



The Long Island Parrot Society is a proud member of the AFA



Far up in the deep blue sky, Great white clouds are floating by; All the world is dressed in green; Many happy birds are seen, Roses bright and sunshine clear Show that lovely June is here." - F. G. Sanders

Kaitlin Saxton (Bird Girl Pet Services) is excited to announce that she is now offering Parrot Behavior Consulting. Kaitlin has over ten years of experience working with parrots and has also been mentoring under the guidance of Pamela Clark CPBC. She is thrilled to use her skills and experience to help your parrots live a healthier and happier life! Interested? Get started by visiting Kaitlin's site: <https://www.birdgirlpetservices.com/parrot-consulting>

Reminder: Our in-person meeting is on Wednesday, June 21 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the Sayville American Legion located at 23 Foster Avenue. Our presenter will be LIPS member Frank Huwer who will be demonstrating toy making and will have kits for you to join along. There will also be t-shirts for sale; NEW LIPS reusable tote bags will be available; toy part sale; prize wheel; giveaways; raffles; coffee, tea, water (bring your own snacks). A fun time will be had by all!

LIPS member Linda Womack made us aware of the following (pet) pharmacy that can deliver meds to your home. <https://roadrunnerpharmacy.com/> The info has also been added to our website under the Resources tab (links) The American Federation of

Aviculture (AFA) is combining with the Avicultural Society of American (ASA) for their Educational Conference on September 28 through September 30, 2023 at the Hilton Richardson in Dallas, Texas. The AFA was established in 1974 and is an important non-profit organization in the avian community. Here's the link regarding the Educational Conference: https://afabirds.org/2018_WordPress/conference/ The AFA is involved with: education, conservation, legislation, disaster relief and more. Please consider joining the AFA (only \$40) and attending their conference—I've had the pleasure of attending four conferences and each one has been fantastic.

Have you heard? Parrot EXPO is back! HELLO AGAIN . . . New location, new concept! Save the date: Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 10-5 p.m. at the Sayville VFW Post 433 located at 400 Lakeland Avenue in Sayville. Stay turned for more details.

The following two sections are thanks to our friends from the Connecticut Parrot Society:

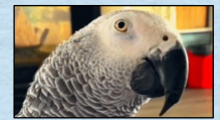
There have been reports of birds becoming ill from old newspapers used for bird-cage liners. Apparently using newspapers that are more than two weeks old may lead to aspergillosis exposure in some cases. Read more here: https://thepetwiki.com/wiki/lining_birdcages_with_newspaper/

Our member, Stefni Dusterwald, had also mentioned this during one of our meetings. You can order cage liner paper via Amazon: Packing Paper Sheets for Moving—in various sizes

Section

Financial Report	2
Board Business	3
Classifieds	4-7
Education	8-15
Organization / Club	16-23
Officer List / Outreach Info	24

Thank you to Myra from CPS for forwarding this video—a touching story about an African Grey and his new family. [Check it out:](#)



A lost and found parrot success story. The club received a call regarding a found pineapple conure—a REALLY nice, friendly parrot. Proof of ownership was going to be a MUST for this special conure. Later in the day we received a call from a very upset young woman who was missing her pineapple conure from the same area where the conure was found. A conference call was set up between the finder, the owner and us. I said proof of ownership would be if the owner has the bird's band number or if the bird is chipped. The owner did have the band number!!!! She was able to give it to the finder over the phone! Cheers and applause went up all around. The owner and bird were reunited. A happy ending for sure. Moral of the story, keep a record of your bird's band number handy. If chipped, register the chip.

See you on June 21 at the American Legion in Sayville!

Diane P Hyde, President

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!

Financial Report

Deposits as of May 2023

Deposits	\$1823.81
Total Deposits	\$1823.81

TFCU Account Balances as of May 2023

Operating Fund:	\$4047.98
EXPO Fund:	\$10,400.96
Parrot Care:	\$2708.36
MM (Shelter):	\$142,528.43
CD (Shelter):	\$9,504.79
Total:	\$169,190.52

Expenses as of May 2023

T-Mobile:	\$120.00
Best Value Copy:	\$239.11
Rhode Island Parrot Rescue	\$100.00
CRM (SalesNow)	\$45.45
USPS	\$72.10
Quaker Parrot Society	\$200.00
Misc:	\$1,070.48
Total Expenses:	\$1,847.14



Board Business

Board Meeting Minutes - May 2023

May 10, 2023 7PM via ZOOM ATTENDING: David Abrahams, Donna Barbaro, Shawn Florman, Robert Gross, Diane Hyde, Candy Little, Susan Seddo

- SC 1777-2022 (local law to restrict the use of exotic animals in traveling performances)—legislators approved on 4/27/23—next step, public hearing on May 23 at 2 p.m. Email sent to Legislator Trish Bergin explaining who we are and what we do as a non-profit org. Asked if this law will affect us. The definitions in the resolution are blurred and contradict each other. Susan S. contacting Representative Andrew Garbarino to see if he can review the resolution and advise. LIPS BOD member, Diane Hyde, will attend the May 23 public hearing at 2 p.m. in Hauppauge asking for the opportunity to speak (time limit is 3 minutes).
- Spring Bulb Fundraiser: We'll be receiving a check for \$260.50 before June 5, 2023.
- June 21 in-person meeting: All set with American Legion Hall in Sayville. We had to provide them with our 501c3 paperwork. Confirmed with LIPS member Frank Huwer that he will be our presenter—toy making. Frank will demonstrate making a toy for a small and medium bird. Frank will also provide toy parts for folks to participate in making toys as well. Putting together the "Meet the Speaker" article and photo for the June NL. Frank has provided the photo. Diane "interviewed" Frank for the article and will be sending to NL editor along with Frank's photo.
- T-Shirts to be sold for \$10. Toy parts and toys to be sold. Raffle comforter set and other great items.
- Reusable bags to be ordered for the June meeting. Susan S can store in her storage unit.
- Parrot University via Zoom on June 3 with Alley Pond Environmental Center. Zoom invite to be sent to membership list to get more participation.
- 2023 Charitable Contribution Donations to rescues/parrot care: \$100 donated on 2/17/23 to IFAW—International Fund for Animal Welfare (Earthquake in Turkey & Syria). Rhode Island Parrot Rescue renovating a building for new rescue location. They hope to open up end of June. RIPR would love for us to visit (important for us to see). Should we send contribution to RIPR to help them? Voted: Yes.
- Agenda items tabled until May 24 BOD Meeting: June 7 mini-Zoom topic; outreach update; parrot care donation; October 14 EXPO

Board Minutes, May 24th found on [page 22](#)

Cassie Malina CPBT-KA, CPBC has been training people and animals professionally worldwide for **over 20 years**.



