



LIPService

Volume 27, Issue 4 April 2022



Happy Earth Day—April 22! “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can

change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”—Margaret Mead

We had our first in-person meeting at Greenwood Hall on March 16. Our attendees really liked our new meeting hall—it does fit our needs very nicely indeed. And, thanks to our members who attended via Zoom. Thank you volunteers who were on hand to set up the coffee/tea station, the A/V equipment, contributed items towards the raffle tables, run the raffles, made sure the hall was left in the same condition that we found it. Our next in-person meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15 at 6:30 p.m.

At the meeting, we polled the attendees (live and on Zoom) about choosing a new name for the newsletter—we received some great suggestions. If you would like to also submit your suggestion, please email us at info@liparrots.org or call 631 957 1100 (see more info inside the newsletter).

I’m sad to report that the avian flu (HPAI) is still with us. A gaming farm in Sag Harbor closed down due to an avian flu outbreak and all the birds had to be depopulated.

(See link inside the newsletter for more info). Please stay vigilant with biosecurity protocols for your home to protect your flock. We will continue to monitor and keep all our flocks’ interests in mind when setting up meetings and outreaches.

A cautionary tale was posted on our Facebook Page by a very sad parrot owner whose 10-year old caique was killed by her dog. The owner does admit to making a terrible mistake of leaving them alone together. “I know someone recently posted something about this, but I really want to reiterate: Do NOT leave your birds unattended with your dogs!! No matter how much you think the dogs won't bother the bird! PLEASE do not leave your birds alone with your other pets. I feel tremendous guilt right now and feel I should have known better. Regardless that I never thought this would happen, it's been said many times not to do this. It only take a minute for something bad to happen - don't give them that minute alone.”

This can't be said enough and it's reiterated inside the newsletter: ***Never place a bird in a shelter, sanctuary or “rescue” that refuses to let you visit the facility beforehand.*** Recently a horrific situation happened out in Washington State. The owner of a cockatoo rescue died and all the birds under her care (400 of them) also died of starvation or cold. Only one bird survived, but is in

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critical condition. The owner did not have any volunteers and even when local folks previously reached out to offer help, there was no response.

Switching gears, I would like to give a shout out to board members David Abrahams for doing a fantastic job in arranging our presenters for our monthly meetings; Candy Little for taking over the job of organizing our outreaches; Shawn Florman for keeping us up-to-date on everything IT; Kariann and Shawn Florman for being editors of our new and improved newsletter and the rest of the board as they make our club a well-oiled parrot machine!



VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING starts 7:00 p.m. following speaker. PLEASE MUTE YOUR AUDIO during speaker. SPEAKERS: Begin at 7:30 p.m. +/-20 minutes. **Please be respectful. Mute!**

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Feather Flash (sign-up): <https://www.liparrots.org/featherflash>
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Raffles Coordinators:

Special Events: Susan Chamberlain

Vendor and Venue Liaison: TBD

Volunteer Coordinator: Robert Gross

HELP WANTED!

Monthly Meetings:

Help with set-up before meeting and break down afterward

Coffee/Refreshments

Volunteers for Parrot University and Outreach Events

during the year

UPCOMING MEETINGS/OUTREACHES

- **Wednesday, April 20th, 2022** - Zoom Presenter: Shellie Hochstetler from Cockatoo Ranch
- **Tuesday, August 9 2022** Jimmy Buffett Concert at Jones Beach. Tickets for the concert are on sale now. Join the Long Island Parrot Society's Tailgate Party all day! Watch for details
- **Note:** In person quarterly meetings remaining for 2022 - June 15th, September 21st, and December 21st.

OUT OF TOWN & VIRTUAL EVENTS

Organizations: list your upcoming events here. Email information to: editor@liparrots.org

- Livestream on The Leather Elves Facebook page every Friday evening at 7PM EST! Robin Shewokis-Sullivan hosts an informative and entertaining presentation on different avian topics each week! There's a trivia contest with a prize too! If you 'like' The Leather Elves page, you'll get a reminder when the livestream starts!
- **April 30 at 10 AM EST** - **EcoTravel Eagle/Osprey Boat Cruise** - Haddam, CT - from Connecticut Audubon Society - \$45
- **April 30 at 2 PM EST** - **EcoTravel Eagle/Osprey Boat Cruise** - Haddam, CT - from Connecticut Audubon Society - \$45
- **Thursday - Sunday, August 4-7, 2022:** American Federation of Aviculture 48th Annual Educational Conference & Avian Expo, "Go BIG for Aviculture". Hyatt Regency, Dulles; Herndon, VA. Hotel \$99.00 per night for attendees. [Visit afabirds.org](http://Visitafabirds.org)
- **September 26-29, 2022:** "Wild Parrots Up Close" International Parrot Convention of Tenerife, Spain Loro Parque. Visit <https://www.wildparrotsupclose.com/>
- **Thursday - Sunday, November 3-13, 2022:** Parrot Lovers Cruise, Panama Canal Transit through New Locks aboard the Caribbean Princess. For further information, visit their website: <https://parrotloversruise.com/>

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FINANCIAL REPORT - March 2022

Deposits as of March 2022

Deposits	\$1444.33
Total Deposits	\$1677.33

TFCU Account Balances as of March 31,2022

Operating Fund:	\$7221.64
EXPO Fund:	\$10,595.65
Parrot Care:	\$2,644.70
MM (Shelter):	\$138,234.26
CD (Shelter):	\$9,309.63
Total:	\$168,025.88

Expenses as of March 2022

Phone:	\$120.00
Island Digital:	\$70.00
Life Storage:	\$362.00
USPS (Bulk Mail/Postage/PO box):	\$85.76
CRM (SalesNow)	\$60.60
Donation to Parrots in Ukraine	\$107.69
Misc:	\$1183.41
Total Expenses:	\$1989.46

Board Meeting Minutes - March 2022

March 9, 2022 7PM via ZOOM ATTENDING: David Abrahams, Donna Barbaro, Susan Chamberlain, Bob Dietrich, Shawn Florman, Robert Gross, Diane Hyde, Candy Little

MEETING PROGRAMS: David Abrahams doing a great job getting speakers; only two months remain in 2022. Discussed possible future topics.

APRIL MINI-ZOOM: Possible topics for spring; wing clipping, etc. Possible "live" grooming.

MARCH MEETING: Raffle items from Fine Feather, China Prairie and more. Discussed floor plan & set-up. Query members on suggestions. Board will begin setting up at 5.

