

Flappers

A monthly publication of the Flapping Feathers Parrot Club
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October 2011



The Flapping Feathers Parrot Club



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Editor's Message

I hope that almost everybody made it through our rare October snow storm OK. I know of one member who lives in my town who was without power for a few days (hey, I just thought of it, maybe I can get her to write an article for the next newsletter about how her birds handled the power loss), and some in the tri-state area are still without power after 5 days. I was very fortunate to not lose any power, otherwise this newsletter would have probably been even later than it already is.

Our condolences to Ann & Mark Zych and Phyllis Robin on the loss of their Quaker parrot Phantom. Read the memorial article on [page 7](#).

I was the guest speaker at our October meeting, and I spoke about my adventures at the October 1st LIPS Expo and the October 16th Parrot Palooza (which was 3 days; I was there on Sunday). At Parrot Palooza I was locked in a cage for around 2 hours for misbehaving; see the picture on the right. Fortunately I went to the bathroom shortly before my incarceration because as you can see, there were no toilet facilities in the cage. They did not offer me any food or water while I was locked in the cage, but this also was not a problem because I ate some of the free food they had there and drank a soda before they locked me up. I was released early for good behavior. I was wondering why people kept walking by and saying things like "He's not worth that much" and "That's a rip off", but later found out it was because they forgot to remove the 'Sale' sign on the cage when they locked me up.

We have a new advertiser this month; Elise Negrin from [The Classy Parrot](#). See the ad on [page 32](#).

At our October meeting it was suggested, once again, that we set up a Facebook page. I'll probably start working on this now that the newsletter is done for the month. It was also suggested that we plan a group trip, maybe to the Bronx Zoo. We'll start working on this also.

I received a message from Parrots International on October 8th about 517 baby Amazons that were confiscated in Brazil. I was going to include the message in this issue, but ran out of room. You can read about it [at this web site](#).

We have a few excellent articles this month from other clubs, but I don't have room to list them here because I need room to squeeze in the Condor picture that goes with the Condor article starting on [page 9](#). As also mentioned last month, there are several articles in this newsletter that are continued on a page that is not the following page. So please remember to click on the "Continued on page n" link that is on the bottom of each article segment that is continued, and the "Continued from page n" link on the top of each continued article segment to return to the previous part of the article. [Click here](#) for instructions on how to use all of the links that are in the newsletters (we have a few new readers this month, so I wanted to mention this again).

Shelly Orloff
Founder and Newsletter Editor
Flapping Feathers Parrot Club
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201-791-0245



Photo by Jan Braidech



A Californian Condor in flight, photographed in Zion National Park, Utah.

Photo: [Phil Armitage](#) from Wikipedia

November 2011 Meeting

Wednesday, November 23, 2011

7:30 pm

[Land and Sea Diner and Restaurant](#)

20-12 Fair Lawn Avenue

Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

201-794-7240

Our November speaker has not been confirmed yet. All club members will be notified via email when we know who our speaker will be. We will again have two 3.25 pound bags of the new ZuPreem VeggieBlend and NutBlend Flavor pellets, along with one or two additional door prizes.

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 probably 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 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. And please let me know if it is your first meeting so I can bring your membership card. 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, 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

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October Birdie Birthdays



Moluccan Cockatoo Cupid

Birthday: October 31

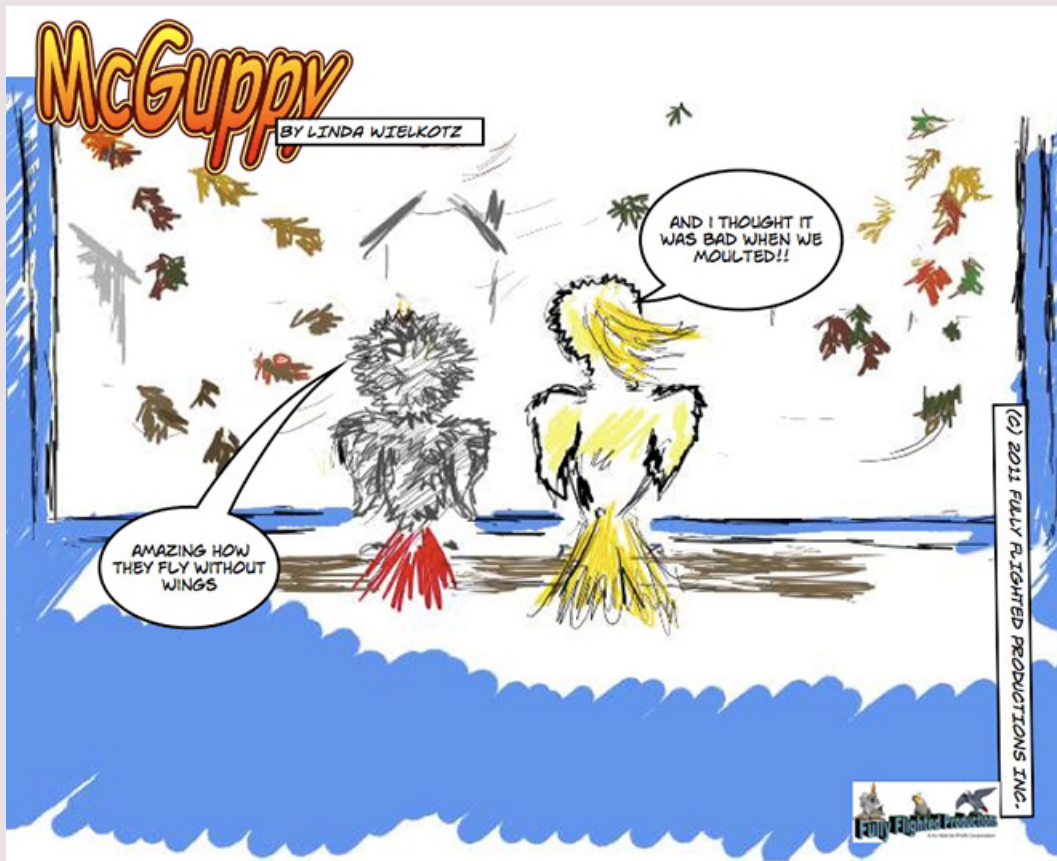
Age: 14 years

Parent: Linda Costello



Please submit pictures of your birds the month before their birthdays for inclusion on our Birdie Birthday page.

Email to Shelly at shelono@sprynet.com.



Out and About With Pookie

by Steve Plafchan

VP and Editor

Rainbow Feathers Bird Club and Rescue

www.rfbirdclub.com

October 2011

Reprinted with permission from the author

Foraging is without a doubt one of the most important activities that can be provided. There are many benefits that can be derived by providing and encouraging foraging. Foraging is beneficial in preventing self destructive behavior, preventing poor eating habits while promoting a willingness to share. All companion humans should be encouraged to forage not only for their own health and well being, but it makes them a better companion for you.

There are many different types of foraging tactics that you can employ; my favorite is what I like to call active foraging. Active foraging is beneficial because it assists in reducing obesity and promoting exercise. Active foraging can take many different forms, for example; while your human is loafing on the couch what you can do is climb up on the sofa and poop next to them. When they realize they're smearing the poop on themselves just sit back and watch the sudden movement. Be aware to stay out of the way; their movements can be quite erratic! Another example is to get on the floor and go into a back room and hide under a dresser, bed, or inside of a closet and be very quiet. This works best

when your human has an appointment and must leave the house; he will start searching for you and will scour the house to find you. Searching, whistling looking in, under and around every nook and cranny in your home. Depending on how much of a foraging exercise your companion needs, you stay put in your hiding spot as they run in circles faster and faster sweating more profusely every minute. Finally when you feel they have had enough exercise, pop out of your hiding spot and pretend you have no idea he was hunting for you. Pellet crumbs and pine nut shells are also effective; you toss and pitch these bit and crumbs onto the floor. When your human steps on them in his bare feet he will start hopping and jumping around, then he will start searching the floor for the offending bits so they won't be stepped on again.

Another type of foraging is what I like to call snack food scrambles. This is accomplished when Steve is snacking on potato chips, pretzels or some equivalent salty snack and isn't sharing them with us. Organization is very important for a proper scramble. Of course I plan and coordinate our efforts; JB, being the



quickest, always leads the attack. He moves in after the snack bag and rapidly retreats as Steve defends his salty snack; Calvin approaches stealthily from the opposite direction zeroing in on Steve's toes. Sparky and I take up a pounce position on the floor just out of Steve's line of sight. This is when being an African Grey parrot with superior intelligence pays off because all of the next few steps happen very quickly. Calvin moves in and bites Steve's toe causing Steve to jump up and yowl loudly with surprise. JB moves in and grabs the salty snack bag from the bottom and scatters the contents all across the floor. Sparky and I move in and start removing and stashing snacks as rapidly as possible. Calvin and JB join in and help with the removal and relocation of the booty. Steve at this time has recovered from the shock of the toe bite and will now start foraging around the living room looking for his

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In Loving Memory

by Flapping Feathers members Ann & Mark Zych and Phyllis Robin

October 2011

Phantom had gone for a regular annual vet check up just 2 weeks earlier on September 29th. The vet had found a mass on his back near his preen gland. We were told to soak the mass. It was not getting any better so on Monday we went for a second opinion. This vet said it is definitely a tumor and he would need surgery. His surgery was on Thursday October 6th.

On Wednesday morning October 12th 2011, our beautiful baby boy Quaker Phantom passed away in his sleep. He was only 11 years old. He passed away in the safety of his home knowing that he was surrounded by LOVE!

We spoke to the vet on the same day Phantom passed. The vet had received the test results from the biopsy and he said Phantom had a rare form of cancer that was malignant and aggressive and had spread.

