Lwiro Sanctuary, all rights reserved. The Alex the Grey picture on page 23 was obtained from Wikipedia and is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 License](#).



Breeding the Amboina King Parrot

by Flapping Feathers member Sheldon Dingle

In 1977 ten Amboina King Parrots (*Alisterus amboinensis*) were acquired through a commercial quarantine station. They were wild-caught birds that came from somewhere in or near Indonesia. There are six subspecies that range from Peleng Island, the Sulu Islands, Indonesia, east through the Moluccas to the western Papuan Islands and western New Guinea. The age of the birds, of course, was completely unknown when they were acquired but they all were in adult plumage.

Although the birds are monomorphic (both sexes look alike) upon close examination I found a slight difference that divided the group of birds in half. The lesser under wing-coverts feathers are a deep blue color. The birds' shoulder where the wing attaches is bright red. On half of the birds examined I found a very slight "bleeding" of the red color about one half to one inch along the lesser under wing-coverts beginning where the wing attaches. Lou Schumacher, I think it was, suggested this slight difference might distinguish the sexes so the birds were paired up that way.

Nowadays, of course, there are several scientific ways to positively sex monomorphic birds. Subsequent events, however, suggest that this "bleeding" is present on



A Moluccan King Parrot [Amboina King Parrot] at Brevard Zoo, Florida, USA.
Photo by Scott Hamlin.

females and not on males but don't bet your breeding success on it.

The birds were paired up and put in their various aviaries. Shortly thereafter I had occasion to move, so during the moving and building process various pairs of birds were farmed out thither and yon.

When my own facilities were ready I brought the Amboinas back and put each pair in a 4 x 8 aviary alone. The subject pair appeared to be in good health but in rather poor feather. In any event, they gradually feathered out to perfection and adapted to their new home.

All time considered, this pair of

birds was housed together alone for about three years before they bred. During most of the three years the hen stayed in the nest box - sometimes days would pass without a sight of her. Unfortunately, no courtship display has ever been observed although the male would sometimes disappear into the nest box also - sense of propriety and modesty, no doubt. There is no interaction between this pair and the other kings on the property as they are housed in separate banks of aviaries.

In view of the general inactivity of the Amboinas and the fact that the hen lived in the nest

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box, we gradually forgot about them. They were always the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. We fed and watered them according to routine and thought nothing more about it.

Then, on a happy day in August of 1980, my wife was putting some apple in the King's cage and she heard a strange noise from the nest box. She put her ear up to the box and heard the unmistakable sound of a baby parrot begging for food. She quickly informed me and we examined the box. It contained one baby about ten days old and one egg that proved to be clear. The hen alone incubated but the male assisted in the feeding. He would fill up on apple or another treat and immediately disappear into the box.

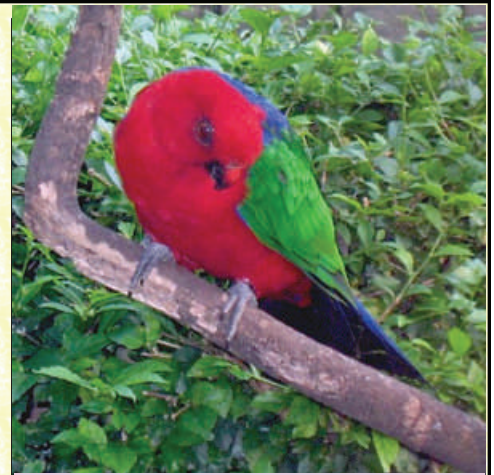
My wife and I then entered combat regarding handfeeding versus parent birds feeding out their own young. I prefer the parents to feed the chicks, my wife prefers to handfeed the babies after they reach two weeks of age. As usual, I had to beat a hasty but dignified retreat in the face of the wife's heavy artillery consisting of written or spoken opinions from Rosemary Low, Ramon Noegel, Dave West and various other heavy guns in aviculture.

She hand raised the little beast. In her opinion no parrot, not even the Cockatiel, is easier to hand feed than the Amboina King. She has used several different diets in handfeeding and there hasn't been a nickel's worth of difference. The King diet, though, was rather heavy

on fruit. If your own formula works for other parrots, however, it ought to work for Kings also.

Living in Southern California does have its blessings, one being the ease of maintaining outdoor aviaries. This pair of Amboina Kings is housed in a bank of nine adjoining aviaries each being eight feet long by four feet wide. The aviaries were constructed by H. Richard Mattice out of steel tube welded into frames. There is a sheltered aisleway with doors opening into the shelter of each aviary. The shelter consists of painted plywood screwed to the steel and comprising half of the total aviary. The other half is an open flight covered with 1/2 x 1 inch welded wire also screwed to the steel frames. The shelters are four feet by four feet by eight feet high. The flights are also four feet square but only seven feet high. The whole structure is situated on a concrete pad but two inches of decomposed granite covers the cement in each aviary. There are, of course, no plants.

At each end of the flyway, that is, the near end of the shelter and the far end of the open flight, there is a natural, multi-branched perch cut from our stand of large eucalyptus trees. On these perches the birds can choose the angle and diameter of branch they prefer to use at any given moment. The nest box is hung inside the shelter and is made of plywood. It is twelve inches square by thirty inches deep. The entrance hole is near the top and is six inches in diameter (which is two inches bigger than I ordered).



Moluccan [Amboina] King Parrot at Taman Mini Indonesia Indah, Jakarta. Photo by Helsinki.

There is a wire ladder from the hole to the bottom of the box. The bottom is covered with about six inches of dampened and hard-packed pine shavings and cymbidium orchid potting soil (just a medium I had on hand, not, I think, essential). Only the one box was offered and it faces the back of the shelter giving the utmost privacy. On the next bank of aviaries we put up, I think I should like to provide a wider aisleway so the boxes can be attached to the outside of the aviary with an access hole through the wall of the shelter.

Our feeding and husbandry techniques are rather simple. In the shelter and again in the flight there are steel-framed wire bottom shelves. A large seed bowl is kept on the sheltered shelf and contains a mixture of seeds including safflower, canary, oat groats, millet, milo, niger, wheat, and sunflower. The mixture varies somewhat as I mix my own and the percentages are not measured precisely. I generally

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Mystery Surrounds Disappearance of WaHi Quaker Parrots

by Carla Zanoni
DNAinfo Reporter/Producer

www.dnainfo.com

August 24, 2010

Reprinted with permission from DNAinfo

WaHi residents suspect vandals destroyed a parrot nest.

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS — A nest of [Quaker parrots](#) in upper Manhattan was [wrecked last week](#), leaving the two-story-high roost torn in half and empty, and fans of the local celebrity flyers wondering what happened.

Speculation about the exotic birds' disappearance ranged from natural causes to city intervention, but one explanation for the loss kept surfacing: vandalism.

According to nearby fishermen, a group of men approached the tree in which the nest was perched near the 155th Street exit of the [Henry Hudson Parkway](#) and wound a long rope around the tree branches and yanked the nest down.