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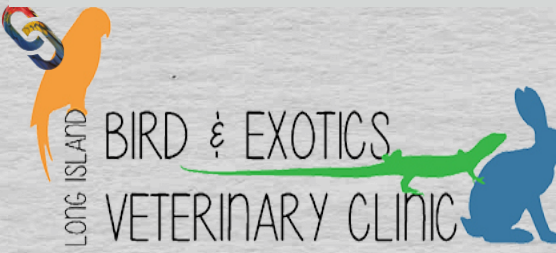
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333 Great Neck Road, Great Neck, New York 11021

Long Island Bird & Exotics Veterinary Clinic (LIBEVC) is a state of the art veterinary hospital dedicated entirely to the care of bird and exotic pet species. We specialize in surgical procedures, endoscopy and minimally invasive surgery and advanced imaging of these unique species. We are open seven (7) days a week and our overnight staff can be reached by calling our emergency line: (516) 441-2726


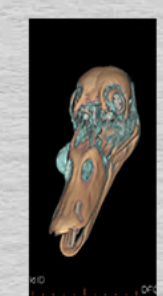
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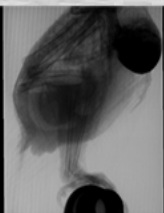

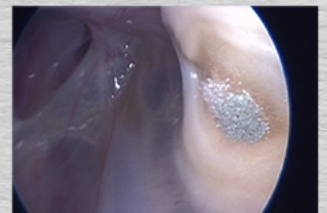
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Are bird clubs dying out? A recent conversation with several longtime aviculturists seemed to advance the theory that bird clubs are about to become a thing of the past. COVID changed everything. Some clubs did indeed fold. Others adapted and soldiered on via ZOOM during the darkest days. Some clubs had issues that had nothing to do with the pandemic: dwindling membership numbers, lack of leadership, member apathy, few volunteers to help with events, and so on. It's long been a given that 5 percent of organizations do 95 percent of the work. Eventually, that 5 percent may get burned out or have family or work obligations that force them to pull back.

The Long Island Parrot Society has managed to stay relevant throughout. We implemented two ZOOM meetings per month during lockdown, and have continued with those and quarterly, in-person meetings, also live-streamed via ZOOM. Our membership has grown significantly. What hasn't increased is attendance at the quarterly meetings. The Holiday party was well attended, but attendance has fallen off at March, June, and September meetings. Why? It's very possible that many of us have gotten so comfortable

staying at home, that we don't make the effort to participate in person. Some may still be semi-isolating due to COVID concerns. It's time to come back. We miss you!

Bird clubs initially started with groups of poultry breeders getting together to discuss husbandry and to trade or sell breeder birds. Eventually pigeon fanciers, canary hobbyists and others began networking. Exotic bird clubs began surfacing in the 1970s. The American Federation of Aviculture (AFA) was founded in 1974, as was the Connecticut Association for Aviculture, now renamed The Parrot Club. The Long Island Parrot Society was formed in 1985 and is celebrating its 38th anniversary this year! Clubs have evolved dramatically, from breeders getting together informally, to full-fledged service organizations. Fred, the cockatoo on the '70s TV show, Baretta, fueled the public's desire for large pet birds at a time when most were imported. (Fun Fact: Fred was stolen from his home at the San Diego Zoo in 1990 but was found and safely returned several days later.)

At first, the clubs were places for people to network, and sell birds and supplies. In the 70s, cages and supplies for large birds were in limited production. Manufacturers soon recognized a need for larger cages and toys, and companies like Inglebrook Forges, King's Cages and Prevue/Hendryx began producing more of them. Following in the footsteps of canary clubs, exotic bird clubs began to have judged shows, open to the public. Manufacturers and retailers joined in as vendors. Programs included experts on exotic bird care. American Cage Bird Magazine and Bird World magazine were joined by Bird Talk in 1982. Avian medicine came to the forefront, and bird clubs began to prioritize donating to research efforts, notably those of Dr. Branson Ritchie's studies of PBF, Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease.

With the 1990s looming, and the specter of what became known as the Exotic Bird Ban of 1992, forbidding the import of most parrot type birds, on the horizon, parrot breeding became big business, and bird clubs multiplied



By: Susan Chamberlain



and thrived. Captive breeding was extremely successful, and the hand-raised birds were far superior pets than the wild-caught birds formerly available.

Bird club missions changed along with the times. Educating the public about proper bird care became paramount. Eventually re-homing and adoption services became necessary, as many people who had impulsively purchased parrots couldn't put up with the mess, noise, biting, feather plucking or other behaviors. As baby boomers age, avian shelters and parrot placement services have become critical concerns of avian organizations everywhere. Retirees often downsize or want to travel extensively, leaving their birds looking for new homes. Older people may become infirm and unable to care for their birds. Others die, leaving relatives scrambling to find their birds a new home. Shelters are critical as a halfway stop between relinquishment and new homes. In the 2020s, education, conservation, shelter, and adoption seem to be the major missions of clubs and national organizations.

Now that the brunt of the pandemic is likely over, we need to get excited about club meetings and events again. Get out of your comfort zone! Our in-person meeting on June 21 features a toy workshop, toy parts and t-shirt sales, prize wheel, raffles and much more! The annual picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 3. Many outreach events are on the calendar. Parrot EXPO will be back on October 14th. This first EXPO since 2019 will be at a smaller venue in Sayville, but it promises to be a very special event indeed!

Are bird clubs dying altogether? I don't believe so. They are changing and adapting to a post-pandemic world and to the ever-changing needs and concerns of the avian community. With electronic tools, even far-flung members can join meetings virtually. There's nothing like having a common cause to bring us together: Establishing a shelter, improving the lives of pet birds, supporting conservation projects, and fighting efforts to take away our right to keep companion parrots are all vitally important issues.

The American Federation of Aviculture (AFA) warns about pending legislation that could adversely affect pet bird ownership. In Richmond, Virginia, there is a proposed local ban on 'exotic or wild' animals. However, in Denison, Iowa, a proposal to ban species not native to Iowa or Nebraska has been withdrawn. Visit <https://usark.org/23va1/> for more details. Most bans on 'wild or exotic' animals go on to define them as those inherently dangerous to humans. For more information about the AFA and this year's convention, visit afabirds.org

Imperceptible Human Speak: Is This Your Problem?

By Pamela Clark



I have been fascinated for some time now regarding the extent to which our parrots can read and understand us by observing our body language and facial expressions. I believe that most of us are vastly unaware of the scope of impact that our involuntary

body language has on our birds. We have plenty of both scientific and anecdotal evidence on this topic with other animals, but I've never seen it extrapolated to our lives with our parrots.

Clever Hans

Many of you are familiar with the Clever Hans Phenomenon. For those of you who are not, Hans was a horse who, in the early 1900's, lived in Berlin with his owner and developed worldwide fame. His owner, Wilhelm von Osten, was a mathematics teacher who began to train Hans to perform mathematical calculations.

After four years of training, Wilhelm von Osten began to give demonstrations. Hans was asked to count, read the clock, identify playing cards, and perform arithmetic. He indicated the correct answer to the problems posed by pawing with his hooves. He was able to give the correct response even when the questioner was not his owner.

At the time, the majority of experts became convinced themselves of Hans' ability. Eventually however, a biologist and psychologist by the name of Oscar Pfungst was able to prove that Hans had no such ability.

It was found that Hans was unable to deliver the correct answer if the questioner didn't know the correct answer or if Hans could not see the face of the examiner. As it turned out, Hans was a keen observer of the microscopic facial signals that the person posing the questions was not aware of giving. Reading these, he would give the correct answer when he read a signal that indicated he had or was about to give the correct answer.

The Thieving Monkeys

In a recent newsletter, I mentioned having listened to an NPR Hidden Brain podcast, during which psychologist Laurie Santos was interviewed. She discussed her research with non-human primates, both on the Caribbean Island of Cayo Santiago and in a lab that she built for the purpose at Yale University. This episode was dated October 21 and was titled "What Monkeys Can Teach Us About Being Human."

Her goal in studying non-human primates was to learn more about human behavior. As Santos explains it, the best way to discover information about humans is to do research on non-human animals in order to discover what we have in common and what we don't.