Phantom left his mark on our hearts and left his mark on the bird world.... through his special way of doing the ring toss he has taught other humans and birds that it doesn't matter how you do the trick just that you have



[See Phantom's tribute video.](#)

fun doing it. Phantom you are so special and beautiful.

Phantom loved to dance, give "Hi Five's", and sing but he would only sing in your ear. He didn't want anyone else to know he could sing and talk.

Phantom taught us about life. He was not afraid to live his life his way!!

We know that Phantom.... in

true Phantom style passed away on his own terms. As he played ring toss, danced and talked "his way" he did this "his way"!!

You are so loved and missed!!! Fly free our beautiful boy!!!!

Till we meet again at the Rainbow Bridge!!!

Ann & Mark Zych
Phyllis Robin

(Continued from page 6)

treats but he never locates all of them.

Here is where the benefit of

foraging shows itself. Steve receives beneficial exercise looking for missing salty snacks while Calvin, JB, Sparky and I get to enjoy tasty treats for many days. (Steve

never finds all of his purloined snacks.)

Until next month
Chirps and Squawks
Pookie

Rodney's Story

by Brittney Jemello

Member of the Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture

www.rmsabirds.com

September 2011

Reprinted with permission from the September Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture newsletter

A little over a year ago, I got my Senegal Parrot Rodney. His story may be a bit long, but it explains what he has been through, and how I got my very special bird.

To start off, Rodney came to me by fate. I believe that he needed me, and I know for a fact I needed him. You see, I had lost a rescue cockatiel named Cooper. My uncle had opened the door and scared the four cockatiels I had. Well, Cooper flew out the front door and I couldn't find him. I put up fliers, posters, called everywhere, and luck didn't find me. Needless to say, I was very depressed and sad.

One day, two weeks after I lost Cooper, I was talking to my cousin and he asked me if I had the chance to get another bird, what would it be. "A Senegal Parrot" I said. Five minutes later, I got a phone call.

"I have a flier, and it says you lost your bird?" the lady said. My first thought was *'Oh my gosh! She found Cooper!!'*

"I don't have your bird, but I have a bird. Would you be interested in taking him? I know he'd be a great addition to your flock!" she asked.

"Well, not necessarily, but I can take him if you don't want

him. What kind of parrot is it?" I replied, wondering what kind of bird it is, and why these people don't want him. Could he have issues?

"He is a Senegal Parrot. He bites me too much, and we don't want to deal with that anymore."

Well, I went to her house, a hundred yards away! I walked in and was flabbergasted! His cage was filthy, he had one perch, no toys, and was on a sunflower seed ONLY diet. Their dogs pestered him, and a few years back, one of those dogs got him and broke his wing. Yes, he may not be able to fly, but he could blossom with my flock. I asked how much she'd want for me to take him, and asked to hold him. "He's free, with his cage." Rodney and I hit it off. I knew he was to be mine, and took him home the next morning.

Two weeks went by, and he was the perfect bird. Let me pet him, didn't bite, and switched from a seed diet, to a pelleted diet really easy. But then, trouble started. He started to bite like crazy. I didn't know what to DO! I felt this bond, and now he's biting me! It got so bad that I quit holding him for 3 days. After that I got a leather glove, and started



picking him up again. I wanted to teach him that biting doesn't get him what he wants.

After about 3 months of this, I got brave enough to hold him bare handed again. And he didn't bite! Each day I got less scared of him. He still didn't let me pet him anymore, nor did he want to play. Which was ok with me, as long as he didn't bite, I loved him.

That's when I started thinking... back when I had Cooper, I wanted to take him to nursing homes and schools. Then went back to Rodney and said, "Ya know what buddy? We are

(Continued on page 18)

California Condor Release

by Flapping Feathers member Dan Lee

October 2011

This article originally appeared in the October [Arizona Seed Crackers Society](#) newsletter

On September 24th, I made the trip to Vermillion Cliffs with Mary Rose and Noelle Fontaine for the 17th annual California Condor release done by the non-profit Peregrine Fund. We left Noelle's about 3:30 a.m. and met Pete and Christine Henderson in Flagstaff. We then continued to our destination, which was just short of the Utah border. Chris Parish, field director of the Peregrine Fund's Condor Project, explained that the 2-year-old and two 3-year-old condors had been hatched and raised at the Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho. These three will soon integrate the group of about 70 others that have been released in the Grand Canyon area since 1996. The release point was high in the cliffs, far away from the crowd of about 100 people that had come to witness the event. Many make the pilgrimage every year, some from as far away as Florida.

Why all the fuss? The California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) is the largest flighted bird in North America. An adult condor has a wing-span up to 9 ½ feet and weighs up to 23 pounds. Adults are primarily black except for triangle-shaped patches of bright white underneath their wings. These patches are visible when condors are flying overhead and offer a key identification characteristic. Males and females are identical in size and plumage. The bare heads of condors are grayish-

black as juveniles and turn a dull orange-pink as adults. It can soar effortlessly at 50 miles per hour over a range of hundreds of miles. One of the Grand Canyon area condors was recently spotted cruising over Wyoming. It is also one of the most endangered birds in the world. In 1982 there were 22 California Condors left, many of those in zoos. In 1983 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service initiated a captive breeding program between The Los Angeles Zoo and the San Diego Wild Animal Park, with additional facilities being established at the Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho and the Oregon Zoo in Portland, Oregon. By 1985 only 9 were known to exist in the wild. Adding to the problem, condors aren't sexually mature until about 6 years of age and a mated pair of condors has only one egg, every one or two years. Drastic measures were needed to avoid extinction, so all the wild condors were captured and put into captive breeding programs. Eggs were harvested right away and incubated to increase each pair's production to 2 or 3 eggs per year.

Caregivers would use a hand puppet resembling a parent condor's beak, head, and neck for feedings and other contact to prevent them from imprinting on humans. Some chicks would be left with the parents when possible to help enforce parenting skills. Because of the Herculean efforts of the U.S. Fish &



Photo by Dan Lee

Wildlife Service and the Peregrine Fund there are, as of July 13, 2011: The world population is now 395. 200 are in captivity, but 195 fly freely in the wild. Of those, 108 are in California, 19 are in Baja, Mexico. and 68 are in the AZ / UTAH area. They are still endangered, but are no longer looking extinction square in the eye.

However, there is still a huge threat to their future. According to Chris Parish of the Peregrine Fund Condor Program, 20 to 40 per cent of a lead bullet fragments throughout the body of the game animal. Lead shot is even worse. This year alone, 3 condor deaths were the direct result of nerve damage from lead bullet fragments and lead shot ingested by them from the gut piles and carcasses left behind by hunters. Lead bullets can be replaced by copper bullets and copper / polymer alloys. Lead shot can be replaced by alloys using steel, tungsten-nickel-iron, bismuth-tin, and tungsten-polymer. These alternatives can even be more effective than lead.

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Zoe's Favorite Sweet Potato French Toast - Feeds a Flock

by Madeleine Franco

President, Southern Nevada Parrot Education, Rescue & Rehoming Society

www.premiumpinecones.net

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1 large ruby yam or sweet potato, fully mashed
18 medium eggs, or 14 large eggs
1/2 cup apple juice
1/2 cup cranberry juice
1/2 cup water
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 tsp. nutmeg
1 - 1.5 loaves multi-grain bread

Small amount of butter or margarine (or non-stick pan spray)

Mix all ingredients, except the margarine or butter, in a large bowl, with either a whisk or electric mixer, to form a batter.

Dip the slices of bread in the

batter and fry both sides till golden brown on an evenly heated (medium heat) griddle pan, onto which you have spread a small amount of the butter, margarine or pan spray. I prefer butter, which is more predictable on a griddle pan. Any excess batter may be used to make sweet potato pancakes, also well received by birds.

Serve to birds cut into eighths or sixteenths of a slice, depending on the size of the birds, two points per bird. Leftovers may be frozen in whole slices and defrosted and heated in the microwave.

Try it on your family, too. Just about guaranteed to please! My hawkhead chortles in her dish



when I serve this, and my macaw says "Mmmmmmm" when I put some in his dish. From canaries to cockatoos, all the birds eat every scrap. The larger birds eat it a la carte; however, the canaries seem to like it with a side dish of par-boiled broccoli or raw dandelion greens, which are never in short supply in my garden during the spring and early summer.

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I am not a hunter. It has never appealed to me, but I do understand its place in balancing nature and herd management of game animals because of the loss of natural predators. I also know that many hunters take pride in their conservation efforts. This is a change that has to happen. It is better for all concerned if hunters do it willingly. If it is not done voluntarily, it will eventually be done judicially. The use of lead bullets and shot for hunting has been outlawed in some areas in countries such as Great Britain and the Netherlands. It wasn't that long ago that the

manufacture and use of DDT as a pest control was banned because of its toxic effect on the environment. Better and safer products were developed to replace it, without the side effects and collateral damage. I would encourage those of you that hunt to educate yourselves and fellow hunters on alternative ammunition and make the switch. You could save a condor.

[California Condor Notes and Links](#)

[California Condor Re-Introduction Program](#)

[Grand Canyon News article](#)



Photo by Dan Lee

[Alternatives to lead shot](#)

[California Condors](#)

[Alternatives to lead bullets for hunting](#)

[Lead vs. Copper bullets](#)

Birds and Nutrition

by Delco Bird Club member Kathy de Plaza

www.delcobirdclub.org

October 2011

Reprinted with permission from the October Delco Bird Club newsletter

In my previous column I discussed holistic modalities in general. I mentioned that nutrition is the most important thing to consider when appraising your bird's holistic status. Now I would like to delve into this topic in more depth.