The birds were able to escape, but their home was ruined.

Quaker Parrots are originally from Argentina.

Avner Amarilio, a 55-year-old bird enthusiast and longtime Riverdale resident familiar with the parrot nest, said that while he first thought the destruction of the nest could have been an accident, he now believed vandals may have

done it.

"Why would someone do something like that?" he said after finding the nest torn down and shattered eggs on the ground. "I really loved these birds and it was really upsetting that someone would do that."

The [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) and [New York State Department of Environmental Conservation](#) said they were not involved with the removal and knew nothing of the nest, but added that their agencies are not typically involved with the removal or protection of Quaker parrots as they are not listed as an endangered or [invasive species](#).

The [Parks Department](#) did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The birds — also known as Monk parakeets — are natives of Argentina and first made a home for themselves across the Hudson River in Edgewater, N.J., approximately 20 years ago.

Although many residents there enjoy the company of the bright green birds, not everyone is a fan.

Local energy company PSE&G complains that the large, heavy



nests are problematic when built on power lines and some farmers blame the birds for ruining their crops.

The parrots, which have been spotted in Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx, attracted the attention of birder Steve Baldwin, who wrote about the Upper Manhattan nest two weeks ago on the website [Brooklyn Parrots](#).

"It appears that the parrots have been banished from Manhattan for the time being by locals who object to their presence there," Baldwin wrote in an email.

"Quaker parrots do very well when people in the neighborhood look after them," he added.

Filmmaker and journalist [Stacey Szewczyk](#) created a video about the Quaker parrots for her blog [Hudson River Stories](#), which takes a look at

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how nature is gradually becoming a bigger piece of people's lives in New York City.

Szewczyk said she had heard some parrots were spotted near the nest on Thursday, but had flown away.

Although she said she was saddened to hear of the nest's demise, Szewczyk remained optimistic after a conversation with a birding friend.

"They may be having a tough time here, but they are strong and adaptable," she said, noting that the species is known to be hardy and determined.

"The fact that their nest was knocked down doesn't necessarily mean that they won't come back again."



By [Carla Zanoni](#), DNAINfo.com.
[Follow Carla on Twitter @carlazanoni](#)

Editor's note: [Watch the video that came with the article.](#)
Video Credit: Stacey Szewczyk

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strive for about twenty percent safflower, ten percent sunflower, twenty percent canary and the other seeds in lesser amounts. We feed the birds a *small* amount of seed at a time and force them to eat nearly everything that is offered. If, for example, a certain bird loves sunflower best he will eat it first. But its seed won't be replenished until it has eaten most of the other seeds as well. In this manner the birds get a variety of seeds like it or not.

The shelf at the end of the open flight contains a water bowl, a "goodie" bowl, and a wooden block with a nail sticking up through it. Apples, corn on the cob, etc., can be impaled upon the nail for easy access by the birds. We supplement the Amboinas' seed diet with daily feedings of apple, soaked rolled corn (which is mixed with a small amount of Wayne dog meal slightly moistened), romaine lettuce or

chard and occasional treats of various vegetables. The greens and fruits are fed more heavily just preceding and during the breeding season. For a number of years now we have not fed sprouted seed but next spring we will resume it. All things considered, I think sprouted seed is worth the extra effort.

Though we both tend to them, my wife has a much better rapport with the king parrots than I have. She talks to them and can check the nest box with little difficulty. They are more tame towards her also, often coming right down to her to receive tidbits. The little fellow she raised last year is now a beautiful fully feathered Amboina king parrot and it seems incongruous to see him fly out the door of the holding pen and land on her head. He then drops to the ground and tugs at her shoe with his beak. As she moves up and down the aisle doing her work "King" (the next one she raised is called "Kong") digs his claws

into the ground and really pulls at her shoe. He would growl like a dog if he could. When the chores are over he flies back into his pen.

Though Amboinas tend to be docile and, with the wife at least, downright tame, that does not hold true among themselves. When I had ten of them all together in one large flight two of them were attacked and killed by one or more of the others. I am aware of several instances where one of a seemingly compatible pair suddenly turned upon its mate and killed it. Usually the female is the aggressor but not always.

The Amboina king parrots are excellent aviary specimens for experienced breeders. They seem to be a bit difficult to get going but if the aviculturist remains patient, chances for getting a pair of Amboinas to breed are quite good.

Emergency Funds Sent To Aid Confiscated Congo Parrots

A Media Release from [The World Parrot Trust](#)

September 27, 2010

International groups rally to aid 500 African Grey parrots seized by government officials in first crackdown of illegal parrot trade.

KAVUMU, DRC. Sept. 27, 2010

On September 18, 523 African Grey Parrots were confiscated by authorities in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in central Africa and sent to the Lwiro Primate Sanctuary. Funding from international wildlife groups is being urgently summoned to assist the sanctuary in dealing with the birds. The first of its kind in the DRC, this confiscation represents an important step towards permanently ending the wildlife trade for this imperiled species, threatened by decades of unsustainable levels of trade.

The shipment of Grey Parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) was bound for Singapore and seized by government officials at a regional airport in Kavumu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The birds were taken to Lwiro Sanctuary, which is run by three partners: Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature ICCN, Centre de Recherches en Sciences Naturelles, CRSN and a team of international NGOs led by Coopera. Lwiro is a

primate rescue center which houses over 100 orphaned chimpanzees and monkeys, with no existing facilities for birds. The arrival of these parrots to the rescue has caused tremendous strain on staff and reserves, necessitating an appeal for help. "We cannot do this alone," said Carmen Vidal, manager of Lwiro Sanctuary. "We didn't have much warning. We were just told these parrots are coming on Saturday and then they were here. We are doing the best we can. The government institutions, ICCN and CRSN, are doing a great job on law enforcement and the efforts of the DRC government authorities are commendable; we are very pleased that they are taking this strong stand on behalf of wildlife!"

The confiscation came too late for twenty-nine of the Greys: the birds were found dead in their crates or died afterward. Some of the nearly 500 remaining birds were found to be tied to one another by one wing. They also had no food or water for an unknown period of time. Their situation requires immediate stabilization.

In response to this emergency the World Parrot Trust (WPT) is providing technical guidance and initial funding to support the birds' first aid needs and coordinating activities with the



The confiscated Grey Parrots examine their new temporary surroundings after being released from their overcrowded and cramped shipping crates. © 2010 Lwiro Sanctuary. All rights reserved.

Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) to get further support to Lwiro Sanctuary as quickly as possible.

"We're thrilled that the authorities seized this illegal shipment of grey parrots," stated Dr. James Gilardi, Executive Director of WPT. "This effort sends a powerful signal that they are serious about protecting these birds from trapping. With adequate support, our partners in the DRC should be able to successfully release these birds back to the wild where they belong."