During one experiment, the researchers had to

abandon their efforts after having found that the free-ranging monkeys on the island had stolen all of the fruit that was being used for reinforcement. This caused some consternation because it's not like these researchers were unaware of their surroundings or "tuned out" in any way.

This then prompted a new line of research aimed at discovering whether the monkeys were actually stealing rationally. They were! When faced with the prospect of stealing from a person who was looking at the fruit and a person who could not see the fruit, they chose to steal from the latter. They were rationally calculating their chances of success.

And Thieving Parrots

This is not news to those of us who have turned around to find that the pen that was there the moment before has now disappeared. We find after a moment of inattention that the "E" letter is now missing from our laptop keyboard. We return after the briefest of moments to discover that every piece of fruit in the bowl now has a bite taken out of it.

We are always astonished at what our birds can accomplish when our backs are turned for what seems like just a quick moment. What I hope to illustrate with these examples is just how carefully our perceptive parrots watch us. They learn far more from us that we might ever imagine.



Navidad with the Poor Dog's Bone

Picky Parrots

Many years ago, another behavior consultant related a story. He had a client who claimed that her parrot would eat only organic vegetables. The consultant didn't believe this and got her to agree to a more controlled "study."

Her husband prepared two identical bowls of vegetables, one with organic vegetables and the other with vegetables grown through standard commercial means. She then delivered the bowls to her parrot, who ate both without preference. It's possible that she had been cuing her parrot with her body language to eat the organic vegetables only.



While I hear reports of "picky" parrots from many people, I have never had any problem converting a parrot, new to my home, to a better diet. Partly this is due to an effective technique, but I also believe that it is due to the fact that I simply expect them to eat it. It never occurs to me that they won't.

Parrots Respond to the Imperceptible

People rarely seek professional help for parrot behavior problems as a first resort. Instead, they talk to friends, to the people at the bird store, and to people on social media. It is only when they have exhausted all of the suggestions, in

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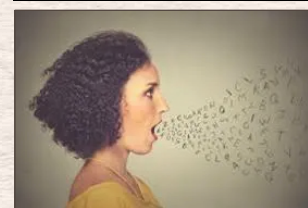
addition to their own ideas about what might work, that they call me. By this time, they are usually in a state of despair, if not desperation. In short, they are upset.

During our first contact, I am able to reassure them that all is fixable and then go on to explain how that will be accomplished. I can almost feel their relief, despite the technology that separates us.

The odd thing is that, when we have our next contact, a good many of them report that their parrot has displayed greatly improved behavior since our first conversation. This has happened so many times now that I do not think this is a fluke. I believe that the owner's new state of relief translated itself through microscopic signs to the parrot, who in turn was able to relax a bit more.

This report may sound fanciful and vague to many. It sounds that way to me also when I reread what I have written. However, this has been my experience for decades.

Animals and Humans – Two Different Orientations to Communication



In our communication with non-human animals, we almost exclusively employ spoken words (coupled with touch – an approach that has proven disastrous in many cases.) I suppose the focus on speech is natural, given that we are verbal animals

and our relationships with other humans most often depend upon the use of words.

However, if you watch the parrots and other animals in our care, they are often taking cues from the way we signal with our bodies or the expressions on our faces. This focus on watching body language makes sense for them, given that their relationships rely upon the use of unspoken cues and expressions.

When we teach a parrot to perform a behavior, we can't simply use words. We must rely instead upon some type of physical signal, at least in the beginning. It is my contention that animals and birds seek to first gain information by watching our body language and second from listening to our words.

Tics and Scents

In the book *Intimate Nature: The Bond Between Women and Animals*, Gretel Ehrlich writes "Animals hold us to what is present: to who we are at the time, not who we've been or how our bank accounts describe us. What is obvious to an animal is not the embellishment that fattens our emotional resumes, but what's bedrock and current in us: aggression, fear, insecurity, happiness, or equanimity. Because they have the ability to read our involuntary tics and scents, we're transparent to them and thus exposed – we're finally ourselves."

Our parrots always know what is "bedrock and current" in us. If your commitment to your parrot is wavering, he will likely know that. If you or someone in your home doesn't like the bird, he will know that too. If you are afraid of your parrot, he will understand that. If you feel anxiety every time you look at your parrot who chews his feathers, that too will be conveyed.

Historically, as a parrot owning population, we have

behaved generally without recognition, regard, or respect for the body language that our parrots employ to communicate with us. Even less attention has been given to what we might communicate ourselves with our bodies. No acknowledgment has been directed toward our imperceptible facial expressions.

Thoughts Create Feelings that Create Expressions

And, in fact, such acknowledgement would be of no use. We can't control expressions that originate from the fleeting feelings that we experience. However, it is our thoughts that create our emotions. Our emotions then fuel our microscopic tics and scents.

So, this isn't a typical blog post offering you a list of action steps. Instead, this is a New Year reminder that our own mental and emotional states impact every creature in our homes.

Every new year, I have the same resolution – to get right and be right with myself. If my life is out of balance, to get it back into balance. If a situation is causing me distress, to either leave it or resolve it. If I don't like an aspect of myself, to find my way to the resources that will work for me to improve the situation. If my habits don't support my long-term goals, to instill the ones that will.

*Used with permission - Pamela Clark - www.pamelaclarkonline.com - <https://blogpamelaclarkonline.com/2019/12/12/imperceptible-human-speak-is-this-your-problem/>



Conservation Notes

Thanks to habitat protection and nest boxes, Brazil's gray-breasted parakeet (genus *pyrrhura*) may be on its way back from near-extinction! In 2009 the conservation organization Aquasis began installing nest boxes in the Baturite Mountains. By 2022 nearly 2,500 gray-breasted parakeets had fledged.

Smuggling goes on...a Taiwanese national was arrested at Miami International Airport when his carry-on bag began chirping. He had flown in from Nicaragua and was en route back to Taiwan when he was intercepted and found to possess 29 parrot eggs that had begun to hatch. The eggs/birds have been cared for at The Rare Species Conservatory Foundation in Loxahatchee, Florida. 26 of the 29 eggs hatched, and 24 of those survived and are reportedly thriving. The birds are red-lored and yellow-naped Amazons. BirdLife International lists the yellow-naped Amazon as "critically endangered" with a population in the wild of between 1,000 and 2,500. The red-lored Amazon is also listed as having a decreasing population. The perpetrator pleaded guilty and faces up to 20 years in prison.

Want to keep birds from hitting your windows? The American Bird Conservancy has partnered with Feather Friendly to make collision-curbing BirdTape available for the first time in several years. It's easy to apply to windows and glass doors and lasts for several years. Visit www.featherfriendly.com to purchase. Go to abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/ for more ideas on reducing bird collisions.

According to an article in the Washington Post Weekly (May 28, 2023), being around birds is associated with better health, and listening to birdsongs helps alleviate feelings of anxiety and paranoia. (Writer's note: "Unless you're in the midst of an Amazon uprising or a cockatoo meltdown!")

It's turtle breeding season! If you find a turtle that is hurt or in harm's way, text a photo to Karen Testa of Turtle Rescue of the Hamptons at 516-729-7894 and she can help guide you to emergency care. Visit www.turtlerescueofthehamptons.org

After hurricanes Maria and Irma devastated Puerto Rico in 2017, the Puerto Rican Parrot Project was temporarily stalled, but reintroduction efforts have since resumed. The parrots are again nesting at two sites and were successfully introduced to a third site in 2022. The estimated wild population is about 250 birds, up from just 13 in the 1970s. Hundreds of captive parrots are at breeding facilities on the island, and more releases are planned. This year, 115 chicks hatched, both in the wild and captivity.