Most research on nutrition in regards to the bird species has been primarily done on poultry. Very little research has been done on parrots. Until more information becomes available for the particular species of parrot we are caring for, we must follow the theory that a large variety of food items should be fed, and that food high in fat, sugars, salts, or preservatives should be avoided. Poor nutrition is the number-one cause of illness and early death among pet birds today. In a study of nutrition using budgies, it was found that the budgies that were fed a seed-only diet lived an average of 3 to 5 years. The budgies fed pellets, fruits, vegetables, grains, and other healthy foods lived an average of 10 to 15 years.

In their natural habitat, psittacine birds consume a variety of foods, including seeds, nuts, grains, sprouts, leaves, insects and fruits. Some have been known to eat meat also (but keep in mind canaries, finches,

mynahs, toucans, lorries and lorikeets have very special dietary needs). Typically, all birds subsist entirely on one type of food if it is plentiful. When that food source is no longer available, hunger triggers the natural foraging instinct, and birds seek out new food sources. WHEN PROVIDED FREE ACCESS TO SEEDS, BIRDS LOSE THIS FORAGING INSTINCT AND SUBSIST ENTIRELY ON SEEDS. When weaning a bird off an all seed diet, a good method is to slowly increase the increments of the new foods in along with the seeds. Be careful when mixing in perishable foods. Don't let them sit long enough to spoil (most foods will spoil if left out for more than 3 or 4 hours depending on the ambient temperature).

Birds should be fed on a twice-daily schedule. This technique approximates normal food-gathering in the wild (dawn and dusk are the most active feeding times) and encourages birds to sample new food items. Access to food throughout the day inhibits the foraging instinct and may produce obesity. For many bird owners the best routine is to feed seeds or other dry food items such as pellets in the morning. The food cup should be removed



after an hour, or small portions should be provided to ensure that the bird will consume all available food in the day. The evening meal might include foods such as cheeses, meats, eggs, vegetables, and fruits. If they aren't yet keen on accepting these foods, sprinkle seed into the foods and they should eventually accept the new food. The outdated method of feeding birds seed diets and then trying to 'balance' the diet by adding vitamins and calcium supplements should be abandoned. Seed diets are oil rich and high in fat, so birds feel a strong stimulus to seek them out (like we love fat and sugar). Amazons, budgies, rose-breasted cockatoos, and other species can become obese because of this type of diet, and this can lead to fatty liver disease. Baby cockatoos can even develop pancreatitis due to the high fat in some diets. These high-fat diets have also caused hardening of the arteries in Amazons.

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When feeding a pellet diet, look at the protein count. If the protein is in the 25% or higher range, it may be too high for the age or species of your bird and cause kidney-related problems (such as gout in macaws and conures). And look for natural/organic ingredients, not those that are chemical based or artificially colored. Supplementation with such things as spirulina, algae, wheat grass and nutritional yeast are safe to use and can be sprinkled on top of wet foods. Adding too much supplementation can cause problems, so use common sense on amounts given.

Vitamin and mineral deficiencies are common in some parrot species. Eclectus and amazons may require diets higher in vitamin A. Eclectus also have a tendency to develop deficiencies in vitamin E. Another common problem is calcium deficiency, especially in African Greys and in egg-laying hens of all species. Lories and lorikeets are prone to food poisoning because their liquid diet can spoil rapidly in hot weather.

Like humans, birds can develop allergies to certain foods. When birds eat something they are allergic to, they can react in several ways. Some birds will

start plucking their feathers, while others may have a change in behavior which can be subtle or very noticeable. Foods that contain dyes are probably the most common source of allergies. Pellets are made either from a corn or wheat base, and some birds can be allergic to these ingredients. Using a high-quality pellet or seed mix is your best insurance against problems. Old seed can contain certain fungi, which produce toxins lethal to birds. When buying seed, buy a small amount at a time and then freeze the rest. This will also cut down on seed moths. When you buy seed from a new source, sprout some. If most of it sprouts, it is fresh; if very little does, it's old and you should find a new source for your birdseed.

Many parrots do not receive enough calcium in their diets. Even though parrots are lactose intolerant, they can still have some dairy products. Moderation is the key. Be aware that certain nuts, such as pistachios, may be dyed. Pecans and some other nuts may even be polished. Avoid nuts with dyes or the high-shine polish. Peanuts, if old or if they have become wet, may be contaminated with mold, which can be toxic to your bird. As another precaution against mold, only feed peanuts that have been shelled. Peanut butter is one thing that

you shouldn't buy at a health food store because of the possibility of the *Aspergillus* fungus. Although commercial brands are monitored for this fungus, most health food brands are not. This goes not only for peanut butter but for peanuts as well.

Today's produce is grown using all kinds of pesticides. Some fruits and vegetables have a much higher amount of chemicals on them than others. Organic produce is the best way to reduce the amounts of harmful pesticides. From highest amounts of pesticides to the lower amounts: peaches, apples, bell peppers, celery, nectarines, strawberries, cherries, imported grapes, pears, spinach, potatoes, carrots, green beans, hot peppers, cucumbers, raspberries, plums, oranges, domestic grapes, cauliflower, tangerines, cantaloupe, lemons, honeydew, grapefruits, winter squash, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, watermelon, blueberries, papayas, eggplant, cabbage, bananas, kiwis, asparagus, frozen sweet peas, mangoes, pineapples, and frozen sweet corn.

Have a tweet day, and I hope you look for me again next month!

Kathy de Plaza
610-869-2960
kathydeplaza@verizon.net



Photo Credits: The [cover](#) and [page 2](#) pictures are courtesy of Linda Costello. The picture on the bottom of [page 3](#) was obtained from [Wikipedia](#) and is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 License](#).

Disaster - A Not So Perfect Storm...for a Companion Bird!

www.hari.ca

October 14, 2011

Reprinted with permission from HARI

Be prepared!

Despite the current disasters such as hurricanes, wild fires, and other maladies of Mother Nature that make international headlines, often the most overlooked disaster for a companion bird goes without notice. This is something that occurs often, yet, rarely makes a headline: it's a storm of another kind. The kind of storm that can be sudden or perhaps it's an event that's actually brewing in the not so far distance. It's the absence of the avian caretaker. Perhaps this is due to family emergency or unexpected death of the caretaker. Maybe it's the slow decline of health on the part of the avian caretaker that creates comprises in the bird's daily care. Unfortunately, a disaster from a companion parrot's perspective is a disaster indeed...it is the interruption of life from that bird's normal care.

We at HARI often hear about a pet bird or perhaps a collection of parrots, be it a breeder, a pet store, and even some parrot rehoming facilities in need of assistance due to human related emergencies. With that being said, we'd like to make a few suggestions and reminders for all of the avian community to take charge of their feathered companions before a "storm" actually strikes.

What can you do?

Take Charge!

First and foremost, avian caretakers need to take charge of their own flock. The HARI team encourages pet owners and large flock caretakers alike to keep records and prepare for emergencies. While some emergencies are incredibly unexpected, others are much like the storm in the not so far distance. Life has its challenges for all and if you feel as if the care of one bird or several is getting too difficult, ask for help. You know your bird or birds, and you know who you can count on. Take decisive steps in this matter to avoid someone else making decisions for you and your pets or flock.

Companion bird owners:

Companion bird owners can very easily keep a supply box that includes everything needed for caring for their birds in case of emergency. Keep in mind that should an emergency arise that would give cause for emergency personnel to enter a household, a simple notice on the refrigerator stating: Pet bird profile located in... let's say, pantry, cupboard or whatever. This bit of information should include your avian veterinarian telephone, plus contact information for someone that can take over the care of your bird in your absence. Please feel free to review one of our older posts, "[HARI Approved First Aid Arsenal: Are You Ready?](#)" for a list of other items.



Strategies for Bird Clubs:

Bird Clubs usually have a network and committee chairpersons set up for education, speaker, pet bird adoption and other services for their membership. Designate an emergency relief team and protocol. We're not suggesting that a diehard watch dog team be in place, but perhaps a couple of members that can respectfully network within the bird club membership and be available to members in need.

Set up phone calling trees and encourage membership to have an emergency book on their pets filled out. To get started, make use of the [Parrot Profile](#) available from HARI which includes basic pertinent information about a particular bird. An Emergency or Disaster Relief committee might want to organize a presentation on this topic for a regular club meeting. Be sure to include an article on the subject in a monthly club newsletter for

(Continued on page 26)

From the Hagen Family

www.hari.ca

October 26, 2011

Reprinted with permission from HARI

Montreal, Canada – October 24, 2011 – Rolf C. Hagen, Founder and Chairman of Rolf C. Hagen Inc., passed away suddenly yet peacefully at his home in Montreal surrounded by his loving wife Marianne and grandson Justin on Saturday, October 22, 2011.

Rolf C. Hagen was born in 1932, the third of 10 children, in a small seaside town in northern Germany.

In 1955, inspired by a simple idea, he came to Canada and sowed the seeds of Rolf C. Hagen Inc., which blossomed to become one of the world's largest family-owned manufacturers and distributors of pet care products.

He started by acquiring bird seeds from the Canadian prairies and exporting them back to Germany. His small export business eventually flourished and branched out into a solid, well-respected pet supplies business that today spans many continents.

Soon after setting up his business in Montreal, his focus turned to the most significant import of his life: a beautiful young woman named Marianne Koch, whom he met in Hamburg and married in Montreal in 1959.

His brothers Dieter and Horst subsequently joined the company, both of whom brought new energy and innovation to the company, taking it to new

heights of success. The trio formed the first generation of an internationally successful family-based company that is now managed by Rolf C. Hagen's three beloved sons, Mark, Tom, and Rolf Jr.

Mr. Hagen was a tireless force who was actively involved as Chairman of Rolf C. Hagen Inc. right up until the day preceding his sudden passing.

Those who did business with Mr. Hagen were often inspired by his simple and ethical approach to commerce, often sealing business deals with his firm handshake and honouring them with his word, which was as good as gold.