The initial aid will cover the short-term needs of the parrots, and in the coming weeks the birds will need intensive rehabilitation to ready them for release back into the wild. Many of the birds had their

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More than 500 birds were stuffed into 6 small shipping crates for Singapore.

wings damaged by being tied to one another to prevent them flying, and as a result they will require assistance to re-grow lost feathers. Other support will be needed including veterinary assistance, proper nutrition, and the construction of large flights to encourage exercise. Public support will be sought through the [WPT's FlyFree program](#).

Although this is the first such confiscation in the DRC, in recent years, similar illegal shipments have been confiscated several times in West Africa. Over a three-year period over 2796 Grey Parrots have been taken from traders, rehabilitated at the Limbe Wildlife Centre in Cameroon, and most of them released back to the wild. Grey Parrot shipments have also been seized recently in Kenya and Bulgaria.

The trade in great apes and parrots is seen by some experts as linked to one another: parrot traders selling apes and vice versa, dealers using established ape trading routes - which adds to the urgency that the trade must be stopped.

According to CITES (the international convention monitoring global trade in endangered species), the DRC allows for the legal exportation of 5000 Grey Parrots each year. However, recent figures by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) estimate that almost one-quarter of existing Grey Parrot populations are being trapped for the trade each year - making Greys one of the most heavily traded parrots on the international market (1).

The trade for the wild-caught birds is driven by demand from international pet markets, principally in Asia and the Middle East. Although commonly bred in captivity, wild-caught birds are often sought as a cheaper alternative by bird traders. Population declines have been noted in Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda and parts of Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2)

In an effort to further understand the impact of the wild parrot trade, WPT is supporting a survey of bais (clearings) in the DRC, the TL2 Project, by Drs. John and Terese Hart. The study will address the usage of these types of areas by Grey Parrot populations and will determine how much local trapping of these parrots is occurring, working toward long-term protection of these sites in Africa.

Sources:



Parrots in the new enclosure.

(1) [BirdLife International: 2010 IUCN Red List](#)

(2) Pilgrim *et al.* (in prep.)

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CANADA

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Brilliant Blue Birds Benefit from Partnerships Across the Americas

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September 10, 2010

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WASHINGTON, DC, September 10, 2010 (ENS) - In Columbia and in Bolivia, two rare and threatened bird species are now enjoying an increased measure of safety due to partnerships the Washington-based American Bird Conservancy has created with local environmentalists and scientists.

In Columbia, the Cerulean Warbler, one of the world's most threatened migratory birds, is benefitting from the work of Colombia's Fundacion ProAves and El Grupo Ceruleo. The groups have partnered with ABC to develop and publish a conservation plan for this bright blue songbird that flies from North America to South America every year.

"This wonderful partnership will ultimately lead to more effective conservation efforts for a bird in real trouble," said ABC President George Fenwick.

And in Bolivia, habitat vital to the world's most endangered macaw surviving in the wild, the Blue-throated Macaw, has been purchased in a joint effort to expand a nature preserve by three conservation groups - American Bird Conservancy, Asociacion Armonia Bolivia and World Land Trust, US.

"Only about 350 Blue-throated

macaws, including as few as 50 breeding pairs, are believed to exist in the wild, so expanding the reserve was vitally important to preservation efforts for this bird," Fenwick said.

Cerulean Warbler Conservationists Reach Out to Coffee Growers

In summer, the Cerulean Warbler, *Dendroica cerulea*, breeds in the deciduous forests of the eastern United States and Canada. These brilliant blue songbirds migrate south to winter in their non-breeding range, the Andean montane forests of South America.

Conservationists are alarmed that Cerulean warblers have lost 80 percent of their population over the past 40 years due to habitat loss and fragmentation across the species' whole geographical range.

The clearing of forests for agriculture and cattle pasture and conversion of traditional shade-grown coffee plantations to sun coffee plantations are among the main threats to the Cerulean Warbler in its non-breeding range.



Cerulean warbler on its migration route, South Padre Island, Texas April 2010 (Photo by [Ardeola](#))

"We hope that, by identifying the threats to this bird and implementing mitigation strategies, we can help save one of the most spectacular migratory birds in the Americas," said David Caro, executive director of Fundacion ProAves.

"This plan will not only assist and guide efforts by individuals, institutions and groups on behalf of the Cerulean warbler; it will also benefit many other resident and migratory birds," he said.

The new conservation plan, published in the journal "Conservacion Colombiana," relies on recent advances in the knowledge about the species' geographical distribution, survival, and ecology.

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The partners intend to use economic and ecological tools, such as certification and economic incentives to reduce the loss of shade-grown coffee farms, to promote a protected areas network using the warbler as an umbrella species, and to restore and enhance habitats.

A pilot project in Colombia initiated by ABC and Fundacion ProAves demonstrates the potential for shade coffee and cacao plantings to provide habitat for Cerulean warblers.

The conservationists work with private land owners, encouraging them to maintain their lands as habitat for the warblers and other migrant and native species.

In the United States, the Cerulean Warbler is one of the species of highest concern because of its small total population size and decline throughout its range. The bird is under consideration for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. Globally, the species is listed as Vulnerable by the authoritative IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Blue-throated Macaw Sheltered in Bolivia

The Blue-throated Macaw, *Ara glaucogularis*, is found in the wild only in the Beni Savannas of northwestern Bolivia. This complex ecosystem of grasslands, marshes, and forests is controlled by cattle ranchers who set fire to large areas for pastureland each year.

Now, more than 2,800 additional acres of savanna and rainforest will be protected as part of the existing Barba Azul Nature Preserve, which is enlarged to encompass 11,555 acres.

"By purchasing this land, we will be able to extend protection across the spectacular Omi river and create a more effective boundary against the impacts of cattle ranching, while incorporating more crucial blue-throated macaw habitat into the reserve," said Mauricio Herrera from the Armonia/Loro Parque Fundacion Blue-throated Macaw Conservation Program.

"The enlarged reserve now protects five important Motacu palm forest islands. The Blue-throated Macaw depends on the oil-rich fruit of this palm tree for its survival," Herrera explained.

The Armonia/Loro Parque Fundacion Blue-throated Macaw Conservation Program has been working to protect the Blue-throated Macaw since 1995.

The Loro Parque Fundacion of Spain is a nonprofit organization operating internationally to promote conservation of parrots, biodiversity, the environment and sustainable development, and supports the Blue-throated Macaw Conservation Program.

Asociacion Armonia is a Bolivian non-profit bird conservation organization that manages the Barba Azul Nature Reserve.



Blue-throated Macaw at the Cincinnati Zoo

Searches over the years located only a few clusters of these macaws scattered miles apart and often nesting on massive ranches worth millions of dollars. Conservationists realized that protection of any one of these sites would not be enough to save the endangered species.

With funding from American Bird Conservancy, a survey of the most remote areas of the Beni Savannas found a thriving colony of Blue-throated Macaws, at least 80 in number, that had been overlooked by poachers. This isolated area, spanning nine private ranches, held the world's highest abundance of Blue-throated Macaws.