Ecuador's endangered el oro parakeet (genus *pyrrhura*) will benefit from habitat protection at higher elevations and further to the north of their present range. The American Bird Conservancy and Fundacion Jocotoco worked together on the project, which will provide protected areas for the birds when their habitat shifts.

This past April, a federal judge in Brazil suspended all licenses previously granted to an energy company to build a wind power facility in the Lear's macaw's habitat until environmental impact studies and reports are completed and public hearings held.

Researchers studying how migratory birds decide when to fly, found that most birds setting off on their seasonal migrations do so within 69 minutes of dusk, probably to maximize night flight time. They also found that they are most likely to depart when atmospheric pressure had risen over the past 24 hours, an indication of good flying weather.

According to the Global Birding Initiative, there are 19 species of parrots that have become naturalized in Florida. Visit globalbirdinginitiative.org to learn more.

The Macaw Society in Costa Rica has reported that wild macaw chicks have hatched at the Hotel Punta Leona Costa Rica and are about to fledge! Also in Costa Rica, four recently released yellow-naped Amazons were observed eating wild foods and vocalizing. Visit themacawsociety.org for more information.

A trial vaccine to protect wild koalas from deadly chlamydia seems to be working very well, according to a report by Australian Geographic.

The Birds of Australia was the first comprehensive survey of the birds of Australia. The seven-volume collection of illustrations featured descriptions and hand-colored illustrations of 681 species. It was published between 1840-1848.

The falcon is the national bird of the United Arab Emirates, and falconry is a popular sport. The birds are so revered that they are permitted to fly in reserved seats on commercial airlines there.

(Continued to page 13)

New Study On Birds Links Large Brains With Longevity

by [Matt Rowe](#)

Science is a forward-moving momentous force that helps us to discover better things about the universe that surrounds us. Although we ourselves are encapsulated within the sphere of the planet Earth, the minute discoveries that we build upon allow us to gradually understand our amazing core of existence in a brighter light. It's why the academic world of science continually launches studies of various things. Those studies will one day open amazing doors that will enrich all life in every way. With birds, it is our rabid interest in how they seem to surpass intelligence tests that keeps science looking harder at their seemingly casual existence.

A recent study undertaken by the Max Planck-Gesellschaft Institute to determine the brain size of parrots and their relationship to life expectancy has turned over a few stones of insight. The study was published in March of 2022 and involved 133, 818 individual birds across an astounding 244 parrot species. The study of longevity in parrots has been negligible up to this point. It has been studied and known among other species of creatures that brain size contributes to longevity in species. Now, with this new study, we're steps closer to understanding brain size and longevity in parrots.

The Link Between Brain Size & Longevity

The approach to this study depended heavily on two previously formed hypotheses that involve the evolution of birds and their life spans. One was the "cognitive buffer hypothesis" that agrees that cognitive abilities will contribute to longevity. The other is "expensive brain hypothesis," a thought that the life span of a bird is largely attributed to greater development of offspring with large brains (or that show stronger intelligence). During the study, it was determined that it is true that large brains in birds do, in fact, lend to their longevity. With favoritism toward enhanced intelligent features of the offspring, this naturally selected for longer life.

With larger brains, the developing birds have been able to effectively think out solutions leading to safer conditions that help to prolong life. The understanding is that large brains in living things allow them the ability to proactively think and to effectively rationalize the world around us. This study helped to underscore the concept of survival among us. With birds, such brains likely help them to learn better techniques of eating, food gathering, trust, and other things that lead to a longer life. This certainly explains the many articles written about the ingenuity of large birds to solve complex problems in steps to help them better adapt to a changing world that they find themselves in.

This study is a complex investment of time into the various birds that were used to gather data. Of course, the science of the study is far too complex for a write-up such as this. If you have further interest for the nuts and bolts of the study, follow this link.

In time, science will be able to tally up all the scores among all studies on life expectancy, coupled with the "hows and whys" gleaned from those studies, and may be able to effectively enhance all life on the planet. It's why

we continue to study every pathway with all the myriad of turns: to give us valuable insight for improvement.

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Inside Dr. Pepperberg's Lab: Toy Making—by a Parrot

by [Irene Pepperberg, Ph.D.](#)

As I've mentioned several times before, Griffin just isn't "into" playing with standard parrot toys. He has ignored all the fancy ones we have offered, avoiding everything we've tried. [Athena, in contrast, loves playing with her toys—she especially enjoys chewing on those made of softwood, parrot-safe pine cones, and dried corn.]



African grey Griffin isn't one to play with toys, but appears to like making his own towel-burrito-style toy. Image courtesy Dr. Irene Pepperberg

When on or in his cage, the only objects Griffin likes are ones we make out of construction paper—we roll up several sheets, tie them with a piece of parrot-safe rawhide, and then feather the ends. He spends a decent amount of time chewing these every day. If he is on a table, however, he'll play with a spoon or a small plastic measuring cup—but not when he's on his cage. He has also ignored foraging toys in his cage but, again, when on a table or in a testing situation, will do something like pop a plastic lid from a cup to get food—even when the same food is available for free (Smith et al., 2021)—that is, he engages in contrafreeloading.

We understand the contrafreeloading behavior—Griffin gets to play with something fun and get a treat, as opposed to just getting the treat. And although we don't quite understand why he ignores standard parrot toys, we accept his preferences. Moreover, given that he's usually involved in a number of different cognitive studies at any one time, we aren't at all concerned about his being bored. Nevertheless, we were extremely surprised to see that he has begun to make his own foraging toy! The background is as follows....

Griffin the Toy Maker

Recently, Griffin's arthritis has become bad enough that he has had trouble perching on his food bowls, so we have begun to put his cooked grains on a clean paper towel in a corner on top of his cage instead. He happily eats that way, and we figured that we had solved the problem. One day we noted that he was spending an inordinate amount of time in that corner, and wondered why. When we investigated, we saw that he had actually folded the



A close-up of African grey Griffin's self-styled "food burrito" foraging toy. Image courtesy of Dr. Irene Pepperberg

(Continued to page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

towel around his food to make a pretty fancy kind of burrito-looking object! (See figures below—and this one isn't even his best.) He subsequently spent a good part of the rest of the afternoon chewing a big hole in it and then eating the rest of his lunch.

As it turned out, his behavior wasn't a one-off occurrence. He now does this burrito-building on a daily basis. Maybe it is just another chance to play with something made of paper (and now infused with the flavors of his food)? The only downside is that he has become rather protective of his creation. Consequently, it isn't all that easy now for the research assistants to clear away the lunch "burrito" so that they can replace it with his dinner grains. We figure that once he begins to realize the pattern—that he gets fresh food and the chance to make a second toy at dinner time—he will become more accommodating.

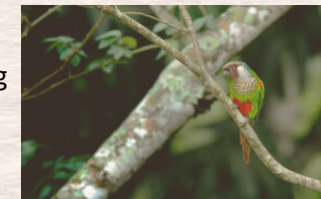
I'm sure Griffin is not the only parrot to engage in such behavior—but for a bird who has shown so little interest in toys over the course of his lifetime, I have to say that the moral of the story is that these parrots never cease to surprise us!