In his lifetime, Mr. Hagen was honoured with many awards in the pet products industry. In June 1999, he was inducted into the American Pet Products Association Hall of Fame, the highest honour that can be bestowed upon an individual in the pet industry. In March 2004, he was given the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pet Industry Distributors Association in recognition for innovative design of pet products and for his generous support of organizations and individuals dedicated to improving the lives of pets and people. He is the only person in the pet products industry who is a recipient of both awards.

In 1996, he received The First Cross of the Federal Order of



Rolf C. Hagen was a pillar in the pet products industry who touched many lives with his generosity and compassion.

Merit from Germany (Bundesverdienstkreuz der 1. Klasse). In 2005, he was awarded The Highest Order of Merit (Grosses Bundesverdienstkreuz am Band) from the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, the highest honour that Germany can bestow upon a civilian.

Yet even with all his business successes and accolades, Rolf C. Hagen remained a humble and altruistic man who did not lose touch with many of life's timeless and enduring values: love, kindness, humility, compassion, and generosity. Though he soared in business, he was deeply grounded in his

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Are Your Birds Affected by the Pine Nut Recall?

by Flapping Feathers member Elizabeth Opperman

Parrot Examiner

www.examiner.com

October 28, 2011

Reprinted with permission from the author and Examiner.com

A recall on 5,000 pounds of Pine nuts has parrot lovers scrambling to find out if the treats they feed their parrots are affected. The recall was issued when the CDC linked 42 salmonella cases from Georgia, Arizona, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Of those states, New York had the highest number of cases reported. The nuts were traced to [Sunrise Commodities](#), the importer of the nuts, based in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. Those who purchased pine nuts in the bulk food department of Wegman's Markets are advised to return the product for a refund.

Some bird owners expressed concern when they found that the food they bought contained pine nuts and did not know how to find out if they had cause for worry. One consumer had just purchased ten pounds of pine nuts from Nuts Online, who says they do not get their

pine nuts from the importer and are not affected by the recall.

Goldenfeast also has pine nuts in their food mixes. Kelly Clark, from Goldenfeast Administration says "The recall is for pignolias, which is the shelled pine nut. We do not purchase Turkish pine nuts, nor do we purchase from that particular importer." She assures consumers who buy their pets Goldenfeast that they are safe to continue feeding the product.

Salmonella is a bacteria that, in people, can cause fever, possible bloody diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. Salmonella can be passed to birds and birds can be affected by the bacteria. They can also pass along the bacteria in feather dust, droppings, and crop contents. Vertical transmission is also possible.

Symptoms of Salmonella in



A photo of shelled pine nuts, like those affected by the recall
Credits: www.dreamstime.com

birds include anorexia, lethargy and diarrhea. African Greys are said to be especially susceptible to salmonella and display more [chronic symptoms](#), such as excessive thirst and arthritis among other symptoms. Any bird diagnosed with salmonella should be quarantined to avoid spreading the bacteria, which can move spontaneously and grow on common media. It can be treated with [antibiotics and antidiarrheals](#). Before giving your bird any medication, consult your Avian Veterinarian.

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love for humanity and pets, giving away much of what he amassed to individuals, schools, hospitals, churches and charita-

ble organizations in Canada as well as all over the world.

Helen Keller wrote that it is better to walk with a friend in the dark than alone in the light.

In addition to being an icon in the pet products industry, Rolf C. Hagen will also be remembered for being a true friend who was always there for those who walked in the dark.

Avian Rescue and Sanctuary Organizations: An Introduction

by Sharman Hoppes, DVM, Dipl ABVP (Avian)

October 2011

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Abstract: Parrots are increasingly popular pets, with beauty, intelligence, and the capacity to mimic speech. Owners often obtain parrots not realizing how messy, loud, and destructive they can be. This has led many owners to relinquish their birds. Parrot rescue organizations and sanctuaries are on the rise to accommodate this problem. This article discusses the reasons for parrot relinquishment and the pros and cons of the rescue and sanctuary industry.

Parrots have become increasingly popular pets and are third in popularity behind dogs and cats. They are incredible creatures: intelligent, beautiful, with the capacity to mimic our speech. They are long-lived, with many having the potential to live 40–60 years.

People often obtain birds believing they are low-maintenance pets because they live in cages. They then discover that parrots are messy, loud, and often develop behavioral issues in captivity. This leads to parrots being rehomed or

placed in rescue or sanctuary organizations. Because so many parrots are being given up, rescue and sanctuary organizations for parrots are on the rise.

Parrots are in need of rescue for many reasons. They are long-lived, loud, messy, and destructive. They are also a non-domesticated species. The selective breeding programs used in aviculture have been mostly interested in color mutations, not pet quality. In fact, for many years, the parrots who did not acclimate well to being a pet – the screamers, feather pickers, and biters – were the ones most likely to be given up to breeding facilities.

Parrots are flock animals. In the wild they spend their days interacting with other birds, building a nest, raising chicks, and foraging. The captive-bred parrot has the same innate desires as a wild bird. They are not routinely spayed or neutered so their reproductive drive is present. Many are imprinted on humans and form inappropriate relationships with their owners. They may become aggressive, begin biting, or start feather picking as a result. They are also noisy, with wild birds vocalizing loudly when flying and perching. In our homes, this same communication can be deafening. People want parrots to sit and play quietly in their cages, and when they don't, their owners become frustrated, often leading to the

birds living in multiple homes and, potentially, being placed with a rescue or sanctuary organization.

Sanctuaries provide permanent home for animals that do not fit into the traditional pet setting. In 2008, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service adopted the Captive Wildlife Safety Act's (CWSA) definition for sanctuaries. They developed 4 criteria for accreditation:

- The sanctuary must be approved by the United States Internal Revenue Service as a corporation that is exempt from taxation under 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
- No commercial trade of prohibited species is allowed, including offspring, parts, or products of the prohibited species.
- No propagation of prohibited species is allowed.
- No direct contact between the public and prohibited species is allowed.

Rescue organizations refer to those facilities that are involved in saving an animal's life or preventing abuse or injury. These organizations rescue animals (parrots) in many settings. Often the bird is in a potentially dangerous, hurtful, or neglectful environment. Many organizations provide both rescue and sanctuary,

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depending on the parrot and its history and needs. Unfortunately, as with all organizations, there are those with strict guidelines providing good management and those that do not.

The parrot rescue and sanctuary industry is continuously growing and many of these organizations are truly inspiring. They have guidelines for care, have become tax-exempt, and work closely with avian veterinarians. Other organizations will take any bird in without appropriate resources, have limited to no guidelines in place, and provide no veterinary care, which often results in parrots having to be "rescued again" from these facilities.

Unfortunately there are no state or federal guidelines available for the care of parrots in a rescue or sanctuary organization. Some organizations have adopted the model aviary plan (MAP) guidelines, others have become members of the Global Federation of Sanctuaries, while others have developed their own; yet many work without specific guidelines. There has been a growing consensus that specific guidelines are needed.

An introduction to parrot rescue and sanctuary organizations would not be complete without a discussion on hoarding. Animal hoarders are individuals who believe they are rescuing and saving animals. They typically have a large number of animals including dogs, cats, birds, horses, or a combination thereof. They are unable to provide even the minimal

standards of care, including nutrition, shelter, and veterinary care. Neglect often leads to filthy conditions, and sick, dying, or dead animals. Hoarders are in denial of their inability to provide care, often arguing that their animals are well-cared for when starving and dead animals are in plain view. Many experts now believe that psychiatric problems may lead to animal hoarding, which has been linked to dementia, addictive behaviors, attachment disorders, and/or obsessive compulsive disorders. As the number of avian rescue and sanctuary organizations grows, so does the likelihood of collecting and hoarding.

There are over 11 million exotic birds kept as pets in the United States and over 4 million US households with pet birds. Many of these birds belong to the baby boomer generation. These individuals are becoming elderly, will be retiring, and may develop age-related health issues, resulting in the need for their pet birds to be rehomed at some point in their life. Many of these birds will end up in a rescue or sanctuary setting.

In 2003, The Gabriel Foundation and PETsMART charities co-funded the National Parrot Relinquishment Research Project. Parrot relinquishment from a variety of parrot-related communities, including aviculturists, bird clubs, shelters, zoos, retailers, and veterinarians was evaluated.

There were 779 respondents, including pet store owners, welfare and rescue organizations, individual bird owners, breeders and veterinarians. A

total of 5391 birds were relinquished.

Of the relinquished birds, 2631 (49%) were accepted by rescue and sanctuary organizations, 823 (15%) were accepted by individuals, 693 (13%) were accepted by Humane Societies, 360 (7%) were accepted by bird clubs, 269 (5%) were accepted by veterinarians, 197 (4%) were accepted into foster homes, 154 (3%) were accepted by avian behaviorists, 136 (3%) were taken in by pet stores, and 128 (2%) were cared for by breeders. With almost half of the relinquished birds being taken in by rescue and sanctuary organizations, it is clear that there is a need for these organizations.

When discussing the status of unwanted parrots with individuals who work in rescue and sanctuary settings, they admit to getting daily calls from people wanting to give their birds up. One of the goals of rescue and sanctuary organizations is to educate people on the needs of birds, preferably prior to purchase, but also to council owners considering relinquishing their birds in hopes of keeping that bird in its home. If there is no recourse and a parrot ends up in a rescue or sanctuary setting, we want it to be a setting that follows ethical and humane guidelines in its care. We want our companion parrots to avoid the sad fate of many companion dogs and cats, with millions of animals euthanized yearly.

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going to do this.” I started working with Rodney, socializing him and such. And he would do GREAT at schools, and at the local park. Then I took it to the next level, I took him to a nursing home. I knew he was meant for this. From that moment on, we haven’t stopped.