NEWSLETTER: Add two pages to future newsletters? Change name of newsletter? Parrot Post? Wings Over Long Island? Etc. Will seek input from members. Reactivate 'Meet the Member'?

WEBSITE REVAMP: Shawn working on a new look for website; SC and others to provide blurbs for categories.

CHANGING WEB HOST TO IN MOTION: Going to switch hosting; will cause a service interruption during the transition. Will be announced in Feather Flash. Email addresses will be created for board members and categories, such as adoptions, vendors, info, etc.

PARROT EXPO: Crickets from potential vendors. Some possible attendees have indicated that they will participate. SC will send a letter to vendors inquiring about participation. Theme for EXPO: Enrichment.

Price has increased dramatically for Freeport Rec Center; investigate other venues. Board members brainstorming for new vendors.

FUNDRAISING: Possibilities discussed. Club members typically don't attend outside fundraisers.

OUTREACH: Suggestions for outreach events & teaching members how to prepare their birds for participating in outreaches' motivating people to participate.



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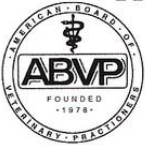
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Welcome back to the flock, Joan Napolitano and Linda LaFleur!

Best wishes to Marcia Abrahams on her recovery from a leg injury.

Kudos to Robert Gross on his quick recovery from a medical procedure!

Thanks, Gloria Jackson for doing a wonderful job at the raffle table at the March LIPS meeting!

Condolences to longtime member, Marie Petrzelka on the loss of her mother and brother.

Do you follow Old Country Animal Clinic on Facebook or Instagram? Dr. Monaco posted his student ID from NYU for a recent Throwback Thursday!

Terri Timberlake, longtime AFA Regional Director and familiar presence at AFA's annual conventions, has died of pancreatic cancer. The avian world will miss her.

Thanks, Shawn Florman for donating a monitor to the club so that presentations can be made at events.

Would you and your bird like to be featured in LIPService? We are bringing back the 'Meet the Member' column! Call 631-957-1100 or email editor@liparrots.org with your name and contact information.

A Long Island man was recently sentenced to a year in jail for felony animal abuse. The Nassau County SPCA led the investigation, and NCSPCA President, (and former LIPS meeting presenter) Gary Rogers said it resulted in state legislation that requires veterinarians to report suspected animal abuse.

Pet EXPO on March 5th & 6th was a remarkable success, even though LIPS members did not bring birds out of caution for bird flu. Thanks to all our volunteers!

Have you noticed that LIPService has FOUR additional pages this month?

How about a new, snappier name for our monthly newsletter? Psitta-scene, From the Parrot's Beak, Flock Talk and Squawk Talk are all taken...can you think of something original and creative? We are taking suggestions at info@liparrots.org and 631-957-1100.

Want to fly with your bird? Visit <https://www.petsthattravel.com/airlines-that-allow-birds-on-planes/?fbclid=IwAR23eklXPAMgHSaIJaoLT3V7TlIb3j9r7Ez205sxW57qN-lMDB-wHzMugIo> Please contact individual airlines for details on your specific needs, as rules often change without notice. Some additional airlines may permit birds on flights. Contact them directly for current information.

Check out our newly revamped website at liparrots.org Need an avian veterinarian, grooming services, or a pet sitter? Find them on the website! liparrots.org

Bird trainer, Steve Martin's defamation lawsuit against Barbara Heidenreich is ongoing. To read original and updated filings, visit: MARTIN STEVE vs HEIDENREICH BARBARA | Court Records - UniCourt

Kathie Hahn or My Safe Bird Store and the principal of Parrot Posse are in litigation over allegedly defamatory harassment of Hahn.

GIMME SHELTER

By: Susan Chamberlain



A self-proclaimed Colorado animal activist is facing animal cruelty charges after

numerous birds in her care were found in unacceptable condition. Animal Control officers visited the home of the person, who served on the Colorado state veterinary board and found cockatiels, doves and finches living in the basement with food and water but no sunlight. Cages and floors were covered in seed, dirt and feces, and the odor of urine was overwhelming. Mice were scurrying around, and flies buzzed throughout the home. Officers told the accused person that the birds needed care and to be checked out at a veterinary hospital. Two birds died at the hospital. Three were adopted and eight others were evaluated and hopefully made available for adoption. The accused is facing thirteen misdemeanor counts of animal abuse. When asked, she stated, "I have no comment at this time."

It is not unusual to learn that some people whose intentions are good often prove to be guilty of just what they accuse others of doing. "Rescuers" start out by wanting to save birds or other animals, and often become overwhelmed as capacity, care demands, and budgets are quickly exceeded.

Several years ago, two Long Island sisters who had touted themselves as avian experts and exemplary parrot 'rescuers' were exposed as animal hoarders, keeping dozens of birds in squalid conditions. They were evicted from the property, the authorities took custody of the birds, and to my knowledge, most were eventually adopted.

I mention these examples because we, as pet bird stewards, must take care to limit the population of birds in our homes to a manageable number, and to be sure we know where they will go if we rehome them or if we die or become incapacitated.

Occasionally avian adoption applicants are put off by the requirement for a home visit (virtual since the onset of COVID), but it is for the protection of the birds. When arranging for a private adoption or placing your bird in a facility, choose your candidates carefully. It is a big red flag if you are not permitted inside the home or building to see where the bird will be housed.

We have all seen televised reports of wildfires, floods, and civil unrest. What if we must evacuate our homes due to a natural disaster or other calamity? Will the birds fit into a single vehicle? Is there a safe place to go? The most painful disaster for people and their pets is unfolding before our eyes in Ukraine. Heartbreaking photos of children escaping with pet birds, an African grey parrot being pushed down the street to safety

inside its cage, and shared stories of hunkering down despite repeated attacks haunt us. We are safe from Russian rockets for the moment, but the internal unrest of the past few years is a warning to be prepared and to have a plan. War, children, it's just a shot away. We feel helpless, but Amy Hopkins, president of The Parrot Club in Connecticut has shared some vetted resources for aiding animals and parrots in Ukraine:

International Fund for Animal Welfare

Emergency aid and evacuation aid for Ukrainian animal shelters and wildlife sanctuaries. They have been moving animals to zoos in Poland and helping shelter animals that cannot be moved. They have evacuated bears from a rehab center outside Kyiv to a bear sanctuary in Lviv. <https://www.ifaw.org/news/emergency-aid-ukraine>

Network for Animals: Emergency aid and evacuation aid for Ukrainian animals. Raising money for a veterinary ambulance to evacuate animals. Primarily dogs and cats. <https://networkforanimals.org/>

The Polish Association for the Welfare of Exotic Birds is getting food and other supplies into Ukraine for the parrots still there. Learn more and donate here: <https://zrzutka.pl/en/jaewep>

(Continued to page 20)

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The following businesses give the discounts noted for LIPS members. You must show your current membership card. Discounts are subject to change; we suggest you ask before you make your purchase. If you have a problem with a store or service not honoring it, let us know. (631-957-1100):

Bird Paradise, Burlington, NJ, 10% off (doesn't apply to purchased birds or Harrison's products) - in store only. 15% discount for on-line purchases—code: LIPS15.