*Used with permission - www.lafeber.com - <https://lafeber.com/pet-birds/inside-dr-pepperbergs-lab-toymaking-by-a-parrot/>

Lafeber's Global Parrot Conservation Spotlight April 2023: The Grey-Breasted Parakeet of Brazil

by [Ann Brooks](#)

If you have been to Latin America, then you may know that smaller hookbills with long tails are commonly referred to as parakeets – birds we call conures in the U.S. The grey-breasted Parakeet (*Pyrrhura griseipectus*) was once widely found across northeastern Brazil but now is only found in five locations in the Brazilian state of Ceará. Reduction in its population is a result of the usual conservation challenges — the destruction of the humid mountain forest habitat, which has been reduced to about 13% of its original scope, along with illegal poaching for the pet trade.



A grey-breasted parakeet, which is a species of conure, perches on a branch in its native Brazil. Image courtesy Biologist Fabio Nunes/Aquasis

In 2003, the Brazilian government recognized the grey-breasted parakeet as critically endangered. In 2007, the non-profit organization AQUASIS founded the Grey-breasted Parakeet Project. AQUASIS was formed by a group of university students in 1992. Its original focus was marine mammal life and conservation. Today, it is also dedicated to the conservation of birds as well as ecological education.

LGBTQ+



Image courtesy of Biologist Fabio Nunes/Aquasis

AQUASIS describes the plight of the Grey-Breasted Parakeet best, as found here on their website and reprinted here with their permission:

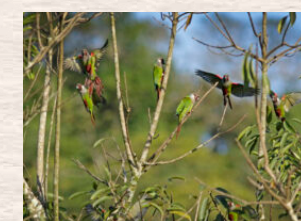
The Grey-breasted Parakeet is a social species and lives in family groups of approximately 4 to 15 individuals. This relatively small parakeet measures 22 to 28 cm in length, weighs an average of 5 grams, and eats a variety of fruits, seeds, and flowers. At dusk, they tend to congregate in tree hollows, or among palm

leaves and bromeliads, as a means of protection from predators.

Grey-breasted Parakeets breed only once a year, from February to June, and females lay an average of 6 eggs. They nest in natural tree cavities, but as they are not able to excavate their own hollows entirely, they often take advantage of and augment holes created by woodpeckers. When new offspring are hatched, both parents share the task of feeding them. Sometimes a third member of the social group will also help with feeding, thereby supporting the parents in raising their offspring.

Main Threats

Capture of Grey-breasted Parakeets for the illegal pet trade is currently one of the main threats to the species because, in addition to reducing the number of wild individuals, this deplorable practice is responsible for the ongoing destruction of many of the rare, natural nesting cavities of the birds. Indeed, criminal pet traders and the demand of their buyers has resulted in the local extinction of this species from many locations where it is known to have occurred in the past.



A group of grey-breasted parakeets take flight in Brazil. Image courtesy of Biologist Fabio Nunes/Aquasis

Deforestation also remains a serious threat to the future of Grey-breasted Parakeets persisting in the wild, as it diminishes the availability of feeding areas and breeding locations, forcing the birds to wander and establish themselves in other locations that remain suitable for their needs.

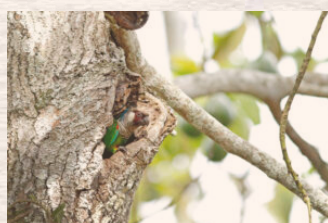
Knowing the Grey-breasted Parakeet's population size and understanding its trends over the years is fundamental to directing conservation efforts as the species still faces the possibility of becoming extinct. Supporting sites that are known territories and making artificial nest boxes available to the species is an essential function of the project and helps to collect more accurate life history data.

In 2022, a record number of 472 parakeets fledged from our nest boxes, and with the continuation of these efforts, the number is expected to keep increasing in the coming years. The artificial nest boxes that are installed and maintained by the project team are an extremely important conservation strategy for the

(Continued to page 14)

Grey-breasted Parakeet. As the species reproduce only once a year, the availability of nests is essential for the reproductive process to occur normally.

Lafeber's GLOBAL PARROT grant this month goes to AQUASIS to build additional nest boxes for the Grey-breasted Parakeets now breeding in northeast Brazil. If you would also like to help or learn more, go to: <https://www.aquasis.org/?lang=en> or <https://abcbirds.org/news/gray-breasted-parakeet-reintroduction/> for more information.



A grey-chested parakeet peeks out from a tree cavity in Brazil. Image courtesy of Biologist Fabio Nunes/Aquasis

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Playing With Fire: Tobacco & Pet Birds

by Amy Hopkins

Tobacco is [bad for birds](#) (and humans and dogs and cats and ... well, everyone!). I thought I would take this opportunity to point out some specifics, though, so those who do smoke can do their best to keep their feathered friends safe. Please keep in mind that other inhaled substances such as marijuana and vaping products are equally bad for birds.

3 Dangers Of Tobacco Cigarettes

First, there is the smoke itself. Birds have very sensitive respiratory systems because their system of lung sacs does not filter toxins the way our lungs do. We know how deadly [nonstick coatings](#) are for birds, for this very reason. Birds also breathe much faster than we do, so their exposure to smoke can be greater. There was a reason miners took canaries into the coalmines! If you must smoke, it is best to smoke outside and away from any air intake that could bring the smoke indoors.

Another big concern with smoking is the nicotine that gets on the furniture, walls, and every surface exposed to the smoke, including companion animals. Even if you smoke outdoors, nicotine gets on your hands and clothing. Birds exposed to nicotine can develop dingy, dirty, greasy feathers, whether directly from smoke or from handling by someone with nicotine on their hands. When the bird preens its feathers, it ingests nicotine, which is poisonous. Because nicotine cannot be easily removed from feathers, some birds resort to plucking. Nicotine on the feet causes dermatitis. If you have to smoke, be sure to scrub your hands and any exposed skin with soap and water prior to handling your birds.

Make sure you dispose of all cigarette butts far away from where a curious beak can get at them. Even a small butt can contain up to 25% of the nicotine in a whole cigarette, and birds that swallow nicotine often die rapidly, within 15 to 30 minutes. Signs of nicotine poisoning include twitching, excitability, salivating, vomiting, seizures, collapse, and death.

Never Use Electronic-Cigarettes Around Birds

The newest tobacco product danger is [e-cigarettes](#), which are used for vaping. Liquid-containing nicotine and an assortment of other chemicals is put in a chamber that is heated, giving off a vapor that is inhaled. Touted as safer than smoking cigarettes, the jury is still out on this. In addition to the direct toxicity of nicotine, vaping solutions may also contain antifreeze components, formaldehyde, and at least two dozen other toxic chemicals. Vaping around your birds can be just as dangerous as smoking around them. In addition, the nicotine solution is far more concentrated than the nicotine in cigarettes, so if your bird were to swallow any of it, there is a high risk of rapid death. Simply put, do not vape around your birds.

Keep Matches Out Of Reach

Finally, a word about matches. Modern safety matches have tips coated with potassium chlorate, sulfur, starch, and a few other ingredients. The striking surface has red phosphorus, which causes a small explosion when the match head is struck on it. We all know birds love to chew on wood, so a match laying around, either before or after being ignited, can look just like a toy to a bird. Ingestion can cause acute poisoning and death, so be sure to store unused matches out of birds' reach, and keep used matches far away from birds. Better yet, run them under cold water and then throw them in the garbage.

People use matches for many reasons, not just smoking, so all you nonsmokers out there take care also! Some people leave matches out in bathrooms (no, they do not neutralize the smell, they just mask it) and forget the matches are there and easily accessible to a wandering bird, so be sure to keep them safely contained.