Nowadays, he and I do a lot of different events and go so many places. The way I socialized Rodney with people of all ages has helped him become a shining star in so many communities, and to so many people. We still go to nursing homes, which is one of his favorite things to do. Also, we go to places with big crowds, averaging 300+ people in one day! Granted not ALL of them hold him, but a lot of them do. And he loves it! He gets a lot of attention, tons of good treats, and good exercise. As you now know, he cannot fly, and never

will. But he is one happy parrot! He gets more adventure than most pet parrots.

That’s also when I discovered his other gift. Helping me. I realized a difference in myself, that when I went out in public, I didn’t have anxiety/panic attacks anymore. So I tested this theory. I let him have a day of relaxation, and went to the mall. That was a mistake... I couldn’t even walk through a mall! So he became my Service Animal.

I believe that all pet parrots have the capability of doing therapy and service work, just as well as dogs, cats, and rabbits. With the right training, and in the right environments, parrots will blossom with all the attention and happiness they feel. It is a known fact that birds feel our energy and feelings. When animals, including birds, feel so many people with positive, happy energy, they will feed off of



that, and become healthier, happier birds. Could you imagine, if everyone that saw you, was happy to see you? Genuine happiness? Wouldn’t you feel happier as well? Well, that’s what makes Rodney, as well as any parrot, willing to do this.

“Separation Anxiety and Abandonment Fears in Parrot Chicks”

April and I just acquired a new puppy. We have for years had a small standard poodle girl who is approaching middle age; and it has long been nigh time to get her a younger playmate. So when I saw an advertisement in a local news flyer about poodle puppies, we took a Sunday off from the farm and went to visit them. “Just to see,” I qualified the journey. But when puppy cuteness took over, my most recent “*No More Animals*” vow kind of flew out the car window. Plus the owner had too many offspring from two litters and was willing to trade artwork to get them into new care situations.

So, home we came with Chanel, a future companion (we hoped!) for our seven-year-old Magic who pines when we are gone for even an evening party occasion.

Now I must admit, I have never had a puppy. Growing up, our family had one long-lived cat and a somewhat cloudy bowl of guppies. In point of fact, that seems a bit unusual for a father that worked in animal husbandry research and grew up on a farm! April is the expert around here when it comes to neophyte doggie behaviors.

Chanel had had a rough beginning. A few days before birth, her owner had broken a hip bone and vacated to the hospital for three weeks. How and by whom the new puppies were nurtured during that

absence and later, we never quite ascertained. The only thing that became clear to us upon getting 8-week-old Chanel home was that 1) She absolutely abhorred being crated or caged or confined - including any time in a 12' x 25' planted aviary when we exited to get fresh water bowls, and 2) She doted on attention, touch, closeness - including sleeping the night with April in our master bed (Me being relegated to the couch during the interim of round-the-clock potty training!) It began to become apparent that our new puppy had a mixture of insecurities and abandonment fears at this young age.

Of course during Chanel's first vet checkup, we were given all sorts of professional advice about how to lock our puppy in her crate and let her bark and whine her way to sleep - she would eventually get over it, they all said. And that set me to thinking about all the domestic raised baby parrots I have encountered that experience the same types of emotions...

My first handfed psittacine was a Sun Conure fledgling pur-



chased from a pet store in Colorado. All the cuddly affection I experienced in the shoppe prior to deciding on the purchase translated into the same friendliness once I took him home - with one significant addition. After being taken away from his bird family and first human caregiver only to spend hours alone in a cage at night in a bird store, Kiwani went immediately from liking human warmth to demanding and needing it. He did not like to be caged and refused to settle down at night with me nearby. In the end, I chose to silence his screeching or back and forth begging, keep him on my shoulder most of the day, and

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wrap him in a soft cloth near my pillow to slumber at night. Like that vet advice given us about confining our puppy, I was going against pet parrot training protocol.

But I could not help it. When I see an animal that is basically lonesome and forlorn, I choose to ease its unhappiness by nurturing it and I put off until later worrying about any bad habits forming. With Kiwani, it took about six months for him to come to the realization that he was now safe in a lasting home, and was content sleeping in his cage or cardboard box at night. With Chanel, she is already at three months beginning to hop off the bed and sleep on the doggie pillows on the floor.

The relevant birdkeeping question here is what if keepers choose the "tough love" scheme, forcing a parrot to be alone in a cage before it is emotionally ready for that?

Personally, I believe it can lead to underlying insecurities. Witness those young cockatoos who end up screaming for attention from humans - the only family they really ever knew. Or what about the classic African Grey pet which becomes disconsolate, stops eating, even begins to shave grey chest feathers the first time its owners go off on a two-week holiday.

One of the things I noticed when living in Southeast Asia during the 1970s was the way parents and family constantly held and looked after their

children. Babies up to and beyond the age of two were carried in a sling by mom or on a hip by an older sister. They would spend hours a day on grandpa's or uncle's or brother's lap. Basically the 'crawling phase' we see so much of was bypassed right up until the child begins toddling around. More important is the closeness and round-the-clock companionship given young ones. Our western concepts differ somewhat. We designed cribs and playpens which are very much akin to baby parrot cages.

But, are we missing something here? T'would seem that psittacine offspring in the wilds have access to mother or father touch most hours of day and night seven days a week., at least until the time when they gain the confidence to fledge and begin playing and socializing within the flock. If this is indeed one of the 'missing links' in the way that domestic hookbills are currently raised for the pet trade, then does that mean our pet birds are growing into adulthood with a diminished sense of 'belonging?' Is the Blue Fronted Amazon that finds himself being taken care of during his caregiver's summer vacation all-too-ready to change allegiances and bond with a new person, simply because he has found himself abandoned previously when taken from his parents, moved on to a pet shoppe, then moved on again when sold? What manner of stable childhood are we providing these young creatures when we demonstrate to them that there is very

little *permanence* to the intimacy and attachments they strive to form at such an early stage in their lives?

I have seen baby parrots locked into a 'weaning cage' in a commercial bird store long before they can even climb up onto a wooden perch. Expecting them to eat at a stage when they really only want to be fed by another is one of the typical separations we impose upon young handfed birds. I understand that human keepers are busy and have many other chores and responsibilities; the object here is to draw attention to the ways psittacine raising has nearly always been done, and get keepers thinking about how his or her methods may in truth contribute to separation anxiety or abandonment fears.

There is absolutely no substitute for the closeness between a baby parrot and its parents; in its absence the best alternative is to have several parrot young kept together day and night, with keepers giving as much added nurturing and gentle "in-the-dark" touching as is needed by the chicks. And every time a young bird is going to be permanently moved from one living environment to another - i.e. from its birthing nestbox, from its dark nursery basket, from one room or cage to another, or from one owner's home to a new one - the consequences and stress impact upon that bird should be fully considered by we humans.

Mahalo,
EB

Mental Time-Travel in Birds

by Nick Saffell

www.cam.ac.uk

October 14, 2011

Reprinted with permission from University of Cambridge

Certain types of birds may track army ant swarms using sophisticated memory and the ability to plan for the future.

Some tropical birds collect their prey at army ant raids, where massive swarms of ants sweep through the forest and drive out insects. The behaviour of interest is called bivouac checking; it allows these birds to track the cyclical raid activity of army ant colonies.

Army ants have regular alternating periods of high and low raiding activity, and birds visit the ants' temporary nest sites (bivouacs) to determine which colonies are raiding on a given day.

The new findings published today in the journal *Behavioural Ecology*, suggest that bivouac checking allows birds to keep track of multiple army ant colonies, keeping account of which colonies are in periods of high-raiding activity while avoiding colonies with low-raiding activity.

Recent research has discovered that birds check army ant bivouacs at the end of the day, after they have fed at the raid. They may use the information about the army ant nest location the next day to find the ants again, thus accessing a past memory (the nest loca-

tion) to fulfill a future need (bird will be hungry tomorrow), also known as 'mental time-travel'.

Two of the authors of the study, Corina Logan of the

University of Cambridge, and Sean O'Donnell of the University of Washington, observed bivouac checking behaviour in Monteverde, Costa Rica.

Mental time-travel consists of two elements: the ability to remember past events and the ability to anticipate and plan for future events. It has traditionally been considered a quality unique to humans. However, ever since Nicola Clayton of the University of Cambridge discovered that scrub jays (a species of large-brained crow) can remember the past and plan for the future, there have been a suite of studies showing evidence of this ability in other species as well. We now know that corvids (birds in the crow family), some primates, and possibly rats have all shown the ability to remember the



White Whiskered Puff bird.

Photo: Glenn M Duggan FZS

past and plan for the future.

Corina Logan, said: "We suspect that future planning could be involved in bivouac-checking bird behaviour because the birds were checking bivouacs when they were not hungry, a behaviour that does not make sense until the next morning upon return to the bivouac when the bird finds the ants raiding again and encounters its next meal – a delayed benefit."

Until recently, it has been difficult to find model systems for studying mental time travel in an ecologically relevant way. "The fact that we might have happened on a whole new system for exploring these capacities is quite exciting," added Corina Logan.

UPDATE: Over 866,000 Birds Slaughtered So Far This Autumn in Cyprus! - Sign the Petition to Stop This Now!

by Birdlife Cyprus

www.birdlife.org

October 13, 2011

Reprinted with permission from BirdLife International

Disastrously, the number of birds killed on limesticks and in mist nets in Cyprus this autumn is increasing sharply, reaching over 860,000 by October 9th... and it is still growing. The rising death toll from this illegal and ecologically damaging activity is being tracked by BirdLife Cyprus's field team and published on the [BirdLife Cyprus website](#), in a bid to raise awareness about this growing problem. An [on-line petition](#) calls for immediate action from the responsible Cypriot Ministers.