B.T.J.'s Jungle, West Islip (631-587-8191) 10% off

Central Veterinary Associates, 24/7, Valley Stream + 5 other locations, 10% off all services, call (888-4CVA-PET), www.centralvets.com — for LIPS members

Fine Feather, LLC (The Pet Store Next Door), www.finefeather.us (516-801-6400) discount code liparrot10

First Flight, 514 Middle Country Road, Coram (631-732-1494) 10% birds and related

Paumanok Veterinary Hospital, Patchogue (631-475-1312) 10% off exam

Total Pet Care/Lawrence Labs, Holbrook (800-TOTL-PET) 10% LIPS.



Meet the Speaker



Dealing with cockatoos, the most rehomed and abandoned bird in the parrot world, is not for the faint of heart. It requires dedication, quick-thinking, adaptability and an ability to withstand 100-120 decibel screams on a regular basis. Along with all this, cockatoos are known for having a myriad of physical and behavioral issues attached

to them: screaming, aggression, destruction of beautiful woodwork or other property, and feather destructive behaviors or self-mutilation are just a part of the deal. They are easily hormonal and beg to be cuddled while looking like a living marshmallow, all while able to bite at 330 pounds per square inch - it clearly takes a very special person to be able to look into their minds and understand their needs.

Shellie Hochstetler is that very special person. Born with a love of animals, Shellie has been caring for cockatoos (although her animal care extends to other bird species, pigs, dogs, horses, cats and more) with Holliday's Exotic Avian Rescue Team at Cockatoo Ranch -a 24 acre property in White Pigeon, MI- since they began in 2019. Specializing in self-mutilators, she has had incredible success putting this complex issue into remission with her parrots, and continues to educate and advocate for their best possible care. Shellie requires cages that are at least double a bird's wingspan (or larger), houses multiple outdoor aviaries on her property, encourages as many opportunities for natural behaviors for the birds in her care as possible, and trains with an understanding of ABA (applied behavior analysis) and positive reinforcement.

Shellie never stops looking for the best possible avenues of care for these precious cockatoos, and often says "we are responsible for what we have captured. When we know better, we should do better."



From the Macaw Recovery Network:

A New Nest

The team in Sarapiquí has found a new active Great Green Macaw (*ara ambiguus*), also known as Buffon's or great military macaw nest! Their field leader, Mario, found one chick about a month old. This chick, along with nine others, will later be sampled for our genetics study, screened for disease, and fitted with a radio collar so we can learn more about the wild population.

A new breeding season began with resident birds, Chicken and Duck hatching three great green chicks! The family of five is doing very well. All three chicks are meeting their milestones and growing feathers. This is not the only Great Green family we will have this year: more eggs have been laid on site!

The Women Rangers have completed their certifications in Environmental Education and Habitat Restoration, led by Pamela Herrera. They have already organized a reforestation event in January where they planted one hundred trees, all made possible by the Disney Conservation Fund.

COORS is discontinuing the use of plastic rings on six packs worldwide in favor of recyclable cardboard packaging. The move is expected to save nearly two million pounds of plastic waste annually. Birds and animals have become fatally ensnared in the rings over the years. If you have soda or beer packaged with plastic rings, cut them up before discarding.

Earth Day is April 22

Make 2022 the year you forego the use of toxic chemicals on your lawn and in the garden. They poison baby birds in the nests when parents feed them affected insects. The chemicals eventually seep into our water table and affect us all. Plant an organic garden for your pet birds and attract bees, birds and butterflies too! Re-use plastic yogurt containers as starter pots for seedlings. Spring is a great time to plant fast growing, cool-weather crops like peas, and parrots often enjoy eating them right from the pod. Carrots, kale, string beans and other nutritious produce is easy to grow as well. Grow some sunflowers for the wild birds or for your own pets. Parrots love eating the ripened seeds right from the flowers.

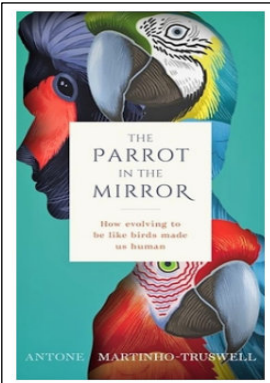
Want to Attract Hummingbirds?

Please use only plain white sugar in a mixture of one part sugar to four parts of water for feeding nectar. Honey, brown sugar, artificial sweeteners, powdered sugar, raw or organic sugar should not be used as they can contribute to the growth of mold spores on the bird's tongue, making feeding impossible. Avoid products containing red dyes, Kool-Aid, and other artificially colored liquids. Hummingbirds are attracted to the color of the feeder, not the food. Change the sugar water mixture every few days, as it will begin to ferment if it sits out long-term.

Kaytee Hummingbird Electronectar, made in the USA, is the first ever, hydrating energy drink for nature's tiny acrobats. It is clear and goes beyond traditional feeder-nectars to also nourish and hydrate. Kaytee Electronectar contains electrolytes and no added coloring.

(Continued to page 14)

Book Report



How similar are your choices, behaviors, and lifestyle to those of a parrot? The upcoming book

(Release date, May 10, 2022), *The Parrot in the Mirror* may have some answers!

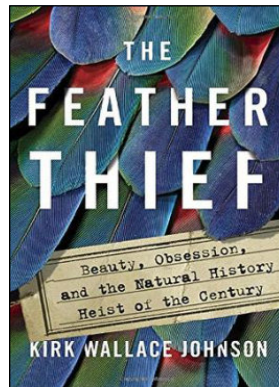
Humans are unlike other mammals. Many of our defining human traits: our longevity, intelligence, monogamy, and childrearing, and learning and language, all parts of what it means to be human, are more like birds than our fellow mammals. These similarities originate not from shared ancestors but from parallel histories. Our evolutionary stories have pushed humans and birds to the same solutions.

In this fascinating investigation into the evolutionary similarities between humans and parrots, Martinho-Truswell shows how and why our biological and behavioral development bears more resemblance to that of birds than of other mammals.