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By coincidence one of these ranches was for sale. Within months, World Land Trust-US and American Bird Conservancy raised the funds and in 2008 acquired the first parcel of land for the Barba Azul Nature Reserve.

The newly expanded reserve provides a venue for actively researching conservation techniques for the macaw and the grassland habitat. Researchers will place and monitor nest boxes, conduct habitat regeneration studies comparing areas with and without cattle, and research habitat requirements of the macaw. Armonia is planning an ecotourism facility with access by airplane at the site to help support the project.

"Sadly, the fragile habitat for the macaw was being destroyed in the rush to convert traditional farming practices to intensive soya and cattle farms," said Bennett Hennessey, who headed efforts for World Land Trust-US. "Saving this land will expand the sole protected area in this delicate ecosystem and safeguard critical habitat, not only for the macaw, but for many other threatened species."

Barba Azul means blue beard in Spanish, and is the colloquial name for this endemic Bolivian bird. The preserve also protects other threatened bird species and provides habitat for jaguars, peccaries, pumas, giant anteaters, pampas deer, black caiman and maned wolves.



Seven Blue-throated macaws perch on a tree in Bolivia's Barba Azul Nature Reserve. (Photo © Mauricio Herrera courtesy Armonia)

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Steve Milpacher
Director of Development,
World Parrot Trust
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smilpacher@worldparrottrust.org

About the World Parrot Trust:

Founded in 1989, the World Parrot Trust (WPT) works to conserve wild parrots and aid the welfare of captive parrots worldwide. Though field research and direct conservation, advocacy, education, and awareness programs, the WPT

has aided 47 species of parrots in 30 countries.

More information:

1. [Confiscated Grey parrots \(photos\)](#)
2. [World Parrot Trust](#)
3. [Pan African Sanctuary Alliance](#)
4. [Lwiro Primate Sanctuary](#)
5. [TL2 Project](#)
6. [International wild-caught bird trade information](#)



Upon arrival each bird undergoes an examination to determine its general condition. Many of the birds suffered severe feather damage and will require months of rehabilitation before being suitable for release back to the wild.

New Population of Grey-Breasted Parakeet Discovered in Rocky Outcrops in Quixadá, Ceará, in Northeastern Brazil

www.birdlife.org

July 13, 2010

Reprinted with permission from BirdLife International

A new population of the Critically Endangered Grey-breasted Parakeet (*Pyrrhura griseipectus*) has been found nesting in atypical habitat in the “table mountains” of Quixadá, Ceará, northeastern Brazil. The new location lies at about 80 km from the only known stronghold in the Serra do Baturité to the north. The rocky outcrops amid the vast plains of Ceará, where the nesting sites have been discovered, dominate the city of Quixadá where a hen-shaped rock is a local landmark. Even though museum specimens of the species had been collected from the area over 80 years ago, the new population was only re-discovered this year.

Encouragingly, flocks seen so far seem to be larger than those in Baturité. Another important factor working in the parrot’s favour is that the nesting habitat of this population is on the cliff faces where they are relatively safe from wildlife traffickers, a major threat to the species.

Grey-breasted Parakeet is one of Brazil’s 22 Critically Endangered birds

Associação Aquasis, who currently have two projects with the Preventing Extinctions Program, are preparing a short film on the species to raise awareness of the parrot’s plight, both regionally and nationally. They are also implementing artificial nesting boxes in the Serra do Baturité, which has produced a knock-on effect among the local community of voluntarily surrendering cap-



Grey-breasted Parakeet is one of Brazil's 22 Critically Endangered birds

tive parakeets and informing the police of illegal traders.

See the full article in Portuguese [here](#). [Editor’s note: Even if you don’t speak Portuguese, check out the site to see additional photos.]

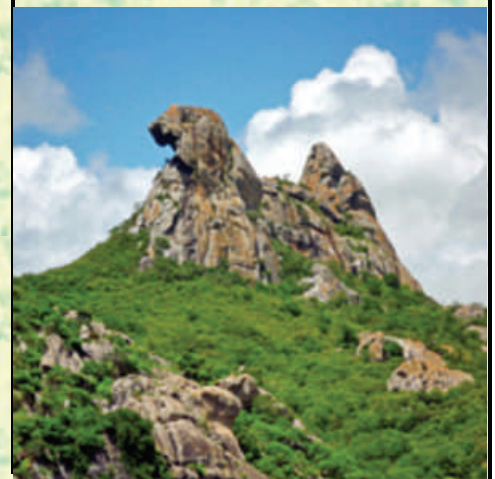
Photos: [Ciro Albano](#); www.nebrazilbirding.com

This post was written by:

[BirdLife Americas](#) - who has written 13 posts on [BirdLife Community](#).

BirdLife International has a network of NGOs and individuals in nineteen countries and territories in the Americas: Canada, Chile, United States, Bahamas, Cuba,

Puerto Rico, Belize, El Salvador, Panama, Mexico, Suriname, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, Brazil and the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).



New Population of One of the World's Rarest Birds Discovered in Colombia

www.abcbirds.org

September 29, 2010

Reprinted with permission from American Bird Conservancy

For Immediate Release. Contact:
[Robert Johns](mailto:Robert.Johns@abcbirds.org), 202-234-7181 ext.210

[Spanish version available here](#)

(Washington, D.C., September 29, 2010) An expedition in northwestern Colombia by the conservation organization Fundación ProAves has discovered two previously unknown colonies of one of the world's rarest, most endangered birds – the Baudo Oropenduala (*Psarocolius cassini*). The expedition was funded in part by American Bird Conservancy (ABC), the nation's leading bird conservation organization.

Prior to this new discovery of about 70–80 birds near the Western Cordillera, fewer than a dozen birds were known to exist from a single, different location about 75 miles away. The find represents a major expansion of our knowledge of the bird's range.

“American Bird Conservancy is thrilled to have helped fund the research expedition that led to this stunning discovery of these two new colonies of this rare bird. Now we need to work with ProAves to conserve and protect them. Their work with us on this and many other projects has advanced the cause of bird conservation enormously,” said ABC President George Fenwick.

The Baudo Oropenduala is listed as endangered under IUCN-World Conservation Union criteria. The species is a large, mostly black bird with brown wings, a pointed gray and orange bill, and a long, yellow tail. The bird has a pink cheek patch that distinguishes it from similar-looking birds. These gregarious birds eat large insects and fruit. They are very vocal, producing a



Baudo Oropenduala.

Photo: Fundación ProAves

wide range of songs, sometimes including mimicry.

Unfortunately, the two newly discovered colonies are completely unprotected. More alarming is that deforestation in this area is accelerating and urgent conservation measures are required.

Pictures of the bird are available [at this site](#).