The toll is estimated on the basis of field data from BirdLife's ongoing field monitoring of trapping activity with mist nets and limesticks, part of a systematic surveillance programme. This latest estimate – 866,905 birds - represents the number of birds killed between Thursday 1st September and Sunday 9th October 2011. The trappers are after Blackcaps and other songbirds, which will end up as illegal, and expensive, *ambelopoulia* delicacies served up in law-breaking restaurants, allowing the trappers to make huge profits. The first estimate for the autumn 2011 season, posted on September 12th, was for almost 90,000 birds, but trapping has gained pace since then. The estimate will be

updated every Monday until the end of October.

So far - and many thanks to all the people who have supported our campaign so far – almost 10,000 people have signed.

“The trapping is out of control this autumn – we are witnessing a slaughter on a massive scale. The non-selective nature of nets and limesticks means that not just blackcaps and other warblers, but also nightjars, owls, shrikes, flycatchers and dozens of other species are being taken. Please help us put pressure on the authorities to re-double enforcement efforts and target the law-breaking restaurants serving *ambelopoulia*”, said Martin Hellicar, Campaigns Manager of BirdLife Cyprus.

If you have not already signed the petition please do and please spread the word.

To see the initial article on this please [click here](#) or visit www.birdlifecyprus.org.

Related posts:

[89,225 birds slaughtered...so far! – Sign the petition to stop it now!](#) BirdLife Cyprus has published online an estimate of the death toll from the illegal bird...



Bee-eater in nets.
Photo: BirdLife Cyprus

[Crisis in Cyprus: Illegal bird trapping reaches disastrous levels.](#) BirdLife Cyprus has released its newest report on illegal bird trapping with data gathered between...

[“The missing” visitors in Cyprus are not tourists but birds !](#) BirdLife Cyprus has created this short film on the trapping situation in Cyprus...

This post was written by:

[BirdLife.Cyprus](#) - who has written 2 posts on [BirdLife Community](#).

BirdLife comprises more than 100 conservation organisations working together to promote sustainable living as a means to conserve biodiversity. BirdLife Cyprus is a BirdLife Partner Designate.

Researchers Reveal Baby-Killer Birds

by Leanne O'Rourke

news.anu.edu.au

October 20, 2011

Reprinted with permission from ANU (Australian National University) News

The mysterious behaviour of female Eclectus parrots killing their sons immediately after they hatch has been unravelled by a team of researchers from the Australian National University.

In a paper published online in *Current Biology* this month, the team from the Fenner School of Environment and Society and the Research School of Biology describe the infanticide and the conditions surrounding the parrot's choice to kill their young.

"It's interesting in itself because infanticide is weird - why do you have babies and then kill them?" lead author Professor Robert Heinsohn said.

"Humans are the only other species that systematically kill their own offspring of one sex. But here's a case in Eclectus parrots where we can show there is a very clear adaptive reason."

Professor Heinsohn has been studying the Eclectus roratus parrot, native to Papua, New Guinea and the Cape York area in Northern Queensland, for over ten years. The sex ratio of the birds caught his attention when he observed captive birds producing long stretches of chicks of the same sex in succession, sometimes

up to thirty male chicks in a row.

Professor Heinsohn and his research team spent six months at a time in remote rainforests in Cape York studying the parrot in its natural environment.

Eclectus parrots are about the size of a sulphur crested cockatoo and nest in tree trunk hollows 20 - 30 metres from the ground. Unusual for birds, Eclectus chicks have distinct gender colour differences from a very young age, allowing the sole carer mother to decide the chick's fate based on its sex within hours of hatching. The research team found that infanticide was only happening in certain types of nest hollows.

"They are not all equal," Professor Heinsohn said. "Some are really good for nesting in, some are poor. The poor ones have a habit of flooding in heavy rain, drowning the chicks or eggs inside."

"There has to be precise circumstances in which the female parrot would commit infanticide."

"It was the adult females who had poor hollows who would often get rid of the male, if they laid a male and a female chick. It was always a younger



Male (green) and female nestling at 5 weeks old, with lead author Professor Robert Heinsohn.

Photo: Robert Heinsohn

brother, and in doing that they could speed up the development of the older female chick."

As female Eclectus chicks fledge up to seven days earlier than their male siblings, the adult females with poor nest hollows stand a better chance of reproductive success concentrating their maternal efforts on female chicks.

"This unusual behaviour affects the balance between the sexes in the adult Eclectus population, and should make the over-produced female chicks less valuable," Professor Heinsohn said.

"However, provided you don't do it too often, the benefits of producing at least one surviving chick are such that you can get away with it."

Lost Pet Bird Found Alive After Riding Out Hurricane Irene in Central Park

by Leslie Albrecht, DNAINfo Reporter/Producer

www.dnainfo.com

September 14, 2011

Reprinted with permission from DNAINfo

UPPER WEST SIDE — If this bird could talk, he'd have a harrowing tale to tell.

Unfortunately, all Josie the cockatiel can say is "pretty bird," so the mystery of how he survived the perils of city streets while Hurricane Irene raged around him will remain unsolved.

"Where Josie was during the hurricane, only Josie knows," said the bird's owner, Jim DiGiovanni.

DiGiovanni beamed Wednesday as he recounted the story of how the bird he calls "the love of his life" was lost, presumed dead, then found barely alive several days later under a Central Park bench.

After four days of emergency vet care, Josie was recuperating on Tuesday in DiGiovanni's 11th floor apartment on West 81st Street and Columbus Avenue.

"Now I believe in miracles," said 62-year-old DiGiovanni, a talent manager in the music business.

Josie's ordeal began on Friday, Aug. 26, when DiGiovanni and his partner John Casserly were taking Josie and their other pet cockatiel, Cliffy, to the vet in a handheld pet carrier. As they made their way across Columbus Avenue, Casserly bent down

to check that the carrier's door was securely fastened.

Instead, the door fell open, and the panicked birds soared into the sky. For a few moments, DiGiovanni could make out his colorful pets among the trees in Theodore Roosevelt Park next to the American Museum of Natural History. But within seconds, the two birds — who had spent their entire lives indoors — were lost to the city.

"What a nightmare," DiGiovanni said. "It was the worst moment of my life."

DiGiovanni and Casserly sprang into action, determined to rescue their beloved feathered companions, whom they considered family members. Cliffy, a 3-year-old white female, liked to sip rosé at night with Casserly. Josie, a gray male with orange spots on his cheeks, liked to perch on DiGiovanni's finger and "dance" while he sang "I Just Called to Say I Love You."

Native to Australia, cockatiels can live up to 35 years and are very "household friendly," said Lisa Bono, owner of [The Platinum Parrot](#), a parrot supply store in Barnegat, N.J.

The birds, a type of parrot, can sometimes learn to talk, and even if they don't, they communicate in other ways, Bono said.



Josie, a 14-year-old cockatiel, survived five days on city streets until he was reunited with his owners.

Photo: DNAINfo / Leslie Albrecht

The crest of feathers on a cockatiel's head snaps into a vertical position when the bird is alarmed, and falls to half-mast when it's relaxed.

"People become extremely attached to them," Bono said. "(Owners) believe a bird loves a person so much they'll never fly away, but instinct kicks in. If a bird gets startled, it'll fly away."

Minutes after Josie and Cliffy made their escape, a desperate DiGiovanni contacted his building's resident manager, Stephen Murphy, for help. Murphy's computer savvy 14-year-old son Aidan whipped up a full-color "missing" poster and DiGiovanni immediately made 50 copies.

With Murphy's help, the distraught pet owners plastered the Upper West Side with the

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signs, posting them between West 81st and 77th streets, along Central Park West, and — in what turned out to be an important decision — near the Central Park Conservancy's headquarters near 79th Street.

Later that night, the two suffered a blow. A woman who had seen one of the posters found Cliffy about 10 p.m., bleeding and injured, on West 81st Street and Central Park West. Casserly rushed her to a 24-hour emergency vet on the Upper East Side, but it was too late. Cliffy died about 1 a.m., possibly from wounds sustained in a fight with another bird, DiGiovanni said.

"That bird trusted us and we blew it," said a crestfallen DiGiovanni.

But the two pressed on, hopeful that they could still find their beloved Josie, who had lived with them for 14 years. Casserly scoured the Internet for advice. An online cockatiel forum, [Tiel Talk](#), suggested it was best to search for lost birds just before sunrise, when the pre-dawn quiet makes it easier for pets to hear their owners' calls.

DiGiovanni and Casserly also followed another tip and put Josie's food-stocked cage on the sidewalk, with the door open, in front of their apartment building. The doorman kept an eye out to make sure no one stole the empty birdhouse.

DiGiovanni and Casserly, who weren't available for comment, got up at 4:30 a.m. on Saturday and headed out to hunt for their remaining feathered friend. As

the rest of the city battened down the hatches for Hurricane Irene, the two walked for hours, calling Josie's name and playing a musical toy with a chirping tone that Josie liked to imitate.

On Sunday, they set out again. But as the rain and winds from the hurricane picked up, they had to stop the search.

The storm dumped several inches of rain on Central Park, leaving felled trees and branches in its wake. DiGiovanni figured that even if the hurricane hadn't claimed Josie, the little bird would have fallen victim to a predator like a red-tailed hawk or feral cat.

"We couldn't imagine at that point that Josie was alive," DiGiovanni said. "I was completely beside myself with grief."

Two days later, on Tuesday Aug. 30, the phone rang. A woman said she had found Josie. Casserly told DiGiovanni to hang up — it was probably a scam, he thought, someone after the monetary reward they had offered.

But the woman, an employee of the [Central Park Conservancy](#), convinced DiGiovanni she was telling the truth.