The Parrot in the Mirror: How evolving to be like birds makes us human, by Antone Martinho-

Truswell, Oxford University Press, 224 pages, photos, Hardcover or ebook, ISBN: 9780198846109 Website: [The Parrot in the Mirror - Antone Martinho-Truswell - Oxford University Press \(oup.com\)](#)

Also available for pre-order at [smile.amazon.com](#)



Stranger than fiction, *The Feather Thief* (2018) by history scholar Kirk

Wallace Johnson is about the 2009 heist of the British Natural History Museum at Tring. It retraces the background of the twenty-year-old thief, Edwin Rist, who stole hundreds of colorful bird skins from the museum before fleeing to the United States. Johnson became motivated to research the heist after realizing that it exposed interesting connections between anthropology, materialism, and the natural world. Johnson also analyzes the roots of natural specimen collection, which began in the Victorian era in response to popular scientific

achievements including Darwinism and the work of naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace.

That June evening after performing a concert at London's Royal Academy of Music, American flautist, Rist boarded a train for a suburban outpost of the British Museum of Natural History. Home to one of the largest ornithological collections in the world, the Tring Museum was full of rare bird specimens whose feathers were worth staggering amounts of money to the men who shared Edwin's obsession: the Victorian art of salmon fly-tying. Once inside the museum, the champion fly-tier grabbed hundreds of bird skins—some collected 150 years earlier by a contemporary of Darwin's, Alfred Russel Wallace, who'd risked everything to gather them—and escaped into the darkness.

The gripping story of a bizarre and shocking crime, and one man's relentless pursuit of justice, *The Feather Thief* is also a fascinating exploration of obsession, and man's destructive instinct to harvest the beauty of nature.

(Continued to page 14)



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Thank you!

Please observe the following rules for the safety of your parrots and others!

- You must be a LIPS member for at least 60 days prior to bringing birds to meetings or events.
- Non-members and guests are not permitted to bring birds to meetings or events.
- Flighted birds must be confined to carriers or cages.
- All birds must remain under supervision of their pet human or a caretaker designated by said human.
- Please clean up after your birds (poop, food, etc.).

The following birds must have been quarantined for 60 days prior to attending meetings or events:

- Newly acquired birds, baby birds and geriatric birds.
- Sick birds; any bird exposed to sick birds within the past 60 days.
- Birds that have been boarded in pet shops.
- Pin-feathered baby birds are not permitted at meetings or events unless contained in appropriate, solid sided containers or incubators. Owner assumes any risks associated with bringing such birds to meetings or events.

Directions to Our Meeting Hall, 58 Greenwood Avenue East Islip, NY 11730



From the East:

Sunrise Hwy to exit 46. Left on Connetquot Avenue. Stay straight. Turn right at Hawthorne Ave. (Just after Railroad tracks.) Stay straight until the end of the street, note the Greenwood Hall Sign. Follow into the long drive way.

From the West:

Sunrise Hwy to exit 46 toward County Rd 17/Carleton Ave/East Islip/Central Islip. Merge onto Sunrise Hwy South Service Rd. Turn right onto Garfield Ave. Turn left onto Jackson St. Turn right onto Carleton Ave. Turn left onto Union Blvd. Turn left at the 2nd cross street onto Greenwood Ave Street.

(Continued from page 10)

Kaytee Hummingbird Electronectar is available at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), [chewy.com](https://www.chewy.com), [Petco.com](https://www.petco.com) and in select garden and wild bird stores.

Hummingbirds are attracted to colorful flowers, particularly red ones. Plan your garden to attract them by planting some of the following: Zinnias (easy to grow from seed), trumpet vine, butterfly bush (perennial), salvia, bee balm, lupine, columbine, butterfly weed, sunflowers (also attract orioles and other seed-eating birds when ripe!), hummingbird vine, yarrow, and bleeding hearts (perennial). These flowers also attract butterflies—add some milkweed for Monarchs!

From The Cape Parrot Working Group:

Vulnerable Cape Parrots (*Poicephalus robustus*) number fewer than 1500 in the wild. The Cape Parrot was first identified in 1788 by Gmelin in the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa

Each year, on Cape Parrot Big Birding Day, a group of students from the University of KwaZulu-Natal assist in monitoring the forests around Ingeli in southern KZN. The forests there are typical of those that the Cape parrot inhabits.

The importance of the annual CPBBD is highlighted by:

- giving information on population trends and numbers
- reporting on illegal hunting, cutting down of forests, and capture of parrots
- it gives important distribution data for the Cape parrot in South Africa

For more information, visit the Cape Parrot Working Group at [About us – Cape Parrot Working Group UKZN](#)

From The World Parrot Trust:

The Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*) has suffered a large decline in numbers due to climate change and the 2019-2020 bushfire disaster. This is set to continue as the country suffers through increasingly dangerous heatwaves. As a result of new data, the species will be officially listed as a threatened species in Australia.

Environment minister Sussan Ley has accepted the recommendation of the threatened species scientific committee that the cockatoo requires protection under Australia's environmental laws. The minister has decided to list the cockatoos in the endangered category, which means it is at a substantial risk of extinction. A national recovery plan is needed. This species is also under consideration for uplisting by BirdLife International to a globally threatened level.

Did you know? The last confirmed sighting of a glaucous macaw in the wild (South America) was in 1936. An exceedingly small number of them still exist in captivity.

And on Bonaire, a record 1,779 yellow shouldered Amazons were counted this year!

May 31 is World Parrot Day! Watch for more details in the May issue of LIPService!

(Continued from page 11)

The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century
by Kirk Wallace Johnson, 2018, 336 pages; Penguin Publishing ISBN:9781101981634
Available at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com), [barnesandnoble.com](https://www.barnesandnoble.com) and select booksellers

Stick out Your Tongue!

by
Susan Chamberlain

The advice to “Split a parrot’s tongue to make it talk” sounds barbaric, doesn’t it? Such mutilation did not work anyway, and thankfully this old-fashioned maxim has long been laid to rest. The avian tongue is wondrous thing. Look at your bird’s tongue, and you will notice that it bears little resemblance to that of a cat, dog, or human. The lack of visible saliva is one of the first things you will notice. Although the hookbill’s tongue is dry, saliva is present in the back of the mouth. Unlike the watery saliva of humans and mammals, it is more mucus-like.

Shape and texture are different too. Parrots, from budgies to macaws, have dry, blunt, smooth-textured, club shaped tongues. Color can vary from black to brownish to pink depending on the genetic heritage of the individual bird. Cracker, my female double yellowheaded Amazon parrot has a pink-tipped brown tongue, while Romez, my male double yellowhead has a pink one. The hyacinth macaw’s tongue is particularly striking with a yellowish stripe on the lower side of the black tongue.