ABC, working in cooperation with a variety of local partners, has established or expanded 43 bird reserves in Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Many of these reserves are featured on a new website:

www.conservationbirding.org. The site encourages the birding community worldwide, to visit these reserves to see the spectacular variety of birds the reserves help protect. Such visits help provide

funding that will ensure the long term viability of these world class birding destinations.

American Bird Conservancy (www.abcbirds.org) conserves native birds and their habitats throughout the Americas by safeguarding the rarest species, conserving and restoring habitats, and reducing threats while building capacity of the bird conservation movement. ABC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit membership organization that is consistently awarded a top, four-star rating by the independent group, Charity Navigator.

Fundación ProAves (www.proaves.org) is Colombia's leading conservation charity that protects 55,000 acres of threatened tropical forests across 18 nature reserves, which hold many of the country's most endangered species. It works closely with the local communities around the reserves.

Beware the Guard Bird: Jack the Parrot Launches Savage Attack and Scares Off Gang of Thieves

by Oliver Pickup

www.dailymail.co.uk

September 16, 2010

Reprinted courtesy of Daily Mail

A parrot is being hailed a hero after it fought off a gang of thieves when they targeted a pet shop.

The exotic bird pecked and scratched the thugs as they tried to make off with thousands of pounds worth of exotic animals in the early hours of this morning.

Jack the Sun Conure parrot's attack was so ferocious that he had pieces of ripped clothing and blood on his beak - and his feathers covered Hobday's pet shop in Coventry.

Police believe the 11-month-old bird panicked and went on the offensive after the thieves tried to pull him from his cage.

Officers say Jack's heroics could help them trace the thieves through DNA evidence left at the scene.

Despite Jack's attack, up to three thieves still managed to steal three snakes and an exotic bird.

Caroline Hobday, 49, who runs the store with her husband Andrew, 52, said: 'We couldn't believe it when we got into work in the morning.'

'There was blood all over the shop and Jack was perched on top of his cage squawking like



SWNS

Hero: Jack the parrot took lumps out of the thieves and scared them off. DNA specialists may still be able to catch the robbers

mad.'

'All the evidence looks like he scared the thieves away and spent the rest of the night patrolling and protecting the

other animals like a guard dog.'

'Jack is a feisty young bird and is fiercely protective over the other birds in the shop.'

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'We often let him fly around for exercise so he knows his way around.'

'He must have given the thieves a hell of a nip because his beak is like a razor and his talons are very sharp too.'

'We're very proud of him - without his actions we would have lost thousands of pounds more animals.'

'The policeman told us that the blood at the scene belonged to the thieves and Jack probably scared the intruders off.'

'There was a lot of blood so Jack must have really pecked them and clawed them hard.'

A trail of blood from the thieves and feathers from Jack were discovered leading to the back door where the thieves

fled in agony.

Mother-of-two Caroline added: 'We think there must have been at least two or three thieves.'

'It was an organised raid because they ripped out the burglar alarm and targeted the most expensive animals in the shop.'

Shockingly, the thieves, who stole three corn snakes worth £300 and a £250 Rosella parrot, also killed several fish by stamping on them.

They also ripped off the tail of a lizard and hurled bottles at the bird cages and turtle tanks.

A spokeswoman for West Midlands Police said: 'Blood was found at the scene and forensic officers will be using this as part of the investigation into this burglary.'



'Proud': Pet shop owner Caroline Hobday was greeted with a trail of blood and feathers when she arrived at work - and thanks to Jack, she's not missing more exotic animals.

'Jack proved to be a very effective guard bird.'

Classifieds

- Play stand and tabletop Java tree for sale. The Play Stand is 21" x 34" x 4'10" tall. Metal w/ 2 perches, 3 ladders and 2 dishes. \$50. I think its HQ, but not sure. Missing seed skirt, but has gas grate & tray. The Java Tree base is 15" x 22 1/2" and the tree is 29" high. Conures to Amazons. \$50. Pick up only in Carlstadt, NJ. Email for pics: connell.roy@gmail.com 201-679-6745 Roy
- 10-year-old male white-bellied caique up for adoption (no fee). Healthy. Abba seed fed and Pretty Bird pellets fed. Comes with cage, food and toys. Free to a home who will spend time with him - NOT keep him locked in his cage all day (he is used to daily "out" time). Owner incapacitated and can no longer take care of parrot. Knows command, "Up." Normal caique personality. Contact ernerkerk@nynet.org.
- Placing a classified ad is free for members. Contact [Shelly](#) if you wish to place one.



Is This Parrot Really Talking?

by Cynthia Smoot

www.myfoxtampabay.com

September 29, 2010

Reprinted courtesy of My Fox Tampa Bay



TAMPA - We know parrots can talk. But can they really talk, as in know and understand nouns and string phrases together in context. In other words, can they communicate with us?

Michael Dalton of Clearwater thinks so, and has devoted nearly 20 years of his life to proving it.

When Dalton's 19-year-old blue and gold macaw, Arielle, is on her perch talking, he's inside wearing headphones and recording every word of it.

"The bird learns, in context, what particular words mean, and as a result has a tremendous vocabulary of words that she understands and puts together in her own sentences," he said.

Dalton says he doesn't consider Arielle to be a trained bird. He speaks to her as he would to

another person.

"She is what I call an educated bird, because she learned her words and the vocabulary she knows is very similar to that of a small child."

A vocabulary that's now approaching some 6000 words and phrases. Dalton says he discovered years ago that Arielle wasn't just repeating words. They were taking one of their daily walks when they came across a puddle.

"She'd just learned the word 'water,' and I figured for sure she's going to say 'water.' She didn't. She leaned into me and said 'wet!' and I just about fell down."

More than a thousand hours of recordings later, Arielle has become his life's work, chronicled in his book, "Another Kind of Mind: A Talking Bird Masters English."

He says it's not surprising that most people don't understand what birds like Arielle are saying.

"I have people who send me clips from around the world.



They haven't got a clue what their birds are saying, and I listen to it and I say I get it," he said.

"People don't concentrate. They have a mental block in that they don't believe parrots can do this. If you don't believe it, you'll never find it."

Mike Dalton believes. He's determined to spread the word about what parrots like Arielle are trying to tell us.

"I'm hoping to stimulate greater interest in the bird community in the world in general."

And to convince us that there's so much more to our fine-feathered friends than just being a "pretty bird."

To visit Mike Dalton's website: www.parrotspeech.com

Parrot Training Accidents: How Our Reactions May Confuse Parrots

by Frank Indiviglio

Written for Flapping Feathers

September 27, 2010

fjindiviglio@aol.com

516-382-2432

Hello, Frank Indiviglio here. Thanks very much for your interest.

I'm recently retired from a career of over 20 years with the Bronx Zoo, and have participated in field research efforts with a variety of birds in several countries. I currently write and manage [ThatBirdBlog](#), which is sponsored by [ThatFishPlace/ThatPetPlace](#).

I address the conservation, natural history and care of parrots and other birds, and answer readers' questions pertaining thereto. New articles are posted 2-3 times weekly.