A family walking in the park had spotted Josie hunkered down underneath a bench near [the statue of William Shakespeare](#) on the south end of Literary Walk at East 66th Street. Tiny Josie had wandered more than a mile from her West 81st Street home.

The family flagged down two nearby Conservancy maintenance workers, who called in to

headquarters to report the discovery. Josie seemed "traumatized," and didn't respond when the employees spoke to the bird, said Conservancy spokeswoman Dena Libner.

He let the workers pick him up from beneath the bench, then the employees nestled Josie inside a jacket in the back of a Conservancy golf cart to keep him warm and dry, Libner said.

A supervisor arrived, put Josie onto his lap, and rode back to the Conservancy's headquarters near 79th Street. An employee there recognized Josie from the poster DiGiovanni and Casserly had put up near the Conservancy. Someone had moved the poster to a bulletin board in the Conservancy's yard, where employees could see it.

When DiGiovanni and Casserly arrived minutes later, Josie perked up immediately, Libner said. "The second their voices were audible to the bird, it started chirping," Libner said. "It was immediately responsive to the owners."

Libner noted that Josie was discovered in an area of the park seriously damaged by the storm, where high winds had sent tree branches crashing to the ground.

"No one has any idea how (Josie) survived the storm," Libner said. "Parts of the park were sealed off with caution tape because everything was so damaged, and this little cockatiel made it through."

Rina Maguire, the avian vet who treated Josie, said the hurricane may have actually worked in

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Josie's favor, because at least the lost bird had a steady supply of water. Domesticated birds usually don't fare well on city streets, Maguire said. Raised with humans providing a steady supply of food, they never develop foraging skills, so they're not equipped to find food for themselves.

An X-ray taken at the [Center for Avian and Exotic Medicine](#) on Columbus Avenue, where DiGiovanni and Casserly rushed Josie for emergency care, revealed the Josie had tried to feed himself with bits of gravel and pieces of metal he found on the ground.

By the time Josie arrived at the animal hospital, he was barely clinging to life, Maguire said. Weak, emaciated and severely dehydrated, the tiny creature couldn't keep his eyes open. Cockatiels normally weigh

between 90 and 100 grams, but Josie's four-day ordeal had whittled him to just 62 grams, Maguire said.

DiGiovanni was so anxious he had to wait outside while Maguire examined Josie. The prognosis wasn't good. DiGiovanni said his stomach sank when Maguire told him Josie's chances of survival were "not better than 50-50."

"He was pretty much dying," Maguire told DNAinfo. "If they had waited another two hours to find him, it would have been too late."

Vets ran tests to make sure Josie's internal organs were functioning normally, then administered antibiotics, fluids, and medicines to remove the metal toxins from Josie's body. DiGiovanni expected a call from the vet the next morning informing him Josie had died during the night.

But the next day, when he and Casserly went to visit Josie, their adored pet was clearly improving. As soon as Josie spotted DiGiovanni, he flew up and "kissed" DiGiovanni on the ear.

After four days of treatment, Josie returned home. DiGiovanni said he tried to give the Conservancy employee who recognized Josie \$300 in cash, but she refused. Instead, he signed up for Conservancy membership.

"I'm a member for life, with automatic renewals every year, thanks to this," he laughed.

Josie's weight was back up to a healthier 72 grams on Tuesday, Maguire said. "He's a very lucky bird," Maguire said. "Most birds when they're out for that long, and they're that sick, they don't make it."

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members unable to attend meetings.

Strategies for Avian Specialty Retailers & Pet Stores

Some of the best retailers are very familiar with their regular customers and the products they buy for their pets or flock. During the normal course of business it's easy to lose track of every customer - but usually something will trigger that will make one think, especially when it comes to reordering a particular item because they know 'so and so' will be in and need... and then they discover that particu-

lar item is still on the shelf. A customer database, especially for routine grooming appointment reminders, is one way of not only creating a database for customer contacts, it's a great way to keep in touch with the store's area market and support community outreach projects that benefit the business.

Large Flock management

Whether it's a breeding facility, a re-home facility or even a home with several parrots, large flock management emergency care is a little bit different. In extreme cases, municipal agencies are the ones who are called to these collections in the event of



emergency. And, not every agency is equipped with knowledge of caring for exotic parrots. If the situation is temporary, the birds will be easier to manage without moving them from premise. At any rate, a response team will need to know location

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Upcoming Area (and some other) Events

- [Phoenix Landing Educational Seminars](#) - **Springfield, VA** (Nov 5 - Synergy, Caring for the Whole Parrot) - **Cary, NC** (Nov 6 - Foraging Fun and Enrichment Ideas) - **Asheville, NC** (Nov 11-13 - Skills to Empower People to Understand Parrots) - **Fairfax, VA** (Nov 12 - A Comprehensive Parrot Care Class) - **Winchester, VA** (Nov 19 - Enrichment for Your Parrots) - **Bel Air, MD** (Nov 19 - Caring for the Whole Parrot and Clicker Training for Parrots) - **Asheville, NC** (Nov 19 - Enrichment for Your Parrots) - **Abingdon, VA** (Nov 20 - A Comprehensive Parrot Care Class) - **Alexandria, VA** (Dec 3 - Steve Milpacher from World Parrot Trust) - **Cary, NC** (Dec 4 - A Comprehensive Parrot Care Class) - **Virginia Beach, VA** (Dec 10 - Edible Enrichments) - **Asheville, NC** (Dec 10 - Why Does My Parrot Do That?) - **Fairfax, VA** (Dec 11 - Training Husbandry Skills) - phoenixlanding@earthlink.net
- Nov 5 - 6 Forest Park, GA - [Tim Vogle's 22nd Southeastern Exotic Bird Fair](#) - Atlanta State Farmers Market, 16 Forest Pkwy, Forest Park, GA 30297 - Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 9 am - 4 pm - 843-216-1553 - birdladydelorce@yahoo.com
- Nov 12 Manassas, VA - [Exotic Bird Mart & Expo](#) - Prince William Fair Grounds, 10624 Dumfries Road, Manassas, VA 20112 - 9 am - 4 pm - 954-214-4750 - patioj1@aol.com
- Nov 12 Norcross, GA - [Atlanta Pet Expo](#) - North Atlanta Trade Center, 1700 Jeurgens Court, Norcross, GA 30093 - 10 am - 6 pm - 800-977-3609 x107 - natasha@amazingpetexpos.com
- Nov 12 - 13 Guelph, Ontario, Canada - [Canadian Parrot Conference](#) - Holiday Inn Guelph, 601 Scottsdale Dr., Guelph, Ontario, N1G 3J2, Canada - Sat 9 am - 5 pm, Sun 9 am - 4 pm - 519-745-4865 - info@canadianparrotconference.ca
- Nov 12 - 13 College Station, TX - [South Texas Avian Symposium](#) - College Station Conference Center, 1300 George Bush Drive, College Station, TX 77840 - Sat 8 am - 7 pm, Sun 8 am - 3 pm - 210-287-2061 - jcheney@texas.net
- Nov 17 - 19 Kansas City, MO - [National Cage Bird Show](#) - Hyatt Regency Crown Center, 2345 McGee Street, Kansas City, MO 64108 - 9 am - 5 pm - 630-985-4416 - ncbsbooths@comcast.net
- Nov 18 - 20 Secaucus, NJ - [Meadowlands Pet Expo](#) - Meadowlands Expo Center, 355 Plaza Drive, Secaucus, NJ 07094 - Fri 4 pm - 8 pm, Sat 10 am - 7 pm, Sun 10 am - 5 pm - 800-677-4677 - petexpo@optonline.net
- Nov 19 Erie, PA - [Exotic Bird Fair and Expo](#) - Belle Valley Fire Department, 1514 Norcross Road, Erie, Pa 16510 - 10 am - 5 pm - 419-685-2412 - midohiobirdtoys4@aol.com
- Nov 19 - 20 Pineville, NC - [Holiday Open House at Parrot University](#) - Pineville Towne Market, 321 South Polk St., Pineville, NC 28134 - Sat 11 am - 4 pm, Sun 12 pm - 4 pm - 704-889-2325 - parrots@parrotu.com
- Nov 20 Sinking Spring, PA - [Rick Jordan - Parrots in American Aviculture](#) - Beverly Hills Tavern, 710 Old Fritztown Road, Sinking Spring, PA 19608 - 2 pm - 610-944-9799 - events@berkscountybirdclub.com
- Nov 26 Elizabeth, NJ - [Garden State Bird Association Canary and Finch Show](#) - Portuguese Instructive Social Club, 417 US Highway 1, Elizabeth, NJ 07202 - 9 am - 5 pm - 908-577-0129 - joaobernardes@myway.com
- Dec 3 Alexandria, VA - [Steve Milpacher from World Parrot Trust at Phoenix Landing](#) - Fairlington Presbyterian Church, 3846 King St., Alexandria, VA - 4:30 pm - 7 pm - phoenixlanding@earthlink.net
- Dec 3 - 4 Atlanta, 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 - info@natcshows.com
- Jan 13 - 15, 2012 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 - 800-677-4677 - petexpo@optonline.net
- Jan 20 -22, 2012 Houston, TX - [Parrot Festival](#) - Doubletree Hotel Houston Intercontinental Airport, 15747 John F. Kennedy Blvd, Houston, Texas, 77032 - 979-234-7869 - info@parrotfestival.com



AFA in Brief

October 2011

Editor - Carol Lee



Please Join Us! Get Your Hat... Grab Your Boots!

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New* Convention Payment Plan *New

Planning to attend the 38th Annual Convention? August 15-18, 2012, San Antonio, TX. Choose the plan that fits your budget!

[AFA Payment Plans](#) designed for our convention attendees.

2012 CALL FOR PAPERS

The American Federation of Aviculture, Inc.