Lorikeets, sometimes called ‘brush tongued parrots’(their scientific name, *Trichoglossus* means ‘hair tongued’) have quite complex tongues which are adapted to gathering and eating nectar and pollen. The lorikeet’s tongue is longer and narrower than that of other species. The upper surface is rough, and the tip of the tongue is comprised of hair-like structures or *papillae*, arranged in a “U” shape. When the bird sticks out its tongue to harvest nectar, these tiny bristles become erect and ‘brush’ the blossoms to effectively collect the delicate food. When eating fruit, the rough tongue also helps the lorikeet to collect juice and bits of food from the inside of its beak.

Marc Morrone, owner of *Parrots of the World* in Rockville Centre, NY, said “The toucan’s tongue is so long and feathery, it doesn’t look like it should be in that big beak at all. When the bird grabs something in its beak though, the tongue does touch and position the food it before it swallows so it does the job!” The toucan’s tongue is frayed on each side, giving it a feather like appearance.

Birds use their tongues in a variety of ways. Dr. Robert Monaco of the Old Country Animal Clinic in Plainview, NY explained, “Birds have a less developed sense of taste than humans but have added touch receptors so the tongue can be used as a sensory organ.”

Have you observed your birds feeling their way along a perch using the beak and tongue? Have you noticed how they use their tongues to feel the texture of food and other objects? Offer your bird a new food and see how it examines it with the tongue before beginning to grind it with the beak. Notice how a pair of birds engaged in mutual preening use their tongues in the grooming process. Watch as a parrot explores the surface of a new toy with its tongue. Birds even have different ‘styles’ when using their tongues. My Amazons drink water by scooping it into the lower mandible, then tilting their heads back to swallow, while my two African grey parrots slurp their water without lifting their heads.

Another unique feature of the avian tongue is that it has muscles that facilitate collecting and manipulating food items and to remove seed from fruit or husks. Give your bird a small length of millet and observe the dexterity with which even large birds remove the insides from the tiny seeds.

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TASTE BUDS

Pet birds often have distinct preferences for the food they eat. Are all these predilections due to flavor or are some of them due to color or texture? Cracker, my late double yellowheaded Amazon loved white food while Bert, the African grey goes only for green pellets. Red-lored Amazon, Bogart prefers his vegetables cooked rather than raw.

According to Board certified avian veterinarian, Heidi Hoefler of Island Exotic Veterinary Care in Huntington Station, “Behavioral and electrophysiological studies confirm that birds can distinguish certain tastes, but the acuity of taste is much less than mammals. The total number of taste buds in the mallard is less than five hundred, whereas 10,000 have been reported in humans and 17,000 in rabbits! Parrots are very conscious of the appearance, and texture of their food. They also have poor sense of smell, which is part of the taste process in some mammals. It often appears that parrots do not like the taste of something and drop it, but they are usually just ‘tonguing’ the food with the leathery tongue tip, a location where taste buds are not typically located, so my take on this is that it is a texture sensation that they dislike, which causes them to drop the food item.”

Donna Muscarella, PH.D. of the Laboratory of Molecular Toxicology at Cornell University’s Veterinary Medical Center contributed some observations made with her own pet birds. “I believe that at least in parrots, taste a more complex process than we might think. It is true that the avian tongue has fewer taste buds per unit of area than mammals, and birds use visual cues to identify potential food sources. Irene Pepperberg proposed that one use of the “non-numerical” counting ability (demonstrated by African grey, Alex) in wild parrots is to assess the number of food items (fruits etc) on a particular tree to maximize feeding efficiency.

“My own non-scientific, observations lead me to believe that my parrots prefer foods of distinct colors, shapes, and textures,” said Dr. Muscarella. “These may be the primary cues that parrots use to identify food, but these preferences vary among individuals. Also, I believe that, despite having fewer taste buds, they sense taste reasonably well. We know that if given the opportunity to eat sweet, salty, or high-fat treats, many parrots will learn to favor those items just as we do. In my experience, even though both are tan and crunchy, it is much easier to get a parrot to eat an oatmeal cookie than a pellet- even when I pretend that I too am eating the pellet!”

Bird owners often ask, “Why do so many parrot food mixtures contain hot peppers? Is it safe to feed pet birds hot peppers?” The chemical that makes peppers hot is capsaicin and the concentration of ‘heat’ in peppers varies widely. This spicy heat is measured in Scoville units, with sweet peppers measuring zero units, and jalapeños measuring 2,500 to 5,000 units. Haban.ero peppers are much stronger, at 80,000 to 300,000+ units, and even hotter varieties are cultivated.

Why don’t birds seem to feel the ‘heat? Dr. Muscarella explained: “There are differences in the avian and mammalian receptors. There is a type of receptor that animals have to detect physical heat (that is, hot liquids and surfaces). It is called VR1 and is found on sensory nerve endings. This receptor not only can detect physical heat but also is able to bind specific molecules produced in the body during inflammation. That is why, at least in part, inflamed areas of the body often feel warm, in addition to hurting. Chili peppers contain capsaicin, which is the chemical responsible for heat. It is one of a group of related chemicals called vallinoids. Molecules of capsaicin are similar in structure to the inflammatory chemicals produced in the body that bind to and activate the VR1 receptor. So, in mammals, capsaicin, inflammatory chemicals, and physical heat all activate the same nerve receptor resulting in the sensation of heat.

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The VR1 receptor in birds is different: The sequence of amino acids that make up the VR1 protein vary somewhat. That magnitude of that difference is enough so that the receptor cannot interact with molecules of capsaicin.

Therefore, birds do not feel the heat of chili peppers. They do feel physical heat; it is just the binding properties of capsaicin and other valleroids that differ.”

Dr. Muscarella had some interesting theories for this difference. “Perhaps chili peppers and their wild relatives, like many plants, produce noxious chemicals to protect themselves from being devoured by animals. However, plants also use animals to disperse their seeds, so that birds, which are not deterred by the capsaicin, may serve this function. It may benefit birds as well since we know chili peppers are a good source of vitamin A.”

Many birds enjoy munching on hot peppers and some even use them to make ‘soup’ out of their water. Germs (ours, not theirs!) notwithstanding, it is not advisable to kiss your bird after it has eaten hot peppers...you will be rewarded with burning lips! Wash your cutting board well after cutting hot peppers, as subsequent foods will absorb the heat! Wash your hands immediately and be careful when you service the cage later in the day. Discarded pepper parts will still be extremely hot. If you rub your face or eyes with pepper contaminated hands, severe burning or irritation may result.