The balance of my time is spent writing books, consulting for zoos and museums and (when luck favors me!) in field research. My biography is posted [here](#).

Birds of all types are surprisingly skilled at reading human body language, and in making the connection between their body parts and ours (i.e., identifying eyes, mouth, etc.). I've always been surprised by this, because we are such different beings than birds, and our facial features do not seem

to line up well with theirs. Parrots, with their natural sociability and intelligence, are particularly good at this. Often these abilities assist us in interacting with birds, but it can also lead to unintended "misunderstandings".

Recognizing Human Eyes

My first experience with the abilities of birds to read body language came while learning to hand feed Cardinals, Chickadees and other visitors to my bird feeder. Looking directly at these birds caused them to take flight immediately, even if I had not moved a muscle (please see my article [Hand Feeding Wild Birds](#) for more information on this enjoyable hobby).

Later, while working with birds at the Bronx Zoo, older keepers showed me how to get very close to birds in large exhibits by looking at them with a sideways glance. One could get quite near to many birds by seeming to "ignore" them...but staring head on sent them into a panic.

Lovesick Owl Feeds Keepers

I've also found that some birds can recognize mouths as well.



Pineapple Green Cheek Conure - a color mutation of the Green Cheek Conure, *Pyrrhura molinae*.

An imprinted, hand-raised Great Horned Owl under my care courted his favorite keepers by trying to stuff mice into their mouths – he never mistook an ear for a mouth when perched on one's shoulder (I was apparently not an attractive prospect, and so was thankfully spared his nuptial gifts!).

Our Body Language

Many people use head and hand gesticulations when

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speaking, often without realizing just how dramatic those movements can be. My family, whose roots are largely in southern Italy, sometimes joked that my grandmother would be left unable to speak if her hands were tied together!

Parrots are very attuned to even bodily small movements on our part. In some cases, our body language may affect parrots in ways which we do not intend. Millions of years of evolution have left parrots with finely-honed survival abilities.

Even long-term captives remain instinctively attuned to signs of predators – wild hand or head movements may, therefore, frighten them. Depending upon the species and individual bird's personality, a parrot may also react with aggression to movements that it perceives as threatening.

Some birds may react positively to our bobbing heads. There are no hard and fast rules...just bear in mind that your parrot is basing its reaction to you on what you do as well as say.

Mistaken Reinforcement

Reacting with laughter when a parrot does something that is "wrong but cute" will reinforce the bad behavior. Even if you follow up with a correction, the parrot has, in most cases, been given the reward it seeks – namely, being noticed. Similarly, reacting with a sound when bitten can encourage the parrot to bite again.



If at all possible, get the parrot's attention by making direct eye contact, put the bird down (if on you) or ignore it. Following desirable behavior with notice and praise, especially if the good behavior occurs right after the bad, will help keep your pet on the right track.

Further Reading

For more on how human-parrot interactions can go awry, please see [Parrot Bonding as a Behavioral Problem](#).

*Thanks, until next time,
Frank Indiviglio*

Flapping Feathers Parrot Club

Meets the 4th Wednesday of every month in Fair Lawn, NJ
Web address: www.flappingfeathers.org
Email: FlappingFeathers@flappingfeathers.org
Phone: 201-791-0245

“Want a Great Parrot Pet? Don’t Be So Particular About the Species!”

In the mid-1980’s when I was contemplating adding a lory or lorikeet to my home as a pet, I began doing serious research about which species to choose. I read articles and talked with breeders and lory owners, considered size, coloration, mess-making, aggressive behavior, and many other factors. In the end I chose to acquire a Yellow-backed Chattering Lory.

Then, to obtain my new pet, I went to two of the finest West Coast lory breeders, both of whom I trusted and respected. There was only one problem. There were no yellowback chatterings or even regular chattering lories to be had. Not even an egg or possible hatch, I was told.

On a whim - or was it destiny - my aviculturist friend Don Wells from Riverside, CA, vicinity mentioned that I might consider a Swainson’s Blue Mountain Lorikeet as a companion instead. With an open mind, I made arrangements to go and see Don’s handfeeding baby; and that event changed my parrot life forever!

One week into handfeeding my new pet, I took the suggestion of a four-year-old who was watching us interact at the time and named him “Summer”.

Summer turned out to be one of my most revered and enjoyable companions. He would hop-hop-hop down the hard-



wood floor in Santa Fe about 6:45 a.m. every morning and enter the bedroom to wake me up for his version of lorikeet play. Snuggle, wrestle, tongue in ear, all accompanied by that distinctive lory gravelly talking voice. It’s easy to say that within a few days of acquiring Summer, I completely forgot about my former desires to buy a chattering lory!

The moral of this tale: Don’t become overly attached to the kind of parrot pet you obtain. Do your homework, but remain unbiased. Some things are just meant to unfold naturally; and love comes in all shapes and sizes...

A few weeks ago, someone called me looking to find a source for a Military Macaw baby. We talked about breeders in our area no longer producing many large macaws; we dis-

cussed adopting a military from the nearby rescue facility; we talked personalities and comparisons among several types of macaws; we even approached the topic of a Catalina or Miligold (something I am not too comfortable with, but still support from rescue places).

It came out that much of this man’s affection for Military Macaws had grown out of conversations with a breeder of, you guessed it, Military Macaws.

After about half an hour of conversation, it became apparent to both of us that this parrot enthusiast was likely in the market for a Blue and Yellow Macaw, or a Greenwing Macaw hen, or even a rescued macaw with needs and personality already established and

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mature. As of this writing we are looking for a macaw pet for him. With no preconceptions, we go about trying to find a perfect fit. Not the *perfect bird*, mind you, the *perfect fit*.

I remember well my early days in parrotkeeping. Each new species I encountered or read about seemed to excite me and make me want to know more about them. The ones that I liked the most went on my "Parrots Wanted" list. This is the way *collections* of hookbills are born—generated from the yearning to learn about and own newer and frequently rarer psittacines. Unfortunately, as I and some of my close friends soon learned, parrot collections frequently excite the collector only so long as he or she is acquiring new birds, breeding new birds, or talking to others about the birds. Once again I reiterate, don't be so particular about the species of pet you wish to get your hands on next.

Say you wanted to seek out a Yellow-Fronted Amazon Parrot as a household companion. Now, I am an expert in behavior and husbandry with Yellow Fronted Amazons. I have kept them for more than 25 years, bred them to the fifth generation and raised dozens in my cabin, kitchen, bedroom and bath. But each one is unique; each one is individually eccentric; each one has its own sets of joys, positives, failings. So if a prospective client comes to me and claims he wants the "perfect" yellow front, all I can do is giggle a bit and try and fit that person to a group of

character traits in an individual fledgling we currently raise. Not such a difficult proposition, to be sure, but it has absolutely nothing to do with the client's originally formed concept of the "ideal" yellow front.