If you have friends or family that smoke, these rules apply to them too. Make sure people who smoke do not handle your birds until they are thoroughly scrubbed up!

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NOISE COMPLAINTS?

By Susan Chamberlain

Excessive noise is one of the top three reasons people become *former* bird owners. Know your tolerance level and choose the right bird for your living arrangements. Adding another bird? Two birds of the same species will often be noisier than two of differing species. Place cages closer together rather than across the room to reduce 'calling out'.

When noise becomes excessive or bothersome, try some of the following:

- **Lower the volume.** Turn down the music. Switch to a soft rock or classical station. Move your birds to a different room when watching televised sports or let them cheer along with you!
- **Dim the lights.** Bright lighting stimulates activity and noise. Lower the wattage in the evening.
- **Modulate your voice.** Loud arguments and noisy children can incite an avian screaming match. Pipe down a bit and your bird will too.
- **Sing!** Interrupt your bird's tantrum with song

Amazons especially, like operatic scales!) and chances are, your bird will join in.

- **Whisper.** It may pique your bird's interest and distract it from screaming. Cockatoos seem to respond to whispering, and many of them learn to whisper too.
- **Develop a contact call with your bird.** **Example:** You wolf-whistle, it wolf-whistles back. It can be any sound that you both repeat to each other in greeting or from a distance. Use this contact call to distract your pet from a scream fest.
- **Distraction.** Never use water as punishment but try making 'scream time' bath time instead! Use a spray bottle to gently mist your bird or offer a bath dish if that's your pet's preference.
- **Bribery.** Behavior consultants advise against rewarding bad behavior, but when you simply *must* have some quiet time, hand your bird a two-inch piece of millet spray or a small foraging or hand toy.
- **Wait it out.** Without interfering, allow your birds ten minutes to scream to their hearts' content. Chances are, they'll quiet down after they've gone through their repertoire.
- **No petting below the neck!** Hormonal or seasonal vocalizing can often be difficult to deal with. Don't pet or stroke your bird on its back or near the vent or tail.

Noise Triggers

- Loud music
- Televised sports or action movies
- Household noise: arguments, noisy children,
- Outdoor noise—construction, sports, crows, and other birds
- Tension or hurrying to go out: birds can feel it!
- Telephone—they're quiet all day, but once you get on the phone, they want to 'talk' too!
- New bird or pet
- Scary new furniture, seasonal decorations, balloons
- It's dinnertime!



What is a Hoatzin?

By Shawn Florman



This is a hoatzin. The hoatzins are from the Amazon and Orinoco Basins. They are leaf-eaters (folivores). Because of their unique diet, they are the only avian bird that ferments vegetation in the stomach (similar to

that of a cow). Due to this unique digestive process the bird emits a smell similar to that of cow manure giving its nickname of "stinkbird" or "skunkbird". The Hoatzins need to consume large amounts of vegetation to provide the energy they require.



Links worth Checking Out!

[She taught her cockatoo to read. That was just the beginning](#)

[Preparing an Emergency First Aid Kit](#)

[Is the humane hierarchy still serving your bird care? If not LIMA, what else guides humane training?](#)

[Ravishing Roosters and Perky Pigeons Populate Sarah Suplina's Vibrant Flock of Paper Birds](#)

[Why Do Parrots Dance? – Interesting Facts You Should Know](#)

[Cornell Lab Open Lectures](#)

Avian Vet Insider - [Ask the Vet with Tom Tully, DVM, DABVP \(Avian Practice\), DECZ \(Avian\)](#) - June 16 at 3 PM EDT - Lafeber **Zoom** webinar

[Avian Vet Insider: Symptoms & What They Might Mean](#) with Dr. Stephanie Lamb, DVM, DABVP (Avian Practice) - June 23 at 3 PM EDT - Lafeber **Zoom** webinar

[Respiratory Diseases](#) with Brynn McCleery DVM, Diplomate ABVP (Avian Practice) - June 24 at 1 PM EDT - Phoenix Landing **Zoom** webinar

[Welfare and Standards of Care for Parrots](#) with Anthony Pilny, DVM, DIPL (Avian Practice) - July 29 at 1 PM EDT - Phoenix Landing **Zoom** webinar

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Parrot Beacon

Lindenhurst Library May 2023



Photo Credit to Diane Hyde

Sachem Library May 2023



Photo Credit to Susan Seddo



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LIPS MEMBER DISCOUNTS

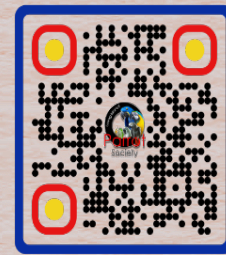
The following businesses give the discounts noted for LIPS members. You must show your current membership card. Discounts are subject to change; we suggest you ask before you make your purchase. If you have a problem with a store or service not honoring it, let us know. (631-957-1100):

- 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.



Support the Long Island Parrot Society when you shop on GoodShop.com.

- Simply click on Choose a Cause at the top of the page.
- In the search box type in Long Island Parrot Society.
- On the right of the page, a link for Long Island Parrot Society will appear. Click the link.
- Goodshop.com will display information on LIPS, on the right, click the SHOP NOW button.
- At the top of your page, it will now display, Supporting the Long Island Parrot Society. You can now shop and donate!



Vet list

To view our list of Avian Veterinarian, just scan the code or [click here](#).


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Become a LIPS Volunteer!

We need help with Administrative work, answering phone 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. Scan the QR code to take our Skills Survey. Once we received your information, we will contact you.



Directions to Our Meeting Hall, American Legion Hall Sayville, NY 11782



Directions from the East:

Sunrise Highway (Route 27) to Exit 50 (Lincoln Avenue) south. Turn left onto Main Street/Montauk Highway (Route 27A). Turn right onto Foster Avenue—American Legion Hall located at 23 Foster Avenue. Parking across the street.

Directions from the West:

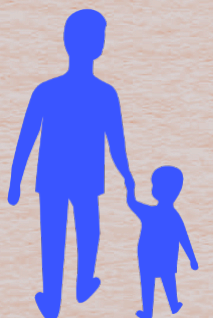
Sunrise Highway (Route 27) to Exit 49 (Lakeland Avenue—turns into Railroad Avenue) south. Turn left onto Main Street/Montauk Highway (Route 27A). Turn right onto Foster Avenue—American Legion Hall located at 23 Foster Avenue. Parking across the street.

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.





Welcome new members with open wings:

Debbie Goodrich; Neil Dobladdillo; Franklin Salmeron; Gary Bagnall; Keri Wyllie; Nathan Hartman; Neda Kashani; Brandon Work; Isabella Zagare

News from the Flock

Condolences to Susan Chamberlain and husband, Billy, on the passing of their lovely Senegal, Baci. Susan often times posted on Facebook about Baci's talent of spinning lids, her favorite being the Saucy Susan lid.

Lifetime member, Ray Young had a great time visiting Chris Armstrong at Percy Wings Aviary in Florida last month. He shared a video of some of Chris's free flying parrots during our mini-Zoom meeting on May 3rd. He also visited Debbie Huckaby at Birds of Paradise Sanctuary & Rescue in Bradenton, Florida.

Congratulations to Dr. Robert Monaco (Old Country Animal Clinic) for keeping his 20-year streak going in the Long Island Half Marathon on May 7th.

Condolences to Board member, Donna Barbaro on the loss of her mother last month.