INJURIES

I polled several avian veterinarians about treatment and prevention of injuries to the tongue. Dr. Monaco reported, “The most common injury to the tongue I see is bite trauma from another bird. Birds’ tongues are very vascular and muscular and tend to bleed excessively. I have sutured many tongues; some birds have even had their tongues bitten in half. All survived and have done well, but the best way to prevent such injuries is to watch for aggression between birds.”

Veterinarian Elisabeth Simone-Freilicher who practiced at the Veterinary Medical Center in East Islip, when she resided in New York, warned that “Inappropriate toys (or even rough play with appropriate toys) are a substantial risk. Toy hooks can impale the underside of tongues or parts can snap closed on a curious tongue. I assisted Dr. Gregory Burkett when he repaired a horrible injury to the tongue of a young poicephalus whose owner had accidentally dropped a glass. Quick as a wink, the bird was on the ground picking up the shards of glass. The lacerations to the tongue were deep and criss-crossed all through it. Dr. Burkett did a beautiful repair, and I believe the bird did very well.”

Dr. Burkett, of the Avian Veterinary Services Clinic in Durham, NC stated that “Tongue injuries are dangerous. The tongue bleeds profusely. I have seen birds bite the tongue of another bird during a confrontation. I repaired one that was cut accidentally during wing clipping. Repairing them involves anesthetizing the bird and suturing the tongue. It is difficult because there is little working space inside the oral cavity of parrots. The sutures used are absorbable and do not need to be removed. Typically, the bleeding will stop once it is sutured, and the tongue heals very quickly.” Dr. Burkett suggested avoiding injury by supervising birds as they interact and providing them with safe toys.”

Dr. Hoefler also had warnings about toys. “Most of the tongue problems I see are trauma from toys with sharp edges, and the bleeding is so profuse that it is almost impossible to know where the blood is coming from until the patient is sedated and cleaned up. Beak tip breaks often bleed into the mouth and onto the tongue, so this is something to rule out when blood is in the mouth. Birds rarely bite their tongues when they fall (like a child would do), and more often chip the beak tip.”

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“Stick out your tongue!”

When you take your bird to the vet for a check-up, part of the exam includes observation of the oral cavity. What is she looking for?

According to Dr. Hoefler, the tongue itself does not often indicate illness, but is part of the oral cavity where a lot of illnesses *do* show up. Dr. Hoefler explained, “The parrot tongue is just one type of adaptation. There are three general categories of adaptations: adaptations for food collecting, as in the woodpecker; ones for swallowing food, as in domestic fowl and pelicans; and the ones which parrots have: adaptations for manipulating food. Because parrots use the tongue for manipulating food items, their tongues are the only types with intrinsic muscles. The tongue, in conjunction with the papillae on the roof of the mouth (choanal area) and the back of the tongue, move food backwards toward the esophagus.

“Some conditions that show up near the tongue, usually under it or in the back of it,” related Dr. Hoefler, “include hypovitaminosis A granulomas (swellings filled with thick white material that resembles pus but is actually desquamated cells that accumulate), papillomas (usually more on the glottis or choana)/ These are akin to the cloacal papillomas and are usually pink swellings and can interfere with swallowing and breathing.

“I once saw an Amazon with a large tongue tumor that was considered exceedingly rare by avian boarded pathologist Drury Reavill (California). It was a granular cell tumor in an older bird. I surgically removed the tumor, and the bird did great and now 3 years later, the tumor has not re-grown, and the tongue works fine,” Dr. Hoefler reported.

Dr. Simone-Freilicher said that “Vitamin A deficiency is common in birds on predominately seed diets, and can lead to oral plaques, or can predispose the bird to fungal and bacterial infections. Tongue ulcers can occur with viruses such as PBF, avian pox or avian papilloma, which is now believed to be caused by a herpes virus. Squamous cell carcinomas can occur anywhere in the mouth including the tongue.”

What should you and your vet look for? How can you tell the difference between normal pigment and 'plaques' on the tongue? Dr. Monaco routinely checks a bird's choana and tongue for asymmetry, abscesses, and signs of vitamin A deficiency, trichomonas infection, bacterial infection, yeast infection and tumors. “Normal pigment will be flat and smooth, not raised from the tongue or sunken into the tongue, and will be the same texture as the tongue, explained Dr. Simone-Freilicher. “Tongue pigment does not change much over a bird's lifetime. A change that you are certain was never there before may be worth checking out with a vet. Check any raised or sunken areas, or changes in texture. Parrot tongues are usually pink, black, or grey, and smooth. Plaques are often raised or sunken and can be yellow or creamy (especially with certain yeast colonies), or look like dried scabs, which may indicate other infections such as bacteria or viruses).

Can we Talk!

Parrots are great mimics, and their propensity for speech has captivated man throughout history. In the Middle Ages talking parrots were thought to be closer to God than any other species and were thus afforded special status by the Church. Chaucer remarked about their imitative abilities in *The Canterbury Tales*.

The ability of parrots and other birds to mimic human speech has made them desired pets and delightful companions. Unlike humans, whose larynx is used for speech, the avian larynx is an airway. The sounds birds make emanate from the *syrix*, which is in the throat at the base of the trachea just before it divides into the right and left bronchi.

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Companion Parrots Need Busy Work to Thrive

by [Matt Rowe](#)



In the wild, creatures of all kinds have a level of differing intelligence that assists them in their daily existence. None of this is a surprise. It stands to reason that the ability to process thoughts, decipher problematic situations that occlude the way of necessity and the ability to get along is quite the requirement for any creature – humans included.

For our beloved parrots, a collection of scientific tests and published studies over the decades has uncovered just how smart these majestic exotic birds are. With each study, we find their ability to think logically and to react appropriately and favorably far outweigh our previous understanding. In short, we're not only learning the vast depths of parrot intelligence, but in so learning, we develop a new understanding of not just birds, but other creatures as well.

The Need for Mental Stimulation

Let's concentrate on the parrots that are in our homes rather than in the wild. What of their intelligence? Well, we already know they're smart. But it's important to recognize that most of the birds in our homes are typically the only one in the setting. In that, they are deprived of a hive learning process. Recently, researchers at the University of Guelph (Canada), University of Bristol (UK), and Utrecht University (Netherlands) studied large-brained parrots in homes. They determined that birds in a home setting need continued and intense stimulation to improve the mental capacity they can achieve.