There are macho boy YFs and wimpy male YFs, shy baby YFs and whip smart, obstreperous fledgling YFs. There are tiny, runt offspring, and huge, overeating babies, human needy birds, and independent, nippy, perfect for free-flying YFs. To be sure there are Yellow Fronted species subjects that would be better passed by in favor of a more balanced Red-Lored or White-Fronted Amazon Parrot chick!

Get the gist? 'Tis not the attachment to a particular psittacine species which will bring the best new companion bird into your life. It is the wide-open view of an entire genus or the realization that a "sleeper parrot" not even considered up to that point may become the fulfillment of your pet expectations. This awareness allows one to not fully close the door on a satisfying new bird possession of a kind never before wished. A visit to an adoption/rehabilitation facility can be a case in point. There are so many species of hookbill in need of caring homes - they each have individual needs and personalities, many were not given up because of problem behaviors, but because of hardship, illness, even death of long-time keepers. Certainly, that much ballyhooed concept that "my parrot chose me" may come into play at such a rescue

center. Visit one and you will see!

For years I wished and hoped to get into Hawkheaded Parrots. So striking, so exotic, so rare and even envied....also so expensive! When I encouraged a partner back in the 1980s to buy two unrelated baby hawkheads from a reputable Oregon breeder, I thought I was in new-found parrot heaven. Well the first six months to a year went along quite fine with our hawkheads. But slowly the male and later the female started to develop an aggressive attitude towards all the other birds in our house. We found it necessary to keep Aki and Chen separate from the flock or locked up when other parrots were out.

This became a cause for some resentment in the hawkers - intelligent and active as they are. In time their aggressiveness turned to stubbornness about being moved around or caged up or told not to do some unwanted behavior. Then one day the male turned on my partner. Neither of us had ever really had a "biting" psittacine before and this was a sharp awakening.

To make a long story short, my partner gave me the two birds and I kept them an additional four years. But to be sure, had I not been attached to owning that particular species, I would never have acquired hawkheads in the first place. Nuff said!

With aloha,
EB

Upcoming Area (and some other) Events

- Oct 9 Brooklyn, NY - [Kings County Canary Club Premier Bird Mart and Seminar](#) - St. Jude Hall, 9401 Seaview Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11236 - 9 am - 5 pm - 718-332-3413 - Kanarykate@aol.com
- Oct 9 - 10 Nashville, TN - [Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club Exotic Bird Fair](#) - Tennessee State Fair Grounds, Nashville, Tenn - Sat. 8 am - 4 pm, Sun. 9 am - 3 pm - 615-962-7984 - eddiestoo@yahoo.com
- Oct 16 Baltimore, MD - [Baltimore Bird Fanciers Bird Show & Mart](#) - Tall Cedars of Lebanon Hall, 2501 Putty Hill Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21234 - 9 am - 4 pm - 410-239-1928 - info@baltimorebirdfanciers.org
- Oct 16 Lowell, MA - [Massachusetts Cage Bird Association Show](#) - Elks Lodge, 40 Old Ferry Road, Lowell, MA 01854 - 9 am - 3 pm - 781-335-3927 - thomkeegan@aol.com
- Oct 16 - 17 Monroeville, PA - [Western PA Pet Expo](#) - Monroeville Expo Center, 209 Mall Blvd., Monroeville, PA 15146 - 800-747-5599
- Oct 21 Barnegat, NJ - Intimate dinner with Dr. Irene Pepperberg - Lefty's Tavern, 547 North Main Street, Barnegat, NJ 08005 - 6:30 pm - 10 pm - 609-698-0001 - theplatinumparrot@verizon.net - Reservations required, make through [The Platinum Parrot](#)
- Oct 22 - 24 Burlington, NJ - [Bird Paradise's Parrot Palooza](#) - Bird Paradise, 551 E Rt. 130 South, Burlington, NJ - Fri 9 am - 9 pm, Sat 10 am - 9 pm, Sun 10 am - 6 pm - 609-747-7777 - palooza@mybirdstore.com
- Oct 23 Manchester, NH - [Birds of a Feather Bird Show & Mart](#) - All Dogs Gym, 505 Sheffield Road, Manchester, NH - 10 am - 4 pm - 603-362-6106 - editor@boaf.com
- Oct 23 - 24 Niota, TN - [Southeast Tennessee Aviculture Society Exotic Bird Fair](#) - Niota Elementary School, 418 N. Burn Road, Niota, TN 37826 - Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 10 am - 4 pm - 423-472-1306 - jgb2202@aol.com
- Oct 30 Exton, PA - [Chester County Bird Club Bird Show and Mart](#) - The School at Church Farm, 1001 East Lincoln Highway, Exton, PA 19341 - 10 am - 5 pm - 717-497-7530 - janetcana@yahoo.com
- Oct 30 Albany, NY - [Capital District Pet Bird Club Pet Bird Workshop](#) - William K Sanford Library, 629 Albany-Shaker Rd, Albany, NY - 10 am - 4:30 pm - 518-862-9650 - bsmith05@nycap.rr.com
- Nov 6 Fall River, MA - [Southeastern Massachusetts Canary Club 30th Canary Show](#) - Elks Lodge, 4500 North Main St., Fall River, MA - 508-493-3311 - jfgeneral@aol.com
- Nov 13 Rockville Centre, NY - [Empire Finch & Canary Club Show](#) - St. Marks United Methodist Church, 200 Hempstead Ave, Rockville Centre, NY 11570 - 516-564-4692 - irmanperez@aol.com
- Nov 13 Newport News, VA - [Peninsula Caged Bird Society Bird Mart](#) - The Columbian Center, 100 Columbus Way, Newport News, VA 23606 - 9 am - 4 pm - 757-247-0168 - dwilson786@aol.com
- Nov 20 Aberdeen, MD - [Maryland All Canary Club Annual Fall Classic](#) - Clarion-Aberdeen, 980 Hospitality Way, Aberdeen, MD 21001 - 410-857-9471 - rdrought@bcresponse.org
- Nov 20 - 21 - Secaucus, NJ - [Meadowlands Pet Expo](#) - Meadowlands Pet Expo at Harmon Meadows, 355 Plaza Drive, Secaucus, NJ 07094 - Sat 10 am - 7 pm, Sun 10 am - 5 pm - 800-677-4677 - petexpo@optonline.net
- Dec 4 - 5 - Norcross, GA - [Atlanta's Exotic Bird Fair](#) - North Atlanta Trade Center 1700 Jeurgens Court, Norcross, GA 30093 - Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 10 am - 4 pm - 770-279-9899 - rhonda@natsshows.com



AFA in Brief

October 2010

Editor - Carol Lee



The AFA 37th Annual Convention "Jewels in Aviculture"

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2011 Call for Papers

We invite you to submit a proposal to present a paper at our annual convention. Proposals should be submitted in the form of an abstract, accompanied by a brief biographical sketch identifying the author's experience with the topic to be presented and other relevant information. Please consider submitting multiple abstracts as you have the opportunity to give more than one presentation. Abstracts will be accepted through February 15, 2011.