38th Annual Convention – August 16-18, 2012

“Under One Wing”

Omni Colonnades, San Antonio, Texas

The American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. (AFA) is a national, nonprofit educational organization established in 1974 whose purpose is to represent all aspects of aviculture and to educate the public about keeping and breeding birds in captivity.

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 may have the opportunity to give more than one presentation.

- Abstracts will be accepted through **February 1, 2012**. Receipt of abstracts will be acknowledged and applicants will receive timely updates from the speaker committee.

- If the abstract is accepted, you will be required to sign a speaker's contract and return the contract promptly. A short bio and a current, high resolution photograph is also required. Speakers will not be officially confirmed without receipt of a signed contract. Speakers are required to submit a paper to be published in the convention proceedings and in the *Watchbird*, the official journal of the AFA. Final Papers for the proceedings must be received no later than **April 1, 2012** to be included in the convention proceedings.

AFA will provide a complimentary convention registration package and one banquet ticket to each confirmed speaker. All other arrangements, including guests, transportation and hotel accommodations are the responsibility of the speaker or the speaker's sponsor.

Abstracts are short summaries of the paper you wish to present and should be no more than 250 words. They must include the name of the author(s), mailing address(es), email and all phone contact information for the author(s). Please include the name of your company, organization, aviary or other affiliation. If there is more than one author, please indicate if one or both will present.

Presentations will be allotted 50 minutes and

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may include a brief question and answer period. Audiovisual equipment will be made available and will be specified in the contract.

Abstracts, biographies and final papers may be submitted by mail, as an email, or as an MS Word email attachment to the Speaker Chair, or faxed to the AFA office. Please identify it as "AFA 2012 Convention Abstract."

AFA requires exclusive publication rights to the accepted papers to be included in the Convention Proceedings and the *Watchbird*, the official journal of AFA.

E-mail: Georgia Hayes
speakerchair@afabirds.org

AFA PRESENTS AVY AWARDS at the 37th National Convention

by Linda S. Rubin (AFA AVY Awards Committee Chair)

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA - The American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. AVY Award Committee presented several achievement and service awards to AFA members during the AFA banquet dinner festivities.

Two US First Breeding AVY Awards were presented to Jerry Jennings of Emerald Forest Bird Gardens for his successful breeding of the Black-masked Emerald Toucanet bred on May 23, 2010, and the Lettered Aracari on May 26, 2010. The awards marked another success for private aviculture contributing to the existence and preservation of species in captivity.

A Silver AVY Award was presented to President-Elect Nancy Speed of The P Patch, in Category 1: "Most Progress for the Establishment of an Individual Species or Group of Related Birds" for the Golden Conure, *Guaruba guarouba*, which spanned twelve years of work. This award demonstrates continued work in the conservation of a species and growing a gene pool for the future.

Recipient's articles for both First Breedings, and Most Progress awards, will appear in future issues of AFA Watchbird.

An AVY Appreciation Award was presented to

Mary Rose, nominated by the Arizona Seed Crackers Society, Inc. for the outstanding work and contributions given to an AFA Affiliated Club. This award is presented for distinguished service to an AFA organization that is above and beyond, and the nomination is unanimously signed by every member of the nominating organization's board of directors.

The 2011-2012 AFA AVY Awards Committee members include Josef H. Lindholm III, Jason Crean, Philip J. Ryan, Ph.D., Jerry Jennings, and Linda S. Rubin (chair). A sincere thank you to the committee members for their diligence, dedication, and time working to thoroughly investigate and confirm these awards.

For complete information on the AVY Award Categories and a list of all US First Breedings recorded to date, please reference AFA Watchbird (volume XXXVIII, No. 3, 2011) for part I of AVY Award coverage. Part II will follow in the next issue with a list of all other winning categories.

2012 NOMINATION

The AVY Awards committee has received a nomination for the Green-naped Pheasant Pigeon, *Otidiphaps nobilis*, for a Zoo AVY in Category 2, during the calendar year 2009. If you are aware of any other breeding of the Green-naped Pheasant Pigeon, please contact the committee chair as soon as possible.

DEADLINE FOR 2011 AVY AWARDS DECEMBER 31, 2011!

Each year, the American Federation of Aviculture bestows the most celebrated and esteemed awards presented in American aviculture, the prestigious AFA AVY Awards. Categories are open to AFA members and exceptional individuals who have uniquely distinguished themselves, as confirmed by the awards committee.

The Committee is now actively inviting nominations of individuals and institutions for the year 2011. Deadline for all applications is **December 31, 2011**. Awards merited by the committee will be presented at the August 2012 AFA convention in San Antonio. Not all award recipients are required to be members of AFA, although

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nominations may only be made by AFA members.

For further details on all award categories and rules, refer to the AFA Watchbird, or visit the website at www.afabirds.org and navigate to AVY Award Categories and Rules. All nominations and requests for applications should be sent to AFA AVY Awards Chair Linda S. Rubin at LSR@CockatielsPlusParrots.com.

2011 AFA Convention Highlights !

The LoryLeague Hookbill Show held at the Convention in San Mateo, CA was a nice addition this year. It was a major point show sanctioned by SPBE, and judged by Linda S. Rubin. 51 birds were entered by 12 exhibitors and also made history with a Goliath Black Palm Cockatoo entered into a show for the first time ever with SPBE.

LoryLeague will be hosting a judged, pointed show again next year at the AFA convention in San Antonio, Texas. For more information contact Julie Corwin at 206-772-1730 or by email: blconnection@hotmail.com

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AFA4Kidz was a popular program at the convention again this year. Kids from ages 6-16 are invited to attend this free program during the convention. This year many different species of birds were on hand for the kids to see, touch, and learn more about. We also had a guest dressed as a Flamingo. Many adults enjoyed the program as well. We are looking forward to next year in San Antonio, Tx.

If you would like more information about AFA4Kidz, contact Julie Corwin at 206-772-1730 or by email: [blconnection@hotmail.com](mailto:blconnection@hotmail.com)

### AFA Disaster Relief ~New~

AFA's Disaster Relief Program is prepared to assist those who may be affected by natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and the like. The AFA disaster relief team has Regional Directors as well as State Coordinators in place and on stand-by at this time. If you become impacted by a natural disaster and need

assistance or know of someone who needs help with their birds as a result of these events, please notify the [Team](#) as soon as possible. The Disaster Program is solely funded by donations from individuals, as well as Bird Clubs and Businesses interested in helping those affected.

If you would like to help by making a donation, you may do so by clicking [here](#) or by calling the AFA office at 512-585-9800. If you are available to assist in affected areas, please notify us, and we can direct you to the person where help is needed. You may contact the Disaster Relief Coordinator, Fred Smith at 863-858-6739 or by e-mailing him at [fredsmith@wildblue.net](mailto:fredsmith@wildblue.net).

**NEW AFA SPECIALTIES & AFFILIATES QUARTERLY** Newsletter is ready for viewing! The latest issue of the newsletter, Volume 2, No. 3, can be viewed directly as a .pdf file on the AFA website either from the home page, or visit the [Specialty Organization Resources](#) page.

### Attention Watchbird Contributors - Past and Present

We need your help! The American Federation of Aviculture, Inc. (AFA) is attempting to preserve the history of AFA and of Aviculture since the start of AFA, by digitalizing the Watchbird issues to be accessible on our website. ...[more](#)

### 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 to: [Fundamentals of Aviculture](#).

### Fundamentals of Aviculture Level II Now Available!! NEW NEW!!!

The [Intermediate Aviculture Course](#) is offered in 15 chapters covering conservation and research, courtship and nesting, basic avian genetics, color mutations, hybrids, breeding stimuli, incubation, hand-rearing, non-parrot studies, basic microbiology, illnesses, first-aid, avian

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enrichment and more. Admission to this Level II course requires that all students complete Level I prior to enrollment. The introductory admission fee for the Level II course is \$75 for current AFA members. Non-members can also purchase a one year membership at the time of admission.

### **2010 AFA Convention DVD's!**

Selected videos of presentations from the 2010 AFA Convention are now available on DVD from the AFA Store! Proceeds from the sale of these DVDs help further AFA's efforts in Conservation and Research, and are a great addition to your library of educational material. Quantity discounts apply. Visit the AFA Store for more information.

### **Have You Been to the AFA Store Lately?**

CITES Pin number 27, the Rose Breasted Cockatoo, is now available. Order yours today and keep your sets complete. All CITES pins can be purchased online at [www.afabirds.org](http://www.afabirds.org) and follow the links to the store.

Browse all the categories which include 2009 and 2010 Convention DVD's, Convention Proceedings, Ceramic Tiles, Leg Bands, Magnets and Shirts!

### **American Federation of Aviculture is now on Facebook**

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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. (See link below) or contact the AFA Office: [afaoffice@afabirds.org](mailto:afaoffice@afabirds.org)

### [AFA Club Resources](#)

### **Looking for leg bands?**

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of food, particular dietary needs of species, as well as other supplies such as nets, disinfectants, extra bowls, that are used in every day operation of a large flock management. Please note that most aviaries are very concerned with security as well as bio-security. Respect for the operation is essential to be of benefit overall. Ideally, the response team should be made up of experienced avian caretak-

ers or facility avian veterinarian educated in large flock management. Efficiently operated large flock facilities will have record keeping system unique to the operation.

These types of record systems are often on computers; therefore, it's suggested to have a hard copy of some kind that includes a map of facility with the location & identification of each bird, flight, cage as well as location of food, and extra supplies. Contact

information for food supplier should be included as well to avoid interruption of the flock's normal diet.

As avian caretakers, we're very concerned with the quality of care of all parrot species in the avian community. By this post we're not endorsing any one particular group of the avian community, we just want the birds to be protected from storm damage... because it's not always a Mother Nature event!



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