Food for Thought



This new study drew on results from a 1990 study that looked at abnormal behavior in the cage – pacing, biting bars, and other concerning behaviors. That study looked at unchallenging diets, generic housing methods, and a host of other things to recognize how such creatures adjusted to a different life away from their accustomed and wild environment. It was discovered that a diet of standard seed, insects, and nuts was typically not the best diet to provide to a bird in the home or a zoo setting. Rather, more complex feeding was determined to be best. This gave the parrots a chance to spend a large amount of time foraging and working to extract their foods, a process they readily did in the wild.

Birds in homes are not the only ones impacted by this. In fact, the birds in zoo settings have as much need, if not more. The results of this new study revealed empirically that many large-brained creatures struggled mentally in caged -or closed-in settings.

To prevent our birds from becoming mentally corralled leading to adverse behavior, it's recommended that more mental stimulation be provided. Puzzles that pique the interest of the bird, and a naturalized aviary setting can go a long way in providing the mental stimulation that your bird requires. In fact, understanding the kind of bird that you have in your home can go a long way in helping them exist in a healthy manner – both physically and mentally.

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Until a few years ago, it was thought that the syrinx was responsible for all the intricate vocalizations produced by the birds. Indeed, much of the sounds we hear *are* produced in the syrinx, but scientists Roderick Southerns, Gabriel Beckers and Brian Nelson have shown that parrots use their tongues to alter and refine their vocalizations. The results of their experiments with Quaker parakeets show that even tiny variations in tongue position can make big differences in sound. According to Beckers, this might explain why parrots are such great mimics. The scientists' experiments showed that movement as small as a fraction of a millimeter could influence the resulting sound.

Watch your pet bird as it tastes, touches, and talks. You will never take its tongue for granted again!

(Previously published in *Bird Talk*)

(Continued from page 7)

A Polish avian nurse runs **Projekt Ptasia** (Bird Project). He is helping parrots still in Ukraine and parrots that have made it over the border to Poland. He is doing amazing work. Learn more and donate here: <https://zrzutka.pl/en/tu6s7z>

Follow the diaries of Sergii and his Moluccan cockatoo Roxy hunkering down in Ukraine.

https://sergiiandroxy.wixsite.com/home?fbclid=IwAR1_Jjo-F4_l9P4-w4EzHJZxqUpUFWWZhEMnhYu9rznu8n2cXUhydEOc4JE

Meanwhile, at the shelters...

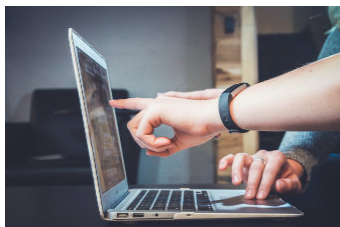
The Oasis Board has made the decision to cancel this year's Discover the Oasis on-site event, usually held in May due to the unpredictability of the coronavirus. The Oasis Parrot Sanctuary in Benson, AZ hopes to be able to hold the event again in 2023. If you are in the area, they are still conducting tours by appointment and welcoming vaccinated volunteers for onsite stays to work alongside Oasis caregivers.

After the fire that destroyed much of the Foster Parrots Sanctuary in Hope Valley, Rhode Island last April, a new building will be constructed with a special emphasis on not just simply responding to and surviving a fire, but to ensure the prevention of a fire in the first place.

Bird flu leads to closing of Sag Harbor gaming farm after 82 years

(Newsday article)

Follow the story [here](#) or scan the QR Code.



Volunteers are very much needed. We need help with Administrative work, answering phones call, emails, data entry, committee specific help, just to name a few. Get more involved with the Long Island Parrot Society. Let's build a team that helps grow our organization.

(Continued from page 19)

It is estimated that most exotic birds alive today are pets inside homes. This puts an extraordinary responsibility on the owner to ensure that their bird receives the proper mental and physical stimulation challenging foods, and of course, excellent health care. If your bird is exhibiting concerning behavior like feather-biting and plucking, take the time to explore what might help them to better exist in their current setting.

This new study was recently published in the Biological Sciences journal, Proceedings of the Royal Society B. The University of Bristol write-up of this study can be found [here](#).

Used with Lafeber's permission / Source link: <https://lafeber.com/pet-birds/companion-parrots-need-busy-work-to-thrive/>

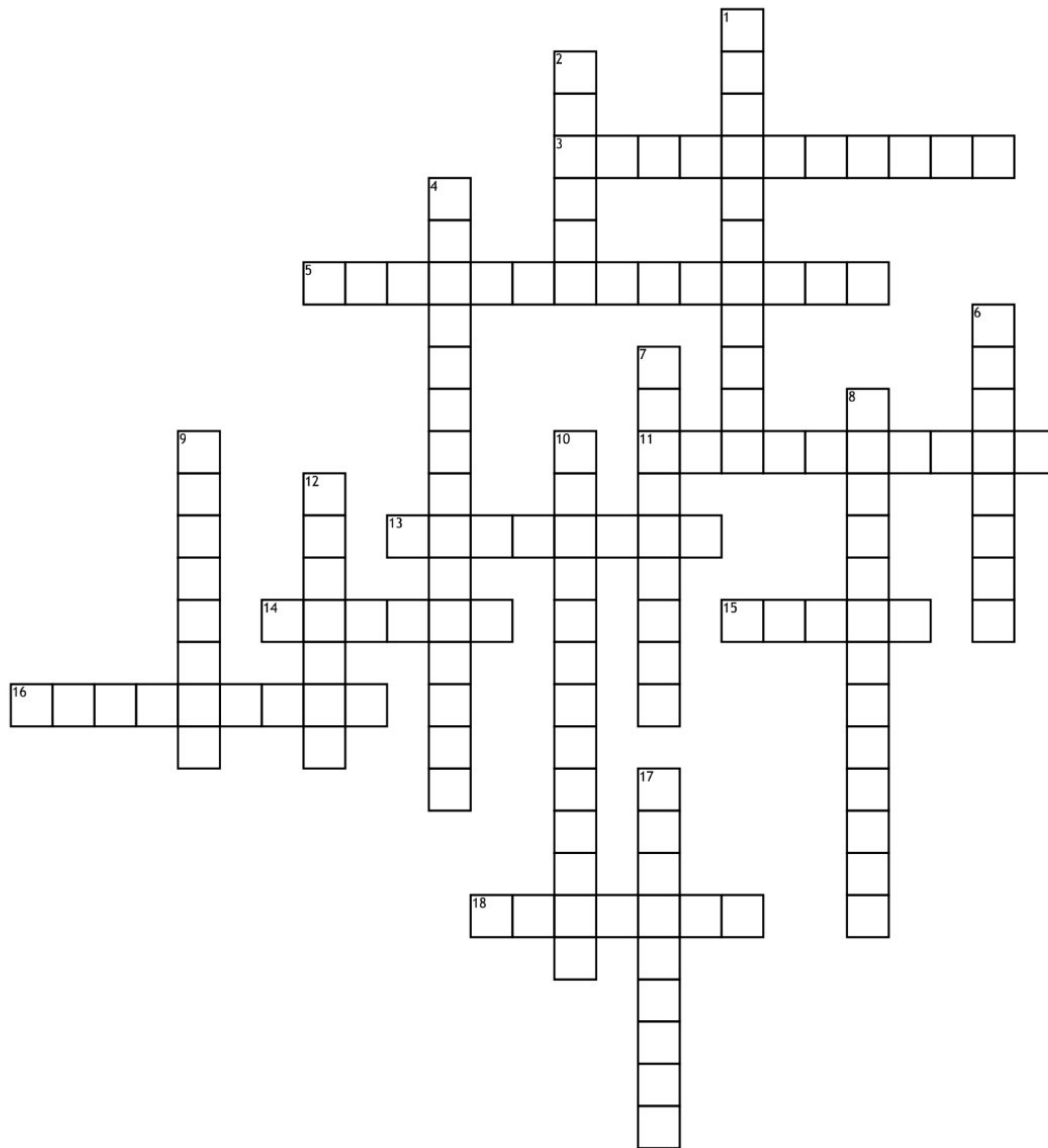
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Suffolk Community College - Brentwood, NY - March 5th and 6th