For more information, please go to www.afabirds.org.

SPREAD THE NEWS - AFA Membership Drive

(effective September 1, 2010 - December 31, 2011)

Basic Rules: Any existing member who signs up a new member ("new" being defined as not having been a member for the past two years) will receive a 2-month extension on his/her current membership. The new member will state on the membership application the name of the AFA member "referring" them for new membership. That "referring" person will then receive the 2-month extension on their current membership. Six new members equals a one year free membership.

If you have any questions, please call the AFA office at 512-585-9800.

AFA office, afaoffice@afabirds.org

Carol Woodson, membership chair, CVMGA@aol.com
or Julie Corwin, membership com. member,
blconnection@hotmail.com

Fundamentals of Aviculture Level 1

By Rick Jordan & Barbara Heidenreich
With illustrations by Lyrae Perry

This [online course](#) provides a foundation for the emerging science of aviculture. It is presented in nine chapters ranging from anatomy and physiology to avian behavior; from laws and regulations affecting aviculture to how to provide proper housing and prevent illness of birds in our care. To learn more & to enroll, please go [here](#).

Proposed Legislation in New Mexico

New Mexico Proposed Regulations of Non-Domestic Animals, Birds, and Fish Under Title 19 Natural Resources and Wildlife, Chapter 35 Captive Wildlife Uses, Part 7 Importation of Live Non-Domestic Animals, Birds and Fish.

Update: The rules under the New Mexico captive wildlife law have been finalized. Your AFA took part in the development of the lists of avian species. As it stands there are four lists, numbered 1 through 4, where list 1 are the species that do not require a "State import permit" to be brought into New Mexico, and where list 4 does require a permit. Through much coordination between PIJAC, AFA members and the AFA CITES Committee Chair, Rick Jordan, and input from the New Mexico State Coordinator, Sandee Brennan, as well as several commercial AFA members (Darlene Parker and others) and pet stores, most psittacines are listed on list 1 and do not require a permit. However, any parrot species also listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act is still listed on list 4 and will require State approval to be brought into the State. Be advised there are several common species on this list including Scarlet-chested Parakeets,

(Continued on page 28)

(Continued from page 27)

Turquoise Parakeets, Hooded Parakeets, Golden Conures, Cuban and Vinaceous Amazons and a few others.

If you would like to read the official AFA position paper on the New Mexico import law, below is an excerpt and a link to the entire document.

“The American Federation of Aviculture (AFA) submits that there is insufficient scientific and/or commercial data to support the proposals that psittacine species, as well as the many species of birds that are commonly kept in captivity in New Mexico and throughout the United States (either as pets or as breeders), should be treated as non-domestic, or as dangerous, or as invasive, or as likely to cause harm to the economy, environment, protected wildlife, human health or safety in New Mexico...” **To read more, go to www.afabirds.org**

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Phone: (512) 585-9800
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DVD Videos of Selected Presentations from the 2009 / 2010 AFA Convention Now Available!

Need to beef up that Bird Club Library with educational materials? Just want to review a topic presented at the 2009 AFA Convention? Selected videos of presentations from our 2009 Convention are now available on DVD from the AFA Business Office. The price is \$15.00 each or two for \$25.00 plus postage. Get the whole set today. To order, go to the [AFA Store](#). Proceeds help the AFA Conservation and Research fund.

2010 DVD's of selected Convention presentations can be pre-ordered from the AFA Store!

[2010 Convention order page.](#)

Inventory will be sent out sometime in the month of October 2010.

AFA Board of Directors Meeting

October 29-30, 2010
Houston, TX

Have You Been to the AFA Store Lately?

CITES Pin number 26, the Plum-headed parakeet, is now available. Order yours today and keep your sets complete. All CITES pins can be purchased online at www.afabirds.org and follow the links [to the store](#).

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Affiliate Your Club Here:

Whether you are renewing your club affiliation or your club is affiliating for the first time, all clubs must complete the affiliation form (see link below) each calendar year. Affiliation forms, along with applicable fees, are due to the AFA Office by January 1st. Affiliations must be received by April 30th, 2011 to receive all benefits. Visit the Club Resources page to download your form now: [Club Resources](#)

Looking for leg bands? Check the AFA Store here: [AFA Store](#)

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www.afabirds.org

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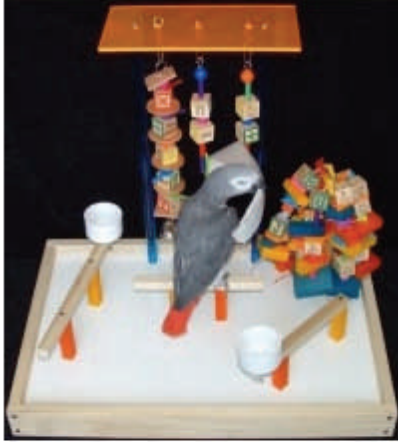


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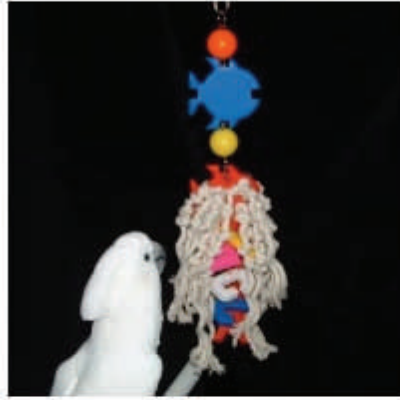
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Itinerary

Port	Date
San Juan, PR	November 7, 2010
At Sea	November 8, 2010
Aruba	November 9, 2010
Bonaire	November 10, 2010
St. George's/Grenada	November 11, 2010
Dominica	November 12, 2010
St. Thomas	November 13, 2010
San Juan	November 14, 2010



2010 Parrot Cruise: Southern Caribbean November 7 - 14, 2010



Pricing

Cabin Preference	Price (USD)
Inside Cabin (I)	\$ 763.48
Oceanview (O)	\$ 923.48
Balcony (BE or BD)	\$ 1083.48
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Balcony (BB)	\$ 1163.48
Mini-Suite (AB)	\$ 1418.48



Supporting Parrot Conservation

By combining conservation with education, the Parrot Lover's Cruise creates an unparalleled experience. With onboard raffles, auctions and a portion of the conference fees designated to benefit the World Parrot Trust (WPT), this cruise makes for a memorable vacation - and one that will create a lasting impact.

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Learn from the very best speakers on a variety of topics about parrots. Our onboard seminars will educate and enthuse you about parrot behavior, the state of the parrots in the wild, and the work of the World Parrot Trust. You will enjoy presentations while at sea, as well as having the option to join in the shore excursions on Puerto Rico, Bonaire and Dominica.

Our speakers include renowned bird trainer Steve Martin, WPT's Steve Milpacher, and Dr. Sam Williams From Conservation Bonaire.



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