Best wishes to Patricia LoRusso on her son Anthony's wedding on May 5th.

Kaitlin Saxton is celebrating 8 years in business with Bird Girl Pet Services! Mentored by avian expert, Pamela Clark, Kaitlin now offers Parrot Behavior Consultations in addition to pet-sitting, boarding, and grooming.

Condolences to Lifetime LIPS members, Paree and John Hecht on the loss of their beloved chicken, Iris.

Has your bird seen Parrot TV on YouTube? Tune in for some great avian entertainment!

Sincere sympathy to Mary Wasacz and family on the April loss of their beloved Eclectus parrot, Jenny, who was 23 years old.

Did anyone adopt a blue and gold macaw named Pete about 20 years ago? If so, please get in touch with the club at 631-957-1100. Pete's former human would like to know how he's doing.

It's five o'clock somewhere! Roberta Fabiano has changed the time of her Facebook Live concerts from 2PM to 5PM on Mondays. Her performances are for the benefit of the Long Island Parrot Society. Tune in to Frog Hollow Music on FB at 5 every Monday. On another note, Roberta has adopted the late Meredith Bain's beloved caique, Max. Best wishes to them both!

Kelly and Maurice, of K & M Mobile Grooming will be at the June in-person meeting with a selection of their food mixes for birds. You can also make an appointment with them for your bird's in-home grooming.

Member Patricia Eastwood passed away on May 26th. Her companion parrot was a caique named Chicken. We send condolences to her daughter-in-law, Lisa Eastwood and family.

Congratulations to MaryLynn and Erwin Loepke on their 42nd wedding anniversary! They celebrated with a Caribbean cruise on the Wonder of the Seas.

Did you see Jon-Mark Davey's presentation at the May 21 ZOOM meeting? See more of his wonderful Florida wildlife and feral Quaker parakeet photos and videos at jon-mark.com Thanks to David Abrahams for arranging this wonderful event.

We hear that the American Federation of Aviculture is about to launch an "Ask the Vet" column in Watchbird magazine!

Congratulations to previous LIPS Zoom speaker, Jennifer Cunha for receiving honorable mention for her paper, "Birds of a Feather Video-Flock Together" at the CHI 23 Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems in Hamburg, Germany. It is one of the most prestigious science conventions in the world.



Frank, a long-time LIPS member, and his wife, Diane, share their lovely home with twelve parrots, five indoor cats, ten feral cats, two chickens and a pond with six goldfish. Frank and Diane have been married for 47 years and Frank has worked in the printing field, collator operator, for 49 years—right out of high school.

Frank has been involved in the bird community since

1980. He started with lovebirds, then a cockatiel, rescued a cockatoo from a yacht in Port Jefferson, they were using a lobster trap as a cage.

After that, Zak (U2) and Pebbles (G2) came along from his son's friend. Zak needed a lot of work and as we know, he turned into a fabulous feathered companion who loved to dance at outreaches. Zak and Pebbles were bonded. After Zak went over the Rainbow Bridge, Tinkerbell, a citron 'too, became Pebbles' soulmate.

Frank's flock also included a Patagonian conure named Bee-bee that would free fly outside and come home when he wanted to—right into the open bird-room window. Frank would bring Bee-Bee to the mall where he worked and let him go as he entered the mall, Bee-Bee would be in the store before Frank got there.

Frank has a love of cockatoos and his dream bird is a Major Mitchell's cockatoo. Frank is currently owned by a variety of cockatoos.

Aries the scarlet macaw joined Frank's flock a few years ago. She shares Frank's man cave.

Frank's outdoor aviary houses Quakers (30), cockatiels and Patagonian conures.

Frank has had over 250 birds at one time (\$400 a month in bird food—he collected soda cans to off-set cost of bird food). He used to breed cockatiels until his work schedule changed—he has since sold off his breeding 'tiels. Frank also raised a Blue Jay that ate dog food.

Frank is involved with the club via outreaches, EXPO volunteer and cage donations.

Frank Huwer

Meet the Speaker

Board Meeting Minutes - May 2023

May 24, 2023 7PM via ZOOM ATTENDING: David Abrahams, Susan Chamberlain, Bob Dietrich, Shawn Florman, Robert Gross, Diane Hyde, Candy Little, Susan Seddo

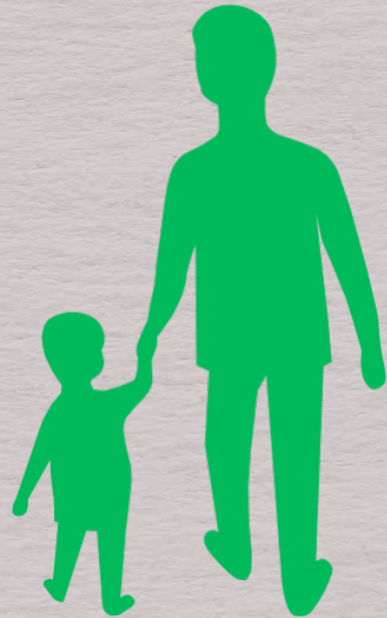
- Board members Diane Hyde & Candy Little attended a public meeting on May 23 regarding county resolution regarding animal 'acts' in Suffolk County. HSUS was present. Animal rights activists were well prepared; did not get the chance to rebut any of their points. Resolution was tabled. The focus is on the sloth guy. Jungle Bob was asked to help with verbiage but was not available to give input at a subsequent meeting. Trish Bergin stated that the resolution had nothing to do with parrots; the committee wants to stop exotic animals (sloths, monkeys, etc) from being exploited. Susan Seddo called her legislator and was told it was nothing to do with parrots and education, just traveling 'circus' type acts. It was disheartening to see that many at the hearing were in favor of the bill as presently written.
- Theme? "Hello Again" "We're Back"
- Food vendors: Will ask New York Bird Supply (the Bronx); Island Treats in Bohemia, K&M
- Presenter? Possibly Robin Sullivan?
- Toy-making stations? Depends on space...probably not enough space.
- Members FREE until NOON; \$5.00 admission, \$1.00 off coupon and/or postcard
- Education
- Meet the Vets depends on space; if vets show interest, we will accommodate.
- Raffles and flea market type sales? Bird supply mart vibe?
- Food options for the day: soft drinks, water, individually wrapped snacks to sell
- We will have reusable club tote bags to sell \$3.00 each 2/\$5.00 along with myriad other merchandise
- Publicity postcards to be mailed and distributed at Outreach events. Quantity: 2,500

Review of monthly newsletter by the board—Shawn Florman:

- Content: has permission to reprint from Lara Joseph, Pam Clark and Lafeber. Shawn needs more sources for content.
- Delivery: Gave board members a link to use to view NL last month; all board members must review NL for errors, click on links, etc. Assigning members specific pages to proof was discussed.
- New advertiser to debut in June.