Do you know your Parrot Species?



Across

3. The smartest of the parrot species
5. A red crowned Amazon is also known as what?
11. An indian ringneck is also known as what, a _____ parakeet?
13. This bird always has an umbrella even when it's not raining
14. What is another name for a parakeet?
15. "Rose" color and Grey Cockatoo also known as?
16. This bird is known as the "weirdo bird" or quarrion.

18. Monk parakeets are also called what?

Down

1. Meyers, Red Bellied, and Senegals are known as what?
2. These birds have a jungle named after them.
4. This multi-color bird sounds like a female's name. Its native to Australia
6. This bird is native to the Solomon Islands, Sumba, New Guinea and nearby islands, northeastern Australia, and the Maluku Islands.

7. Nicknamed as "pocket parrots"

8. This bird plumage would suggest it's in the "service"

9. This peach colored bird decibels range in the 160s

10. Which species is known as the Gentle Giants?

12. Pineapple, Green Cheek, and Jenday are specie of?

17. These birds have "strong pair bonds"

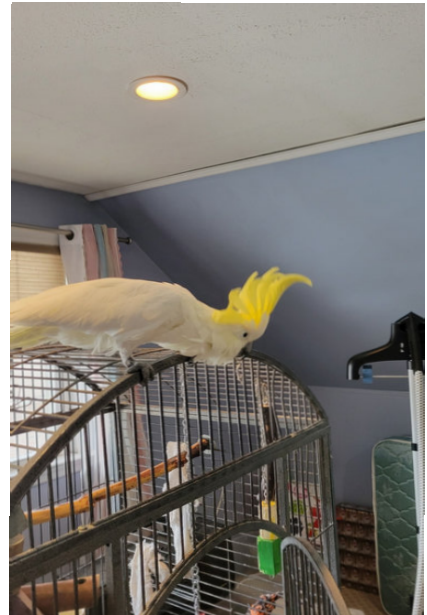
Adoption Spotlight



Name of Parrot : Jake
Species : Medium sulpher crested cockatoo
Age of Parrot : 40
Sex : Male
Birthday Hatchday : not sure
Bird Color : white
Size : Large
Wings Clipped : No
Parrots Usual Diet : Parrot mix, seed, fruit, pasta, chicken, fish
Talking Ability : A few words
Last Vet Check Date : 5yrs ago
Good With Children : Not a Good Fit
Good With Dogs : Good Fit
Good With Cats : Not a Good Fit
Good With Other Pets : Not a Good Fit
Is Bird Hand Tame : yes
Have Any Feather Issues : Plucks
Behavior Issues : Screams late in the day and needs more attention.



Reason : Giving up Jake because had twins recently and no longer have the space or time he requires.
Notes : I bought Jake back in 1992 and have had him ever since. MY family has grown and unfortunately I can no longer keep Jake. He can be noisy at times but he's very loving/affectionate and really just wants attention. He's very well hand trained and loves to be taking out of the cage. At the moment his wings are not clipped.



Jake is looking for his forever home. If you are interested in adopting **Jake** please contact us at 631-957-1100 or send an email to: info@liparrots.org for further information. You can find our adoption application at: liparrots.org/Adopt

The Long Island Parrot Society

A 501c3 non-profit organization.
Your donation may be tax deductible.

Phone: 631-957-1100
website: www.liparrots.org
email: info@liparrots.org



Visit the Long Island Parrot Society on the web. Scan the QR Code

Did you know that non-stick surfaces can kill your bird? Check with manufacturers to be sure products are PTFE & PFOA free!



Membership Application

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

I (single)/We (Family) hereby apply for membership in the Long Island Parrot Society of NY, Inc
Select: NEW MEMBER RENEWAL SENIOR (10% off)
 Single (\$35) Family/Commercial (\$45) Lifetime Membership (\$500)
 Gift (if gift, list your name as sponsor)

Mail check or money order payable to Long Island Parrot Society of NY, Inc to PO Box 2754, North Babylon NY 11703 OR pay online via PayPal at liparrots.org/membership OR call 631-957-1100 to pay via credit card.

Newsletter Preference: Paper Electronic
LIPS meets the third Wednesday of the month, 10 months a year (no meetings in February or July)(Check schedule for dates: liparrots.org/monthly-meetings. Meeting Place: Greenwood Hall, 58 Greenwood Ave, East Islip, NY 11730

General Phone: 631 957 1100 Adoption Line: 631 456 1813 email: info@liparrots.org

The Long Island Parrot Society is a non-profit, 501c3 organization and NY State registered charity #43-65-18. Our purpose is to educate and instruct on the proper care and maintenance of psittacines and to encourage avian research, future conservation, and the management and maintenance of an avian museum/ educational center / shelter.

MEMBERS! PLEASE CHECK THE DATE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL. THAT IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE! PLEASE RENEW ON TIME. THANK YOU!

TO:

If undeliverable, return to:
The Long Island Parrot Society
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N. Babylon, NY 11703-0754
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