June 7 Mini-Zoom Topic: Summer Care & Comfort (will also show Ray Young's video of his visit to Debbie Huckaby at Birds of Paradise Sanctuary in FL)

- Outreach Update: Sweetbriar 6/10; Outdoors, our spot is next to Canada geese, so we will not bring birds due to avian flu concerns. Remove shoes, change clothes, wash up before handling birds. North Babylon Library Adoption Fair 6/17—Volunteers needed, outdoors, so no birds; CEED's Summer Solstice 6/24; Bob Dietrich, Robert Gross volunteered. North Bellmore Library Parrot U in July 15. Busy September: Picnic 9/3; Dockside Family Festival 9/9; LI Pet EXPO at Tanner Park 9/16 & 9/17; Bellmore Family Street Festival 9/23 & 9/24; Longwood Fair 9/23 & 9/24.
- We need a larger volunteer base so two or three people do not have to be there the entire day with the birds.
- Tanglewood wants the club to do one presentation a week for 4 weeks during the summer. Candy Little is liaison; volunteers available depending on days of the week.
- Mini-EXPO—October 14, 2023, \$200 deposit paid, Total \$1600 (which is lower than normal at \$206/hour) VFW Hall in Sayville 8 AM to 6 PM Susan S and Diane met with Joe White from VFW to complete paperwork and give \$200 deposit— VFW Post 433 Sayville



Returns in August 2023

TO CLIP OR NOT TO CLIP?

By Susan Chamberlain

There are valid arguments for and against clipping the flight feathers of pet birds. I have shared my home with pet birds for 40+ years, and in my opinion, clipping the flight feathers is an important safety precaution.

The typical home is fraught with dangers to pet birds. They may be seriously or fatally injured by flying into walls, windows, mirrors, ceiling fans or other objects. Open toilets, pans of cooking food, uncovered fish tanks and houseplants pose obvious dangers to birds that may land on or in them. In multi-bird households, dangerous altercations between birds can be avoided by limiting flight.

Escapes occur at all times of year. Read the lost and found notices online or in any local newspaper. It is heartbreaking to take a call from a person whose bird has just flown out an open door or window, or even off the person's shoulder. The Long Island Parrot Society gets daily calls or notifications of lost or found birds. Long Island Budgie Rescue is inundated with similar calls. The number of escaped budgies on Long Island this season is staggering.

Escaped birds face intolerable weather conditions, predatory birds and animals, traffic, and other insurmountable obstacles. Most will be unable to forage for food because they will not know what to look for in the wild. Some hardy birds survive and form feral colonies, as have the Quaker parakeets on the east coast and the conures in San Francisco. Florida and southern California both have large populations of naturalized parrots. Most wayward pet birds, however, face an unfortunate fate.

The Long Island Parrot Society has been taken to task for recommending that members have their birds' flight feathers trimmed to prevent injury and escape, and for requesting that flighted birds be confined to carriers at meetings. Proper clipping does not injure the bird in any way. Whether or not members elect to clip their bird's flight feathers is a personal decision, but meeting rules are made for everyone's safety and security...including the bird's!

Most pet birds do not seem to suffer any psychological damage from having their flight feathers trimmed. Many enjoy close relationships with their human companions and their preferred mode of transportation is on a shoulder.

Small birds that are confined to cages or aviaries and have limited contact with humans are in most cases, best left flighted. Canaries, budgies, lovebirds, and finches all enjoy flying to and fro in spacious enclosures. People who are lucky enough to have spacious aviaries for larger birds may also wish to leave their birds flighted, but they must take precautions to reduce escape opportunities in the home.



Adoption Spotlight

Parrot's Name: Monkey
Species: Lovebird
Age of Parrot: 5
Sex: Male
Birthday / Hatchday: Unknown
Are the Wings Clipped? No - Fully flighted
Bird: Color Green
Does your bird talk? No
What do you currently feed your bird to eat? Seed blend
Is your bird hand tame? Yes
Does your bird have any feather issues? None
When was the bird last Vet checked? Unknown
Which of the following your bird is good with? Dogs and Other Birds
Tell us if your bird has any behavior issues? Scared to be picked up / your hand but will fly and land on you
Why are you needing to rehome your bird? my grandmother passed away a couple months ago and left behind her lovebird. My mom and I have been housing it for now but he needs a new home as we cannot properly care for it and we have fast cats. The band on his wrist says 2018 so he's still pretty young and very smart. His cage is also a fairly decent size. Thank you
Provide us with any additional information that may help a candidate show interest in your bird. He is very smart, silly, loveable and full of energy.

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

LONG ISLAND PARROT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.
A NONPROFIT 501c3 ORGANIZATION AND
NYS REGISTERED CHARITY

OFFICERS:

President: Diane Hyde
Vice President: Shawn Florman
Treasurer: Diane Hyde
Recording Secretary: Susan Chamberlain
Corresponding Secretary: Susan Chamberlain

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Diane Hyde, Donna Barbaro, Candy Little, Susan Chamberlain, David Abrahams, Bob Dietrich, Shawn Florman, Robert Gross, Susan Seddo

AFA DELEGATES

Diane Hyde, Susan Chamberlain

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Website: www.liparrots.org
E-mail: info@liparrots.org

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

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/liparrots>

Parrot Phone: 631-957-1100; Diane Hyde

GET INVOLVED—TEAMS & SERVICES—JOIN A TEAM:

Accountant: Adam Seyam, CPA

Bookkeeper: Sharon Millard

Cage Donation Committee: Bob

Dietrich, Robert Gross, Susan Seddo

Fundraising Coordinator: Susan Chamberlain

Grooming: Nicole Pica, LVT

Holiday Party Coordinator: Diane Hyde

Hospitality: Carol and Mike Christenson

Membership Coordinator: Bob Dietrich

Media Coordinators:

(Newsletter, Social Media, Signage, AV, Web, & Research)

Kaitlin Saxton, Donna Barbaro, Karie-Ann & Shawn Florman

Outreach Events Coordinator: Candy Little

Parrot EXPO Coordinator: Board of Directors

Parrot Placement Program Coordinators: (631-456-1813)

Diane Hyde, Shawn Florman, Marla Greene

Parrot University® Coordinator: Robert Gross

Picnic Coordinators: Bob Dietrich, Diane Hyde,

Carol and Mike Christenson

Programming and Education Coordinator: David Abrahams

Publicity and Public Relations Coordinator: Susan Chamberlain

Raffles Coordinators:

Special Events: Susan Chamberlain

Vendor and Venue Liaison: TBD

Volunteer Coordinator: Candy Little

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

LIPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
(Please Print Clearly)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number (with area code): _____

eMail Address for Feather Flash: _____

I hereby apply for membership in the Long Island Parrot Society of NY, Inc. Check all that apply:

- NEW MEMBER RENEWAL SENIOR (62+ 10% off)
- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
(includes electronic newsletter delivery: \$45) LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP \$500
- Only select this option if you **do not** want electronic newsletter delivery
Paper Copy (\$15 additional annual fee charged to help defray the cost of paper version)
- Gift (if gift, list your name as sponsor): _____

Please make your check or money order payable to the Long Island Parrot Society of NY, Inc.

Mail to: P O Box 2754, North Babylon, NY 11703-0754

Memberships may also be paid on-line on our website using
PayPal: <https://www.liparrots.org/membership>

General Phone: 631 957 1100

Adoption Line: 631 456 1813

eMail: info@liparrots.org

**UPCOMING MEETINGS/
OUTREACHES**

June 10th - Sweetbriar Nature Center's Butterfly and Bird Festival - Saturday from 10 to 4pm.

June 17th - North Babylon Library's Pet Adoption Fair, Saturday from 10 to 1pm.

June 21st - In Person Meeting at American Legion Hall, Sayville. Starts at 7pm.

*Mini-ZOOM meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7PM. In-person meetings will be live-streamed via ZOOM.

Meeting invitations are sent via email

OUT OF TOWN & VIRTUAL EVENTS

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

org

Join 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!

June 8 - 11 - [Adirondack Boreal Birding Festival](#) - Lake Pleasant, NY
July 9 - [OHPA Bird Fair](#) - Monroeville, PA

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